

# Bugs' Show Labeled The 'Most Violent'

By Martin Mawyer  
Religion Today

New York — In keeping with the tradition of the swift running desert bird and jackrabbit, "The Road Runner" and "Bugs Bunny" are first — first in the line of most violent children cartoons.

In a study conducted by the new National Coalition on Television Violence (NCTV), it was found that Saturday morning television children's programs are not only exceedingly violent but more violent than adult prime-time viewing.

"The most scandalous revelation of the monitoring project," Nelson Price, an NCTV board member, said, "is the amount of violence on Saturday morning children's programs.

"CBS children's programs are six times more violent than its prime-time shows; ABC is four times more violent; and NBC is two-and-a-half times more violent. The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) has the least violence of all networks."

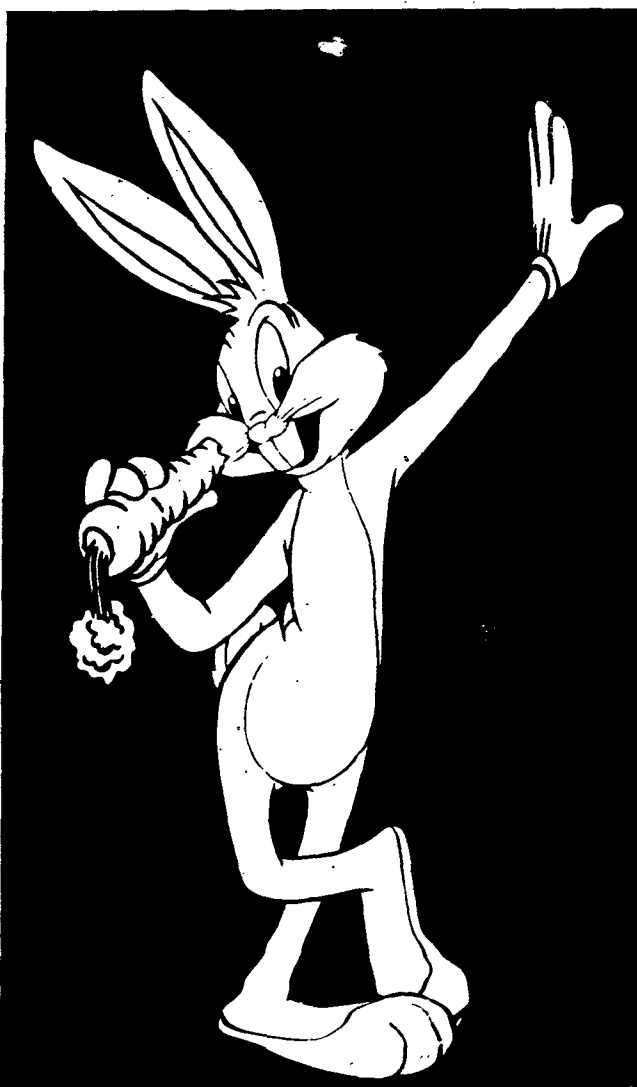
Finishing in a two-way tie for second place, just behind the "Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Show" (CBS), is ABC's "Superfriends" and NBC's "Johnny Quest."

Price believes the display of violence during children viewing hours comes because networks are more interested in advertisers than in the welfare of children.

"The violence is unnecessary," he said, "because children will watch non-violent programs. However, they are not as easy to produce. In research undertaken by the United Methodist Church a few years ago it became clear that 'action' attracts the attention of children — but it does not have to be violent action."

And there is more concern over the results of additional researches. The NCTV has evaluated nine studies conducted on children after watching cartoon violence. "All the studies found increased violent behavior in the children after watching violent cartoons," the NCTV reports.

Of particular note has been a study conducted by Dr. Albert Bandura. This study effectively demonstrates that cartoon violence is as impressionistic on children "as real-life modeling or filmed



Bugs Bunny, © Warner Brothers Inc. 1979, Courtesy WHEC-TV.

violence of real people."

But filmed violence of "real people" is not without its problems, too. NCTV reports there is no appreciable decline in prime-time programming.

Defining violence as "the deliberate and hostile use of overt force by one individual against another," NCTV said. "The results show little change in the high violence levels found in 1977 and 1979 monitoring performed by the National Citizens Committee for Broadcasting."

The survey was conducted during the weeks of July 20 through Oct. 25 and covers every commercial network plus PBS.

NBC was the most violent of the networks during prime-time viewing, showing 7.5 violent acts per hour. ABC followed with 5.1 acts per hour and CBS with 4.9. PBS was least violent, showing 2.3 acts of violence per hour.

NBC also had the most violent prime-time program, "Buck Rogers." "The Dukes of Hazard" (CBS) was second and NBC's "Misadventures of Sheriff Lobo" was third.

