LAURA ON LIFE

Games — the bane of my existence

Video games are the bane of my existence. I have the power to eradicate them from my home. The only problem is that I live here with other people. Some of those people have chosen to side with the video games.

If I let the video games stay, I can impose rules that will control the amount of time my children can play them and I can monitor the appropriateness of these games. They can also be used as a threat when someone refuses to eat their vegetables. If I eradicate them, they will go "underground."



Laura Snyder

They are like illegal seemingly drugs; harmless, but slowly wreaking havoc and impossible to get rid of without losing control of the situation. The addiction will seep into every facet of a child's life.

and could only stand by and watch. No matter what restrictions I put on them, the path doesn't change. It starts out by

some "dealer" saying "Try this." The kid will try because their "dealer" is usually someone they trust, like their dad, older brother or close friend.

I've seen it happen

Then, you watch cartoonish animals running around a screen and falling off buildings. You think, "That's kind of cute. The little guy is trying to rescue a princess." You think, "It teaches good values. What's the harm?"

The game keeps him busy and out of your hair, right? What's not to like?

notice that the games begin to take precedence over everything else; schoolwork, chores, family game night, friends... everything.

"It's time for bed." "Just let me get to a place where I can save the game."

You don't want to be rude, but it apparently takes 15 - 30 minutes to arrive at this safe place. Bedtime, which used to be set in stone, is now suddenly negotiable.

I have taken to pulling out the plug when it takes more than 30 seconds to get to a safe place. They know it, and expect it. It's amazing how fast they get to their safe place now. My husband warns me about future computer malfunctions

Then you begin to caused by improper my parents banned shut downs... Ask me the activities I liked if I care.

> No matter that I have, long ago, restricted game-playing to a few hours on the weekend. If we have plans for an outing, the video games somehow wend their insidious way into those plans.

"Okay, I'll help clean up the garage, Mom, after my three hours of game time. Otherwise, someone else will be on the computer and I won't have a chance to play.'

Well, that wouldn't be very fair, would it?

My children have learned that it is far easier for me to ban video games for the entire weekend rather than try to schedule our plans around them.

"We're going to be gone all day?! But I didn't get to play video games yet!"

Boo-hoo.

I started out not wanting to be rude and trying to accommodate the interests of my children. After I know would've upset me if

to do. Even if they thought those activities were not good for me, I still would have been mad.

The fact that my children may be mad at me doesn't seem to bother me as much as the thought of seeing a virtual weapon in their virtual hands being used on virtual people.

"But Mom, they're zombies, not real people. They have no brains, orscience.'

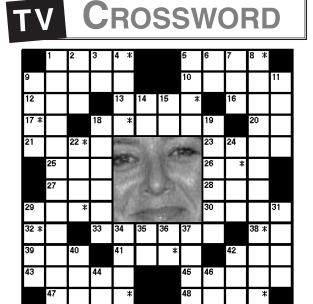
It doesn't take long for those cute little cartoon characters to become zombies, does it? How long will it be before they think I'm a zombie? How long before the virtual weapon becomes real?

The trick, I think, is to keep them grounded in real life 90% longer than they are immersed in a virtual life. At least, I hope that'll work.

Laura Snyder is a nationally syndicated columnist, author & speaker. You can reach Laura at İsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com for more info.

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The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

ACROSS

- Stossel, once of "20/20" "The __ Beach Story"; 1942 Joel McCrea film
- __ White With a View";
 1985 Maggie Smith film
 Age"; 2002
- animated movie
- 13. Ward, for one
- Initials for news
- journalist Kuralt Most-watched series of
- the 1990-91 season 20. Series set at a hospital
- Samms Last name for Wagner and Powers in their
- 1979-84 series "So You Think You Dance' -Margret
- A-E connection Group praised by Churchill, for short
- Eins und zwei October birthstone
- Rosanna's initials Actor Matt 'Better Blues"; 1990
- Denzel Washington film Nanny Fine's comments "An American __"; 1986 film about Fievel
- William Petersen's role, once, on "CSI" "Twin __" (1990-91)
- 45. David Archuleta and Carrie Underwood
- 47. Columnist Barrett 48. "McHale's __" (1962-66)

