

# VIDEOSYNCRASIES

ANOKA COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP, INC.

August-October 1982

Fridley, Minnesota

Vol. 3, No. 3

## SECURITY LEAK

by Timm Lovaas

We seem to have someone in our organization who has been talking! Hard to imagine, but it's true. The repercussions are starting to fall here and there. Our first clue was when it leaked out at the NFLCP Conference that the ACCW is one of the most successful access centers in the country. We used to be able to quietly enjoy our success, but now others will want to know how we did it.

If you promise not to tell anyone, I'll give you some of our secrets, but remember, it's top secret. Don't ever mention that we have the finest group of enthusiastic volunteers who can perform almost everything from vacuuming the studio to producing a show to cablecasting from our schedule. (Did I mention scheduling our schedule?) And if word ever got out that our coordinator, Will Loew-Blosser, is a truly dedicated, loyal, hard-working and intelligent person, others would try to hire him away from us. And believe me, if anyone realized how many hours Mark Neuman-Scott, our chairperson of the board put in (in addition to his own production interests), they would establish a relief fund for him.

If I sound like I'm patting ourselves on the back, I'd have to agree. I'm proud to toot our horn about our accomplishments. These things didn't just happen by themselves. A tremendous amount of work and sacrifice has been done. We can't relax too long to enjoy our accolades. As always, there is a considerable amount of work to be done yet, and now is your chance to get in on the action. This September's membership meeting will find five board positions open for election. To qualify, you must be a member of the ACCW, and of course, a fondness for video and communication always helps. You will be asked to chair a committee, serve on other committees, and represent us at meetings and functions of local civic groups.

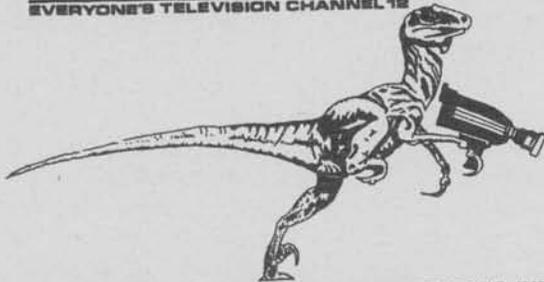
You'll soon find that people don't sit on the board for the money (mainly because it's just another volunteer job). They do it for the pride of working with the best in the business, the sense of accomplishment, and the challenge of doing the impossible every day.

If you are interested in running for a board position or just becoming more involved, contact Timm Lovaas (every Monday night at the studio) or any other member of the Board of Directors.

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### ETC. TV

EVERYONE'S TELEVISION CHANNEL 12



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Special thanks to Paul Kaspszak.

# COMEDY. SOAPS on ETC. 12

by Larry Davenport

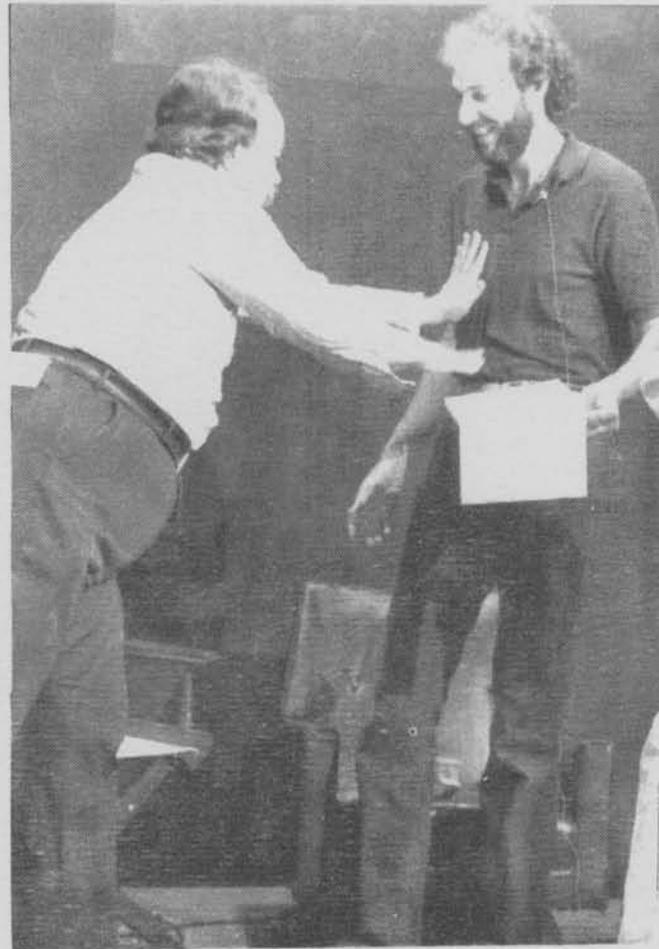
Viewers sometimes think of access television as only a showcase for religious programming and interview shows--and indeed, religious shows and interview programs do constitute a majority of access shows.

