

August - December 1986

Videosyncrasies

the newsletter of the
public access

Volume 7 Number 1

Anoka County Communications Workshop
in Fridley, Minnesota

a few more minutes with Eugene McCarthy

by Joel Larson

I was in the background on this one. I ran the sound levels like I did last year for the Clancy & Casey show. I always run sound when celebrities come down to the station. I hate to miss a word anybody says.

I shook his hand once. That was all. I did not chat with him about CONTRAGATE, Nicaragua or anything. He had a lot to say about Iran, Nicaragua, national debt, republicans, democrats, etc., and we got it all on videotape. This is the eighties. We don't need to talk to our politicians. We get it all on video.

He's not really a politician, though, not anymore. He's an "elder statesman" like Nixon and Henry Kissinger. He's better than Nixon and Henry Kissinger. Eugene McCarthy is from Minnesota.

The show was a Kay Bonner-Nee production, wife of the Fridley mayor William Nee, and Kay had it together. Days before the show she was checking out the studio with me: "He'll be in a dark suit. Can we use this background and clip-on microphones? Do you have any tall stools? He's very tall..."

In fact, we had to put our swivel chairs on a raised platform to keep his knees from bumping into his chin. I suppose you have to be larger than life to be an elder statesman.

Before my time he'd done another show here called: "A Few Minutes with Senator Eugene McCarthy." Like I say, that was before my time. I was four years old when "Clean Gene" ran against "Tricky Dick" in '68. He'd have been a classy Commander-in-Chief. Maybe he'll run in '88. We can only hope.

In the meantime, you can watch him on the public access channel in Fridley, another Channel 12 exclusive called: "Tellstar: News Commentary with Eugene McCarthy."



- STORIES INSIDE:**
 1986 Willies Awards Banquet pictures
 ETC MTV'er Ed Levin Profile
 Letters to the Editor
 Special Seminars
 Freelancing/Mary Vidas
 The Art of Interviewing/Mary Hanson
 Training Session Dates/Free Stuff Schedule!!

Giving You the Willies



*The Columbia Arena Gang is awarded for the Fridley Hockey Action Series
Paul Kaspszak, Dick Welshons, and Audrey Johnson*

by Paula Neuman-Scott

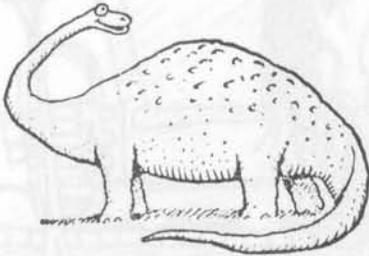
In addition to the regular batch of well-deserved honors coming out of the Willie Awards Banquet, a few committed individuals receive outstanding recognition. Silver Willies were awarded to three such people this year, selected by the ACCW Board of Directors.

Susan Adams Lloyd is the director of CCTV, Mankato's public access organization. She finished a term as the president of the Minnesota Chapter of the NFLCP and is a regional representative of the national NFLCP. When she was still in college, a tour of Channel 12 interested Susan in the concept of community television. She has remained in the field ever since. Congratulations, Susan, and thank you for all your hard work.

Ed Kaspszak is a member of the Fridley Cable Commission, a Fridley resident and an advertising man. He once ran a local Fridley newspaper and has been on the cable commission for over ten years. Ed has overseen the Fridley cable system through its original franchise, first refranchise and continues to work for community television as the system moves into its second refranchise. Thanks for your contributions to the community, Ed.

Gary Matz, an attorney with the law firm of Herbst and Thuie, is the third Silver Willie Award-winner. Gary has worked with communities in setting up cable franchises and organizations getting their non-profits set up to administer public access. As a speaker at NFLCP conferences and for his efforts to ensure the best cable a community can get, we thank you, Gary, and congratulate you on the award.

The Board of Directors sneaked in the First UnSilver Award to our Chairperson Mark Neuman-Scott in recognition of his ten + years at the Workshop. It's nice to pull one over on him once in awhile. Congratulations, Boss.



Gary Matz receiving his Silver from Mark Neuman-Scott

Special merit awards are given to producers whose programs seem to have broken new ground for access video, or have exhibited some special Fridley aspect. This year there were five Specials for quality or community service:

Dr. Lee Switzer, for the "Hayes School Christmas" programs. Since 1979 volunteer staff has taped Hayes School concerts and events for all grades with school equipment. He still has all the tapes back to '79. Last year all the senior's programs were played for nostalgia's sake.

