

TELEVISION

PUNK #2,
MARCH 1976

NOW LITTLE JOHNNY
JEWEL,
OH, HE'S SO COOL.
HE HAD NO DECISION,
HE JUST TRYIN' TA
TELL A VISION-

LITTLE JOHNNY
JEWEL
(VERLAINE)

HISTORY IS
BUNK.

- HENRY FORD

I ALWAYS PAINT
FAKES.

- PICASSO



PHOTOS BY
Guillemette
Barbet
Anton
Mikofsky
DRAWINGS BY
Buz Vavltz

HAVE YOU HEARD
THE LATEST?
IT ISN'T OUT YET
- McLUVHAN

THE CITY IS THE
CENTRE OF
PARALYSIS.
- JOYCE

WHAT, ME WORRY?
- KURTZMAN

TELEVISION - LEFT TO RIGHT - FRED SMITH, BASS
TOM VERLAINE - LEAD VOCALS AND GUITAR - BILLY FICCA
DRUMS, - RICHARD LLOYD - GUITAR.

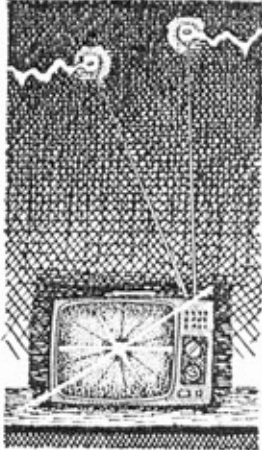
VERLAINE, PAUL - 1844 - 1896 - FRENCH POET, FIRST OF THE SYMBOLISTS. HIS ATTEMPT AT KILLING HIS FRIEND RIMBAUD EARNED HIM TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT. THOUGH THIS SOBERING EXPERIENCE LED VERLAINE BACK TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND GOOD RESOLUTIONS, HIS LATER YEARS WERE SPENT IN ABJECT DRUNKENNESS.



tel'e-vi'sion (təl'ē-vīzh'ən; təl'ē-, təl'ē-vīzh'ŭn) noun. The transmission and reproduction of a view or scene by any device which converts light rays into electrical waves and reconverts these into visible light rays.



ALL THE TIME YOU CAN ALSO LOSE YOUR WILL TO LIVE, Y'KNOW?
PUNK- YEAH DO YOU THINK YOU'LL DIE EARLY?
TOM- NAH.
PUNK- WHY NOT?
TOM- I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH DEATH WELL, SECRETLY... NO WHY DO YOU LOVE DEATH? ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH THE END OF IT ALL?
RICHARD- YOU CAN'T LIKE LIFE UNLESS YOU ADMIRE DEATH.
TOM-UH, YEAH ADMIRE IS THE WORD



PUNK TALKS WITH TOM VERLAINE AND RICHARD LLOYD OF TELEVISION

AFTER A MILDLY CONCRETE SET AT MOTHER'S (RECENTLY CLOSED TO ROCK BY THE FAGGOTS WHO GO TO THAT DUMP) ATTENDED BY THIRTY PEOPLE OR SO, PUNK DRAGGED TWO TELEVISIONS INTO THE KITCHEN, GOT THEM DRUNK, AND TALKED.

PUNK- HEY, LISA ROB-INSON SEZ THAT YOU GUYS ARE FASHION PLATES.

TOM- WHAT IS A FASHION PLATE?
RICHARD- YEAH, WHAT'S A FASHION PLATE?
PUNK- Y'KNOW- YOU'RE LIKE THE HEIGHT OF FASHION.

TELEVISION- AW HAW! HAW! HA! HAA! HAA! HA! HA! HE HE HE HE HE HE OH NO! HA! HA! HA! WOW! IS HE SERIOUS? HA! HA! HA! HO HO HO! HEE! HEE!

TOM- THAT'S ONLY AN INCIDENT.
BILLY- DO YOU MEAN CLOTHES?
PUNK- IS IT STUDIED?
TOM- NAH. IT'S... NO, MAN

RICHARD- THAT'S CONTROL? IS THAT CONTROL? THAT'S CONTROL? I MEAN- LOOK AT IT! AND LOOK AT THIS!!! (RICHARD STRUTS HIS STUFF... MORE LAUGHS.)

TOM- THIS IS HIGH, HIGH FASHION. LISA'S GREAT, THOUGH, I LIKE LISA.
PUNK- WHAT DO THE LYRICS TO YOUR SONGS MEAN?

