

Television violence and children

Panel looks at effects

by Tammy Swartzendruber
Columnist

S.N.A.P. (Support Non-Aggressive Play) an educational organization that distributes information about the hazards of violent television and toys. On April 14, a meeting was held to make the public aware of the effects of TV violence on young children.

The panel members were: Dr. Dorothy Anker, Henry Groeper, Doug Kutner, and Dr. Dan Gleason.

Dorothy Anker, who is a psychologist and owner of a local store, said that "the average American child this year will see 800 TV advertisements promoting violent toys and 250 episodes of violent cartoons produced to sell those toys. This is the equivalent of 22 days of classroom instruction in violence."

The average war cartoon features 41 acts of violence per hour and an attempted murder every two minutes. "We cannot condone war or permit children to pretend such possibilities. We must put an end to the production of war toys and violent shows on TV," Anker stated. Groeper, who has been a member of the Portland police department for 17 years, says that the police are not trained to deal with the realistic guns that are in the market now. He says that if

children could see the way people die in real life they would have a different perspective on death. Groeper emphasized the fact that "you are not born a burglar or a hold-up man: you learn it."

Kutner, who is also a psychologist, pointed out the appeal of violence. He said that not only does it appeal, but it entertains, controls, and impresses. Kutner went on to say that children as old as eight or ten don't necessarily follow a plot. They see the violence, and the moral at the end of the cartoon goes right over their heads. The success of commercials is very carefully measured. How? By how many toys are sold. This makes us responsible.

Dr. Gleason, who is a pediatrician, says that it's important to let your children know that they don't have to get into a "macho show down" to prove their self worth. "Violence on TV is not just a statistic. We see person to person the bodies of these victims," he said. He told of the tragedy of watching a two year old turn cold in your hands. "How was his five year old brother to know that the gun he was pointing at his brother was not a toy gun? If we continue to train our children in violence or allow them to be trained by television, we are endangering our cities, our neighborhoods, and actually our whole planet," Gleason said.

In 1985, the National Coalition

on television violence, announced a 600% increase in cartoon-supported war-toy sales over the past three years. Violent toys are being used by children to rehearse what they have seen on TV. According to Dr. Gerbner of the University of Pennsylvania, children learn that violence is the "key to power" and it is the effective, even desirable, solution to conflict.

Some advice was given by the panel members on how to deal with violence in our own homes. Anker said that sometimes parents must put their foot down and not allow their children to play with aggressive children in the neighborhood. If children like to play with guns, parents should acknowledge it, but at the same time let the children know that you do not accept it. Dr. Gleason said that the best defense for our children is to walk away from violent behavior. If you do not have a TV you need to let your child know that your family is unique, with it's own values. If they see a show at the neighbors' that they do not understand, ask them to tell you about it.

Anker stressed that we should need to be afraid of children's fantasy play, but we do not need to put the weapons into their hands. Alternatives to war toys are things that allow children to be creative, such as: building and construction toys, dress up clothes, typewriters, puppets, and play food.



Karen Perkins
Presidential candidate



Faith Taylor
Presidential candidate



Leslie Barton
Vice-Presidential candidate



Tom Pagh
Presidential candidate

Candidates previewed

by Heleen Veenstra
Editor

Tom Pagh, Karen Perkins, and Faith Taylor are running for ASG president, and Leslie Barton is running for the vice-presidency. Eric Berg dropped out of the race for ASG president.

The positions for Entertainment Coordinator, Assistant to the President, and Administrative

Assistant will be opened up after the election.

"I think students are given the opportunity to influence the decision making process here on campus. It would be tragic if they (the students) didn't exercise that opportunity, because they didn't field leadership for the student's only representative organization," Neale Frothingham, student government president, concluded.

Gaining experience

Students interested in gaining work experience in writing, copy-editing and assisting in the production of a monthly newsletter and quarterly magazine can contact The World Forestry Center. The interested should submit a letter of application, resume with writing sample and references to Anne Browne, Communication Director, at 4033 S.W. Canyon Rd., Portland, OR. For more information call 228-7253.

News Briefs

Music festival

This Saturday on April 23, the Bluegrass, Country Music Festival will be held on campus at 7:30 p.m. Admission will be \$2 for general and \$1 for children under 12 and seniors.

Jobs created

The Clackamas Division of Oregon Marketplace has moved to the Business Center of Clackamas County, located in downtown Oregon City.

Oregon Marketplace creates jobs and stimulates economic growth by connecting Oregon Businesses with local suppliers of goods and services that they plan to buy or are now buying out of state.

Change in ASG

Leslie Wisniewsky resigned from her position as Administrative Assistant in ASG, the beginning of Spring term. Beverly Hinkel replaced Wisniewsky in that position.

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