

# ON SCREEN

## What should the children be watching?

*Every parent has different ideas about what is suitable entertainment*

BY ROY GREEN  
STAFF WRITER

The year's hottest video, Titanic, is rated 14A — no rental or purchase by those under 14 — but is that due to the traumatic depiction of the terrible loss of life or because of a single nude scene with Kate Winslet?

Or is the real danger suggesting to impressionable young girls that it's OK to have sex in the back seat of a car?

When it comes to children, every parent has a different idea about what is suitable entertainment in movies, TV and home video.

Not that there's anything wrong with that, says The Alliance for Children and Television, the Canadian organization that promotes the interests of children in television, video and other new media.

"When it comes to Titanic, I certainly wouldn't let a young child watch it," said Kealy Wilkinson, executive director of the Toronto-based Alliance. "It might be fine with older kids, but only when parents are watching it with the child."

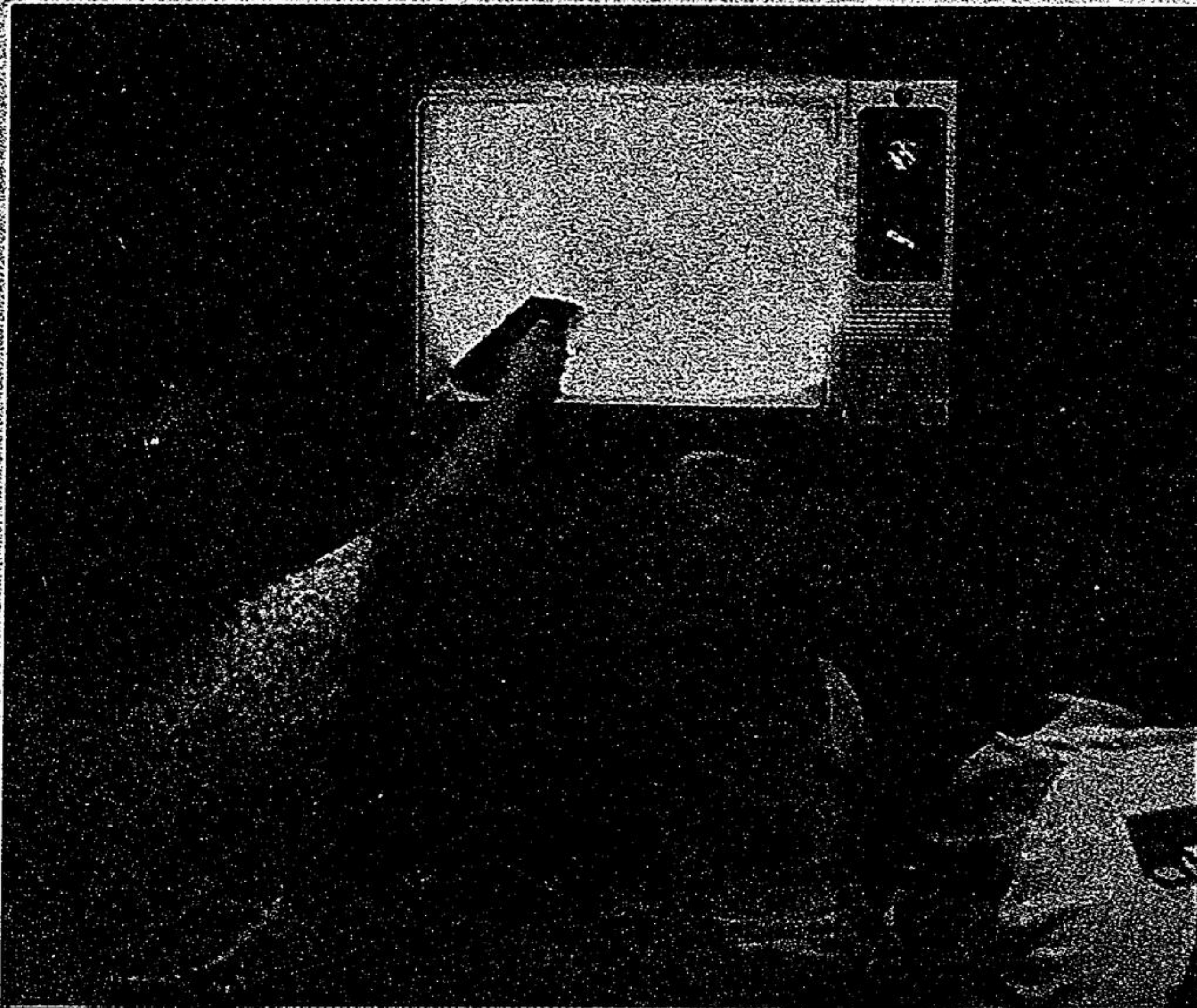
In fact, if there is one thing all the experts agree on, it is that parents should watch TV and movies with their children.