But there's humor there too. Entertainment shows--depending, of course on whether or not you find them entertaining.

There are several humor programs currently being cablecast on Everyone's Television Channel 12, including "The Hellbound Train". "The Hellbound Train" (HBT) is produced by Larry Davenport and Karl Eilers and is, although not modeled on it, something like "Saturday Night Live" or "Fridays" in its format and content.

The name "Hellbound Train" is something that has intrigues many viewers. The British blues-rock group Savoy Brown did a song called "Hellbound Train" years ago, but that's not where the show's name came from. Indeed, both Savoy Brown and the HBT production group borrowed the name from the same place--a science fiction short story by Robert Bloch that was first published in 1959 and won the Hugo Award as the best science fiction short story of that year.

"The Hellbound Train" was the story of a man who sold his soul to the Devil in return for happiness. Being a clever chap, though, he insisted on an escape clause. He was given a magic watch. When he reached a point of complete happiness, he could break the watch and stop time, freezing himself at the best time of his life. The man met a wonderful woman and married, but refrained from breaking the watch because he wanted children. When he got them he refrained from breaking it because he wanted to make more money. When he got that he refrained from breaking it because he wanted personal and spiritual fulfillment. When he got that he refrained from breaking it because he wanted to see his children graduate from college. And so on. Finally, one day he stood on a railroad platform and realized everyone around him had disappeared and a hellish train was bearing down the tracks at him. He had died, and the Hellbound Train was coming to pick him up. He and the devil climbed on board and the train started off. There were thousands of souls aboard holding their



HBT Producer Larry Davenport and Mark Komen

last party before reaching Hades. And at that point, the man broke the watch, insuring a never-ending party and capturing the devil on board the train, ending evil on earth.

And, so the "Hellbound Train" name was chosen as the symbol of non-stop partying and good times. With apologies and thanks to Robert Bloch. The "Hellbound Train" began in 1974 on campus radio station WMMR at the University of Minnesota. It ran, with various hosts, through 1979. When crew members had graduated, they found themselves missing the productions and became involved at ETC. 12 through the efforts of Karl Eilers, a Fridley resident.

Comedy Soaps Cont'd. Pg. 3

# Year-end Report

You may not all realize how busy the Workshop is, so I'm going to tell you about 1983 in this short wrap-up.

Programming produced included: Series renewed: The Church of St. Williams' "Building A City of God"; John King's FHS Girls Volleyball and FHS Girls Gymnastics season's games; Donna Faust's "Poetry '83"; Larry Hutchinson's "Sax & Violins"; Chris Matteson's "Accent On Art"; the Rotarians "Rotary Club Presents"; Pete Schweppe's "VFW Post 363 Bantam A Hockey". Series on-going included: "Fridley Poll", nearing Mike Bednarchuk's 300th show; also, Mike's "In Focus"; Fridley Assembly of God Church's "Pastor's Study", starting their fourth year; Dave Harvet's Live "3 In 1" program, which is now regularly sponsored by LaMaur, Inc. New Shows included "Coon Rapids Teen Center Presents", "FHS Childrens Theater", "Women's Encampment for Future Peace & Justice", "Artists in Minnesota", "Schmidt On Everything", "Bob Sisel's Clubhouse", "Focus On Labor", "Autorama '83", and over 1,000 other programs in 1983.

