

# Poll Says Children Think Tv Bad Influence

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuter) - Almost two-thirds of young people believe that some television shows and movies influence children to be disrespectful toward their parents or to have sex when they are too young, a national poll of children says.

The poll said the vast majority of children — 82 percent — believed television shows should help teach children right from wrong.

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influenced by what they see on television.

Sixty-five percent said shows like "The Simpsons" and "Married ... With Children" encourage children to disrespect their parents, Children Now said Monday. Sixty-two percent said that sex on television shows and movies influences children to have sex when they are too young.

"Kids today spend more time watching TV and movies than they do in the classroom," James Steyer, president of Children Now, said in a statement. "Our poll shows that kids themselves believe that television and the movies are sending a variety of potentially negative signals to young people in the audience."

The telephone poll of 750 children, aged 10 to 16, was

carried out January 16-19 by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates and has a margin of error of three percentage points.

Children Now also released a second study by Katharine Heintz-Knowles, assistant professor of communications at the University of Washington, examining how children are portrayed in entertainment programs on broadcast and cable television.

The study found that a majority of child characters on

commercial broadcast television engaged in "anti-social behaviors such as lying, neglecting their responsibilities, or being either physically or verbally aggressive," Children Now said.

Some of these behaviors, including physical aggression and deceitful behavior, are frequently shown to be effective in meeting the television character's goals, reinforcing a potentially negative message to children watching, it said.

## STUDENTS TO LEARN SPORTSMANSHIP LESSON

Students at Rowe Elementary School will get a lesson on the importance of good sportsmanship Tuesday, March 7, in celebration of National Sportsmanship Day.

Students will learn about sportsmanship from a variety of guest speakers, including members of the Las Vegas Dust Devils soccer team and the Las Vegas Sting indoor football team, as well as UNLV athletes and cheerleaders, who will teach the students a cheer.

Physical education specialist Charlene Lavigne is coordinating the event to reinforce the

importance of good sportsmanship. "Our students are continuing to learn the importance of ethics, fair play and good sportsmanship in athletics, physical education and in our daily lives," she said.

The sportsmanship assembly will be held from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the school, 4338 S. Bruce Street. Winners of sportsmanship art and essay contests will be recognized during the assembly.

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## CCSD PRESENTS 17TH ANNUAL DANCE FESTIVAL

The Clark County School District's Dance Education program will hold it's 17th Annual Dance Festival on March 14 at 7 p.m. in Artemus Ham Hall at UNLV.

Students from 12 area middle and high schools will participate in this celebration of dance.

The public is invited to attend. Tickets for this year's event are on sale at Artemus Ham Hall ticket office for \$4. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. For ticket information, call 895-3801.

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