

HW:

Thought you'd be interested in this comment from your friend Matt Herron. He says it very well, of course, but I'd say commercial television is only the latest manifestation of the "incessant, mindless blather" to which he objects and that before TV there was commercial radio, and Hollywood and Madison Avenue, and before that there was the familiar ballyhoo practiced by nearly all the press going back at least to P.T. Larnum. This tropism toward euphoric fantasy is one side of the coin, probably an escape mechanism from our puritanical consciences which will do anything, grasp at any straw, as long as we do not have to think about our crimes of racism and other unworthy hatreds. The other side is the commercial un-ethic which has persuaded ^{us} that lies and nonsense are not really harmful as long as they sell something. This we simply refuse to challenge in the mass. We're beginning to do it as consumers, even in an organized way, but the un-ethic still pervades the ~~m~~édia, all of them, and TV happens merely to be the most all-pervasive form to have hit us.

jdw21jan73