The Workshop covered every elementary Christmas program this year. Thanks go to Dr. Switzer for coordinating Hayes School tapings and John King for taping the Stevenson School programs and for cablecasting on Christmas Eve Day. Notices went home with 1,400 school kids with the viewing times listed for vacation time. Several churches and private schools also taped Christmas programs that were brought in to be cablecast.

Now host to visitors on Thursday evenings is "Fridley Poll". Many Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Campfire Girls have been in for tours this year. Also in the studio in the morning were Stevenson School Harvest Program kids making up their own commercials.

We have 127 new members for the year, and 67 renewed memberships. Besides the regular memberships, we have organizational memberships: The Church of St. Williams, William Mitchell College of Law, the U.S. Army, U.S. Post Office, Onan Corp, and the Fridley Assembly of God Church.

Our schedules are now published in the Fridley SUN with descriptions of the show and a highlight of a program. The Minneapolis Star & Tribune Community section lists the Channel 12 schedules, and a channel is to be designated to run our schedule continuously during the evening when programming is on Channel 12.

It has been an extremely busy year for the Workshop, as the statistics reflect: we had 953 studio bookings. Since the rebuild, there have been 135 bookings in the studio between 9 a.m. and noon, indicating the desire of people to use the facilities in the morning. We managed 624 portapak checkouts (and 624 portapak checkins); and 367 editing bookings in the VHS room started after the rebuild. The 3/4" editing equipment was reserved 334 times before the rebuild. Since then, Storer has handled the bookings and we do not have statistics on the bookings for 3/4" editing.

And the people are making programs from their training at the Workshop. And the programs are reflecting their different backgrounds, interests, causes, humor, talent, and creativity. We feel the Workshop is achieving the goal set many years ago - to make public access in Fridley the people's voice.

Paula Neuman-Scott

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Firefighters

A videotape being shown soon in Bonn, Germany, before an international committee of explosives experts from 67 countries was made at the ETC 12 facilities this year by the Fridley Fire Department.

The videotape will also be distributed to fire services in each of the 50 states and has been viewed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Treasury Department, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Association of State Fire Chiefs and more.

SAAMI had made a film about fires involving explosives in the 1970s but didn't have actual firefighters shown working with such a fire. "That was the significance of our tape--that we would show real firefighters dealing with an actual explosives fire."

The video is a training film showing that fires involving ammunitions can be safely fought. "Firefighters have trouble believing this," he said.

He's had a call from Albany, NY, requesting a copy of the video. Firefighters there let two buildings burn to the ground because they heard ammunition was involved and refused to fight it.



Will Loew-Blosser with Chief Bob Aldrich and Assistant Fire Chief Chuck McKusick

The response to the video has been even greater than anticipated by producers Robert Aldrich, Fridley Fire Chief, and Charles McKusick, the department's training officer. "People have been screaming for copies," McKusick said. "We didn't foresee that we'd have this favorable a reaction to something made by a bunch of amateurs.

The idea for the Fridley Fire Department making the video came when McKusick heard that the Sporting Arms Ammunitions Manufacturers Institute (SAAMI) was looking for a department to do the job. McKusick said the Fridley Fire Department had available the resources in public access studios and the talents among fire fighters to make such a project possible.

This was the first video program Fridley firefighters had made in several years and it has caused a resurgence of interest in making more. Firefighters made a video in 1978, "Fire: It Can Happen To You," that won a state cable commission award.

