

Expert thinks TV role detrimental

BY ROBIN STANOSHECK

Newspaper headlines record the violence in America:

"Young man holds 20 people hostage because girlfriend won't marry him."

"Mother and father are killed by 12-year-old son."

A Lincoln psychologist, Dr. Robert Louton, feels television may contribute to increased violence by providing a detrimental role model for children.

Louton's interest in violence and children began after a series of violent crimes by children in California in 1952.

Louton then did a study on the relationship of violent comic books and child behavior.

The study indicated that violence depicted on the comic page was both exciting and fearful for children.

"The fantasy was somewhat dehumanized because it was depicted on a two-dimensional surface," Louton said.

Television's special effects are presented in three dimensions, he said. They make oozing blood, evil spirits and flying cars seem very real.

Louton, a clinical and developmental psychologist, sees a mimicking of TV violence.

In describing the ideal situation for children Louton said, "Parents provide respect, security, encouragement, affection and a model for constructive behavior and values.

"Without direct supervision from adults, children model after TV heroes."

They learn that heroes who are big enough and smart enough can break the law and use violence to settle disagreements, he said.

In a study, "Television in the Lives of Our Children," data indicate that among children, heavy viewers tend to differ from light viewers in a number of ways.

"It appears to serve as a kind of retreat," the study reported, "A haven from some of the frustration of real life."

To reverse the negative effects of TV, Louton suggests that parents carefully monitor programs their children watch, and if necessary, perform a "TV-ectomy."

"There are many excellent parents who have excellent parenting skills," Louton said. "The children who have security, and a good role model will be less vulnerable to the negative effects of television violence."

Nebraskans oppose home loan guarantees

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sens. J.J. Exon and Edward Zorinsky, Nebraska Democrats, voted on the winning side Tuesday as the Senate tabled an amendment to a housing appropriations bill to create a program of emergency loan guarantees for unemployed homeowners facing mortgage foreclosures.

The vote to table the amendment, thus killing it, was 55-39.



Photo by Chris Welsch

A construction worker seems to be celebrating progress on the Cornhusker Square. General Manager of the Cornhusker, Dave Green, said construction is on schedule and the hotel should open by Jan. 1.

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State gets first form from parent at unapproved school

The Associated Press

The state Education Department has received its first formal report from a parent representing an unapproved Christian school, but whether it will lead to eventual approval of the school hasn't been decided.

The "parent representative report form"

was submitted by Paul R. Bonney of Grand Island, representing Calvary Academy, a Christian School that was ordered closed in May by Hall County District Judge Richard DeBacker until it complies with Nebraska education laws.

According to Attorney General Paul Douglas, the form can be used by state officials instead of the forms normally submit-

ted by school directors to determine whether a school may legally operate.

Education Commissioner Joe Lutjeharms said the department staff will study the form, and if the school is found in compliance with state teacher certification and school curriculum rules, it will be added to the state Board of Education's list of approved schools.

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