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Take that, prime-time

Saturday morning cartoons and theatrical movies display large share of TV violence

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Theatrical movies and children's shows, not prime-time series television, bear much of the blame for TV's blood-and-guts reputation, a study released Tuesday says.

The UCLA Television Violence Monitoring Report found that, of 121 TV series airing during the 1994-95 season, 10 were frequently violent or used violence in questionable ways — graphically or heroically, for example, said Jeffrey Cole, director of the university's Center for Communications Policy.

"We found relatively few issues of great concern within television series. The picture is not as hopeful with regard to theatrical films on television."

— Jeffrey Cole
director of UCLA's Center for Communications Policy

However, nearly half of the theatrical films shown on network television raise serious concerns about violence, as did many Saturday morning children's shows as well as promotions for programming.

"We found relatively few issues of great concern within television series," Cole said. "The picture is not as hopeful with regard to theatrical films on television."

Of 118 films in the study, 50 — about 42 percent — raised concerns about violence.

In one, *Marked for Death*, Cole said, "you can hear the spine crack and almost see an impalement."

In children's programming, the study particularly criticized shows that featured what Cole called "sinister combat violence" — unrestrained fights between figures of good and evil. Singletons include *X-Men* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

Cole stressed that the study did not count up the incidents of violence in any program but tried to look at violent scenes in context, as whether scenes are particularly gory or whether viewers are made aware of the consequences of violence depicted.

The series that had the most incidents of questionable violence — 12 over the season — were *Walker, Texas Ranger*, *Mantis* and *The Files*.

Others were *Due South*, *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*, *Fortune Hunter*, *The From the Crypt*, *VR.5*, *Marker* and *America's Funniest Home Videos*.

The \$500,000 study was financed by ABC, NBC and Fox Broadcasting Co., but Cole said researchers were not under network control. He said the networks received copies of the 181-page study at the same time it was publicly released.

Although he welcomed the networks' decision to take part in the study, he noted it was largely a result of political pressure brought to bear on members of Congress and others concerned about violence in the medium.

The study is the first of three reports that are part of the network-financed project. The next report, reviewing the 1995-96 season, will be released next year.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Carter teams with daughter for book

ATLANTA (AP) — Peace negotiator, poet and former president, Jimmy Carter, has written his first children's book.

The Little Baby Snoogle-Fleejer, scheduled for release in November by Times Books, was written by Carter and illustrated by his daughter, Amy.

The book, about a sea monster that befriends a boy, is based on a story Carter used to tell his children when they were young.

Amy, a graduate student in art, said the collaboration with her father worked well.



Carter

"My father and I have had a pleasant relationship, but meeting the ambitious publisher's deadline has been quite difficult for me," she said.

Bochco denies Simpson inspiration

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Steven Bochco denies the O.J. Simpson murder trial inspired his new legal drama *Murder One*, which follows the same trial over an entire season.

Nor is Bochco, who produced *LA Law*, concerned about the Simpson trial sapping public appetite for legal thrillers.

"I suppose there's a risk there, but I think court trials, murder trials, murder mysteries, you know, all of which are sort of embodied in this kind of a show, have always been fascinating to people, to the degree that they're compellingly told," he said.

The show debuted last night.

Washington was quick to pursue da

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Zel Washington credits all-boys education with making him a painfully shy around women.

"When I was in college, I couldn't get a girlfriend, I was anybody's sex symbol then," actor told the TV show *Extra* a segment to be broadcast today. "I went to a private school, all-boys school in high school. I came out, what I like to say, 'specially retarded,'" Washington said. "I just had no clue of how you talk to girls."

In college, secretly in love with a fellow student, he struggled to muster the courage to approach her.

"I was like, 'Come Tuesday I'm going to talk to her,'" he called. "I was a little slow those days."

Washington, 41, has been married for 13 years.

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