The Columbia Arena Gang, who tape Fridley Hockey Action - PeeWee, Squirt, Bantam, Midget, Junior Varsity and Varsity. This is a real family affair, too, as wives and sons are running camera and editing, and everyone has a lot to be proud of for their work.

Dave Harvet, for his "3 in 1" series, the longest running series on Channel 12. Every week since...? we don't remember when, but it was about 1981. There has been a crew with somebody willing to go on the air every Wednesday at five since then.

Mark Neuman-Scott, for his "Dance of The Jabbas" tape, a stop-action 'Tabletop Theater' special with Jabba the Hut in the starring role and a lot of My Little Ponies in the chorus line.

Hugo Mariucci, for his public service tape on the "Isanti Boys' Home" where he works as a counselor. The program explains all the facilities and services available to troubled youths, with video clips from the buildings and surrounding areas.

Hugo was also awarded the ACCW's 'Volunteer of the Year' Award for his help in shooting a lot of remote programs and cable-casting for us in a pinch. Thanks for your help, Hugo!

There were 62 Willies awarded this year to our producers. Congratulations and thanks to everyone.



Ed Kaspszak at the awards banquet

ETC Does MTV



by Joel Larson & Edward Levin

Ed Levin's house in South Minneapolis is crowded with creative activity. With three full-sized pianos in one - slightly under-sized - living room, one gets the feeling these dinosaur-sized sound machines own the place.

But they don't. Ed does. He is much more active than the pianos, lighter on his feet and does not allow them (with rare exceptions) into the adjacent kitchen or bedroom.

Elsewhere, humming and blinking, electronic devices nest and give birth to some strange mutant offspring which are Ed Levin music videos and songs on tape.

Between piano tunings and performance gigs, Ed fills his time with the development of Corporate America, which is not what it sounds like at all.

"Corporate America is my latest brain child for the purpose of publishing my dream-songs," Ed tells us. "All my songs come to me in my sleep," says Ed. All his songs come to us on half-inch videotape.

"Putting Corporate America on cable TV was an outrageous thrill for me," confesses the maestro. For Ed the process becomes "having dreams on video in people's homes" and for him it "knocks down former limitations, but imposes new ones. The medium of video is technically demanding (and) Channel 12 has really helped us learn video production...it's been very enjoyable," he adds.

"Gregg the guitarist," who appears in several of the newest Corporate America videos, "has been a boon to the studio sounds coming out of Minneapolis for around seven years, but putting him on Channel 12 is a boost to his career."

You can see Gregg and Ed on channel 12 and pick up Ed's first album "Live Game" at local record stores in Minneapolis. Ed is now in the process of developing "an honest relationship with reality" and working up material for his second album, which is untitled as of yet. No matter when it hits the shelves, we'll be sure to have advance copies of the accompanying music videos - NOT an MTV exclusive. Eat your heart out, Martha Quinn.

Letters, letters, letters...

Planting Seeds

Dear Members of ETC-12,

The Board of Directors of Mel-TV 3, Melrose, MN., wishes to thank you for your assistance in getting our public (access) cable television channel off the ground.

The tour of your facility was very rewarding. You were all a big help regarding proper equipment and basic operation of a studio. We appreciate you taking the time to show us how things are done.

We are still in the planning stage, but soon will begin constructing a studio and purchasing equipment.

Again: thank you for all your assistance. We appreciate your kindness and help.

Sincerely,
Mel-TV 3;
Board of Directors

You're welcome, Mel-TV. We hope you got some good ideas, and Melrose will be the better off because of you. May your light cords never fray and your sound board never blow. Good luck & keep in touch.

A Note from Dad

We wrote to George Stoney, Professor of Film/Television at New York University. George is by some considered to be the "Father of Access." We would like to have some of his programs in the Channel 12 library, and told him so.

George writes:

I'm flattered that you would consider having a season of my work on Channel 12... The only "video letter" that can be shown without some in-person explanation is one I edited out of material I recorded with a group of Krao Indians in Brazil a couple of years ago which has been circulated by the Museum of the American Indians...

My best to everyone at Channel 12. I always enjoy reading your newsletter and would like to see new programs if you have ones you think I would (find) of interest.

Cordially,
George C. Stoney

We can no doubt find something for you, George, and we look forward to cablecasting a season's worth of your unique and innovative work this spring.

Legal Advice

As reported last issue in detail, ETC-12 received the 1986 Community Communications Award from the NFLCP. We received this note from Gary Matz of the Law firm of Herbst & Thue, Ltd., recognizing this achievement:

On behalf of everyone at Herbst & Thue, Ltd., I wanted to take this belated opportunity to offer our congratulations to the ACCW for recently being awarded The Community Communications Award by the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers. The ACCW is well deserving of this award for all of your outstanding activities.