TOM- THEY'RE JUST AN ATMOSPHERE. THAT'S THE WHOLE THING. I MEAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY WHAT YOU MEAN TO GET ACROSS. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE TO YOU? PUNK DOES THE SAME THING- THAT THE IDEA BEHIND IT IS THE USE OF WORDS TO THE DEGREE THAT YOU MAKE WORDS SAY WHAT THEY CAN'T SAY. THE GIST OF THE IDEA IS TO MAKE WORDS SAY WHAT WORDS CAN'T SAY.
RICHARD- YOU JUST ACCOMPLISHED THAT.
PUNK- WHO WRITES THEM?
TOM- THAT'S THE IDEA. RICHARD- YOU GOT IT. YOU GOT IT NOW! WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT.

TOM- THAT'S THE TRUE USE OF WORDS.
RICHARD- IT'S LIKE YOU SAY FIVE WORDS AND YOU ONLY MEAN THE SIXTH.
TOM- RIGHT.
RICHARD- I COULDN'T ARTICULATE IT PAST THAT POINT. WORDS MEAN SOMETHING BUT THEY FEEL SOMETHING, TOO.

TOM- I SAY THAT- THIS IS SERIOUS, TOO. IT'S IF YOU WROTE A BOOK WHERE YOU STARTED EVERY SENTENCE WITH A PERIOD. IN OTHER WORDS, WORDS ARE AFTER THE FACT OF LIFE, SO TO SPEAK. AH, THIS IS ALL SO HIGH MINDED.
PUNK- READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?
TOM- WHEN I CAME TO NEW YORK, LIKE, IN '68, I WORKED AT THE STRAND BOOK STORE- YOU KNOW WHO ELSE- PATTI WORKED THERE. WHEN I WORKED THERE I USED TO READ A LOT, ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING GOOD. THERE'S NOT MUCH GOOD, Y'KNOW. I'LL TELL YA A GREAT BOOK. IT'S- UH- IT'S REALLY HARD TO FIND. DIDJA EVER HEAR OF THIS GUY NERVAL?

PUNK- YEAH
TOM- HE WAS THIS FRENCH POET. HE WAS HIMSELF

ON A STREETLAMP IN THE SNOW? WHAT HE DID- HE SAW THIS GIRL ON A STAGE HOW OLD WAS HE- 21? NAMED JENNY. HE WAS ABOUT 22. THIS IS TRUE, AND HE SAW THIS GIRL ONNA STAGE AND HE TOTALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH HER- AND HE IDEALIZED HER TO THE POINT THAT HE HALLUCINATED HER IN EVERY WOMAN'S FACE HE LOOKED AT, AND SO HE'S ALWAYS WALKIN' AROUND SEEN' THIS GIRL JENNY- AND HE'D GO UP TO PEOPLE ONNA STREET- AND HE'D GO- "JENNY?" AND ALL HIS FRIENDS STARTED TO DROP HIM, RIGHT? SO HE INHERITED THIS MONEY AND SO HE RAN AROUND THE WORLD A LITTLE BIT. SO THEN JUST- JUST BEFORE HE DIED HE'D BEEN LOCKED UP IN THESE ASYLUMS- AND HE MADE THIS HUGE EFFORT TO, LIKE, TO DETACH HIMSELF FROM HIS DISORIENTATION AND SET DOWN WHAT WENT ON AND HE WROTE THIS BOOK CALLED LEE AND DREAMS. IT'S REALLY GREAT. AND IT JUST DESCRIBES HOW- WHAT IT- IT WHAT IT IS- HE'S WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND HE FEELS THIS STAR AND HE DOES N'T KNOW IF IT'S INSIDE HIS HEAD OR OUTSIDE. IT REALLY WOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. HE FEELS THE PRESENCE OF THIS STAR- AND HE KNOWS IT MEANS HIS DEATH, RIGHT? AND SO HE... HE FEELS HIMSELF SO TO SPEAK- DYING, RIGHT? A- HAH! HAH! HE HE

PUNK- YES, YES?
TOM- RIGHT. OK. HE FEELS HIMSELF DYING, RIGHT? AND WITH THIS SENSE OF DEATH HE FEELS THIS ENORMOUS SENSE OF POWER, TO THE DEGREE THAT WHEN THE FRENCH POLICEMEN SURROUND HIM, HE THINKS HE'S GOT THEM ALL UNDER HIS THUMB AND THAT HE'S TAKING THEM TO A JAIL AND- AND LOCKING HIMSELF IN AND

LETTING THEM STAY OUT THERE... WHEN IN IN REALITY WHAT'S HAPPENING HE'S GOING NUTS NEGATIVE ON THE STREET AND THEY'RE LOCKING HIM UP

