

UCLA study says

TV violence affects adults

By FRANK JAFFE
Of the Emerald

Efrem Zimbalist Jr. leaps out of a speeding car and pulls out his gun. As "One-shot Erskine" of the FBI, he is a deadly marksman in a blue suit, killing his victims without drawing blood. Bang! Ring up another victim. Erskine hasn't fired an errant shot in years.

While millions of adults are thrilled by fast-paced TV violence, it may be affecting their behavior, according to a recent study.

Excessive viewing of cop and crime shows (they constitute 30 per cent of prime-time television) can stimulate aggressive behavior in adults and develop a distorted view of how dangerous the world really is, claims UCLA's Dr. Roderick Gorney, according to the Associated Press.

Many researchers are convinced that the cause-effect relationship in children is well established. Before Gorney's study, however, little research had been conducted on adults.

In the UCLA study, more than 200 couples spent each night watching various TV diets. One group watched programs filled with violence, while another watched shows such as "Sesame Street."

The violence-viewers rated themselves as increasingly more hostile and aggressive in mood as time passed. Their families reported grouchy behavior around the house.

In contrast, those exposed to the "Sesame Street" type of programs generally became more charitable in mood.

"I agree with these findings," says Bill Elliot, broadcasting professor at the University, "but so far, there is precious little supporting evidence."

Elliot feels that TV violence should be reduced. He finds no consistent support for the "catharsis theory," which claims that without violence on the tube, people would find other outlets for their aggression.

"Deciphering the cause of violence is very complex," says Elliot. "Environment and poverty often provoke violence. Although television is a factor, it's often impossible to determine the extent of its contribution."

"People enjoy TV violence because it's exciting, well done, and visually interesting. Television has a lot of experience with it,"

says Elliot. Undoubtedly, television has produced a large audience of violence addicts.

"I'm basically a mellow guy," says Mike McGrath, a 19-year-old student at the University. "But I love cop shows. I wouldn't run out and shoot somebody just because I saw it on television."

There's concern for adults at all three networks, but there's special concern for children, says Dick Kirschner, CBS vice-president for program practices and standards in the AP report. The "family viewing hour," two hours of non-violent programming during evening prime-time, is an example of this concern, he notes.

As for TV violence and adults, Kirschner says, "Adults should know better than to use violent solutions to problems because most of them have seen the effects of violence in their own lives."

Elliot finds this attitude questionable. "We also should know better than to believe the ads we see," he says, "but we go out and buy the stuff anyway."



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Demos crank out platform

By RICK BELLA
Of the Emerald

Lane County Democrats hammered out a party platform at an eight-hour marathon convention Saturday in Harris Hall.

Over 100 party members started the process of reading, amending, and adopting 25 pages of proposed planks, but only 30 remained until the finish.

The individual planks were written in committee and considered by the body as a whole. Anyone, however, could propose an amendment to one of the planks by obtaining 15 signatures and presenting it for reading to the whole. The platform, required before an election by party by-laws, is not binding on candidates, and several expressed embarrassment at the final product.

Most of the controversy arose when the group ratified support for decriminalization of prostitution, and supported abortion "on demand" for all women over the age of 16 without parental consent. These were the most radical points and most of the other proposals passed without discussion.

"I saw a lot of good things in the platform," said John Stewart, candidate for District 41 State representative. "But I also see some things that are not so good. It's too bad that probably nothing will come of it. In the past, legislators have hardly referred to the platform, and the voters never look at it."

The Democrats ratified nine points specifically referring to higher education:

- Higher education would not be limited to those with financial advantages.

- The support presently offered to minorities and the disadvantaged should be continued and expanded.

- Tuition costs should be minimized; and scholarship and work study opportunities should

be made available to those who cannot afford tuition.

- The federal government's financial support to higher education should be increased substantially.

- In time of financial emergency, support of instruction and research, including educational resources such as library materials, should take precedence over building programs.

- The academic salary objectives of the American Association of University Professors, the American Federation of Teachers, the Oregon State Em-

ploves Association, and the Oregon Education Association should become state law.

- Exchange student programs with other state universities at in-state tuition costs for the students involved should be expanded.

- Participation in the educational programs of the Department of Continuing Education should be encouraged.

- It should be illegal for Oregon to require formal education requirements as a test for employment unless such education is essential to adequate performance of the job.

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