As an alternative paper, the Vanguard will regularly examine the competition in "Media Watch."

By Joan Taylor

"Dead man lives! Film at eleven!" This is the parlance of television, is a typical "sale" sandwiched between commercials in the prime hours of viewing which is geared to make you look through your news broadcast at eleven o'clock each weekend.

It illustrates the inane lengths to which television stations are trying to rob your attention and rape your mind. In any critical review of television news, it is important to separate network television from local television. At the network level, there still seems to be a desire to inform, educate and expand on some developments which have significance.

At the local level, there are no Cronkites, Chancellors or Reasoners.

The local "anchormen" in Los Angeles, as an example, are a distinct television gendarme, warmed over male models, has-been radio announcers and token minorities who worry more about how their hair spray and makeup than how to craft a news story.

Beginning at the top of the dial, let's sketch the local to传真 news menu:

Channel Two has imported a vacuous motorcycle hulk named Patrick Emory from St. Louis who looks like a dressed-up cop. His style is a mixture of boredom and indifferencer, a style which finally puts viewers to sleep. Emory works with a co-host named Sandy Hill who gives the impression that she's always auditioning for a Breek commercial. Miss Hill is uninvertably pretty, but she is also pretty unbelievable. Channel Two's top "anchorman" is Joseph Benti who tries to mask his disdain of the circus around him with forced dignity.

However, the end result gives Benti the appearance of discomfort, as if he is in a constant need to go to the bathroom.

Channel Four is still floundering after the loss of Tom Snyder, who grabbed all the local television news ratings with his combination of impishness, irreverence and arrogance.

Paul Moyers, the Rich Little of TV anchorman, was plugged into Snyder's slot when he tried to carry on by copying Snyder's appearance, Snyder's mannerisms, Snyder's style. But, where Snyder projected an image of really being concerned about local events, even if he was swimming in ignorance, Moyers leaves the impression that he's a little boy talking about grown up affairs. However, he also deserves some credit.

It employs Jess Marlow, a solid professional journalist, who has not only built up a loyal following among viewers, but is also one of the best looked men inside his own shop and profession. NBC is also grooming anchorman Warren Olney, another rarity: a professional journalist who has a good style and appearance on the tube. The Channel Four stable is rounded out by John Schubeck who has bounced from NBC Burbank to ABC New York, to ABC Hollywood to NBC Burbank... which may be his last media bounce. John is in law school and is expected to hang up his hair spray can soon and opt for a career in the law.

Channel Five seems to have gone out of the news business. After years of experimenting with large KMBC and KABC, it is more interested in its "official substance"—for the most part. At independent stations such as KTVG, management is trying to limit expenses, cut back on exotic personalities and give responsible news gathering in an effort to save viewers, while at stations such as KTLA and KABC there is no serious effort to compete at all.

For the viewer in search of real informative television it is a perilous journey around the dial. KGET, the local educational station, doesn't program daily news, and that is a local tragedy. KGET does have the pressures of advertisers, the pressure ratings, the pressure of station managers trying to make personal reputations. Don't look for the commercial stations to alter their programs.

What does it all mean?

It means that the two-billion-dollar-a-year news operations by the network stations, KMBC and KABC, are more interested in its "official substance" for the most part. At independent stations such as KTVG, management is trying to limit expenses, cut back on exotic personalities and give responsible news gathering in an effort to save viewers, while at stations such as KTLA and KABC there is no serious effort to compete at all.

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Citizen Intelligence

By Burt Wilson
California’s Nuclear War

One of the biggest election issues since reform Governor George Deukmejian took office has been the "nuclear safeguards" initiative. The campaign has been heated and controversial, with both sides spending millions of dollars to influence voters.

The initiative is aimed at preventing the construction of new nuclear power plants in California. It calls for an independent review of the existing nuclear plants and a moratorium on new construction.

The initiative has been supported by environmental groups and some labor unions, who argue that it is necessary to protect public health and safety. Opponents, including utilities and the nuclear power industry, argue that the initiative would be costly and could lead to higher electricity rates.

The initiative is scheduled to be on the November ballot. Voters will decide whether to approve or reject the initiative.

If passed, the initiative would require a two-thirds majority of the vote to be approved.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Kissinger to Resign Soon

By Jim Horwitz

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KISSINGER TO RESIGN SOON

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS: THE HOT ATOMIC CONTROVERSY

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SYNDICATE COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON will soon be releasing some personal data on the presidential candidates that has normally been classified. Anderson asked each candidate to submit a medical report and the last five years of their Federal income tax returns. However, he discovered that each candidate had been known to have atomic-based power. Anderson asks everyone to look at these results carefully before casting their votes.

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS: MURDER AT THE LAUREL GUARDIAN

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NOVEMBER ELECTIONS: THE NEW LEFT AND THE OLD

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PUBLICIZED TO PUBLICIZED

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FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

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CALIFORNIA’S REDWOODS: DEAD WOODS?

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Conservationists have been saying so all along, and now the federal government has officially agreed for the first time: Logging around California’s Redwood National Park is wreaking the sanctuary.

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A two-year study of the area by a team of United States Geological Survey scientists concluded that increased erosion has hobbled 1,000-year-old redwoods and caused the silting of fish-bearing pools. (Private surveys financed by the lumber companies argue...)

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Loggers have left piles of litter, tires, heaps of gravel, cut logs, blasted culvert pipes, and steel cables all over the park. And what can be done about the damage?