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MTV's Bunker Mentality

[Cable World](#) , [Jan 3, 2000](#)

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Trust MTV to look out for the survival of our species -- not to mention its viewer base.

To prepare for the big Changing of the Yearly Digits last week and cash in on Y2K angst, the tune channel dreamed up The Bunker Project, which sent six young 20-whatever volunteers into a Y2K and tornado-proof bunker beneath Times Square in New York from Dec. 26 to the wee hours of Jan. 1.

Tornadoes in the Big Apple, Gracie?

Anyway, taking a dog-eared page from its Real World program format, MTV taped the lives of these volunteers round the clock and forced them to take part in daily "truth or dare" sessions -- just like junior high! Excerpts of their escapades -- assuming of course, there was anyone left to watch -- were aired on MTV and on its mtv.com Web site.

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Judging from the assembled cast, it might not have been a sure bet the race would have survived. The bunker squad included an "oversensitive" (read out of work) entertainer, an "All-American girl" who actually likes June Cleaver housewife duties, an avowed health nut, a budding ad exec, an actor/med student ("I play one on TV"?) and a comedienne with a foul temper.

Just the stable, dependable lot we would want to rely on to raise our species from the Y2K ashes.

The real question is, what happens nine months from now? You see, MTV honchos said sex between the subterranean volunteers was not prohibited but because of their high content standards that sort of thing would be edited out.

We're confident that footage will immediately be burned to preserve the dignity of the bunkernauts. Where's the guy who stole the Pamela Anderson-Tommy Lee tryst tape when you need him?

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