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REL 101

**Short Essay #5**

Religion is always thrown out of hand when it comes to the media. They always seem to point out and highlight the race or religion of a person that commits a crime, and runs with it. Examples are the portrayal of Muslims after Septemeber 11th as having a bomb strapped to their chest and being ruthless. Yes, there are Muslims that are this way, but that doesn’t mean that is how the religion is as a whole. The latest thing to hit the media and be exploded out of proportion is the Chick-fil-A controversy.

If anyone else besides a top level executive of a name brand corporation would have made the statement saying that they didn’t support gay marriage, we wouldn’t have ever heard of it. But because it was Chic-Fil-A’s president, we did. And we got a lot of it. If he would have openly said this statement 4 years ago, it wouldn’t have seemed out of place, however, with the recent push in gay marriage among states, it only seemed right that the media span this out of control.

America is very diverse religiously, but was founded on the belief that we are one under god. This belief is still instilled within the culture, and the media interprets this as that any action that goes against Christian beliefs can be taken as non-American. However, recent movements to allow gay marriage in states as American as New York have began to question the view on gays from an American eye.

To make it worse, the speed of information on the web began a public debate and oddly enough boosted the corporations’ sales on their appreciation day. Supporters stood outside and protested for the statements made by the corporation, and in the mean time, enjoyed a tasty snack. Due to the media, this was a record-breaking day for sales, and leads me to question more the difference between the media portrayal of and the actual feelings of Americans.

What question arises from this debate is that if this statement would have been made outside in a European or middle eastern country, would it have attracted that same media attention? The fact that this is even a big deal and was blown up to the size that it is actually quite sad, and that it actually helped chic-fil-a’s sales is worse.

This event has made me reflect on the nature of the abuse of the media on my own religion as it has been for multiple years. I think that the media has no rights to extort this, and they only do it to gain viewers and up profits. It was just funny to see the media’s plan backfire, and raise chic-fil-a’s sales as well.