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Study claims TV dramas misleading

United Press International
NEW YORK — A new study has found that television drama substantially under-represents large segments of American society and induces fear in viewers.
The study, released Monday, was conducted from 1969 to 1978 by the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania in collaboration with the Screen Actors Guild.
It found men outnumber women three to one on the programs; Hispanics, children and the elderly are under-represented; and the pro-

gramming gains of blacks and Orientals in the mid-1970s were undercut in the late 1970s.
The authors, George Gerbner and Nancy Signorielli, mentioned no specific shows. A team of researchers at the university watched 1,365 programs and analyzed 16,888 characters during the study.
Programs watched included television plays, movies on television and narrative cartoons aired in the fall of each year from 8-11 p.m. on week nights and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends.
SAG President Kathleen Nolan said the data reveals that "TV is perpetuating an unreal world in which some segments of society barely exist."
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More than shaking hands

Candidates invited to forum

United Press International
CONCORD, N.H. — The League of Women Voters and the Franklin Pierce Law Center want to make sure presidential candidates talk about energy issues and don't just shake hands while campaigning in New Hampshire.
The two groups plan to sponsor weekly forums to give the contenders a platform for serious discussion of energy issues.
All 17 candidates involved in primary battles for the Republican and Democratic nominations have been invited to speak at the school between late November and the Feb. 26 primary.
"We don't want the candidates to go through New Hampshire, shake hands and leave without answering some tough questions," Peter Brown, director of the Energy Law Institute at Franklin Pierce, told a news conference Monday.
Brown said all the candidates have said they were interested in coming, except for former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, who has not responded, and former Texas Gov. John Connally, whose staff refused the invitation.
Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy, who has yet to formally announce his candidacy, has been invited, Brown said, but third-party candidates will not be included unless they plan to enter one of the primary elections.
The program will be kicked off Friday with a panel discussion about supply and demand problems and possible solutions. The panelists have also been asked to come with a list of questions on energy which will be put to the presidential candidates.
The league agreed to help sponsor the series because "we believe that energy is one of the most important issues that New Hampshire and the entire U.S.A. have to face," said League Vice President Larry Allen.
"What the candidates say will follow them through the long, arduous 14 months and one of them to the White House where he will be held accountable," she said.

It's all but official now

Kennedy for president

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The campaign is running full steam, contributions and endorsements are arriving, the official committee is formed. Now all that remains is for Sen. Edward Kennedy to announce formally for president Nov. 7.
The senator Monday picked a date exactly a year before the 1980 presidential election to make the long awaited announcement that he will become the third Kennedy brother to seek the White House in the past 20 years.
Kennedy picked Boston's historic Faneuil Hall as the site of his announcement, having decided against Boston's Parker House or the Senate Caucus Room in Washington where his brothers John and Robert made their announcements.
The decision was in keeping with Kennedy's wish to revive his brothers' memories but not the nostalgia their names would boost his campaign.
The campaign became official Monday when manager Stephen Smith, Kennedy's brother-in-law, announced formation of a Kennedy for President Committee. The committee's headquarters are in a former Cadillac dealership downtown Washington, less than a mile from the White House.
"I expect this is going to be an extremely long and difficult process," Smith said. "It is our hope that Senator Kennedy should be the next president of the United States."
Kennedy took no part in the formation of the committee except to sign a statement granting permission to raise funds on his behalf.
One of the first questions answered at a news conference following the announcement was the importance as a campaign issue of the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, Kennedy's car on Chappaquiddick 10 years ago.
"I think the senator has taken responsibility on himself. It is a personal tragedy that will always with him and it's a matter of record," Smith said. He added that he thought it would be up to the voters to decide if it should be a campaign issue.

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