

Videosyncrasies

January - April 1987

Anoka County Communications Workshop
in Fridley, Minnesota

the newsletter of the
public access

Volume 7, Number 2

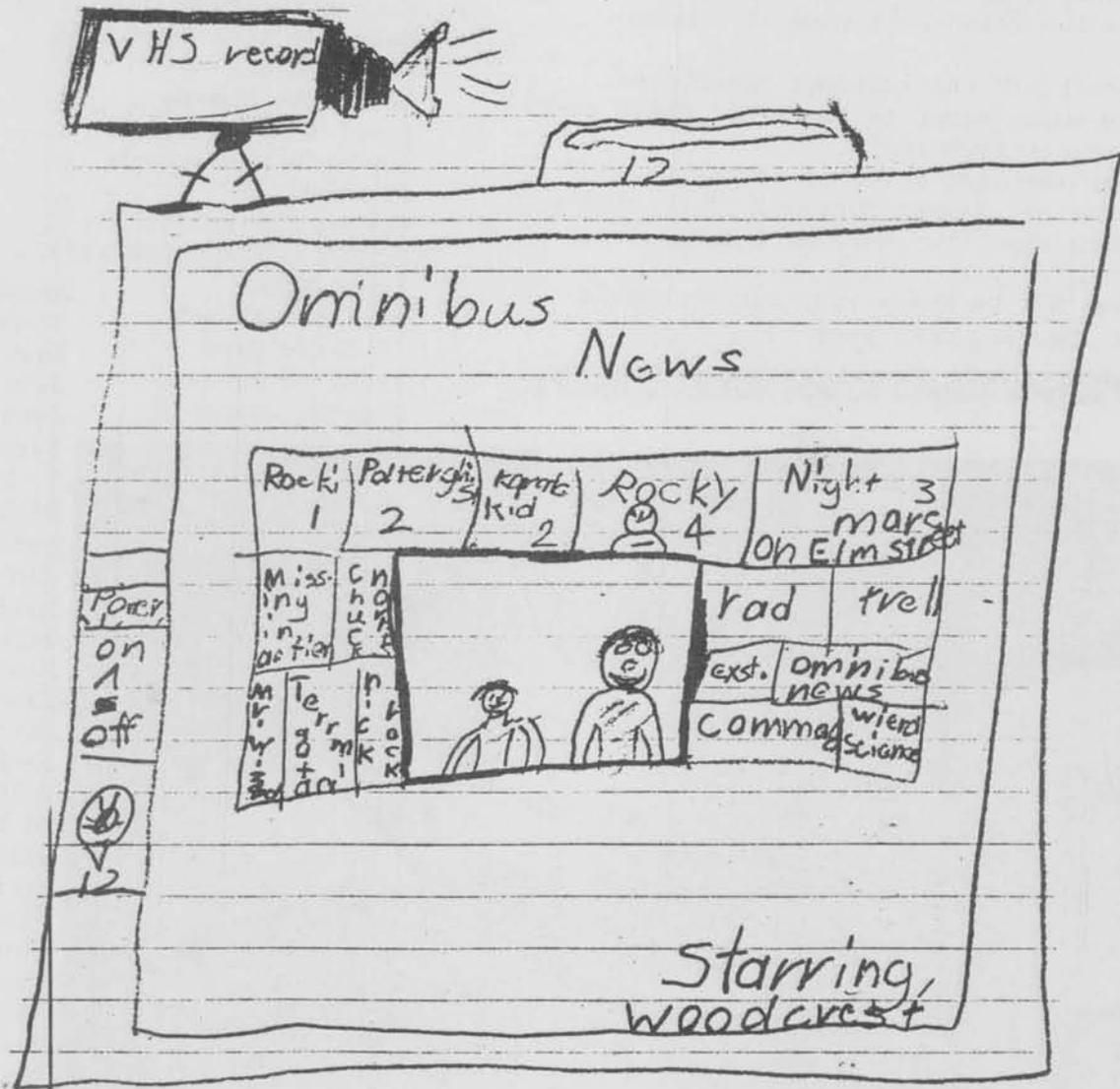


Illustration by
Jeff Bruce

Woodcrest elementary school children produced The Omnibus News
now showing on Everyone's Television Channel 12

TELETHON '87

"Again?" sighed the lights.

