



By Jack Gruber, USA TODAY

Closing ceremonies: The Winter Olympics wrap up in Vancouver.

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OSCAR WEEK



Vera's daring flight

- Filming sexy role as a new mom
- Nominated for Best Actress
- Nominated for Best Supporting Actress

Vera Farmiga: Nominee for Up in the Air.

By Michael Larsen, Larsen&Taibert

For USA, record haul — and a silver finale



Bonus Section

A loss to Canada in hockey, but 37 medals are Winter Games best. Olympics report, 1-10E



By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

After OT defeat: U.S. men's hockey team with silver medals.

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The nation's crazy winter

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Dallas Texas



Pentagon panel has contractor contacts

Analysis finds financial ties



11. Unsubstantiated claims that U.S. airlines. 1B. point in negotiations with five U.S. airlines. 1C.

Sports: 'Jordan Effect' for Bobcats?

One of North Carolina's favorite sons is expected to be approved as majority owner of NBA team. 1C.

Life: Hospitals urged to study errors

Author Peter Pronovost blasts "toxic" culture that pushes doctors to feel need to be infallible. 6D.

USA TODAY Snapshots®

Percentage of GDP going toward health care

By 2019, nearly \$1 of every \$5 spent in the U.S. economy will go for health care.



By Anne R. Carey and Karl Gelles, USA TODAY



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strophic tsunami to Japan. We're something like that 1700 quake to occur today — and it certainly could, seismologists say — enormous destruction and loss of life would result in a region that is home now to big cities and millions of people.

Video games tied to aggression

But 'one risk factor' won't make a kid 'school shooter'

By Sharon Jayson
USA TODAY

A new review of 130 studies "strongly suggests" playing violent video games increases aggressive thoughts and behavior and decreases empathy.

The results hold "regardless of research design, gender, age or culture," says lead researcher Craig Anderson, who directs the Center for the Study of Violence at Iowa State University in Ames.

His team did a statistical analysis of studies on more than 130,000 gamers from elementary school age to college in the USA, Europe and Japan. It is published today in *Psychological Bulletin*, a journal of the American Psychological Association.

But Christopher Ferguson, an associate professor at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, says in a critique accompanying the study that the effects found "are generally very low." He adds that the analysis "contains numerous flaws," which he says result in "overestimating the influence" of violent games on aggression.

Ferguson says his own study of 603 predominantly Hispanic young people, published last year in

As of Sunday, the death toll from the earthquake in southern Chile stood at about 700. By comparison, the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti killed about 230,000 people, the

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The Journal of Pediatrics, found "delinquent peer influences, antisocial personality traits, depression, and parents/guardians who use psychological abuse" were consistent risk factors for youth violence and aggression. But he also found that neighborhood quality, parents' domestic violence and exposure to violent TV or video games "were not predictive of youth violence and aggression."

Anderson says his team "never said it's a huge effect. But if you look at known risk factors for the development of aggression and violence, some are bigger than media violence and some are smaller."

"If you have a child with no other risk factors for aggression and violence and if you allow them to suddenly start playing video games five hours to 10 hours a week, they're not going to become a school shooter. One risk factor doesn't do it by itself."

But he notes that video game violence is "the only causal risk factor that is relatively easy for parents to do something about."

Both of his college-age kids grew up playing video games, Anderson says, but many games rated "E" (for "everyone") contain violence.

"The rating itself does not tell you whether it is a healthy or unhealthy game," he adds. "Any game that involves killing or harming another character in order to advance is likely to be teaching inappropriate lessons to whoever is playing it."

that all panel members will be governed by the same rules, Hughes said. The panelists have agreed to recuse themselves from considering any recommendation that could affect a company with which they are affiliated.

Committee members will have to file financial disclosure statements to the Pentagon, but those disclosures won't be publicly available, said Cynthia Smith, a Defense Department spokeswoman.

One case that will require a recusal involves panelist Lehman, a former Navy secretary in the Reagan administration who was appointed to the committee by Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the ranking Republican on the Armed Services panel. Lehman runs an investment company specializing in defense holdings. His firm owns Atlantic Marine Holding Co., which repairs Navy ships in Mayport, Fla. The latest version of the review, released last week, recommends moving a nuclear aircraft carrier to Mayport from Norfolk, Va., which could mean more business for Atlantic Marine.

Lehman said he would recuse himself from reviewing the Mayport carrier issue and anything else that touched on his business interests. At the same time, he said, he and others with defense ties are capable of offering unbiased advice. Most defense experts have some financial affiliation with the defense industry, Lehman said, pointing out that the Defense Department does business with more than 33,000 companies and also funds university research.

"Could you find anybody who knows anything about defense who doesn't have some potential conflict of interest?" he asked.

Some experts say the answer is yes. "There are retired military officers or Defense officials who don't have defense industry ties. If you wanted to find these people, you could," said Jordan Janna, an American University professor and expert on government commissions.

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