

Sight & Sound By Ernest Kreiling

HOLLYWOOD — People in jor awards. Only a few were even nominated. the television industry are fre-

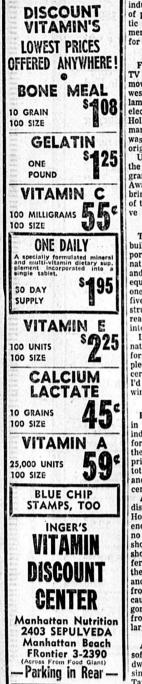
quently referred to by critics as an accumulation of mental midgets, who purposely pro-duce programs for the 12-year-old mind.

old mind. That there is a lot of tripe intentionally put on the air can't be disputed. But the re-cent Television A c a de my Awards, when analyzed, bring to light an interesting finding. When the people in all phases of the industry had a chance to vote on the maior achieveto vote on the major achieve-ments of that industry, they didn't generally select the most popular program.

. . .

THROUGHOUT the winter and spring the programs con-sistently viewed by the most millions of people were Wagon Train, Bonanza, Ben Casey, Dr. Kildare, Hazel, Bob Hope Specials Danny Thomas, Perry Mason, Red Skelton, Candid Camera, and Gunsmoke.

Camera, and Gunsmoke. Except for Shirley Booth's victory as the best actress in a series, none of these pub-lic favorites received any ma-



THIS DOESNT prove that TV people are intellectual gi-ants or that the viewing pub-lic is a composite idiot, but it might show that members of the TV Academy all over the nation — who alone vote in the Emmy elections — are willing to acknowledge com-mendable achievement and ef-fort, even if they can't or won't work at a level high enough to bring them the same recognition. I think, however, that it

I think, however, that it bodes well for an increasing maturity on the part of TV in the United States, esepcially in the increasing time and at-tention given to the presenta-tion of serious and compre-bancing decumentaries on me hensive documentaries on pub-lic affairs, and to the emphasis on worthwhile undertakings such as Victoria Regina and Van Gogh.

The fact that these and oth The fact that these and oth-er superior programs received the professionals' accolades, but didn't rank high in ratings, might indicate a new spirt of leadership on the part of the industry to stay slightly ahead of public tastes, a characteris-tic many have been recom-mending to the TV executives for many years. for many years.

. . . FOR MANY years New York TV critics, deploring the movement of TV production movement of TV production westward to Hollywood, have lamented the decline of the electronic art at the hands of Hollywood's film makers. To many such critics, the best TV was by very definition that originating in New York. Unfortunately for Hollywood the East Coast originated pro-grams won 20 out of 26 Emmy Awards, a fact that's likely to bring a flood of comment out of the East to the effect, "We'-ve been telling you so!" ve been telling you so!

THE ISSUE will probably be built out of all reasonable pro-portion, because in total nomi-nations the split between East and West was aptroximately equal. The line between the one winner and the four or five losers in each category struck me as being so fine no real significance can be read-into the New York sweep. Lee Marvin, who was nomi-nated as best actor for his per-formance in People Need Peo-ple, told me before the Awards built out of all reasonable pro

ple, told me before the Awards ceremony, "I may not win, but I'd rather lose to the best than win over the worst.

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. . . PETER FALK's performance in The Price of Tomatoes was indeed one of the "best" per-formances in drama, as were the other nominations. Such a principle can be applied to the total picture as far as East and West Coast awards is concerned.

Although a distinct aura of disappointment pervaded the Hollywood Palladium at the Hollywood Palladium at the end of the ceremonies, there's no valid reason New York should gloat or that Hollywood should develop a defensive in-feriority. And if we remove the New York originated news and public affairs programs from the comparisons — be-cause they alone among cate-gories necessarily emanante from the East — the balance is largely restored largely restored.

Advice is like snow; the softer it falls the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind - Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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