

THE VIEWER AND LISTENER

WINTER 1978/9

Price 5p

"THERE CAN BE NO DEFENCE ..."

The B.B.C.

SAYS*:

"In programmes for adult audiences, no less care should be taken than in children's programmes to avoid providing examples of **WEAPONS READY TO HAND** or of tactics to use in fist-fights. Violence ought not to be presented in ways which might glorify it or portray it as a proper solution to interpersonal conflicts."

"**IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT 'GOOD' CHARACTERS SHOULD NOT PERFORM ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT APPEAR CRUEL TO THE CHILD AUDIENCE, HOWEVER HONOURABLE THE INTENTIONS OF THE 'GOOD' CHARACTERS MAY BE.**"

See Children's Viewing Habits Col. 2.

"... even when violence forms a legitimate element in a production, the manner in which it is presented must be carefully thought about."

"... **ANY ATTEMPT TO MAKE VIOLENCE AN ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF MANLINESS, FOR example, SHOULD BE AVOIDED.**"

DOES:— Between 9.25 - 10.15 p.m.

13.10.78 "Target"—Man shot in face during armed raid—low punches—man thrown over high railings.

17.11.78 "Target"—Man beaten up in flat—punched in stomach. Man beaten up by gang, suspecting that he double-crossed them.

24.11.78 "Target"—Man pushed backwards and shot in stomach; detective has his face smashed against a wall; later shown slumped in car with mouth bleeding; fight in yard—man kicked when on floor; girl shot; scene repeated later when she was seen falling backwards.

SAYS:

"Violence as an inevitable solution to a fictional situation should only be invoked in relatively rare instances ..."

"... avoid setting examples which can easily be copied such as the use of knives or broken bottles in fights, nooses, trip-wires, karate chops, or the locking-up of 'prisoners' in outhouses, empty rooms, or cellars."

DOES: See "Who's Watching?"

27.10.78 "Target"—Gunfire in hotel—resident shot through the head; car

continued in Col. 3

New legislation to control broadcasting will be debated in Parliament this session. Please send a copy of this V & L to your MP. (See Book List.)

GRATUITOUS & SADISTIC VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION IS ANTI-SOCIAL:

Annan said so;

The Government says so;

The police say so;

Psychiatrists say so;

Research leaves little doubt about it;

National VALA has said so for 15 years!

The BBC and IBA admit it—but **IT CONTINUES.**

WHO'S WATCHING?

7-10 years old:

45% Up to 9 p.m.
9% " 10 p.m.

11-14 years old:

42% Up to 9 p.m.
42% " 10 p.m.
9% " 11 p.m.

15-17 years old:

46% Up to 10 p.m.
42% " 11 p.m.
6% 12 p.m. or after

PYE Research 1978

● It is National VALA's contention that both the BBC and the IBA regularly and with full cognizance allow the codes on violence, which should govern their programmes, to be broken.

● It is National VALA's contention that in the battle for ratings both Authorities have abdicated their responsibilities in this field.

fired upon, crashes and bursts into flames; man shot in garage.

3.11.78 "Target"—Woman held by her neck and face forced to bonnet of car; acid later poured on car's bonnet as warning to her; further acid poured on garage floor to emphasize point; prostitute hit across face and held against door; several antiques smashed by man carrying double-barrelled shot gun.

10.11.78 "Target"—Man mugged in lavatory; towel forced round man's neck in cloakroom; car blown up as thieves try to remove gold.

"The portrayal of Violence in television programmes" BBC 1972.

The I.B.A.

SAYS*:

"... **THERE CAN BE NO DEFENCE OF VIOLENCE SHOWN SOLELY FOR ITS OWN SAKE, OR OF THE GRATUITOUS EXPLOITATION OF SADISTIC OR OTHER PERVERSED PRACTICES.**" "Violence, menace and threats can take many forms—emotional, physical and verbal. Scenes of domestic friction, whether or not accompanied by physical violence, can easily cause fear and insecurity."

