



**VISIONARIES:** Couch Potatoes and Couch Tomatoes attend a chapter meeting at their Dixon, Calif., headquarters.

## Fanatical 'Couch Potatoes' Stay Glued to the Tube Up to

16 Hours a Day

They're TV's most fanatic fans — the Couch Potatoes — a zany society now numbering some 2,000 men and women who watch the boob tube at least eight eye-burning hours a day.

Originally a male-only fraternity with a female auxiliary, the gals revolted when they got fed up serving their guys snacks and trotting to

name because potatoes have lots of eyes for watching.

"We started out as just a bunch of friends hanging out and grooving on the tube," said Armstrong, 32. "We got annoyed with crybaby, phony intellectuals who

claimed that watching TV was a waste of time.

"Television is the future and we're proud to tune our lives to the tube."

Advertising has swelled the ranks of the Couch Potatoes. "Our membership is

climbing every day. We've got members from every state," said Armstrong.

The Couch Potatoes even publish a quarterly newsletter, *The Tuber's Voice*. Its contents include a food column, *The Station Break Gourmet*, and letters from readers.

One wrote: "I'm outraged

that the United States has not issued a stamp properly honoring television."

The Couch Potatoes also publish pamphlets written by Dr. Davenport H. Spudd, otherwise known as Jack Mingo, of Oakland, Calif.

"The pamphlets deal with topics such as how to maintain your TV set," Dr. Spudd explained. "We recommend