

THE MEDIA

Media bias impacts the news you hear and don't hear.

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

Proverbs 12:22

Media "Hate Crimes"

In October 1998, homosexual Matthew Shepard was brutally murdered in Laramie, Wyoming. Homosexual activists used this event to push for so-called "Hate Crimes" legislation. NBC's *Today Show* host Katie Couric went so far as to blame the "Truth In Love" campaign, which was launched by 17 pro-family organizations to tell homosexuals that there is hope for change. She commented that this campaign prompts people to say, *"If I met someone who was homosexual, I'm going to take action to try to convince them or try to harm them."*

Contrast the media attention received by Shepard's murder, to the attention given to 13-year-old Jesse Dirkhising, who was sodomized, gagged and murdered on September 26, 1999, allegedly by two homosexuals. While a *Lexis-Nexis* search during a three week period after his death found just 44 stories (all in local newspapers), over 1000 stories – mostly national – were found on Shepard in the three weeks following his murder.

Apparently, the media thinks that crimes *against* homosexuals are hate crimes, while crimes committed *by* homosexuals are not even newsworthy.

-Timothy J. Daly, "Matthew We Know, But Who Is Jesse?" *Culture Facts*, October 20, 1999

The Media Elite: Where do they stand?

Robert and Linda Richter, of the Center for Media and Public Affairs, surveyed 104 of the "most influential television writers, producers, and executives" to find out where they stood on the issues. Their results are as follows:

- 93% "seldom or never attend religious services."
- 75% "describe themselves as left of center politically, compared to only 14% who place themselves to the right of center."
- 97% "believe that 'a woman has the right to decide for herself' whether to have an abortion."
- 80% "do not regard homosexual relations as wrong."
- 86% "support the right of homosexuals to teach in public schools."
- 51% "do not regard adultery as wrong."
- Only 17% "strongly agree that extramarital affairs are wrong."

-D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, *The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail*, (Nashville, Tenn. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996) p. 87

Media Sound bites:

Christians are "fatheads"

"But when it comes to preventing violence in our schoolyards, some fat-head is bound to say that prayer is the solution."

-Syndicated columnist Mary McGrory, *Washington Post*, April 22, 1999

"Wacko right-winger" is redundant

"The term wacko right-winger is redundant. For example, they're the only people who don't like being called compassionate. Someone remarked that many now defend the tobacco industry because its products kill people early, saving us dollars in having to care for aged people."

-Larry King, "Larry King's People" *USA Today*, March 8, 1999

Jesus the Communist?

"*The Communist Manifesto* is well worth the \$12 [price]. Its message is a timeless one that bears repeating every century or so: The meek shall triumph and the mighty shall fall...the hungry and exhausted will get restless and someday rise up against their oppressors. The prophet Isaiah said something like this, and so, a little more recently, did Jesus."

-*Time* columnist Barbara Ehrenreich in an April 30, 1998 book review for the Web site *Salon*.

"Sanctimonious" Christians

"And when they were all done, a bunch of us reporters went into town, got drunk and ended up at a local strip joint called Big Earl's Gold Mine. There's only so much sanctimony a guy can take."

-*Salon.com* reporter Jake Tapper, covering a pro-Christian "Presidential Rally for Family, Faith and Freedom". *Salon.com*, January 24, 2000

God Doesn't Really Exist

"I have grown certain that humanity invented God."

-Former *New York Times* editor Max Frankel. "For the Record" *National Review*, February 21, 2000

The Media and Partial-Birth Abortion: A Case Study

Was the media influenced by pro-abortion lobbyists? See if you can spot the pattern.

Lie #1: “The procedure, extremely rare and done only in cases when the woman’s life is in danger or in cases of extreme fetal abnormality...”
-Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider, November 1, 1995

Here’s how the media reported this lie: “The controversial abortion technique is typically performed when a woman’s life is in danger or to abort a fetus that is not expected to survive.”
-*Los Angeles Times*, November 2, 1995

Lie #2: “This procedure is used only in about 500 cases per year.”
-National Abortion Federation

The following week, *Time Magazine* obediently reported: “Experts estimate that partial-birth abortion accounts for perhaps 600 of the 1.5 million abortions performed in the U.S. each year.”

Those were the lies and how they were reported. Now here is the truth about partial-birth abortion: In September 1996, a New Jersey newspaper, *The Record*, reported that *over 1,500 partial-birth abortions occur each year - at one abortion clinic!* Only “a miniscule amount” were done to save the mother’s life. As late as 1993, abortionist Martin Haskell said, “They’re never done for medical necessity.” In an earlier interview with *American Medical News* in July 1993, he said, “80 percent (of partial-birth abortions) are purely elective.” And in February 1997, Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, admitted that he “lied through my teeth” about how often the procedure was being performed.

But even after the truth was revealed, the media kept telling the same pro-abortion lies: “Abortion rights advocates say the procedure is uncommon and used only when a fetus has severe abnormalities or the woman has serious health problems.”
-Associated Press, March 23, 1998

-Matthew Scully, “Partial Truth” *National Review*, June 22, 1998

Are you a pro-family activist? Here are some tips on how to deal with the Media

1. **Be Alert.** Remember, they Are Biased. For example, if you’re taping a TV or radio interview with secular media, go live rather than taped, if given a choice. That way, they can’t censor your best comments.
2. **Be Persistent.** Send press releases often and early. Make follow-up calls.
3. **Be Credible.** Have source material and documentation to back up every statement you make.
4. **Be firm, but nice.** If you know they need the story, and you’re the only one they can get it from, don’t let them take advantage of you. If a reporter wants a comment from you right now, and you’re not ready to give a comment, ask them to wait. Make them film where you want. For example, if you’re talking about abortion, and the reporters don’t like the fetal models behind you, don’t remove them. Use them to your advantage, so that you can give the best possible presentation.
5. **Be Discerning.** If they’re hostile to you, don’t take it personally. They probably have negative preconceived notions about you and don’t understand where you’re coming from. A positive attitude can go a long way towards correcting that, and after they get to know you better, it gives you an opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

Resources

E-mail Alert A weekly e-mail produced by the CENTER FOR RECLAIMING AMERICA on today’s hottest issues that you can take action on. For a free subscription, call 877-IN-TRUTH, or e-mail us at cfra@crministries.org.

Reclaiming America with Janet Folger. A daily radio commentary by the CENTER’S National Director, who gives a Christian commentary on today’s news that you won’t hear anywhere else. Currently heard on nearly 300 radio stations, and seen on 40 TV stations.

American Family Association Journal A monthly publication that gives the Christian perspective on the news. (601) 844-5036

Media Research Center This organization exposes and documents liberal bias on a daily basis. (800) 672-1423

Conservative News Service This full-service news wire offers up-to-the-minute news updates without the liberal bias. Their web site is www.CNSNews.com

Books

The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail, by D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996

How to Identify, Expose and Correct Liberal Media Bias, by Brent Baker, Media Research Center, 1996

And That’s the Way It Isn’t, by Brent Bozell and Brent Baker, Media Research Center, 1990

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