Boston Trilogy. The first in a three-part series examining the changing role of the American family airs Thursday (Oct 1) on WNBC-TV Boston. Entitled The Changing Family, this "unusually comprehensive" project is engaging the efforts of WNBC-TV's news, programming and public affairs departments. The station has established three "theme weeks" in which its news teams will present special reports and a multi-part series relating to topics covered in each documentary. Such public affairs programs as Weekday and Senior Circuit also will include segments devoted to issues examined in the series. The station also prepared a family study guide for each program, made resource lists of local agencies and services, and a supplemental reading list for distribution to community organizations. Each of the documentaries around which the project focuses is an hour in length, followed by a live, 30-minute, in-studio discussion including call-in responses from area viewers. The first—"The Children's Hour"—deals with social and economic changes that have affected youths. The second—"Happily Ever After," on Nov. 5—looks at the ways Americans meet, marry, stay together or part. The final documentary—"May to December," on Dec. 3—explores conflicts facing older adults, such as mid-life career changes and divorce after many years of marriage.

Donahue vs. Wildmon

CBTV chairman, appearing on talk show, tells Donahue he makes 'flagrant use' of abnormal sex

The Donahue one-hour syndicated series was enlivened last week by the appearance of the Rev. Donald Wildmon, founder and executive director of the National Federation for Decency, who jostled with host Phil Donahue on the alleged sexual emphasis of the program.

At the outset of the program, Wildmon—who is also chairman of the Coalition for Better Television—apologized on the air, repeating a statement that he had made earlier that four Chicago area members of the federation had engaged in "hyperbole" in describing the show. But he insisted that Donahue makes "flagrant use" of some areas of abnormal sex.

He said he was referring to several programs dealing with homosexuality and Donahue's apparent acceptance of this life style. Wildmon added that he accepts homosexuals as individuals but could not accept homosexual acts. Similarly, he said, he could accept criminals and alcoholics as human beings but not their actions.

Donahue referred to the statement by the four Chicago members of the federation (they were invited but did not accept the invitation to appear on the program) that 40% of Donahue's programs deal with sexual topics and often portray abnormal sex favorably. Wildmon said his own research since the beginning of the year shows that about 20% of Donahue's shows deal with sex.