"... **Working Party is CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO A CONTINUING ASSUMPTION THAT THE PORTRAYAL OF VIOLENCE MAY HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS.**"

"Research has shown that **IT IS DANGEROUS TO ASSUME THAT DEPICTION OF THE USE OF VIOLENCE FOR LEGITIMATE ENDS IS LESS HARMFUL THAN DEPICTION OF VIOLENCE FOR EVIL ENDS.**"

Producers are warned against "ingenious and unfamiliar methods of inflicting pain or injury ..."

"The Portrayal of Violence on Television" I.B.A. 1973

DOES:— Between 9 p.m. - 10 p.m.

12.10.78 "The Sweeney"—Man thrust on to the road and killed after hanging on to swerving car; man punched violently in stomach and kicked in groin; criminal repeatedly punched by detective until his colleague pulls him away. Woman struck on face. (Violent expression): "Kick his lungs in" (heard twice).

continued on page 2

ONE NEW MEMBER EACH WILL DOUBLE OUR STRENGTH!

Enrolment forms free: see page 4.

THE VIEWER AND LISTENER

NATIONAL **Ardleigh**
VALA Colchester Essex CO7 7RH
Telephone: 0206 230123

DANGER AHEAD !

"The Government considers that in future the (ITV) Advisory Committees for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should be appointed by the Home Secretary . . ."

Each Advisory Council of the BBC "... will therefore be reconstituted so as to comprise . . . a number of between 8 and 11 lay members who will be appointed by the Home Secretary . . ."

Government White Paper on Broadcasting 1978.

We in National VALA have not always seen eye-to-eye with the BBC, but we are wholly at one with the Corporation in its current campaign to resist the Government's proposal that the Home Office should appoint not only half the Governors of the BBC but also representatives onto the various Advisory and Regional Bodies of both BBC and IBA—up to 180 persons in all.

This is a highly dangerous proposition, quite contrary to the Annan proposals. If implemented, it would pave the way to Government control of Broadcasting—a tremendous and irreversible step on the road to totalitarianism.

Such State control is characteristic of East European and other Communist countries, and it would indeed be both extraordinary—and frightening—if this were to develop in Britain just at a time when, for instance, France and Portugal have seen the danger of such control and ended it.

IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT EACH MEMBER OF NATIONAL VALA, AND ORGANISATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, SHOULD WRITE TO THEIR M.P.S IMMEDIATELY AND ASK THEM TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO DEFEAT THIS UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSITION.

National VALA appreciates the Home Secretary's frustration and concern at the failure of the Broadcasting Authorities to fulfill the obligations laid upon them. However, we have a better proposition for the Home Secretary, certainly as far as the BBC is concerned, one which should appeal to his commitment to "equal opportunities" and "sexual equality". It is this: The Home Secretary should ensure that an equal number of women as of men should make up the Board of Governors and the Regional and specialist Advisory bodies of the Corporation. The present situation in which only three of the thirteen members of the Board are women, and, for instance, only 13 of the 56 strong General Advisory Council of the BBC are women, is untenable. A similar proportion is evident in all advisory bodies of the BBC.

It is, we submit, quite incredible that this situation has persisted in spite of public and parliamentary pressure for equal opportunities for women, and it is one which cannot be allowed to continue. National VALA has therefore raised this matter with the Equal Opportunities Commission.

WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT IN WRITING TO YOUR M.P. — AND THE MATTER IS URGENT SINCE GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION IS EXPECTED EARLY THIS YEAR — YOU ENCLOSE A COPY OF THIS ISSUE OF THE 'VIEWER AND LISTENER' DRAWING ATTENTION TO THIS EDITORIAL.

WHO CARES ?

"We complain, of course, but among ourselves. Private grumbling about violence, crime, pornography, child abuse, baby battering, the state of education, the neglect of pre-school children, loneliness, the permissive society, pollution, noise.

"We're liberal: we don't want to fight, to impose; to terrorise. But neither do we take a stand, put our feet down and say this is where I stand; I have gone or have been pushed this far and will go no further. The illiberals take stances the whole time about things that shouldn't matter, becoming in the process bores or bigots or persecutors; and we become frightened that we will be tarred with the same brush. We've been so blackmailed by 'progressive' thinkers, so afraid we'll seem prudish or reactionary if we take a stand that we fail to make one at all. We draw back, too tired, too diffident, too lazy, too busy.