Sponsoring the most violent

prime-time programs were American Cyanamid (Breck, Pine-Sol, Old Spice), Schering-Plough (Maybelline, Di-Gel), Hanes (Leggs), Chevrolet, and Phillips Petroleum, MCTV reported.

Sponsoring the most violent Saturday morning children's programs were General Foods and McDonald's, according to NCTV.

"It is our hope," Price said, "that individuals and groups will let stations, networks and advertisers know their displeasure with the amount of violence on television.

"From the scientific research," he said, "I am convinced there is a direct correlation between our attitudes toward violence, our acceptance of violence and the amount of violence in our communities."

"As TV violence engenders fear in viewers, I believe it affects our readiness to vote larger police and military budgets. It makes us less willing to go into our cities and thereby undercuts the economic bases of the cities. Also it creates a climate of fear and mistrust of other people, especially persons of other races or lifestyles."

## Cenacle Slates Retreats

A program of individual retreats has been slated Feb. 16-22 at the Cenacle.

Such retreats are directed, guided or private. In the first form a Religious of the Cenacle plans the retreat with the one making it. She also will help select material from Scripture for use in prayer, and she assists in the discernment of the Holy Spirit.

In a guided retreat, the sister encourages the retreatant to discuss prayer life and offers explanation, instruction and supplementary materials each day.

In a private retreat, the

retreatant plans the program, uses one's own material and makes the retreat without a director.

Further information on the week is available by calling the Cenacle, 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607; (716) 271-8755.

### AUBURN UNITY

Auburn — Three Auburn Churches observed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25. The opening ceremonies were held at St. John's Episcopal Church; daily worship was celebrated at St. Alphonsus and the closing ceremonies at United Church of Auburn.

## Cenacle Sets Renewal Day

Father Paul Hansen, CSSR, will lead a day of renewal beginning at 10 a.m., Monday, Feb. 16, at the Cenacle, 693 East Ave.

The program will include conferences, time for prayer and reflection, Mass and consultation with the Religious of the Cenacle, if desired.

Participants have been asked to bring a bag lunch; beverages will be provided. Further information is obtained by contacting the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-8755.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

## Christmas Gifts With Meanings

Elaine, a friend who has a special touch for selecting just the right gift, at Christmas presented this writer with a desk calendar, one of the kind which requires ripping off a fresh page every day.

This particular calendar is particularly delightful in that each page bears a quote, some thoughtful, some wry, some just plain funny.

For example, last week one of the quotes was from "Pudd'nhead Wilson" by Mark Twain: "Cauliflower is nothing but a cabbage with a college education."

Coming up for Feb. 13 (a Friday, by the way) is an observation by the poet Southey, "Live as long as you may, the first 20 years are the longest half of your life."

Behaviorist B.F. Skinner is represented with "Education is what survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten."

From Machiavelli ("When neither their poverty nor their honor is touched, the majority of men live content.") through Winnie the Pooh ("I am a Bear of very little brain and long words bother me.") to Raymond Chandler ("I was neat, clean, shaved and

sober, and I didn't care who knew it"), the quotes provide a daily bright moment.

The only problem is trying to keep the kids from ripping off the next page to see what bit of wisdom or humor lies underneath.

Speaking of Christmas gifts, the head of the house included among his mementoes to me the expected reference book. I think it was our second Christmas together that he made the mistake of giving me an expensive best-selling novel. Ingrate that I am, after thanking him halfheartedly, I muttered something about what a nice reference book could have been bought for the same amount of money. (Talk

about being graceful...)

Since that year I have never been disappointed. The 2,000 pages plus of the abridged edition of the Random House Dictionary of the English Language (now shabby and dog-eared) as the first such gift.

Since then over the years I have received "Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary," "Sisson's Synonyms," "Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," "Etymological Dictionary," "Compact Dictionary," "Bible Dictionary," "Writer's Market," etc. This year the gift was a weighty (at least four pounds) "Who's Who in the Bible."

I opened it Christmas morning with cries of delight (quite genuine) and then asked, "How ever did you know?"

There was only a mildly ironic tinge to his voice (it was Christmas) as he explained, "Maybe it was the way you kept babbling over in the bookstore whenever I walked past."

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**Holy Hour Feb. 10**  
A priests' Holy Hour for vocations will be held 8-9 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at St. Bernard's Seminary.

**ADORATION**  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rochester, has scheduled First Friday observances for Feb. 6. Included will be the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 9 a.m. Mass, and a rosary

**OPEN HOUSE**  
A gymnastics show will be a highlight of the Open House to be held on Sunday, Feb. 8 at St. Joseph's School, 910 Ridge Rd. E.

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