

Family



Research Council

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Dear Friend:

In 1986 the Center for Media and Public Affairs published a landmark report which confirmed the suspicions of many citizens: the media, especially its news gathering wing, is dominated by an elite few who hold radical views on such issues as adultery, the role of religion and abortion.

A quarter century ago, Canadian communications expert Marshall McLuhan coined the phrase "global village." It described how television would transform the world by linking remote places and distant peoples. Today his prediction has largely come true, with satellite dishes mounted everywhere — from the mountaintops of the Andes to the jungles of New Guinea. Unfortunately, I believe the medium of television is also transforming the world into some kind of "global Greenwich Village," a bohemian-style neighborhood of social permissiveness and political correctness.

As you may know, I'm not shy around the media. In fact, I relish the opportunity to candidly debate the issues. Long ago I committed myself and the Family Research Council to respond to every responsible media opportunity that comes our way to make the case for family values. But I can report to you that little has changed since 1986. While the vast majority of media people I know are friendly and honorable, when it comes to their social and political views, they cannot identify with the values that you and I hold dear. This bias shows up in countless ways, both major and minor.

One way that media bias rears its ugly head is the startling trend toward radicalizing traditional holiday observances. Take Mother's Day for example. Last May, my wife Carol and I were struck by the demeaning articles about motherhood which appeared in the major press. On Mother's Day, *The New York Times*, in an all-too-typical example, devoted its lead editorial to Gaia, the "spirit" of Mother Earth that radical environmentalists have made virtually an object of worship.

For *The Washington Post*, Mother's Day was just another opportunity to publish an article asserting that women who work outside the home are "physically and emotionally healthier than homemakers" while citing a sociologist's view that marriage is actually "a health hazard for women." A second story told the tale of a supposedly contented childless couple who