"Every year. Like clockwork," moaned the tired time base corrector.

"They keep us on all the time," said camera one.

"Yeah, they work us like dogs," complained camera two, "and I heard they're bringing in two extra cameras from some hotsy-totsy nouveau riche suburban access center. I guess we're just not good enough for them."

"Yeah."

"What are you guys complaining about?" cried camera 4, "they disconnected my viewfinder and clamped me to the ceiling just for a cheap sky-cam effect. I should have been retired years ago."

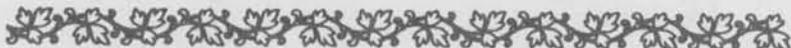
"Hey, at least they keep us going," cautioned the old character generator, "did you see what they did to the film chain when it stopped working?"

"It was horrible!" the switcher remembered.

"Projection bulbs burnt to the wire! Patch cords and circuitry everywhere!"

"I just hope they get a lot of contributors," said the wise old dimmer circuit. "They always treat us nice when they have more money."

For telethon 87: we thank you; our equipment thanks you. See you next year.



TELETHON MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS/1987

Burlington Northern Railroads
Herbst & Thue, Ltd.

TELETHON SPONSORS/1987

Automatic Garage Door
Barna, Guzy, Merrill, Hynes & Giancola
Bob's Produce Ranch
Dave's Bar
Electric Control Systems
Emerald Office Supply
FMC Corporation
Fridley VFW Post 363
Kennedy Transmission
Lampert Building Center
Marquette State Bank of Columbia Heights
Metro Medical Supplies
Nortel Cable
Northtown Nissan
Royal Dance Studio
Sandee's Restaurant
Skywood Inn
Viking Chevrolet

TELETHON CONTRIBUTORS/1987

Byron Bauer
Mike Bednarchuk
'3 Below'Band
Vicki Berkholz
Clinton Coppicus

Angela Forrest
Steve Herrig
Dave Harvet
John Hoaglund
Cyrene Holzer-Florin
Barb Hughes
L. Ray Hutchinson
William Ibister
Audrey Johnson/
Jim Moffet
Todd Johnson
Helen Kaspszak
Paul Kaspszak
John P. King
Joyce King
Joel Larson
Todd Lindberg
Ed Linder
Will Loew-Blosser
Terry Lovaas
John McHugh
Claudia McPeek
Sharon Mech
Andrew Mowery
Mark Neuman-Scott
Paula Neuman-Scott
Will Rogers
Jane Rosecrans
Charlie Scholzen
Bob & Betty Scott
Kay Taylor
Mike Zmuda



Letters, letters, letters...

The pitter-patter of little feet on "Omnibus News" is from Woodcrest School. They write:

Dear Joel,

I really enjoyed coming to your tv. station. I liked all the props, and I thought it was very exciting to be on television. I hope I can come again. So if I do see you later!

Sincerely,
Lindsay Lein

P.S. I might have spelled some word wrong.

That's ok - you were great on camera. Remember - you can take TV classes when you're 13 years old! (If your parents say it's ok.)

And another from the same class:

Thank You Very Much!

I really had fun at the cable station! You were very nice to let us get in free!

Thanks again!
Jessica

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:

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Ruth Durn/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.

From everyone's favorite uncle, TNT's Uncle Ernie writes from Charlotte, Michigan:

Dear Friend Joel:

First, I want to thank all of you for sending me a 1986 Willie Award! Now I have 6 of them - all tacked onto the door which leads to my tape room - and very colorful! 1981 is sort of Beige Color; '82 is Pale Blue; '83 is Yellow; '84 is sort of Orange; '85 is Red; and '86 is a pretty Blue! I really appreciate every one of them!

Thank You!
Ernie

Ernie, I didn't realize you had been at this longer than me!



From MEL-TV3 Program Coordinator, Cal Meyer, from Melrose, Minnesota:

Dear Paula,

A quick note to thank you for the three tapes. They are very helpful to us who are so new at the access business. We appreciate your help very much.

Yours truly,
Cal Meyer

You're welcome; how did you like 'The Lutefisk Song'? It's one of our favorites.