Since completion of the explosives videotape, firefighters have taken the portapak, studio and editing classes offered monthly through the Anoka County Communications Workshop. During training they produced a five-minute program on installation and maintenance of home fire alarms. continued on page 5

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The Workshop is now in its seventh year of existence. We are a volunteer organization, only as strong as our members. You must remember that ACCESS is a right that we have all fought long and hard for. Basically, ACCESS is freedom of speech--what this country was founded on. We must never stop our struggle to exist.

At this time there is a bill in the U.S. Senate, S.2172, that will greatly restrict our right to ACCESS. Please, contact your Minnesota Senators and state your opposition to this bill. Remind the Senators of your right to Freedom of Speech.

We need your support.

Mark Neuman-Scott

## COMMENTS FROM THE FATHER

Recently, the Workshop received some praise that brought smiles to all. George Stoney complimented the Workshop on the volume of our productions and requested examples of programs. Professor Stoney also stated that, "Of the several dozen community video newsletters I receive, there are just a few I open immediately and read carefully. Yours is one." Thank you, George; we greatly appreciate the comments.

By the way, George Stoney is the founding father of the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers (NFLCP). The NFLCP is our national access organization and voice.

The reason we receive this type of recognition is because of you--the VOLUNTEERS.

## WORKSHOP AWARDS

The Workshop recently received a trophy, along with Channel 3, for our coverage of the 49'er Day Parade and festivities. The award was presented by the Parade Chairman, Hank Peterson.

Mark Hotchkiss and Mark Neuman-Scott won an award from the Minnesota Cable Communications Board. The award was for "Lesson for Two Lutes". The tape won the performing arts category for access in the recent state competition.

## NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Believe it or not, for many of you it's time to renew your ACCW membership for another year. To refresh your memory, look what you get for your \$12 (\$6 for students and seniors).

1. A 66%, 2/3 or \$8 reduction on all ACCW class fees. (Normal fee is \$12, ACCW members pay \$4.)
2. A tax deduction. (We all need those.)
3. VIDEOSYNCRASIES for another year, FREE!
4. Free portable equipment check out. (\$2 for non-members.)
5. Membership in one of the NATION'S foremost public access organizations.

Memberships are one of our major fundraising efforts. For us to continue serving public access users, such as you, in the manner to which you have become accustomed, we need your support. Please fill out and send us the membership slip located at the back of the newsletter. You'll be glad you did.

Thanks, Paul Kaspszak

# Calendar of Upcoming Workshop Events

October 2  
 Studio I  
 Portable I  
 October 9  
 Studio II  
 Portable II  
 October 23  
 Editing  
 November 6  
 Studio I  
 Portable I  
 November 13  
 Editing  
 Art of Video  
 with Bill Bruce  
 November 20  
 Studio II  
 Portable II

The Anoka County Communications Workshop has a wide array of on-going classes and special seminars. These classes will provide anyone with the basic skills needed to make a program. If you have ever wondered how television programs are made, take one of our classes and find out. All the Workshops classes are half days. Call 571-9144 to register.

## STATISTICS RISE

Our August statistics for both cablecasting and new programs has continued to rise. Programming appeared on ETC. 12 an average of 45.6 hours a week. This shows an increase of almost eleven hours over July. The rise is partly due to morning hours cablecasted by Paula and Sundays with volunteer John King. The number of new programs produced each week rose to twenty. This is an increase of four over July. Where it stops no one knows.

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 Thank you for your support.

Non-profit Organizational Membership \$100/year  
 Sponsoring Membership \$100/year  
 Sustaining Membership \$250/year  
 Patron Membership \$500/year

## Enter The World Of Video...

The Anoka County Communications Workshop, Inc. is a public access entity that was founded in 1975. We were founded to help facilitate access programs by providing education and training in the use of video equipment. Public access is a free speech forum for citizens and groups to express their ideas and concerns via cable television.

# ETC. TV

EVERYONE'S TELEVISION CHANNEL 12

Non-Profit  
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