

Video Games: Friendly or Hostile Invasion

Are electronic video games a friendly or hostile invasion? asks an article in the December/January issue of PTA Today, the National PTA's magazine. This multibillion-dollar entertainment industry has become a source of controversy for many parents and PTAs. Why do some parents object?

Many parents are concerned about the questionable habits children may pick up at the arcades where they play the games. Youngsters may use up their lunch or bus money or even

steal to finance their play; players may lose track of time, stay out too late, and violate curfew; and the parlors that house the games may become hangouts or attract drug dealers," says the article.

The increasing number of parlors and their proximity to schools are two prime concerns, according to a recent statement issued by the National PTA Board of Directors. The statement added that the possibility of drinking, gambling, drug selling, drug use, and increased gang activities may occur when there is little or no supervision. On the other hand, youngsters who frequent parlors which have adequate supervision and lighting appear to be more interested in the quality of play, the statement continues.

Spokesmen for the electronic video games industry have pointed out some positive contributions of the games, according to the article. These include:

- An opportunity for youngsters to have a positive introduction to computers.
- A form of entertainment that involves participation rather than passivity, like TV;
- Development of some skills, such as eye-hand coordination and closer attention to detail; and
- Kinesthetic learning skills, involving a physical response to cues from the games.

In fact, the article continues, some schools have decided to cash in on the trend and install the games in or near their cafeterias, thus providing entertainment which can be more readily supervised as well as raise money for school activities. One PTA president supported such a program, adding that she saw no harm in having the games in a supervised setting.

Other issues still need to be addressed, according to the article. "What, if any, are the long-range effects of the games on children? Are the games too violent? Do they mesmerize players or put them into a trance-like state that might be unhealthy? Do they cause some children compulsively to play too much and give up their social activities?" Few studies have answered these questions.

Copies of the December/January issue of PTA Today are available for \$1.00 each by sending a check or money order (made payable to National PTA) to National PTA, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. (312) 787-0977.

Herman Wouk's "The Winds of War" Aired on Sunday, Feb. 6

The betrayals and butchery, deals and deceptions that turned Europe into a battlefield in 1939 are experienced through the personal insight and involvement of an American Navy officer and his family in Herman Wouk's "The Winds of War," an "ABC Novel for Television" presentation which will air on the ABC Television Network in seven parts, beginning Sunday, Feb. 6 (8:00 - 11:00 P.M., EST.)

The Paramount Television production, produced and directed by Dan Curtis and starring Robert Mitchum and Ali MacGraw in the adaptation written by Herman Wouk, will air on the following schedule:

- SUNDAY, FEB. 6 (8:00-11:00 p.m., EST)
- MONDAY, FEB. 7 (8:00-11:00 p.m., EST)
- TUESDAY, FEB. 8 (9:00 - 11:00 p.m., EST)
- WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9 (9:00 - 11:00 p.m., EST)
- THURSDAY, FEB. 10 (9:00-11:00 p.m., EST)
- FRIDAY, FEB. 11 (8:00 - 11:00 p.m., EST)
- SUNDAY, FEB. 13 (8:00 - 11:00 p.m., EST)

Jan - Michael Vincent, John Houseman, Polly Bergen, Lisa Eilbacher, David Dukes, Topol, Ben Murphy, Peter Graves, Victoria Tennant, Jeremy Kemp and Ralph Bellamy (as Franklyn Delano Roosevelt) are also starred in the 18-hour presentation.

Filming of "The Winds of War" began aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California, on Dec. 1, 1980 and was completed (except for "miniature photography") on Dec. 8, 1981, in Port Hueneme, California, with the recreation of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

A total of 404 additional sites were involved as the production moved through locations in Zagreb, Opatija and Rijeka, Yugoslavia; Vienna; Rome, Florence, Siena, Milan and Venice, Italy; Berchtesgaden and Munich, Germany; London; the United States Naval Facility at Bremerton, Washington, and various locations in southern California.

The mammoth project, which wound up four days ahead of its 206-day shooting schedule, is the most ambitious ever undertaken for

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SENIORS THANK IMPERIAL PALACE



FOURTEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF LAS VEGAS AREA NURSING HOMES CAME TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE RECENTLY TO THANK THE MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES OF THE HOTEL AND SINGER LOVELACE WATKINS FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY AND KINDNESS TO LAS VEGAS SENIOR CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF LAS VEGAS CONVALESCENT CENTER, TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION CLAUDINE JOSEPH (RIGHT), ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR FOR LVCC, PRESENTED A PLAQUE TO BETTY ENGELSTAD, THE IMPERIAL PALACE HOSTED 1800 SENIORS FOR PRIME RIB DINNER AND THE LOVELACE WATKINS SHOW DECEMBER 19, 20, AND 21. MANY OF THE SENIORS ALSO TOURED THE IMPERIAL PALACE AUTO COLLECTION. TWO HUNDRED OF THE GUESTS WERE IN WHEELCHAIRS, REQUIRING SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION VIA BUSES, VANS -- AND A FREIGHT ELEVATOR TO THE BANQUET ROOM.

"THE WINDS OF WAR"



Ali MacGraw, in her first television appearance, is Natalie Jastrow and Robert Mitchum is Pug Henry.



David Dukes (l), Ali MacGraw and Jan-Michael Vincent are civilians caught in the mindless crush of war.



Robert Mitchum stars as one of the most powerful characters in contemporary fiction when he plays Capt. Victor "Pug" Henry.

The Above Three Pictures Are Scenes From ABC's Upcoming Presentation Of Herman Wouk's "The Winds Of War,"

A "ABC Novel For Television" Airing In Seven Parts Beginning

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6th (8:00-11:00 P.M., EST.)