

WHAT U WEAR

Which detergent *really* cleans best?

by Jerome Ryckborst

Tell me why I don't like Mondays? 'Cause it's laundry day, that's why!

In spite of the miracles that washing machines perform, we can help by sorting, presoaking stains, and by picking the right detergent, fabric softener and washer cycle.

Sorting is obvious: sort clothes into washer load-sized piles of darks, lights, then further into hot and warm wash piles. The size of one load should be on the washing machine lid. Overloading your washer is the most *stupid* thing to do. You may save a few quarters but no machine can clean a heavy wet lump of clothes. Clothes must be able to move in the water. Besides — overloaded washers eat socks (they go over the side of the drum where the machine rips and shreds them for dinner).

Presoaking stains is a must. Here's why: in laboratory tests **not one** detergent tested could remove 'normal' stains, like grass, ketchup or baby formula, simply by washing. (But... but... on TV they said...) Presoak with warm water since hot water may 'heat set' your stains forever. WISK removes stains very well when dabbed on, and is what the U of A's Textile Analysis Service swears by for stain removal.

Detergents. Ah, yes.

Well folks, T.V. commercials don't always tell the truth. Laboratory experiments do. Here's the truth: liquid detergents suck. Almost all powders outperform liquids. More truth: CHEER 2, NEW FORTIFIED TIDE, NOW BETTER OXYDOL, and TIDE REGULAR appeared at the top of the list in a study by Canadian Consumer. New Fortified Tide has enzymes. Enzymes are great because they digest proteins. But wool and silk are proteins too, so be careful with these special fabrics.

Better than all detergents, but more expensive, is IVORY SNOW, a regular old-fashioned soap. In hard water soaps will form soap curds (yuk!). Edmonton water is 'only' about 115 ppm, so soaps will perform just fine here. In places with very hard water

(many small towns) a water softener should be used along with soap.

A water softener will make any wash cleaner. The best water softener is AMWAY's softener which contains 18% phosphate. Environment Canada has a 5% limit for phosphates in detergents, but no limit for water softeners. Even though from an environmental perspective, the use of phosphates may be unethical, nothing has yet been marketed which performs better.

Fabric softeners do more for your wash than you think. USE A FABRIC SOFTENER. It makes your clothes easier to clean next time around, makes permanent-press items really iron-free, and makes wrinkles easier to iron (at lower temperatures). Fabric softeners also reduce static cling. If you use a fabric softener in the rinse cycle or the dryer your clothes should come out softer too. Unfortunately, clothes washed in detergents with built-in fabric softeners are no softer by the

time they come out of the dryer.

Washing times should not exceed 7 - 10 minutes because after that your detergent breaks down and the dirt redeposits on your clothes. If you must wash longer, wash twice. A cold rinse is best for all fabrics. You'll get less wrinkling! Your washer and dryer may have settings for permanent press or delicate fabrics — use them. The manufacturer usually knows what's best for your clothes. And now, so do you!

T.V. tunes are tacky to the max

Television's Greatest Hits
Volume II
(TVT/A&M)

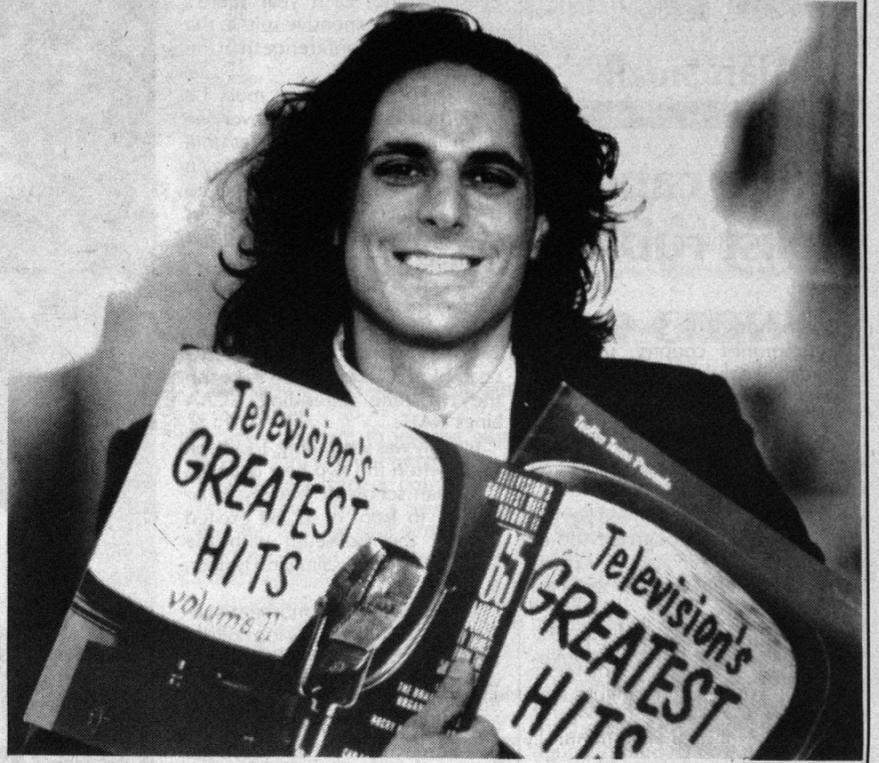
review by Mike Spindloe

Hot on the heels of last year's Television's Greatest Hits comes this year's entry in the tackiness sweepstakes, none other than Volume II. Unfortunately, we have no one to blame but ourselves for this release: the first volume almost reached gold status, at least in the U.S., so there's obviously money in it.

There are several similarities between the two sets. Both contain 65 themes to some very popular as well as some very obscure television shows from the 1950's and '60's, some of which are still running today, at least in syndication. Both are good for a laugh or two at your next very boring party. And both make very fragmented listening, since the average track is about one minute long.

Incurable optimists or dedicated collectors of pop culture, or maybe even hardcore television addicts might see some value in this exercise, but otherwise its strictly a novelty item. If you want to take my advice, invest your \$15 in a copy of the new Peter Hammill album on import and be enlightened instead of bored.

Not even Mister Roger's Neighbourhood can save this one.



There's money in them thar hills

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