PUNK- THAT'S HEAVY.
TOM- YEAH, THIS IS ALL TRUE. IT'S A GREAT BOOK. IT'S ONLY ABOUT 50 PAGES LONG AND THAT'S ONLY THE FIRST THREE PAGES SO THAT JUST TELLS YOU HOW GREAT THAT BOOK IS, SO IF YOU CAN EVER FIND IT... IT WAS, RIGHT... SO THEN HE GOES ON THIS SORT OF VOYAGE AND HE GOES ON A SERIES OF LIKE, UH- EXPERIENCES- IN WHICH HE FINDS HIMSELF TO BE IMMORTAL- SO TO SPEAK- BUT THEY'RE ALL LIKE REALLY- ALL THE EXPERIENCES THAT HE DISCOVERS HIMSELF IN- THEY'RE ALL VERY, VERY DOWN TO EARTH- YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN? LIKE HE FINDS HIMSELF AT THIS POINT SURROUNDED BY, LIKE, CHILDREN, OR SOMETHING- HE FINDS WHAT- WHAT EVERYBODY IMAGINES TO BE DEATH IS VERY CLOSELY RELATED TO LIFE ONLY A DIFFERENT KIND OF INTENSITY TO IT. IT'S REALLY A- A GREAT BOOK. IF YOU LIKE I'LL SEND YOU A COPY IF I FIND ONE. DID YOU EVER READ BOOKS ABOUT

THE HUMAN BRAIN- SCIENTIFIC BOOKS? I CAN'T STAND THEM BUT I READ ONE- IT'S REALLY TRUE ABOUT THESE TWO BRAINS IN A PERSON- ONE OF THEM LOVES IDEAS AND HATES INSTINCT. THE OTHER ONE IS TOTALY SELF PROTECTIVE AND IS INSTINCT. IT'S THE NEO-CORTEX AND THE CORTEX. THE CORTEX HAS A- HAS A PROP- HAS A FUNCTION- CALLED THE ORIENTATING REFLEX. IN A WAY IT EXPLAINS THE EARLY DEATH OF ROCK STARS. SURE CAUSE IF YOU'RE TRAVELLING YOU'RE TOTALY DISORIENTED ALL THE TIME. YOUR FIRST THING IS TO GO TO THE...
PUNK- DO YOU FIND THE CBGB CROWD DIFFERENT?
RICHARD- NOT REALLY ANY MORE.
PUNK- YOU PLAYED THERE SEVEN WEEKS WITH PATTI SMITH.
TOM- WE WERE PLAYING THERE A YEAR AND A HALF BEFORE WE DID THAT.
RICHARD- TWO YEARS.
TOM- BUT NOBODY KNOWS THAT. AT LEAST TWO YEARS.
RICHARD- APRIL OR MAY OF 1972.
PUNK- I READ THAT YOU BUILT THE STAGE.
TOM- YEAH- ME AND HIM ARE WALKIN' DOWN THE BOWERY SORTA DRUNK AND I SEE THIS BAR AND I SEE THIS SET-UP SO HE SAYS- "WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM WE CAN PLAY HERE! THEY HAVE! WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY EQUIPMENT OR ANYTHING AND THEY HAD THIS WHOLE PA."
RICHARD- HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME. THE CLUB DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME.
TOM- RIGHT. AND I WALKED IN AND I SAID- LOOK- WERE A ROCK BAND, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US A- ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T SAY ROCK. HE SAID "WELL WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU PLAY?" AND I SAID "WHADDA YA LIKE?" AND HE SAID- HE SAID SOMETHING LIKE "WELL, UH..." AND HE STARTED TO TALK ABOUT IRISH ROCK AND SHIT AND I SAID "YEAH, WE PLAY THAT. WHY DON'T YOU MOVE THE STAGE DOWN THE END SO PEOPLE CAN SEE?" AND HE DID IT, Y'KNOW, MOVED IT DOWN THERE.
RICHARD- FIRST SMART MOVE...
TOM- AND WE JUST STARTED PLAYIN' THERE

WE PLAYED THERE...
RICHARD-GOD! YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT! EVERY NIGHT-LIKE TEN PEOPLE...
TOM- THERE'S NO MORE DRUNKS IN THERE...USED TO BE GUYS OFF THE STREET ALL THE TIME. AND THERE USED TO BE LITERALLY PILES OF DOG SHIT AND BROKEN BOTTLES ALL OVER THE FLOOR. IT'S A LONG TIME WE'VE BEEN PLAYIN' THAT PLACE THAT'S THE THING-A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK WE'RE SOME BAND THAT SURFACED OUTTA NOWHERE.

