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John Murray makes a point about the effects of TV violence on children at a seminar on the subject at UNL's Law College Tuesday afternoon.

TV violence examined

By John Koopman

On the one hand, studies have shown that viewing violence on television seems to be significantly related to violent behavior in children, according to John Murray, psychologist and director of youth and family policy at Boys Town.

On the other hand, he said, currently there is no evidence to suggest that the implications are long-range or particularly negative.

On the one hand, considering the nature of communications law as it applies to broadcasting, further regulation and censorship could be forced upon the industry if TV violence is found to be excessively harmful, according to John Snowden, associate professor of law at UNL.

On the other hand, he said, plaintiffs have had a poor record in lawsuits which tried to claim damages due to TV violence against media companies.

On the one hand, television is responsible for bringing a wide variety of culture and other beneficial programming to children and people of all ages, according to Larry Walklin, chairman of UNL's broadcasting department.

On the other hand, he said, the broadcasting industry generally regulates itself and tries to stay within the guidelines of federal statutes concerning obscenity, nudity and other such areas.

The three spoke Tuesday afternoon at a seminar entitled "TV Violence, Children and the Law" held at the UNL Law College.

Murray defined three responses found in children who watch a great deal of television, especially cartoons. He said they are "desensitized" — they have less reaction to violent scenes.

Others have a different perception of the world, he said. They are more likely to fear society and be more restrictive in their movements outside the home.

Murray noted the same characteristics are found in the elderly, another group which watches more television.

Snowden explained a number of ways the government could regulate TV violence. It could proclaim violence is not in the public interest or it could say it is in the public interest and order opposite programming or pro-social programs.

The government, he said, could mandate that TV be shown only at certain hours of the day. It might order that manufacturers install lock boxes on television sets. And it might require a warning be aired prior to any show which contains violence.

Walklin said broadcasters don't go out of their way to program harmful shows. The question, he said, is whether the media is responsible for what happens in society.

Sales and income tax rates considered in Legislature

By Patty Pryor

A number of bills to establish state sales and income tax rates were heard before the Legislature's Revenue Committee Tuesday.

The current income tax rate is 20 percent; the current sales tax rate is 3 1/2 percent, with an extra 1/2 percent tax which automatically expires near the beginning of April.

The proposals for next year's rates vary from 18 percent to the current rate for income tax and either 3 percent or the current rate for sales tax.

LB892, sponsored by the Revenue Committee and presented by Donald Norden, counsel for the committee, would leave the rates as they are.

Support for the bill came from representatives of agriculture and education.

Jim Wickless, director of the Nebraska Association of School Boards and a Lincoln Board of Education member, said sufficient funding is necessary to make strides in the quality of public education.

Increased funding would help bolster teacher retirement programs and take some of the burden for educational costs off property taxes, Wickless said.

"(LB)892 is the only bill that would provide this," he said.

David Putensen, a member of the Nebraska Task Force on Excellence in Education, and Sue Ellen Wall of the

Nebraska PTA also spoke on behalf of LB892.

"We're one of the only states in the nation that relies so heavily on property taxes for educational funding," Wall said.

If anything, she said, sales and income tax rates should be raised to help accomplish the goals set out by the task force.

Neil Oxton, representing the Farmers Union of Nebraska, also supported maintaining the current rate.

Farmers, especially, need property tax relief to survive today's market economy, he said. Reducing the sales and income tax rates will only increase their property tax burden.

The most drastic cut in rates is proposed in LB770, introduced by Sen. Chris Abboud of Ralston. The bill would establish an 18 percent income tax rate and a 3 percent sales tax rate.

"Our tax rates are no longer competitive with neighboring states," Abboud said. A study conducted by the Arthur Little consulting firm showed that in 1981, Nebraska had the fewest new plant locations among 11 neighboring states, because of high tax rates.

More reasonable tax rates would cultivate consumer spending and speed economic recovery, Abboud said.

A third measure, LB868, would also

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Deterrence over detente

By Matt Okerlund

A former Soviet Union consultant for SALT negotiations Monday warned that discontinuing deployment of Pershing II and Cruise missiles would increase the likelihood of a Soviet nuclear attack.

Dr. Igor Glagolev, who defected from the Soviet Union, said deterrence is the only method "here and now" to prevent a nuclear war. Therefore, it is necessary for American existence that U.S. strategic forces become less vulnerable.

In a speech Monday night sponsored by the Nebraskan Young Americans for Freedom, Glagolev said the Soviet

military has gained an edge in nuclear weapon power over the United States.

The U.S. military, he said, must restore its strategic defenses through rapid production of the MX missile and B-1 bomber; deployment of strategic bombers and mobile missiles outside the United States; an increase in the number of patrolling submarines with nuclear ballistic missiles; and deployment of an anti-satellite system to detect a nuclear attack.

During the last 20 years, several U.S. administrations decreased the country's strategic forces, Glagolev said. Soviet administrations welcomed each reduction as an opportunity to further communist influence.

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Equality not uniform in military

By John Koopman

Despite many advances toward racial and sexual equality, all is not well in the military, said a social actions officer at Offutt Air Force Base.

"Racism and sexism are alive and well in the Air Force, and it exists in enough of a proportion to hold back blacks and women," Jeff Ross said Monday night.

Ross spoke of discrimination problems in the Air Force as part of UNL's Black History Month celebration. Newman Dalton, a retired Air Force Captain, also spoke.

Ross said that from the racial turmoil and riots of the 1960s came a series of Pentagon and Air Force regulations designed to ensure equal opportunity and treatment. The four main steps consisted of:

- The Human Goals Proclamation was a "blanket" order designed to rid the military of racism. It encouraged "respecting" one another, Ross said, but it didn't work because it was too vague.

- DOD Directive 1322.11 spoke of "easing racial tensions" and "getting along better with one another," but that didn't work either, Ross said.

- Executive Order 11478 defined anti-discrimina-

tory practices for military personnel as well as civilians working on military bases.

- Air Force Regulations 30-1 and 30-2 said discrimination by active Air Force personnel would not be tolerated, and people who could not practice these standards would not be fit to command. Ross said the orders showed that the Air Force was committed to the idea of equality.

Most recently, the Air Force accepted the conditions of Affirmative Action. Ross said the Affirmative Action plans in the Air Force are not the same as those in the rest of the country. He said it seeks parity, equal treatment, equal selection and equal representation.

"We want equality, that's all it says," he said.

Ross said the Air Force has instituted four phases of interracial communication designed to help members of different races and sexes better understand one another's problems.

Dalton, who spent 25 years in the Air Force, said he thinks the Air Force no longer places as much emphasis on affirmative action as before. One can think of the problem as that of a pendulum, he said.

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