Once again, our congratulations upon your recent award and our best wishes for your continued success.

Very truly yours,
Gary R. Matz

As reported this issue in detail, Gary received one of three Silver Awards at our Willie Awards banquet in 1986. For his own outstanding activities, Gary is also well deserving of this recognition; so thank you, and congratulations to you, too.

VIDEOSYNCRASIES is the quarterly newsletter for the Anoka County Communications Workshop (ACCW). The ACCW is a non-profit corporation that owns and operates the public access cable television station, Everyone's Television Channel 12 (ETC-12), in Fridley, MN.

ACCW Board of Directors:

Mark Neuman-Scott/Chairperson
Mark Hotchkiss/Secretary
Jim Bauer/Treasurer/Personnel Committee
Paul Kaspszak/Personnel Committee
Mike Bednarchuk
Ruth Dunn
Steven Herrig
Cyrene Holzer-Florin
John P. King

VIDEOSYNCRASIES staff:

Joel Larson/Editor-in-Chief
Ruth Dunn/Photography
Paula Neuman-Scott
Audrey Johnson

Subscriptions: \$4.00 a year; subscriptions, letters, or contributions should be sent to: ACCW, 350 63rd Ave. NE; Fridley, MN 55432.

Coming Soon...

Special Seminars

SUCCESSFUL VIDEO PRODUCTION FREELANCING
Saturday, January 17th: 7:00 - 9:00pm

Discover how freelancing works, what clients need, and why freelancers are getting jobs now. These are practical tips from a TV/video industry professional, Mary C. Vidas, a producer and corporate communications consultant.

THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW

Wednesday, January 28th: 7:00 - 9:00pm

Find out how to ask informative questions. Know what an audience listens to. Bring your questions, ideas, and video clips from your own shows to this seminar by Mary Hanson, producer and talent for The Mary Hanson Show and The Screening Room, locally produced and mass-marketed talk shows.

Training Sessions

The ACCW holds a rotating sequence of introductory classes for beginners in video. The beginners training sessions cover all aspects of how the Workshop's facilities may be used. Successful completion of these sessions or proof of proficiency is required by all access users to reserve Workshop facilities.

BEGINNING PORTABLE VIDEO

1st sequence: Thursday, Jan. 15th

2nd sequence: Thursday, Feb. 5th

BEGINNING EDITING

1st sequence: Thursday, Jan. 29th

2nd sequence: Thursday, Feb. 19th

BEGINNING STUDIO PRODUCTION

1st sequence: Thursday, Feb. 12th

2nd sequence: Thursday, Mar. 5th

INTERMEDIATE VIDEO PRODUCTION

1st sequence: Thursday, Feb. 26th

2nd sequence: Thursday, Mar. 19th

All classes run from 5:00 - 8:30pm. Beginners are advised to complete the entire sequence. Classes may be taken individually. Class fees: \$8.00 for members/\$15.00 for non-members.

Free Stuff

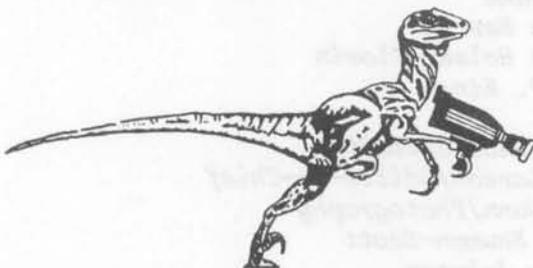
Friday, February 27 at 7:30: music and video producer, Bill Bruce, presents works of ambient audio/video synthesis, including his MTV, KARE, and USA Network released music video featuring Jessie(the Body)Ventura.

Friday, March 27 at 7:30: Joel Larson talks about success and failure in the underground distribution of cult videos. Joel directed "The Night of the Zombie Queen," "The Season of the Snowbitch," and will be showing his latest and last zombie epic: "Meatbath at Bingo Beach."

Friday, April 24 at 7:30: new experiments in video graphics, computerized imagery, and abstract montage will be attempted before a live audience by Mark Neuman-Scott, a kind person who is nice to animals.

ETC. 12

EVERYONE'S TELEVISION CHANNEL 12



Non-Profit
Organization

ANOKA COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP, INC.

350-63RD AVENUE N.E. FRIDLEY, MINNESOTA 55432 (612) 571-9144