

Effect Of Crime Dramatizations On Youth Concerns Authorities

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The wild gunplay of the Westerns, the brawl in which the frontier saloon is taken apart board by board, the sinister atmosphere of a crime drama—all of these have now become a real and vivid part of the daily lives of America's youth. Many of today's children—unlike their elders—have never known a world without movies and television. Today—directly or indirectly—these forms of entertainment inescapably touch every child, and no amount of parental care can prevent this.

How do these forms of entertainment influence and shape the attitudes of children and what ideas do they instill in their developing minds? Authorities are becoming increasingly concerned about whether or not there is a direct link between crimes committed by juveniles and crimes portrayed in motion pictures and on TV screens.

Just because it cannot be proven that crime stories are invariably a basic cause of juvenile delinquency and always produce fears

and frustrations, it does not follow that they are relatively harmless to children. The most dangerous effect of television and movies is the subtle distortion of human values they produce. What America's youth get out of horror and violence programs is the idea that kindness, sympathy and regard for human suffering are all weaknesses and that cunning and shrewdness are the attributes that count. Many of these shockers shows stimulate unhealthy sexual attitudes and lead children to look on cruelty and violence as a normal way of life.

What the movies and TV need at present is a rollback of sadism. The child who gradually absorbs more and more crime and violence tends to become callous toward human nature. To him, suffering and bloodshed are all a part of daily living. It is then that children begin to confuse violence with strength, sadism with sex, low necklines with femininity, racial prejudice with patriotism and crime for heroism.

It's the bad things that TV and the movies do that unfortunately command most attention. The majority of the programs and movies planned for children have to do with crime and/or violence. Untrained views may miss this proportion because they don't realize that crime is crime and violence is violence even in the patriotic

setting of a Western locale or in the science-fiction setting of interplanetary space. If a person is looking for a realistically-televized act of violence, his chances of finding one are statistically greatly increased if he looks for it on a children's program. Even Walt Disney has resorted to the violence of Western drama in his Frontier Land series. What has happened to Donald Duck and all his gang of fantasy favorites?

Many people do not realize fully what immense potentialities both television and the movies have. That seems to hold true for some of the producers and, in the ascending line of power, the sponsors and advertising agencies as well. In the motion picture industry, Hollywood makes many films to entertain adults and late teenagers, few for children. Producers think of their adult audiences even when filming traditional children's classics. Of course, motion picture men may say that the cartoons are for the kiddies. But what about the cartoons? The majority of them are concerned with getting laughs from Tom the cat as he undergoes a variety of tortures or humiliations. They're all the same.

In view of this evidence, Hollywood is shirking a definite responsibility. Not only is Hollywood closing its eyes to ethics, but the theatre owners as well are shirking a regulative responsibility. Even if a movie is unsuitable, children are seldom refused admittance to it. The millions of kids who go to Saturday movies are a good source of income.

The greatest obstacle to the future of good TV and movies lies in the present-day cult of violence. We now need producers as much interested in character building as they are in shows that can be cheaply produced. If these industries would look to their own code of ethics and would adhere to their standards, the children of today would be more likely to mature with healthy, normal, attitudes about life and reality.

ANN LANDERS

Answers Your Problems



Dear Ann: My wife drinks. Not just a couple at a party, or a high ball before dinner — she must have liquor every day.

Our children (three boys) accept her drinking matter-of-factly. A pal of our 11-year-old son asked why his mother acted "so loud." He said openly, "She's drunk."

I've tried to get to the bottom of her problem but it's no use. She says liquor gives her temporary freedom from her worries. When I ask "What worries," she can't tell me. She says, "Liquor makes me happy. Let me drink if I want to."

I've begged her to get professional help but she has no faith in doctors. When I suggested A.A. she said "It's not dignified."

AIRLINER SETS RECORD

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — An American Airlines Boeing 707 jet airliner flew here from Washington, D.C., in four hours 36 minutes Sunday night to set a new record for the westbound run. The plane, christened before its flight by Mrs. Richard M. Nixon at Friendship International Airport in Washington, broke by 10 minutes a record claimed only hours earlier by Trans World Airlines.

I know you can't solve this problem, but perhaps you can say something to help me understand it better.—Just John.

Your wife needs outside help, and plenty of it. If she refuses, you've got to keep trying to persuade her.

A.A. does a magnificent job. Too bad it's not "dignified" enough for your wife. Perhaps it's more dignified to appear slopped to the eyeballs before her children and their friends?

People who think liquor makes them happy don't know what happiness is, or where to look for it. One thing is certain—it's not at the bottom of that bottle.