"It is traditional in British politics that when moral issues are the subject of legislation in Parliament, MPs vote according to conscience and not according to party. Thus, there is tremendous scope for pressure groups to lobby their MPs with their views. Did you ever lobby your MP about any of the laws that have changed your way of life?

"In this century Parliament has discussed abortion and divorce; blasphemy and euthanasia; suicide and sexual offences, but as often as not the debates on these issues take place on a Friday when MPs have departed London.

"MPs often do not use their vote when moral issues are being revised, but then why should they bother when the people they represent seem to be uninterested

"If you don't let your MP know your opinion, how is he to decide it. Indeed, how is he to know you opinion at all? And if we look closely at the record of important laws passed in this century, we discover how haphazard the process often is and how ambiguous some of the laws are. There is little point in pleading ignorance after a Bill has been passed. Ignorance is no excuse in law. You as an individual must use your power, as Mary Whitehouse does hers or Betty Williams, or the leader of the National Front. Emily Parkhurst or Florence Nightingale didn't think that they were impotent. And there are countless unsung brave and anonymous women who stood their ground and refused to give in and believed in their principles."

Extract from 'OVER 21' December 1978

TOUR OF BRITAIN 1979/80

Australia gave Mary Whitehouse a great reception last year and this year is to be Britain's chance to hear what she has to say.

We believe that the time is ripe to set up a number of large meetings throughout the country in the principal towns and cities during the Autumn 1979 and Winter 1980.

These meetings will need a lot of organising and will cost a great deal of money to ensure their success.

We would be most grateful therefore for any contribution, however small, to build up a fund to launch this campaign. Please mark your donation "British Tour".

Thank you so much.

"THERE CAN BE NO DEFENCE . . ."

continued from page 1

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| 10.10.78 "The Sweeney"—Man hit on back of head; carving knife brandished out to prevent an arrest; woman punched in the face by detective; man shot in stomach—bullet wound shown. | screen and kicked several times; bank robber's head smashed against Landrover. |
| 26.10.78 "The Sweeney"—Photographer thrown against | 9.11.78 "The Sweeney"—Informer repeatedly hit in face and stomach—mouth shown covered in blood; Detective Sgt. Carter savagely beaten up by gang leader. |

' THE CAPED CRUSADER '

Mary Whitehouse's Australian tour became world news when a group of Brisbane militants — identified by the police as "Gays"/International Socialists etc. — threw baked dough cases containing beaten up shaving cream and red dye at her.

The earlier attack upon her by the trendy/left-wing Attorney General of South Australia also hit the headlines in a big way.

But there was very much more to her trip than pies and abuse as the following extracts from her diary for the first week of her tour show.

A DETAILED REPORT OF HER 1978 VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IS CONTAINED IN THE LATEST NVALA PUBLICATION "MARY WHITEHOUSE, THE CAPED CRUSADER". (See Page 4.)

EXTRACTS FROM MARY'S AUSTRALIAN DIARY

MONDAY, 4th September: Media day before flying to Tasmania

"Reporter from Sydney Morning Herald arrived at 7.15 a.m.! TV Channel 2 arrived half-an-hour later to make documentary and from then till 7 p.m. I did 11 radio and TV programmes.

"In interview after interview, I was asked about the attack on me by the trendy 37-year-old Attorney-General of South Australia, Mr. Peter Duncan, who, after receiving a group of militant "gays" and Trotskyites etc., called me "that notorious pom" and accused me of being "anti-woman, anti-black"! etc. etc. I chal-

lenged him to meet me on TV and the story was carried hour after hour on radio across the nation.

"At lunch-time while I was in make-up for the Mike Walsh show, ABC's 'PM' programme, rang to say that the Attorney General had agreed to meet me on the programme at 6.5 till 6.15 p.m.! Our last TV programme finished at 5.00 p.m. and we had a hair-raising struggle to get through the tea-time traffic — raining hard. Managed it just on the dot — to discover that Duncan had backed down! However, I was able to say my bit on the programme. Apparently there had been a Cabinet meeting and he had been told that he was to



withdraw — what a silly ass he's making himself look.

