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September 30, 2011

# Many media platforms blamed for juvenile crime

**Susan Loving**  
The Edmond Sun

EDMOND — Q: I understand the U.S. Supreme Court recently found a California law unconstitutional that regulated the sale of video games to minors. Can you tell me more about the decision?

**A:** The past two weeks we have discussed the case *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association*, in which the Supreme Court found a California law prohibiting sale of "violent video games" to minors violated the First Amendment.

The decision can be found at <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/08-1448.ZS.html>.

The court struck down the law after its supporters acknowledged they could not show a link between video games and harm to minors.

Opponents of the law cited studies suggesting no such link, and Department of Justice statistics showing steadily decreasing rates of violent juvenile crime during the "video game era."

The court's discussion of the issue is quite interesting.

As we previously noted, the court said studies suggest any effects on minors from video games are indistinguishable from effects from unrestricted media, such as children's stories and required high school reading.

The court noted Snow White poisoned the wicked queen and made her dance in red hot slippers until she died.

Hansel and Gretel baked their captor in an oven.

Odysseus blinded the Cyclops by grinding out his eye.

Dante watched corrupt politicians boil in a lake of pitch, and Lord of the Flies recounts children savagely murdering a boy.

Every new form of media, the court said, raises controversy about its effect on children.

In the 1800s, the court observed, dime novels depicting crime were blamed for juvenile delinquency.

A 1909 New York Times article stated: "The days when the police looked upon dime novels as the most dangerous of textbooks in the school for crime are drawing to a close .... They say that the moving picture machine ... tends even more than did the dime novel to turn the thoughts of the easily influenced to paths which sometimes lead to prison."

Radio dramas were blamed next, the court said, then in the 1940s and 1950s, comic books. Superman comics were described as "particularly injurious to the ethical development of children," and blamed for fostering a preoccupation with violence and horror, leading to juvenile crime.

After comic books, the court observed, television and music lyrics were blamed for causing juvenile violence.

More information on the pros and cons of restricting video games may be found at ProCon.org, <http://videogames.procon.org/#Background>.

Discussion

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### Edmond cops turn bullets into bucks



More than 100 officers, thousands of rounds of spent shell casings and a dollar a pound for brass add up to a pretty penny for the Edmond Police Department.

October 2, 2011 1 Photo

### Golf tourney honors late Teacher Retirement System director

Longtime Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System director Tommy C. Beavers was bullish on education. Golfers will tee off to honor that legacy Oct. 31 at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City.

October 2, 2011

Citylink management needs your input All Citylink passengers are encouraged to complete the 20 question customer survey available online at citylinkedmond.com or from a Citylink driver.

October 2, 2011

### Genealogists learn about funeral home records

On Monday night, Oct. 1 in the Oklahoma History Center's Chesapeake Room, Stephen Zahn assisted by Jim Wells, both of Hahn-Cook/Street & Draper Funeral Home in Oklahoma City, will describe how and why funeral records have changed over the years, how to locate funeral home records, and what a genealogist might learn from such a record.

October 2, 2011

### Businesses, schools cry foul over T-shirts



At least two companies out of Texas are targeting Edmond businesses as easy prey for T-shirt schemes, business owners say, and taking money out of the school district's pocket, officials say.

September 30, 2011 1 Photo

'Bicycle Bob' defendant awaits ruling Connor Mason believes that if the Dwite Morgan autopsy had been properly conducted "with an open and curious mind" evidence eliminating Mason as a suspect could and would have been found, according to court records obtained by *The Edmond Sun*.

September 30, 2011

Community discusses Oct. 11 vote Kenneth Wohl wants Edmond to remain a safe community for his family, he said.

September 30, 2011

### Pets

This is a list of animals that have been found and are at the Edmond Animal Shelter, at Interstate 35 and Covell in the Cross Timbers Municipal Complex. Call the shelter at 216-7615 for more information.

September 30, 2011

### Police seek ID of auto burglary 'persons of interest'



NDN Video



Amanda Knox to appeal to court as case nears end



Pippa Middleton's Red Hot Party Gown



Kindle Fire challenging Apple's iPad



Michael Salahi's Birthday Serenade

Poll

## How will you vote on the Oct. 11 Public Safety Center ballot initiative that seeks to add a 1/2-cent sales tax for five years in the City of Edmond as well as allow the city to borrow money from its Hospital Trust Fund?

jn Yes

jn No

Vote

[View Results](#)

### Zoo receives gift from Fred Jones Family Foundation

The Oklahoma Zoological Society recently announced it has received \$50,000 from the Mary Eddy Jones Signature Gift given by the Fred Jones Family Foundation. Kirkland Hall, president and chairman of the Fred Jones Family Foundation, announced the gift at the Oklahoma City Zoo's Education Center.

September 30, 2011

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