Happiness is security; it's the ability to face daily tensions, disappointments and failure. Every living human has something to put up with. Happiness isn't a state of euphoria, complete freedom from anxiety or unlimited financial resources.

It's the ability to take it on the chin without buckling. It's accepting life's bum breaks without getting bitter or reaching for the bottle—or the pill box. Happiness is being able to think through your problems, not pretending they don't exist by fleeing into a state of fantasy. Your wife needs to grow up. 214 Elm Ph. WO 3-2424

It's not what happens to us in this life but how we take it, that counts.

Dear Ann Landers: My mother-in-law is driving me nuts. Every day she phones and says "Have another baby. You'll be sorry later if you don't."

We've been married six years and we have three. As far as I'm concerned three is enough. My husband says it's up to me. He's perfectly satisfied either way.

She keeps telling me how "wonderful" a large family is. I came from a family of two children and I don't feel I missed anything. My husband has three sisters and four brothers and they all fight like cats and dogs. Three of them don't speak to each other, and

two don't speak to their mother. I don't want to be rude, but my temper-string is short. Any suggestions?—Full House.

Dear Ann: The size of the family is nobody's business except the two people directly responsible, namely the mother and father. Ask your husband to tell his mother to stop boring you. She may mean well, but she's off base.

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Evelyn Oveson Garners Top Honors In 4-H Competition

Over 150 4-H club members from Grant, Umatilla, Wallowa, Baker and Union counties are participating in the 51st annual Eastern Oregon Livestock Show at Union.

Thursday morning, June 4, a 4-H livestock judging contest was held with Evelyn Oveson, Wallowa, winning top honors. Frances Peterson, Route 2, La Grande, placed second and Jay Potter, Union was third.

Terry Bowman, Route 2, La Grande, won top honors in the 4-H Horse Judging contest and Sharon Waldrop placed second. Norman Waldrop, La Grande, won third place in this event.

Jim Thompson, Route 2, La Grande exhibited the Grand Champion Market steer. Keith Humphrey, Union exhibited the Grand Champion Market lamb and Danny Paige, Route 2, La Grande showed the Grand Champion Market hog.

The champion Hereford female was shown by Frances Peterson, Route 2, La Grande. Loretta Carter, La Grande exhibited the reserve champion Hereford female. Patricia Kuhl, John Day, exhibited the champion Shorthorn female, and Dennis Courtwright, Route 2, La Grande had the champion Angus female.

Alan Hill, Cove, showed the Champion Jersey female, and Tommy Severns, Summerville exhibited the reserve champion. Barbara Sherwood, Route 2, La Grande, won top honors with her Guernsey cow and Joseph LaVerdure, Telocaset was reserve champion.

In the Holstein division, Ronnie Langford, Union had the champion and Nancy Hoodenpyl, La Grande was reserve champion. John LaVerdure, Telocaset, exhibited the champion Milking Shorthorn female heifer and Jerry Obendorf, Alice showed the reserve champion. Tom Weir, Route 1, La Grande won top honors with his Brown Swiss producing cow and Steven Fenn, La Grande had the reserve champion. In the Ayrshire division, Jim Willett, Wallowa, exhibited both the champion and reserve champions.

In the 4-H Sheep Division, Emmy Ann Duncan, Baker, exhibited the champion Suffolk aged ewe and Ronald Long, Summerville, was reserve champion. The champion Hampshire ewe was shown by Jim Willett, Wallowa and Steven Wolfe, Wallowa was reserve champion. Gail Courtwright, Route 2, La Grande, had the champion Columbia ewe and Dennis Courtwright was reserve champion.

Carolyn Oveson, Wallowa, exhibited the champion Southdown ewe and Janet Oveson, Wallowa was reserve champion. Patricia Kuhl, John Day, showed the champion and reserve champion Cheviot ewes.

In the 4-H Horse division, Mary

Margaret Morris, John Day, won championship honors in the Senior horse showmanship contest. Janice Roberts, Pendleton was reserve champion. In the Junior horse showmanship contest, Paulette Rice, Pendleton was champion and Mary Lynn Berryman, Route 1, La Grande was reserve champion. Dorcas Kilpatrick, John Day, was champion in the Intermediate horse showmanship and Linda Yates, Summerville was reserve champion.

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Injured Man Saved In Fire

KINGS VALLEY, Ore. (UPI)—A Monroe woman threw a blouse over her head and dashed into a flaming house to save an injured man here Saturday.

Mrs. Alene Brittain, about 40, told officers she was attracted to the fire from a neighbor's house where she was visiting. She looked in the window and saw Gene Woods, 45, lying on the floor. She pulled her blouse over her head and went in to pull the man to safety.

Woods was reported in critical condition at a Corvallis hospital. Cause of the fire was not immediately determined.

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