DOWN

1. Actor on "30 Rock" (2) Tree Hill" 3. Initials for Ozzie's wife

- 4. "__ Bridges" (1996-2001)
- 5. Early host of
- "The Tonight Show"

 6. Setting for "Evening Shade": abbr.
- 7. Mauna
- Ed O'Neill series (2) 9. "Miami __" (1984-90) 11. Political commentator
- 14. Suffix for boot or absent 15. Sabrina __ Beauf
- Camera" (1960-67) 18. "America's Got Talent" judge 22. Policeman's spray
- 24. Take : rest Dead Gorgeous"; 1999 29. Kirsten Dunst movie Chat room giggles
- Great Feeling"; 1949 Doris Day film
- _ Femme Nikita" 36. Kevin Spacey's age Actor Ken
- 40 Paulo or Tome Gatling's title on "Benson": abbr.
- 44. Actress Novak's initials 46. 1988 Martin Sheen film

Camryn Manheim nonulos

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TRUCKS & VEHICLES: 96 Kenworth W900L Semi Truck; 07 Chevy Silverado K3500 Truck, 1 Ton 4X4; 94 GMC Topkick Grain Truck. TRAILERS: 10 CPS By Manac 40' Tandem Axle High Side Grain Trailer; 08 Neville Built T-5 55' Highboy Trailer; 94 Wilson DWII-400 Grain Hopper Trailer; 96 Smith Co Side Dumper; 86 Wilson Aluminum Pace Setter 42 Ft Aluminum Grain Trailer; 74 Fruehauf Tag -X2-EDT 8500

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IH 8880 Swather, 2494 Engine/1880 Header Hrs.; 08 Degleman Bale King 3100 HD Hay Processor. WHEEL LOADER: 96 Case 621B Wheel Loader, 6972 Hrs

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Annual Walshtown Township Meeting

The citizens of the Township of Walshtown in the County of Yankton, South Dakota and who are qualified to vote at township elections, are hereby notified that the Annual Township Meeting for said township will be held at the George Sees residence, 29882 NE Jim River Rd., in said Township, on Tuesday, the **1st day of March, 2011, from 1:30-3:30 p.m** for the following purposes: To elect one Supervisor for the term of three years; one Township Clerk, one Treasurer, each for the term of one year, and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting when convened.

Gerald Keeley, Township Clerk dated Feb. 9, 2011



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Brian & Jean Degroot, Owners	
QUALITY USED VEHICLES	
2007 Honda Fit, 4-dr., black, 58,000 miles	\$11,900
2006 Chevy Malibu, 4-dr., silver, 69,000 miles	\$9,300
2005 Chevy Malibu, 4-dr., white, 97,000 miles	
2004 Chevy Venture Van, maroon, 97,000 miles	
2003 Pontiac Montana Van, brown, 98,000 miles	\$6,500
2003 Dodge Grand Caravan, gold, 122,000 miles	\$5,900
2003 Chevy Venture Van, silver, 125,000 miles	\$6,900
2003 Jeep Liberty 4x4, maroon, 90,000 miles	\$9,900
2003 Ford Escape 4x4, cream, 152,000 miles	\$6,900
2002 Pontiac Grand Am, 4-dr., white, 87,000 miles	\$6,500
2002 BMW 325i, 2-dr., blue, 97,000 miles	\$10,900
2002 Ford Ranger, 2WD, maroon, 84,000 miles	\$7,900
1997 Mercury Village Van, green, 145,000 miles	\$3,500
1996 Mercury Marquis, grey, 116,000 miles	\$3,500
1994 Ford F-150, 2WD, blue, 98,000 miles	\$3,500
1987 Chevy 1 ton dually, red, 107,000 miles	\$7,700
1982 Lincoln Mark VI, blue, 75,000 miles	\$6,900

SPECIAL INTEREST	
1995 Jayco Slide In Camper,	\$3,500
1976 Cadillac Eldorado Conv., 2-dr., white, 67,000 m	i\$13,900
1985 Ford Wrecker , 4x4, red, 67,000 miles	\$7,900
1972 , 17ft., Jet boat , 400 V8, olds motor	\$4,500