

# NBC's "Cosby Show" Still Tops

**BY JERRY BUCK  
AP TELEVISION WRITER**  
LOS ANGELES (AP) --- NBC's "The Cosby Show," seriously challenged last season by ABC's "Roseanne," has climbed back on top again in last week's Nielsen ratings.

"Cosby," repeatedly beaten out by "Roseanne" last season, won for the third straight week and all of NBC's Thursday comedies were in the top 10.

"Roseanne," running fourth in recent weeks, was pre-empted last week by the second part of the ABC miniseries "Small Sacrifices."

"Small Sacrifices," starring Farrah Fawcett as an Oregon woman convicted of shooting her children, placed second.

The first part was 12th in the previous week's ratings.

NBC was first for the week with an average rating of 16, according to the A.C. Nielsen Co. ABC had 13.2 and CBS 11.7. Each point represents the percentage of the nation's 92.1 million homes with televisions.

In the season-to-date, NBC leads with 15.1, followed by ABC's 13.5 and CBS's 12.4.

NBC also leads in the November sweeps, which helps determine an affiliate's advertising rates. The ratings: NBC 15.5, ABC 12.6, CBS 12.0.

Fox Broadcasting Co. had its highest Sunday rating for regular programming with 8.1. A one-hour "America's Most Wanted" special came in ahead of ABC and NBC in the 8-9 p.m. time

slot. It was 48th, while "Married ... With Children" tied for 41st place.

The Top 10: NBC's "The Cosby Show," ABC miniseries "Small Sacrifices" Part II, NBC's "A Different World," NBC's "Cheers," NBC's "The Golden Girls," CBS' "60 Minutes," NBC's "Empty Nest," CBS' "Murder, She Wrote," NBC's "Dear John" and ABC's "The Wonder Years."

The first part of the CBS miniseries "Till We Meet Again" lost out to its Sunday competition, NBC's "Perry Mason" movie. It was in a three-way tie for 24th place, while "Perry Mason" was 17th.

The miniseries, based on the novel by Judith Krantz, beat ABC's Sunday telecast of the feature film "Outrageous Fortune," which tied for 37th place.

The "Midnight Caller" episode last Tuesday starring Kay Lenz in a reprise of her Emmy-winning role as an AIDS victim, came in 50th. It was up against the last hour of "Small Sacrifices."

ABC's "World News Tonight" maintained first place among the evening news shows. The ratings: ABC 11.2, CBS 10.7, NBC 10.1.

The lowest-rated show of the week was CBS' "Wolf."

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# Future II Hits No. One

**BY JOHN HORN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER**  
HOLLYWOOD (AP) --- Universal Studios is feasting on the record \$27.8 million earned by "Back to the Future Part II" in its Thanksgiving-weekend debut.

The sequel to the 1985 hit knocked another sequel out of the record books as the highest-grossing Thanksgiving release, according to figures released Monday. "Rocky IV" grossed \$20 million during the Friday to Sunday period in 1985.

For the long holiday weekend that began Wednesday, "Back to the Future Part II" collected \$43 million and set single-day admission records on Wednesday and Thursday, with grosses exceeding \$7.2 million each day.

But the strong opening of the film starring Michael J. Fox and directed by Robert Zemeckis failed to surpass the all-time three-day opening record, set this year by "Batman" with \$42.7 million, according to Entertainment Data Inc. and Exhibitor Relations Co.

Total movie house revenues for autumn hit a record of \$832 million, up 24 percent from last fall. Thanksgiving business for the top 10 was more than \$78 million, up 50 percent from 1988.

Eddie Murphy's gangster film "Harlem Nights" dropped to second place with ticket sales of \$11.1 million from Friday through Sunday, down 31 percent from the previous weekend.

Disney's animated hit "The Little Mermaid" rode a rising tide of popularity to surge 39 percent last weekend, making \$8.4 million to come in third.

The baby-rearing comedy "Look Who's Talking" earned \$7.9 million to claim fourth place. In fifth was the ensemble drama "Steel Magnolias," which collected \$7.1 million.

In sixth was another animated film, "All Dogs Go to Heaven," grossing \$5 million. The Christmas-themed reindeer movie "Prancer" came in seventh with \$4.1 million.

In eighth place was the sentimental drama "Dad" on \$2.9 million, followed by "The Bear" with \$2.3 million and "Crimes and Misdemeanors" with \$1.5 million.

Here are the top movies for Friday through Sunday as tallied by Entertainment Data and Exhibitor Relations. Figures are based on a combination of actual box-office receipts and studio projections where actual figures are not immediately available.

1. "Back to the Future Part II," Universal, \$27.8 million weekend gross, 1,865 screens, \$14,925 per screen, \$43 million total gross, one week in release.

2. "Harlem Nights," Paramount, \$11.1 million, 2,180 screens, \$5,108 per screen, \$34.9 million, two weeks.

3. "The Little Mermaid," Disney, \$8.4 million, 999 screens, \$8,393 per screen, \$16.8 million, two weeks.

4. "Look Who's Talking," Tri-Star, \$7.9 million, 1,651 screens, \$4,771 per screen, \$96.6 million, seven weeks.

5. "Steel Magnolias," Tri-Star, \$7.1 million, 720 screens, \$9,797 per screen, \$15.6 million, two weeks.

# Top Ten Songs

The Associated Press

Best-selling records of the week:

1. "Blame It on the Rain," Milli Vanilli
2. "Angelia," Richard Marx
3. "The Way That You Love Me," Paula Abdul
4. "Love Shack," B-52's
5. "When I See You Smile," Bad English
6. "We Didn't Start the Fire," Billy Joel
7. "Listen to Your Heart," Roxette
8. "Poison," Alice Cooper
9. "Get on Your Feet," Gloria Estefan
10. "Back to Life," Soul II Soul

6. "All Dogs Go to Heaven," MGM-UA, \$5 million, 1,590 screens, \$3,152 per screen, \$11.2 million, two weeks.

7. "Prancer," Orion, \$4.1 million, 1,717 screens, \$2,361 per screen, \$7.8 million, two weeks.

8. "Dad," Universal, \$2.9 million, 1,188 screens, \$2,465 per screen, \$15.1 million, five weeks.

9. "The Bear," Tri-Star, \$2.3 million, 1,054 screens, \$2,224 per screen, \$23.5 million, five weeks.

10. "Crimes and Misdemeanors," Orion, \$1.5 million, 525 screens, \$2,777 per screen, \$13.2 million, seven weeks.

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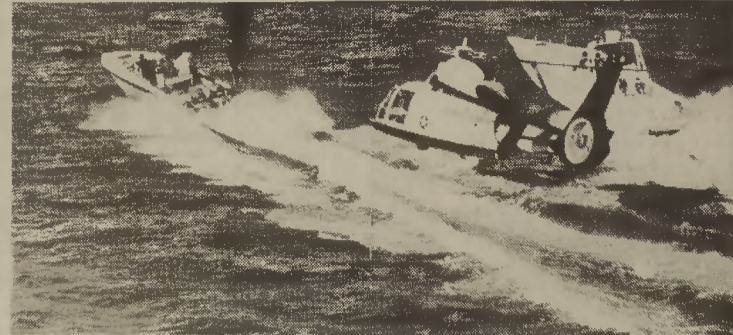
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