

the store when the beer ran out.

And they became Couch Tomatoes.

"We demanded that we get equal rights on the couch," says Patty Graves, a top Tomato on the vine.

And Head Spud Robert Armstrong, a founder of the Couch Potatoes, admits, "We learned that the easiest way to live with them was to take them on as full-fledged viewers."

The Armstrong home in Dixon, Calif., doubles as the Couch Potatoes' headquarters. Five TVs tuned to different channels burn constantly in the living room.

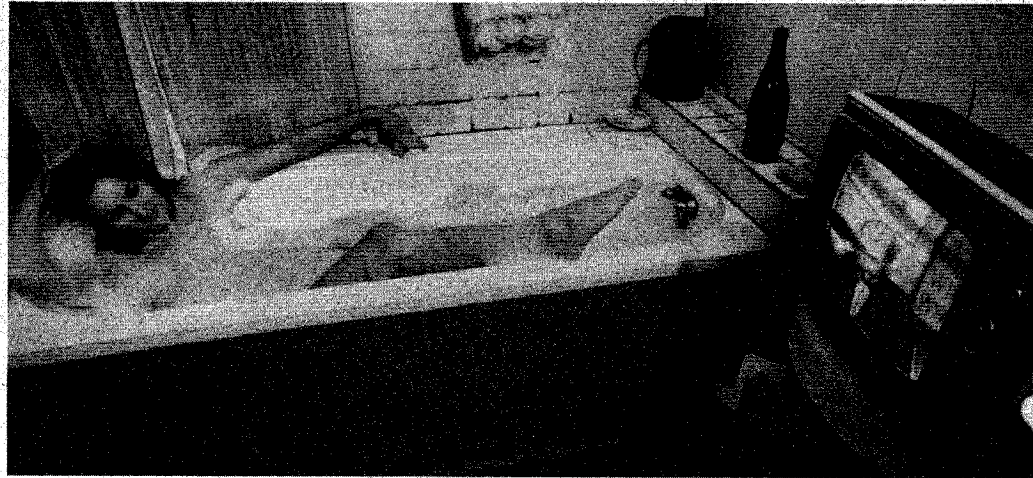
And there's even a set in the bathroom.

"I view more than 16 hours a day," boasts Armstrong, a free-lance cartoonist and illustrator. "Members come by and bring one or two TVs with them. The holidays are a great time. We'll have as many as 25 sets going at once."

When so many sets tuned to a multitude of channels are all blaring at once, Couch Potatoes simply sit back and let themselves be overwhelmed.

The first Couch Potatoes got together in the mid-1960s, choosing their odd

'It's a Feast for All Your Senses'



GOOD CLEAN FUN: Couch Tomato Arline LaBunche enjoys a soap opera.

that Couch Potatoes wipe the screen and knobs every few years. Window cleaner and a soft, dust-free cloth are the ideal tools for this.

"But how many Couch Potatoes have these things on hand? Beer and a T-shirt are almost as good."

In a recent poll, the Couch Potatoes named their all-time favorite TV shows. The top five are "Star Trek," "Leave It To Beaver," "The Twilight Zone," "You'll Never Get Rich" and "M*A*S*H."

Couch Potatoes love to watch the reruns of "vintage shows" over and over again. "When you watch a single show 20 or 30 times, you get more and more out of it," said Armstrong.

— MIKE CASSELS

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ENQUIRER
December 7, 1982 30586-2 **LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY PAPER IN AMERICA**