

# The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

Gil Scott-Heron

You will not be able to stay home, brother.  
You will not be able to plug in, turn on and cop out.  
You will not be able to lose yourself on skag and  
skip out for beer during commercials,  
Because the revolution will not be televised.

The revolution will not be televised.  
The revolution will not be brought to you by Xerox  
In 4 parts without commercial interruptions.  
The revolution will not show you pictures of Nixon  
blowing a bugle and leading a charge by John  
Mitchell, General Abrams and Mendel Rivers to eat  
hog maws confiscated from a Harlem sanctuary.

The revolution will not be televised.  
The revolution will not be brought to you by the  
Schaefer Award Theatre and will not star Natalie  
Woods and Steve McQueen or Bullwinkle and Julia.  
The revolution will not give your mouth sex appeal.  
The revolution will not get rid of the nubs.  
The revolution will not make you look five pounds  
thinner, the revolution will not be televised, Brother.

R:

There will be no pictures of you and Willie Mays  
pushing that shopping cart down the block on the dead run,  
or trying to slide that color television into a stolen ambulance.  
NBC will not be able predict the winner at 8:32  
on reports from 29 districts.  
The revolution will not be televised.

There will be no pictures of pigs shooting down  
brothers in the instant replay.  
There will be no pictures of Whitney Young being  
run out of Harlem on a rail with a brand new process.  
There will be no slow motion or still life of Roy  
Wilkins strolling through Watts in a Red, Black and  
Green liberation jumpsuit that he had been saving  
For just the right occasion.

Green Acres, The Beverly Hillbillies, and Hooterville  
Junction will no longer be so god damned relevant, and  
women will not care if Dick finally screwed  
Jane on Search for Tomorrow because Black people  
will be in the street looking for a brighter day.  
The revolution will not be televised.

R:

The revolution will not be right back  
after a message about a white tornado, white lightning, or white people.  
You will not have to worry about a dove in your  
bedroom, a tiger in your tank, or the giant in your toilet bowl.  
The revolution will not go better with Coke.  
The revolution will not fight the germs that may cause bad breath.  
The revolution will put you in the driver's seat.

The revolution will not be televised, will not be televised,  
will not be televised, will not be televised.  
The revolution will be no re-run brothers;  
The revolution will be live.