"The Willies Show" will be shown tomorrow as well as "Sydney Today" which we recorded this afternoon

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Mrs. Whitehouse,

I have been very interested and challenged by "Whatever Happened To Sex?" and have already started using it in sermons and house group conversations. . . . I am particularly interested in educating children and young people and their parents through the opportunities of the Church.

Yours faithfully,

(Rev) H. G. C. Clarke.

Address given

Dear Mary,

I hope you are well. I am writing to thank you for coming all the way to Southampton University to give the speech on Monday. Despite the delay and the trouble it was a real victory for the truth and most of those present, Christian and non-Christian, were very impressed. As it happens God told me to go and stand with the Trotskyists and homosexuals that were behind you before the meeting began. We were expecting trouble and when the homosexual next to me began to throw the eggs and squirt the water I grabbed hold of him and was able to stop him and so God had his hand on the situation.

Also their terrible behaviour managed to give even more support to you.

There were about 850 people at the meeting and about 500 had to be turned away. Support for you amongst the student Christian bodies is now very strong and we will follow this up. Our secretary will be sending you your expenses very soon. The meeting was reported in the Southampton Echo, Radio Victory and on the Radio 2 News at 9 o'clock on the morning after. Thank you again for coming and every encouragement and our prayers in your difficult work.

God Bless You,

Stephen Stride.

Address given

Dear National VALA,

Throughout my years as a Speech Therapist and as a teacher, I was deeply concerned at the obvious harmful effects television watching was having on young children. It incensed me that so many people to whom I mentioned my concern pooh-poohed my fears, and continually reminded me that television was 'so educational'. It had always seemed to me to be the very antithesis of

'educational', in any sense of the word.

In the spring of this year an event occurred which stung me into action at last: this was the publication of the Pye Survey of the viewing habits of Britain's children. Very soon after this I came across an excellent, well-documented book, published in the United States, entitled "The Plug-in Drug — Television, Children and the Family", by Marie Winn, published by Viking Press. This book set out lucidly all the symptoms about which I had worried so long.

Although I was by now a very busy housewife and mother (of twins), I decided to form a group locally and try to take some action. The result, after some months, is the leaflet: "Television and Child Development", which we are sending to anybody who is interested, price three pence (see booklist) plus postage. The leaflet is based substantially on information from Marie Winn's book, and attempts to put some clear and simple thoughts together, warning parents of the dangers.

Judging by the great interest shown in the leaflets so far, there is a real need for something of this sort at the present time. Please do all you can to help our campaign by spreading the facts in your area.

Yours sincerely,

Faith M. W. Hall.

Address given

CAPED CRUSADER

Continued

with the top humanist woman in Australia."

THURSDAY, 7th September: Arrive in Adelaide

"Had a wonderful time in Tasmania — everyone most kind and receptive. The State Attorney General was not very impressed by the activities of Mr. Peter Duncan even though they were of the same party. As expected, the arrival in Adelaide changed the whole pace of the tour! I was up at 5.45 a.m. and landed at 10.30 a.m. TV and Radio here in force. It was quite funny, really—I spotted the TV cameras on the roof above the concourse but they didn't recognise me till I shouted "Good Morning!" as I passed underneath — just too late for them to film me! I think this was the biggest media reception I've ever had — then I was whisked away to take part in a live TV "chat" show.

"From there to a press conference — quite a battle! All they seemed to want to talk about was the attack upon me by the Attorney-General and, of course, far from doing us harm, he ensured massive publicity for us.

"Then to my hotel where I had time to chat with Steve and Kay Stevens who are obviously very much enjoying their time here in Adelaide. After a short rest and a walk in the park (obligatory!) we went to a buffet reception and seminar arranged by the National Council of Women for delegates from 200 women's organisations from all over South Australia. The Shadow AG and a number of MPs were present at the reception and they told us that the AG's intervention had greatly embarrassed the Government and done, they felt, permanent damage to his political career and us a very great deal of good!