The Jail & Bail Folks sent this note:

Mr. Larson:

Thank you for participating in the Jail & Bail this year. You helped raise over \$14,648.16. This year approx 50% of this money will stay in our community to provide help & hope for cancer patients and to educate everyone for a cancer free society.

Thanks!
Jean Hagberg
Special Events Chairperson

"Jail & Bail; Good Health Through Humiliation" is the story of Joel's arrest and subsequent rehabilitation by the Southern Anoka County Cancer Unit; you can see it on ETC 12.

In March, the public access community lost two friends, Ben Selisker and George Beller.

George was a long-time access producer in Fridley, having taken classes at UCVideo and the Workshop. His specialty was ethnic dance productions. He helped on many of our Telethons, running camera, interviewing people, having fun. During the last couple of years, George was an active volunteer at MTN, where he produced programs and was active in assisting others with their productions. A party was held at the Riverside Cafe for his many friends, compliments of George, on March 29.

Ben was the Cable Administrator for the Ramsey-Washington Cable Commission and Executive Director of Suburban Community Channels, which is the area located in the North Washington and Ramsey Counties.

Ben was the Chapter organizer and President of NATOA, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Administrators. He was always actively concerned with the success of public access in the communities, and supported all efforts to strengthen funding and equipment grants.

Correction



Jack McCarty is now free to be identified as Jack McCarty, pictured above. His incognito status has been lifted and we can now congratulate him on the 'Fridley Hockey Action' Willies Award that he is receiving from two unidentified people.

NFLCP

The 1987 National Federation of Local Cable Programmers Annual Conference will be held in Chicago on July 16, 17, and 18 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. For more information, contact the Workshop office.

FRIDLEY CABLE COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Cable Television Commission is the cable advisory body to the city council concerning all aspects of cable communications.

Translation: If you want to know something about cable television, or you know something you want to tell someone about cable television, contact one of these people:

Duane Peterson
Barb Hughes
Burt Weaver
Ed Kaspszak
Ralph Stouffer

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

25 - MTN Awards Banquet/Artbanque
30 - Beginning Portable Class/Studio A

MAY

6 - Fridley Cable Consortium Meeting
7 - Beginning Studio Class/Studio A
13 - ACCW Board of Directors Meeting/Studio A
14 - Beginning Editing Class/Studio A
21 - Intermediate Studio Class/Studio A
28 - Beginning Studio Class/Studio A

JUNE

11 - Intermediate Studio Class/Studio A
17 - 49'ers Day Parade/Ride The Workshop Float

JULY

16-17-18 - NFLCP Annual Conference/Chicago

LIVE FROM STUDIO A

Given the enormous success of the telethon for the City Councilmembers in terms of live interaction with the community, they have agreed to participate in a monthly program of the same format. Beginning April 21st at 7:00pm a half-hour call-in show called Council Review will run live over both ETC-12 and the city government channel 13. Both channels will also replay the shows.

announcing:

page five

The Great T-Shirt Swap

ATTENTION ACCESS CENTERS AROUND THE COUNTRY!
We have Everyone's Television Channel 12
t-shirts that we will trade for your access
center's t-shirts. Contact us at:

ACCW

350 63rd Avenue N.E.

Fridley, Minnesota 55432

We'll trade you:

- *Viacom Community Television
Seattle, Washington
- *Baltimore Cable Access Corporation
Baltimore, Maryland
- *El Monte Cable Television Community
Access Corporation
El Monte, California
- *Jones Intercable Access Center
Tampa, Florida
- *PAC/Public Access Center
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- *Park Cable Works
St. Louis Park, Minnesota
- *Viacom Cablevision
Channel News
San Rafael, California
- *ICAN Video Scans
Indianapolis Community Access
Indianapolis, Indiana
- *Minneapolis Television Network
Minneapolis, Minnesota
- *Access Channel 10
Central St. Croix Valley Community
Access Corporation, Inc.
Stillwater, Minnesota
- *Cable Access of Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois
- *Access Los Altos
Los Altos Hills, California
- *MEL-TV3
Melrose, Minnesota
- *Community Access Television
Nashville, Tennessee
- *Community Television Corporation
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
- *Access Video, Inc.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- *The Captive Audience
Dubuque, Iowa
- *Cable Access St. Paul
St. Paul, Minnesota
- *Bloomington Video Center
Mpls., Minnesota
- *Southwest Suburban Cable
Hopkins, Minnesota

We have a variety of short-sleeved,
long-sleeved, and sweat-shirts in
S, M, L, or XL. Trade us one-on-one
and we'll sell your shirts in Fridley!

