

the nation

Study finds watching TV increases sexist attitudes

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — People who watch a lot of television have more sexist attitudes than those who rarely watch it, a University of Pennsylvania study said Monday.

Researchers sampled 3,600 people and found that those who watch television more than four hours a day scored higher on a test to detect sexist attitudes.

"Television tends to perpetuate a sexist view of the world where men have all the adventures and women are relegated to staying at home," said Dr. Nancy Signorielli, one of the authors of the study.

She said in the more than 1,300 network television programs monitored over the past 10 years, men outnumbered women three to one, and women characters were less likely to have a job and more likely to be married than were male characters.

The number of minorities, on the other hand, has been relatively accurately represented on television recently, she said.

The study showed that total minority representation has risen from 6 percent in 1969 to 13 percent in 1979.

Court won't hear landowners' case

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Monday denied a hearing to a group of landowners challenging a federal program to protect flood-prone land on grounds it diminishes the value of their land.

The justices let stand a lower-court decision that the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 does not violate the rights of the Texas Landowners Rights Association, the state of Missouri, 40 local governments and several hundred landowners.

In 1968, Congress passed the National Flood Insurance Act, a federally subsidized program to protect property owners against flood damage by providing government-supported insurance.

As a condition of the program, the act required flood-prone communities to adopt local flood plain management measures to reduce or avoid damage.

Congress, realizing the program was not sufficient to induce community participation, passed the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, which included sanctions against communities that did not take part.

The act prohibited federal assistance for construction and loans from federally supervised lending institutions to landowners in flood-prone communities that did not participate in the program.

The landowners charged the 1973 law transformed a voluntary federal insurance program into one that coerced landowners and local governments into taking part in the program.

A federal district court judge dismissed the landowners' suit against the government, ruling the act was in the interest of the public's safety, health and general welfare. The decision was upheld by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Appealing to the Supreme Court, the landowners argued that property is designated flood-prone without a hearing and the determination often reduces land values.

The landowners said some land was declared flood-prone with no evidence that it was under greater risk than other areas.

"Only since 1973, however, has the scheme of enforcing local government and landowner participation in the program had the effect of forcing petitioners to accept irrational adjudications," the landowners argued in their appeal.

The government, opposing review, said Congress has determined there is a "need for a comprehensive scheme of flood disaster management."

"Part of the scheme involves discouraging new investment in flood-prone areas because the public must bear the expense of the subsidized insurance," the government said.

Government lawyers said designating land as flood-prone does not reduce property values.

Crash kills prisoners on way to freedom

United Press International  
SAN DIEGO — A Mexican government plane carrying American inmates destined for a prisoner exchange with Mexicans jailed in this country slammed into a utility pole in fog and burned near the border Sunday, killing all 10 people aboard.

A Federal Aviation Administration official said there was no indication of any emergency or problem with the twin-engine Otter turboprop plane, which was attempting to land at Tijuana International Airport in heavy fog.

The blazing wreckage containing the four American prisoners, two Mexican pilots and four prison guards burned intensely for two hours as molten aluminum flowed several yards from the impact area, a half-mile north of the international border.

The FAA said the pilot had requested clearance into U.S. airspace through the Tijuana airport tower several minutes before the crash.

"One wing caught the telephone pole and the baby just started turning," said Border Patrol Sgt. Jack Doherty. "As near as we can tell the cause was bad visibility and the pilot didn't know where he was at."

The prisoner exchange program, which began in December 1977, allows American prisoners in Mexico to complete their sentences in this country and Mexicans jailed in America to return home.

The four Americans were identified as Steven Michael Olsen, 30, of Imperial Beach, Calif.; Lotus Marie Sanchez, 29, of Garden Grove, Calif.; Julie Ann Sheldon, 25, of Cambria, Calif.; and Gerald Lapinski, 35, hometown unknown.

Olsen and Miss Sheldon, daughter of jazz trumpeter Jack Sheldon of the Merv Griffin television program, had been married in Mexico and were returning to the United States to start a new life with the couple's 9-month-old daughter.

Relatives said the couple was on vacation in Mexico about a week when they were arrested on a marijuana charge.

The two Mexican prisoners identified as Rene Hernandez Villalva, the four federal agents Rafael Gama Avistas, Juan Estrada, Fernando Lopez and Raul Santos Benavente.

U.S. Patrol agents found the burning aircraft at about midnight at about the same time an American traffic controller reported a plane had disappeared from radar screen.

The rugged Otter plane, which is crisscrossed only by a narrow runway, was used by Border Patrol agents to transport a plane had disappeared from radar screen.

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\$19.3 million deficit

County lays off 5,000 workers

United Press International  
DETROIT — Pink slips are being mailed in Wayne County, the nation's third largest county, informing nearly 5,000 county workers they will be out of work in two weeks.

The county, facing a \$19.3 million deficit, Monday planned to mail the layoff notices and to notify state officials it cannot maintain essential services. The layoffs are scheduled to take effect Nov. 12.

County officials also were slated to ask the Michigan Court of Appeals to rule on the county's obligation to fund its four courts.

Earlier this month, Circuit Judge Richard L. Borker ordered \$1.5 million in county funds set aside for operation of the courts.

The debt-ridden county hoped to pay its workers' promissory notes over the next few weeks, or until the end of the year. But Friday, Wayne Circuit Court Judge Joseph J. Dick struck down that plan.

"A rose by any other name is a rose, promissory notes permitted by law," Borker said.

The county proposal last week by the Board of Commissioners, was to lay off 4,500 workers and then immediately call about half of them back to work either in scrip or interest promissory notes.

Lt. Gov. James Boudin said the county over the years has avoided with a significant spending reduction program.

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