

Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D

What effects do T.V., the movies, comics, and the radio have on children? How do these forms of entertainment influence children physically, mentally and emotionally? Are the results good or bad? We must try to find the answers to these questions before we can decide whether some sort of action for or against them is necessary. And if necessary, we can do nothing to plan a program to help our child-

ren or to improve entertainment until we know where the difficulties lie.

The questions we are asking are not simple ones to answer. The problem of measuring effects is a tough and complicated one. A great deal of painstaking research has yet to be done before causes and effects can be pinned down definitely. However, by watching children, by looking over the studies that

have been made, and by considering the opinion of experts, we may be able to get close to the truth.

We, as adults, feel that movies, radio, T.V., and comics will make our children nervous and upset. Most trained observers, however, would be unwilling to make a blanket statement that this is true. Before judging at all, they would ask some questions: Which movies? Which radio and TV programs? Which comics? and which children?

We have to be cautious about jumping to conclusions regarding the "bad" and "good" effects of these kinds of entertainment on children. We cannot label all movies, comics, radio, or TV programs as "bad" or "good." We

have to consider particular movies, comics, radio or TV programs. Even in the cases where the contents stress excitement and violence, it is also necessary to ask: What kind of violence? And how often is the child being exposed to it?

Then, too, we have to think of individual children. Children differ, not only in age and rate of physical growth, but in their emotional, mental, and social development as well. Their experiences are different. So are their home and school environments. What appeals to some children may bore others. What troubles one child may pass over another child unnoticed.

Another point worth remembering is that the eyes and ears of the child do not react the same as the adult's. Their worlds are different. What shocks the adult may not shock the child. And the opposite is also true. A child may be disturbed by pictures and sounds that leave the grown-up untroubled.

It has been shown that children learn a great deal from movies, radio, TV, and comics — information and misinformation. They may remember a great deal and for a long time. Modern educators believe that these forms of communication can, if properly used, help children in the classroom. But this does not answer a question parents and teachers ask again and again. Do present day radio, TV, comics, and movies help or hinder schoolwork? So far there is little evidence one way or the other. Even the results of studies differ.

Among elementary school pupils, one survey showed that children in the top fourth of the class spent about six hours less per week in televiewing than did those in the lowest fourth. This may mean only that poor students

"CHILD IN THE ARTS" WILL SHOWCASE SAT. AT FLAMINGO LIBRARY

PACES (Parent and Child Enrichment Seminars) and the Clark County Library District will present a showcase designed to enhance and enrich the creative quality of the parent/child relationship on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Flamingo Library.

Focusing on the arts as an integral part of the home environment, the showcase will provide parents with information about the creative resources and activities available in Las Vegas in order to develop in the child, at an early age, a life-long appreciation for the cultural arts.

Beginning at 11 a.m. on Sept. 22, numerous local agencies, among them Nevada School of the Arts, Discovery Children's Museum, Learning Is Fun, Rio Nole Dance Arts and Clark County Parks and Recreation, will exhibit informative materials about their programs. The exhibits will be open through the day-long activities.

are more interested in TV than good students are, and so doesn't necessarily mean that TV viewing leads to poor grades. However, excessive time spent on TV could be a cause of poor grades in some instances.

It would appear that parents should be the judge of how much TV, radio, comics, and movies they will permit their children to have.

At 11 a.m. Karen McKenney of Rainbow Company will present a creative dramatics workshop for parents and children, ages three to 10.

A performing arts recital will follow at 1:30 featuring the Suzuki Violinists from the Nevada School of the Arts, the singing Kreative Kids, the Nevada Dance theatre Youth Company performing a dance from Hansel and Gretel, the Fern Adair Dancers and a dramatic presentation by Tomorrow, Inc.

The final portion of the all-day showcase will feature separate adult and children's programs both beginning at 3 p.m. UNLV Counseling and Special Education Professor Nasim Dill will moderate the adult panel discussion on creative development with expert emphasis on dance, music, theatre and the visual arts. Children are invited to enjoy a warm and funny afternoon of stories, movies and crafts in the Young People's Library.

The library invites your participation in the first arts fair designed specifically for children.

There is no clear evidence that these entertainments have a very pronounced effect, good or bad, on schoolwork. However, studies of individual children have shown that radio, TV, comics, and movies sometimes do affect certain individual children.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Clark County Community College is seeking candidates with a strong commitment to the community college philosophy for the position of Dean of College Services. Clark County Community College is a comprehensive two-year institution with an enrollment of 10,000 full- and part-time students. It is located in the Greater Las Vegas area with a population of over 500,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Dean of College Services shall be responsible to the President for the administration of all institutional services necessary for the effective functioning of College programs. Leadership will be provided in the development, coordination, and monitoring of student services, learning resources, community education, and the physical plant. Emphasis will be placed on effective administration of diverse functions in order to ensure that total College operation provides an optimum environment for quality education for all students.

QUALIFICATIONS: Master's required, doctorate preferred; demonstrated creative and efficient administrative leadership at progressively high levels of responsibility; competence in program planning, development, and coordination, and expertise in fiscal management.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Letter of application, current resume, and three letters of recommendation should be forwarded to:

Personnel Office
Clark County Community College
3200 E. Cheyenne Avenue
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

SALARY RANGE: \$39,000 - \$42,000

TARGET DATE FOR EMPLOYMENT: October 14, 1984

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: October 5, 1984

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| States | Voting-age blacks | Blacks not registered | Reagan's 1980 margin |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| New York | 1,631,000 | 894,000 | 90,672 |
| North Carolina | 897,000 | 506,000 | 39,383 |
| Virginia | 714,000 | 331,000 | 237,435 |
| South Carolina | 625,000 | 292,000 | 11,057 |
| Alabama | 644,000 | 272,000 | 17,462 |
| Louisiana | 813,000 | 256,000 | 84,400 |
| Tennessee | 479,000 | 158,000 | 4,710 |
| Mississippi | 541,000 | 131,000 | 11,808 |
| Arkansas | 233,000 | 85,000 | 5,123 |
| Massachusetts | 149,000 | 64,000 | 3,829 |
| Kentucky | 176,000 | 62,000 | 17,857 |

Source: Joint Center for Political Studies