

CULVER

Sherri Hope Culver

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Rep 9/9/93

Dr. George Gerbner  
University of Pennsylvania  
The Annenberg School for Communications  
3620 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6220

July 25, 1993

Dear Dr. Gerbner;

Had someone asked me to name the most memorable moments of my California vacation, I most certainly would have mentioned the impressive coastal drive through Big Sur and hiking to Moro Rock at Sequoia National Park. But that was before the passenger seated beside me on my flight home asked me about my journal and began a conversation with me. It may have surprised you that I guessed who you were, but to me the clues were unmistakable. It was truly a pleasure to meet you.

How interesting to meet a person whose work I've read and thought about so many times. I read the materials you gave me on the plane with a different perspective; of one who can put a face to the author. I was intrigued by your notion of organizing a "cultural environment movement". So often it seems people band together only when they are trying to censor the creative community and their instincts. It was refreshing to hear about an organization supporting diversity and public participation as a way to achieve a democratic media agenda.

On a more personal note, as a woman in the broadcasting profession I found the findings in your study on *Women and Minorities on Television* disturbing. I guess the notion that women and minorities are under (and mis-) represented on television shouldn't surprise me...the majority of television decisions have always been made by white males. But the statistics make it painfully obvious. I was

left, however, with one lingering question. Is it television's job to reflect society as it exists...or to give its' audience a place to tune in where most people are not poor, where the good guys usually win and where our father figure-like newsmen assure us that everything will be alright? Hmm...I'd venture to say that question is at the crux of some of your research.

Needless to say, if I can ever be of any help to you, please call. And the next time I see your face on CNN or Good Morning America I'll remember a few hours where I alone had your ear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherri Hope Culver". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sherri Hope Culver