"Kids pick up different things than adults and you might be surprised by what your kids understand and what they don't," said Wilkinson. "There is no way to know if a child is getting positive or negative messages from a program unless you ask them what they think the show is telling them."

When it comes to the overall quality of programs beamed into our homes, there's good news and, not surprisingly, bad news.

The good news, according to Wilkinson, is that Canadians — particularly Ontarians — are well served by our television.

"We export our programs to 150 coun-



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Ontario children benefit from viewing quality programming, according to a Canadian organization that promotes the interest of children in video, television and other new media. They also watch less television than their American counterparts.

tries, which means there are a lot of countries that think we do the best job of all," Wilkinson said. "And that's with programming that combines entertainment with information — not just school programs that kids can find boring. In Ontario, the programs from YTV, CBC and TVOntario are a gift to the children of this province."

In fact, said Wilkinson, violence has never been a particular problem with Canadian programs.

"That has more to do with the ethic of Canadian broadcasters, who have always viewed television as a service first and a business second."

Which leads us to the bad news, which is

that our children are exposed to programs from the U.S.

"The ethic elsewhere isn't all the same as ours, which can lead to problems," Wilkinson said.

It's a bigger problem in the States because, Wilkinson noted, the average American watches more than 50 hours of TV a week, compared to about half that much in Canada.

A recent survey conducted by the University of Washington revealed that, by the time an American student graduates high school, he or she will have spent more

**ON VIDEO:** *In praise of experience and intelligence*



Neve Campbell and Denise Richards are Wild Things

## Old fogeys are welcome in September

BY ROY GREEN  
STAFF WRITER

Amid all the high-tech, high-action blockbusters coming out of Hollywood these days, it's sometimes easy to overlook some movie gems, films that move on, then off, the big screen before you even know it.

If that's unfortunate for movie-goers, it's good news for videophiles, especially when the overlooked fare includes titles like Twilight.

I don't know if it's because I'm approaching fogey-dom myself, but I couldn't help be attracted to a movie starring the likes of Paul Newman, James Garner and Gene Hackman. And it doesn't hurt when the younger (relatively) side is represented by such talents as Susan Sarandon and Stockard Channing.

Twilight, which comes to video Sept. 15, is a quiet detective story, told with intelligence and experience.

Newman plays an aging, private eye, reduced to living in the basement of the home of a former big-Hollywood director and his wife (Hackman and Sarandon). He runs into trouble when he re-opens an old investigation — the death of Sarandon's first husband 20 years earlier.

See TV, page 25.

See PRIMARY, page 25.

### Tootsies Dances to a Different Beat

Your Back To Work Shoe Store!

Bruno Valenti All Leather Pump

Blk, brn, navy Sizes: 6-10

Made in Brazil

Leather Pump  
Made in Brazil

Endura Leather  
Blk & Navy  
Sizes: 6-10

\$34<sup>96</sup>

Always

ENDURA® Leather is Made in Canada and has been uniquely developed to resist scuffing, staining and water.

\$34<sup>96</sup> Always

You Won't Believe The Low Prices We've Got

From Factory to Family

Family Shoe Shopping... Experience

**TOOTSIES**  
FAMILY SHOE MARKET

ajax

Harwood Ave. & Hwy. #2  
(905) 427-6044

**NEWMARKET PLAZA**

Davis Dr. 2 lights east of Hwy. 11  
(905) 830-1406

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sunday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm