

The List As Entertainment

by Annie J. Dahlgren
Santa Barbara, California

I'm not sure if all are aware that on one of the cable television channels, somewhere up in the 100s or so, there has been a proliferation of "list" shows; those being in the nature of, say, "The 100 Greatest Movie Lines" or "The Top 100 Hits of the 60s and 70s" and the like.

I have a confession to make. I love these freakin' shows. They gobble up two entire hours at a sitting, and in the end I find I very often agree with the judges - whoever and wherever they may be. Humans of extraordinary discernment are they.

But now I have a darker confession. One I would never make in person and will deny at cocktail parties if ever confronted. (If indeed I ever find myself at a "cocktail party.")

I have become so enamored of these shows that I have sacrificed valuable blocks of time to learning the "Top 100 Heavy Metal Moments," which included such things as Ozzy Osborne biting the head off a chicken (or was it a bat?), and countless drug- and alcohol-induced shenanigans that would make Paris Hilton blush.

In fact, on the subject of Paris, to my unending shame I watched "The Top 100 Paris Hilton Moments."

From start to finish.

Worse yet, I enjoyed it. God help me, in some warped way I actually kind of admire her...sort of. She displays a brazen, unflinching demand of the spotlight, the likes of which have not been seen since before Pamela Anderson's 40th birthday.

The light cannot seem to get too bright for her. And she is completely unapologetic. Yet, somewhere behind those perfectly plucked brows I sense a wink and a smirk. This girl is liberated in a way that would no doubt horrify Gloria Steinem, but, I submit, with a sureness and self-abandon equal to Steinem's own.

So...where was I? Oh, the lists.

I'm considering starting a support group to detox from these list shows. Perhaps people would consider sending over their list of the top ten places we might care to meet and I will cross reference, index, and notify all of wherever I judge best.

You can trust me. I have a lot of practice.