

Media violence causes aggression

on Armstead
ry Editor

"Pulp Fiction," video "Grand Theft Auto" groups like Suicidal Tendencies demonstrate that much has bought into the creep themselves in main unaffected by shows violent media.

that by the time the s 18 they have seen violence and 40,000 y of television and y carried out by psy- Anderson and Brad ublished in "Science" sure to violent media behavior.

hours a day, the rate of aggression was 25.3 percent.

While television and movies serve up an unhealthy visual of aggression, video games draw people in by allowing them to take part in the violent action. Craig Anderson and psychologist Karen Dill found that playing video games can increase a person's aggressive thoughts, feelings and behavior.

One study found that young men who are habitually aggressive became more so when exposed repeatedly to violent games. The other study revealed that even a brief exposure to violent video games can temporarily increase aggressive behavior in all types of participants.

Another form of media, hardcore music, particularly rap and heavy metal, is one of the most effective promoters of violent behavior.

In the book "The Psychology of Music," Dr. Schoen says, "Music is

the most powerful stimulus known among the perceptive processes." A study in the May 2003 edition of "Personality and Social Psychology" resulted from experiments involving

Tool, Cypress Hill, Johnny Cash and Suicidal Tendencies. Afterward, they were asked to perform psychological tasks in which they would answer questions, define words or describe their feelings.

Violent songs increased feelings of hostility without provocation or threat, according to the study. Even humorous violent songs increased aggressive thoughts.

"Repeated exposure to violent lyrics may contribute to the development of an aggressive personality," said Anderson.

While evidence has shown that violent media is mentally unhealthy, seldom do we hear any serious warnings against it. The unhindered media is

raking in the rewards of the consumer's taste for violence and they don't want to stop.

If society continues to remain unconcerned and inactive about the effects of violent media, the result will undoubtedly be a need for more prisons and a more dangerous world for coming generations.



more than 500 college students and was conducted by researchers from Iowa State University and the Texas Department of Human Services. Researchers looked at the effects of both violent and nonviolent songs on students.

Participants in the experiments listened to songs by groups such as

Financial services really is here to help

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ago, in an office lived an evil queen ent on making sure id ever receive an lack of funds.

of the ridiculous floating around ing financial aid, e students haven't ing pitchforks and rector of Student s Mary Jo Jackson the black of night. y human nature to feigns to be under- the things to be said er minions, they are derstood.

just trying to do their job. They're as human as anybody, and as humans are just as susceptible as anyone to ... *gasp* errors!

That's right, Jackson and Co. have taken it upon themselves to improve the educational financing situation of over 3,000 students per term (that's every single term) and they're definitely aware of how difficult life can be when it comes to the big, bad world of government funding.

"I know that it's very frustrating [because] it asks for a lot of paperwork," said Jackson. "I mean, the FAFSA [Free Application for Federal Student Aid] on its own is a pretty difficult thing to tackle."

The truth is Financial Services are there to help students actually GET money for a higher education, not take it away. Like anything else in this country that's federally regulated, there is a HUGE amount of paperwork involved in getting financial aid and student loans, and sometimes paperwork

doesn't match up and corrections need to be made. That's when Jackson or someone on her staff will try to contact the student via e-mail, post-card, phone-call, or even carrier pigeon (OK, not really).

"We want everybody to read the stuff we send them ... that's why we send it to [them]," said Jackson. "[We know] that people don't, [but] if we find out that there's something that's going to come up that's going to impact students, we like to give them a head's up." Trouble is, if people don't want to read or take responsibility, then there's not a whole lot they can do.

So the moral of this little fairy tale is simply that if anyone is having trouble getting their money situation figured out, don't be a stranger around the Financial Services office. The people over there might not be available on absolute



demand, but usually a phone call or (preferably) an e-mail will generate a response, according to Jackson, in no more than 48 hours.

Until then, take comfort in knowing that things like suggestion boxes are on the way, and that those people holed up in that office back there for eight-plus hours per day are actually decent folks who are set out to make sure that everyone can afford to learn and live happily ever after. The end.

Best activist should be grateful for inaugural prayer

on Armstead
ry Editor

ndow, the man who words "under God" lge of allegiance, to eliminate public l, this time target- gural prayer; how- nts are unfounded s to press his own

omplains that the d in government ing left out as an

nse of the highest the leader of our wearing to uphold - publicly violates ment upon taking e," Newdow said

The part of the constitution that Mr. Newdow speaks of is our First Amendment, which begins, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech" That means that there is to be no state-sponsored religion, and that the government cannot tell us how to worship God, whether you call Him Jehovah, Allah, Buddha, or Jesus. It does not say we cannot freely invoke the name of any god.

The so-called "separation of church & state" is not even written in the U.S. Constitution but is someone's analysis of what they believe that portion of the First Amendment means.

Mr. Newdow originally took up a lawsuit against the mention of "under God" in the pledge of allegiance. Apparently it was offen-

sive to him that his daughter had to hear "under God." Newdow's daughter was not under his custody and her mother was not offended by the pledge, which her daughter was not required to recite. Mr. Newdow's lawsuit was later thrown out because the words "under God" did not cause sufficient harm to any individual.

What Mr. Newdow demonstrates is that he would like to instigate his own religion of no god, and repress the liberties of others who do believe in a god. What he fails to recognize is that government is to take no official position on religion. It cannot take a position against religion any more than it can favor a certain religion.

There is room in our country for every religion—Jews, Muslims, Christians and atheists alike—as long as they work peaceably. Fortunately for Mr. Newdow, America was

founded on the Protestant religion of our forefathers that allow him to have his own soapbox. Mr. Newdow, a minister of the "Universal Life Church," should realize that allowing President Bush to recognize his god is an affirmation of Newdow's right to practice and preach atheism.

Have an opinion about the opinions on this page? Write a letter to the editor: oped@clackamas.edu

Student Poll:

What was your New Year's resolution, and have you stuck to it?



"I want to become fluent in Spanish, and travel more. I have been working on it."
Jenn Borowccak



"I want to get back in shape and get more tattoos. I've gotten more tattoos."
Austin Rose



"I would like to spend more time reading the Bible. I have been."
Reggie Stegmeier



"I have decided to be more assertive and upfront with people. Yes, I have already had a few discussions with people about some issues."
Sara Stokes



"I want to quit smoking. Nope!"
With a smirk.
Chris Serbo

This week's poll compiled by Joe Piazzisi and Laura Cameron.

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