



# CRAP TV

## NETWORK NEWS

### PJ's description of the pestilence of Western Media

trustworthy informant. The female counterpart is similar. A pretty face and a nice voice is all that is required for upward mobility in the Breakfast Club. As long as she sounds concerned enough about the tabloid-style interview questions, who cares if she can't compose a sentence without stage cues.

Firstly, where do they get those guys for the coffee-and-danish morning programs? The male figure is the typical ex-jock, aggressive and opinionated newsman whose social antics bring more viewers than the interviews of stories he reports. The pre-requisite for filling such a position are those an entertainer rather than a

The horror of these daytime satires (which are followed of course by intuitive and insightful game shows and soap operas) continues in the broadcast of the pulse-of-the-nation evening activities. The information these people submit for our appraisal is portrayed as scripture from above; propaganda, served with a smile. In Canada, it is customary to badger and deflate politicians and social leaders. It keeps everyone on their toes and leaves us with a feeling of some control over bureaucracy. Once elected, political personalities in America only have to justify exploratory surgery or the

feeding habits of family pets. Their policies are rarely countered by the media to any great extent; only their opponents get a going over as if the public has to be convinced that the preceding opinion was untaintably justice. Slick or what.

Their credibility is somewhat tarnished by last years change of time slots due

to a drop in viewership by heavy Wheel of Fortune competition. This of course made it possible to be both informed and entertained; or is it entertained and informed. Ah, no matter, Pat's got his own show now.

The anchors who spread this hokey are so dipped and dyed in appearance to seem like "friends" of the viewer. I feel like retching on my remote control. I mean seriously, do you want to be informed by someone who appears to have your insight into the story; I believe the word for that is gossip. Heck no, you want someone mildly authoritative and confident. These cheese dips are too busy trying to be your best friend to educate you in an assured manner.

Exception. P B S broadcasting. It might seem a little bland but at least doesn't transmit the stench of sensationalism.

Be thankful that we still have a national identity in the media. If the CBC and CTV go under we'll have to rely on

these pooches for information. Oh, and before you start mewling about how many Canadians are down there doing great and wonderful things, I think you might want to know that most are faces and have little to say in the management of the news and that a significant number have returned or wish they could, according to some recent reports.

The next time I see Dan. Rather crack that coprophagic little grin at the end of a newscast after filling us with nightmarish video of the world around us and topping off the evening with a things-aren't-so-bad human interest story (Midwest Farmer Fashions Post-Impressionist Art Out of Corn Husks), I'm gonna put five little piggies through the tube.

Cynical words for cynical times, kids.  
Kiss, kiss.

PJ



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