"The TV coverage was very good — first item on all channels. ABC's man was very sharp, though my riposte at the end when I told him to stop interrupting and allow me to answer his question seemed to come off quite well!"

FRIDAY, 8th September:

"Two 'phone-in programmes this morning before going to the Town Hall to address about 1,000 women. Most certainly the AG's attack on me has given the campaign here a most enormous boost. It would seem that

all sorts of people who would never normally come to an Australian Festival of Light demonstration are turning out as a token of their anger with Mr. Duncan! Standing ovation and a most beautiful bouquet at the end of the meeting — "Whatever Happened to Sex?" is going like hot cakes! Buffet dinner tonight with various VIPs and Liberal (Tory) MPs. One Shadow Cabinet member told me that Mr. Duncan had gone on holiday — on the Prime Minister's orders! What a saga this has been!

"A FORUM followed in the Town Hall (800). Former National Council for Civil Liberties National Chairman was one of the speakers but he didn't go down at all well. No disturbance in spite of a small demonstration outside — afterwards a young man came on to the platform and gave me a beret he had crocheted for me during the meeting — he was a homo-

sexual — we had a good talk. I was given a copy of the evening News poster for the day I arrived, "She's here! Caped Crusader flies in" — shall take that home and stick it on the wall of the office!

"Talked until midnight — there really is no doubt that the situation here in South Australia is very bad indeed. Officially labelled for "unrestricted" sale, are "boy" magazines of the most explicit kind — the people here seem to have been most apathetic. Apparently there is a great personal fear of the Prime Minister, Mr. Dunstan who, like his AG, is way over to the far left. They talk of South Australia being "a socialist workshop". One young woman, along with her friends told me last night that they have a totalitarian state — people who oppose the PM lose their jobs in all kinds of spheres, not only Government!"

GRATEFUL THANKS

I was most touched and very grateful for all the "get-well" cards, letters, and flowers which were sent and the prayers which were said for me when it became known that the Doctor had ordered me to rest on my return from Australia.

I am sure those who sent them will realise that it is not possible for me to answer them all individually, much as I would like to.

So may I just say a heartfelt "Thank you very much" to all of you.

MARY WHITEHOUSE.

BOOK LIST

BOOKS

- "WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SEX?" by MARY WHITEHOUSE (p & p 15p) £1.25
- "MARY WHITEHOUSE" by Max Caulfield (reduced from £4.50) £1.00

REPORTS

- "MARY WHITEHOUSE: THE CAPED CRUSADER" 30p
- "CHILDREN and TELEVISION"—PYE Research Report £2.00 (p & p 18½p)
- "What Price Annan!" National VALA Report 60p (But to send to your MP FREE, post 12p please)
- "Television Violence and The Adolescent Boy"—Dr William Belson at the British Association, 1977 50p
- "MP's Response to Questionnaire"—National VALA Report 20p

OTHER USEFUL MATERIAL

- "Television and Child Development"—TV action group leaflet 3p
- CONVENTION '78 address by Rt Hon William Whitelaw 15p
- CONVENTION '78 address by Mary Whitehouse 15p
- OPEN LETTER to the Prime Minister from Mary Whitehouse published in THE TIMES 31st May 1978 5p
- Parents' Sex Education Charter 1p
- "THOUGHT FOR THE DAY" by Mary Whitehouse 40p
- RESEARCH CARDS 50 for 25p
- TV Station 'phone numbers 3p
- Copies of THIS Viewer and Listener: 10 for 60p; 20 for £1.00; 30 for £1.40

FREE but please send stamps:-

NATIONAL VALA ENROLMENT FORMS FOR NEW MEMBERS

"Books and Bookmen" May 1978: Mary Whitehouse reviews Enid Wistrich's "I Don't Mind The Sex it's The Violence"

"KIDDIE PORN" a booklet attacking Child Pornography published by Ambassador College Press

Copies of June 78 and October 78 Viewer and Listener — Ideal for recruiting New Members.

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