PUNK- I HEARD PATTI SMITH PLAYED NEW YEARS WITH YOU.
TOM- YEAH SHE PLAYED WITH US NEW YEAR'S EVE. IT WAS REALLY GREAT. WE DID **PSYCHOTIC REACTION**. WE HAD THREE GUITARS PLAYING THE SAME CHORD. (LOOKS AT A COPY OF TERESA'S ANGELS GOIN OUT?)
PUNK-YEAH THAT BOOK I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT, WHAT'S THE SCOOP?
TOM- NO...NO SCOOP...
RICHARD- WHAT FLAVOR? DO YOU WANT?
PUNK-CHERRY VANILLA?
TOM-NO...NO CHERRY, BELIEVE ME...THIS-THIS BOOK IS A-A THIS BOOK IS- THIS BOOK IS A BIG SCOOP OF PLASMA. TERESA'S IN THE HOSPITAL. YEAH SHE HAD A BREAKDOWN IN HOBOKEN. Y'KNOW... SHE WAS TURNIN' ON WITH SOME JOHN AND SHE - SHE JUST -HER MIND JUST SNAPPED. I DONT THINK SHE WRITES NO MORE. SHE'S LIKE - SHE'S THE SYD BARRETT OF THE POETIC SCENE.



PUNK- PATTI SMITH GAVE US A RAP THAT SHE'S LOOKING FOR THE LOST TONGUE THAT PEOPLE SPOKE BEFORE THEY GOT SPLIT UP...TOWER OF BABEL...
TOM-WELL, I DONT THINK IT'S LOST- IT'S JUST THAT IT'S BEEN... (long pause)... UH...IT'S JUST NOT IN USE.
RICHARD- REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE SAYING BEFORE ABOUT WORDS - YOU SAID THAT YOU STRUNG WORDS TOGETHER TO GIVE THE MEANING THAT DOESN'T EXIST??
TOM-THERE IS A REASON WHY GOD DESTROYED THE TOWER OF BABEL THAT NO ONE UNDERSTANDS. YA WANNA HEAR THE REASON? WELL, L-LET'S SAY THAT YOU'RE GOD, RIGHT? AND-AND...O.K. THE TOWER OF BABEL. PEOPLE HAVE REACHED THIS HIGH STATE, RIGHT? BIG HIGH STATE - RIGHT? UH- THEY DIDN'T NEED TELEPATHY 'CUZ THEY DIDN'T NEED WORDS- I MEAN THEY DIDN'T NEED TO TELEPATHIZE WORDS OR ANYTHING - IT JUST - IT WAS JUST- CONTINUAL, EVERYTHING COMMUNICATING ON A VERY SUBLIMINAL LEVEL. AND YOU DECIDED TO ERECT A TOWER TO THAT - POSSIBILITY - AND YOU WERE GOD AND YOU SAW WHAT YOU'D CREATED DOING THIS... YOU WOULD THINK... THAT GOD WOULD SEE IT AS- UH- THE PEOPLE HAD REACHED SUCH A HIGH STATE OF COMMUNICATION THAT EVERYTHING BECAME POSSIBLE. LET'S TAKE IT FROM THERE. TO THESE PEOPLE EVERYTHING WAS POSSIBLE - THEN GOD WAS NOTHING BUT A POSSIBILITY RATHER THAN A GOD. SEE WHAT I MEAN? SO YOU WOULD JUST - NATURALLY WOULD JUST REDUCE WHAT YOU HAD CREATED AND MAKE HIMSELF MORE THAN A MERE POSSIBILITY...IT'S THE SAME THING THAT'S GOING ON NOW - IT'S THE SAME THING THAT CONTINUES IN CIVILIZATION ALL THE TIME - IS THAT - GOD BECOMES ONE POSSIBILITY IN EVERYBODY'S MIND, WHEREAS A SERIES OF ESOTERIC PEOPLE SEE IT AS NOT A POSSIBILITY BUT THE TRUTH OF EVERYTHING. SO MUCH FOR RELIGION. LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT. WHAT ABOUT DRINK? DO YOU DRINK A LOT?
PUNK- YEAH.
RICHARD- QUALIFIES FOR A PUNK - YOU KNOW... IT'S ... IT'S NOTHING...

TOM- I USED TO GET DRUNK A LOT.
RICHARD- I USED TO. NOW I JUST BREATHE.
PUNK- YEAH, I USED TO.
TOM- HE DOES LLOYD USED TO DRINK SO MUCH THAT A DOCTOR AT HIS TENDER AGE TOLD HIM HE HAD TO QUIT.
RICHARD- NOT TOO LONG TO LIVE, ABOUT 10 YEARS.
PUNK- HOW OLD ARE YOU?
RICHARD- TWENTY-FOUR.
PUNK-WHEN DID HE TELL YOU THIS?
RICHARD-RECENTLY.
TOM- NOT TOO LONG AGO YOU-YOU LIKE BEING DRUNK BUT YOU DONT DRINK BECAUSE YOU CANT AFFORD IT?
PUNK- RIGHT.
TOM- OH -YOU-YOU'RE A FUTURE LESTER BANGS!