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On Regional Channel 6

It is easy to see the deluge of five thousand dollar checks from California churches and white supremists in the Bible Belt. Regional Access could well be a nation-wide disaster of violent free speech issues with only big money players in the game. Three high school students in Fridley will no longer have access to a medium where a four-week series costs \$100. So, too will elementary school children, Rotary clubs, housewives, week-end warriors, librarians, and employees of Burger King be excluded from the medium.

MTN has the largest market. In Minneapolis are the headquarters of many state-wide organizations and elected officials. The market MTN represents may be well served. MTN (alone) has paid the bill. The Dayton/Hudson Foundation has put up \$25,000.00 worth of inviting matching grants for ten more takers. There is a fear that if Regional Channel 6 does not prove itself right away, it may be tossed head-long down the dial; doomed to be Obscure Channel 36. Those "one-digit" stations are coveted.

The threat breeds haste. The grant money breeds excitement. Unfortunately, money and threats do not breed great ideas. Regional Channel 6 faces serious questions without public meetings (of which, no more are scheduled), not the least of which is "Where does the money come from?" Public outreach, education, audience service, and distribution of channel time are issues all public access services must address; and overall: "What is in the best interests of our community?"

For all of those who dreamed of what Regional Access could be, some very limited choices are now being made available. The big Channel 6 has given all the little Channel 12's a difficult question: "are we to foot the bill for WCCO's next cable venture?" Pro or con, all the little answers may well be a big disappointment.

On Regional Channel 6

Editorial by Joel Larson

With an air of optimistic anxiety Carol Ann Bannister gave them a check for exactly the amount they asked for: \$5,000.00. They want exactly that amount from a lot more people, like Carol, who represent public access organizations. She represents the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN). They, by the way, are the board of directors of the yet unborn Regional Channel 6.

What channel 6 represents is a broad, multi-system access network. With a base in the northwest suburbs Channel 6 will microwave its programming to the top of the Pillsbury building, and from there the signal will be relayed to individually cablecasting centers regionally. In this way public access will be more unified, more consistent, reach a wider audience, serving the public access users and audience more powerfully.

What channel 6 needs is no surprise to anyone. It needs a lot of money. For only \$5,000.00 a year an organization (or any individual with that much to spend) will receive one half-hour spot a week. For individual programs, of any length, there will be a \$25.00 handling fee for the transmission. This is the plan.

The plan was revealed at a meeting held Monday morning, April 13th at WCCO's building, downtown Minneapolis. Channel 6's board of directors is at home there. Many work there. WCCO already works through cable; WCCO II, is much like "a regional local origination channel" according to Steve Warner, access coordinator in Bloomington who was present at the meeting. "If you've

got money, you can get on WCCO II," he explains. And local origination is little more than an area-specific commercial cablecast medium.

WCCO seems interested in getting their big corporate fingers in the cable pie; not to the exclusion of all the little people, mind you. There was a large, interested audience at the meeting on Monday. Steve was there, Carol was there, and a number of familiar names in the intimate world of public access staff.

More importantly, there were questions there. Questions about organization, technical implementation, administration, and costs. "How can you call it access?" queries Mark Neuman-Scott of ETC-12 "Can access centers really afford this year after year?" asks Carol Ann Bannister, regarding the ever-diminishing budget at MTN.

Such questions, and many more, received attentive head nods from the Channel 6 board, and that is nice to see; but it is plain to see that one day - when the microwave dishes are in place - when the staff is waiting for payday - when the cash is in the bank and already spent - in short, when Channel 6 is not an idea, but an institution the head nods will turn to head shakes.

Why such doomsaying? Why play the devil's advocate to the hilt? These are busy times. Access is an issue of national agenda. Ralph Nader demands all networks provide an hour of public access a day, while congress pushes through codification of the Fairness Doctrine, and the little people wonder what it means. The issue is alive and confusing. Decisions are being made without input or debate.

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ETC.tv

EVERYONE'S TELEVISION CHANNEL 12



Non-Profit
Organization

ANOKA COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP, INC.

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