

## = Wild Barts Can 't Be Broken =

" Wild Barts Can 't Be Broken " is the eleventh episode of The Simpsons ' tenth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on January 17 , 1999 . When Homer , Barney , Lenny , and Carl drunkenly vandalize Springfield Elementary School , it is blamed on the children of Springfield , prompting Chief Wiggum to impose a curfew . The children respond by setting up a pirate radio show in which they reveal the embarrassing secrets of Springfield 's adults . The episode was written by Larry Doyle and directed by Mark Ervin . The concept behind the episode originates from show producer Mike Scully always wanting to do an episode where the children would be subject to a curfew . The episode received an 8 @. @ 9 Nielsen rating , and mostly positive reviews from critics .

## = = Plot = =

The Simpsons are at Springfield War Memorial Stadium watching the Springfield Isotopes baseball game . After the first pitch Homer , becomes disappointed by the poor performance of the Isotopes and waits in the car . Six months later , he enters Moe 's Tavern and is informed by Lenny and Carl that the Isotopes are in the playoffs , and have , so far , been playing well . Homer quickly joins in with the fans to support the Isotopes , who end up winning the National League pennant . To celebrate Homer , Lenny , Carl , and Barney go on a drunken binge and accidentally vandalize Springfield Elementary School .

The next morning , Homer discovers his car , which is badly damaged , and is oblivious that in reality he and his friends were responsible . Chief Wiggum blindly jumps to the conclusion that the vandalism at the school is the work of kids and immediately enforces a curfew on all of Springfield 's children , prohibiting them from being on the streets after sunset . Bart and Lisa , as well as the other children of Springfield , are annoyed with not being allowed out after sunset . The children soon rally together to rebel and see an old drive @-@ in horror movie which they saw advertised on television , called " The Bloodening " , a film recently discovered in a concrete vault after it was deemed too violent . While at the movie , the movie was interrupted as they are caught by Chief Wiggum . As a punishment , the children must clean a police billboard with Wiggum on it .

The children then set up a radio show called " We Know All Your Secrets " , in which they expose the secrets of the adults of Springfield like the kids in the movie . The children are tracked down at the billboard by Professor Frink 's machine , and an argument between the children and the adults ensues . Unfortunately , the argument rouses the ire of Grampa and the other senior citizens trying to get some sleep , and they vow to teach both groups a lesson . Their revenge turns out to be enforcing a curfew banning everyone under the age of seventy from the streets after dark , which is a measure that passed by a single vote , due to Homer refusing to cast a ballot .

## = = Production = =

Mike Scully wanted to do an episode where the children of Springfield would be subject to a curfew . He came up with the idea to do a Kids vs. Adults episode , where the children would be blamed for something the adults have done . The name of the baseball announcer , Denis Conroy , was used because that is the name of writer Larry Doyle 's uncle . Dan Castelloneta ad libbed Homer singing " Hitler is a jerk , Mussolini .... " It was added in to the episode only for the purpose of filling time . The Chief Wiggum billboard sketch was inspired by Beaver Cleaver getting stuck in a soup bowl billboard during the " In the Soup " episode of Leave It to Beaver . The music playing when the kids secretly leave their houses to see the movie was written by composer Alf Clausen .

The episode 's title is a reference to the movie Wild Hearts Can 't Be Broken . The movie The Bloodening is a parody of the 1960 film Village of the Damned . The sequence showing the children taking the equipment to build their radio transmitter is a recreation of a sequence from the short comedy films Our Gang , featuring similar music and a dog , with Milhouse dressed like Our Gang character Alfalfa . The review Marge reads of Talk to the Hand ? " The writing snaps , crackles and

pops " ? was how Variety reviewed the sitcom Just Shoot Me ! when it first aired in 1997 . The musical argument between kids , adults and seniors is a parody of the song " Kids " from the musical Bye Bye Birdie . When Lisa is flipping through the radio channels , President Franklin D. Roosevelt 's Infamy Speech can be heard . In the Springfield Elementary School shower @-@ room Homer , Barney , Lenny , and Carl sing a medley of Queen songs consisting of " We Are the Champions " and " We Will Rock You " . When Cyndi Lauper sings " The Star @-@ Spangled Banner " it is to the tune of her hit song " Girls Just Want to Have Fun " .

= = Reception = =

" Wild Barts Can 't Be Broken " finished tied for 40th in the weekly ratings for the week of January 11 ? 17 , 1999 with a Nielsen rating of 8 @. @ 9 . The episode has met with mostly positive reviews . In his review of The Simpsons ' tenth season , James Plath of Dvdtown.com noted " Wild Barts Can 't Be Broken " as " pretty decent " . Peter Brown of If regards " Lard of the Dance " , " Marge Simpson in : Screaming Yellow Honkers " , " Wild Barts Can 't Be Broken " , and " Homer Simpson in : " Kidney Trouble " " as " some of the best episodes of the season " . The authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , wrote that the episode was " a curious unmemorable episode with a good chunk in the middle . Neither the opening with The Isotopes nor the finale with the rather dire song help this one at all , and frankly , if it wasn 't for the superb parody of Village of the Damned , and the kids ' revenge by revealing their family 's secrets , it 'd sink without trace . " In 2007 , Simon Crerar of The Times listed Lauper 's performance as one of the thirty @-@ three funniest cameos in the history of the show .