

VIDEOSYNCRASIES

Volume 13 Number 2

ETC 33 FRIDLEY COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

Summer 1993

ETC 33 DINOSAUR INVADES PARADE!



By T. J. Larson

Steven Spielberg may have a huge hit at the box office, but for one day it was ETC 33 who captivated Fridley with prehistoric delight! Once again ETC 33 par-



Float Pilots Frank Taylor & Elaine Sorensen

This year's epic float!

ticipated in the annual Fridley 49er Day's Parade and this year's float featured our mascot—the original camcorder toting dinosaur. The float was designed and built by Board Member Jeff Lindberg. It was quite an impressive sight as we rolled down Main Street, dressed as cave people, and videotaping everyone who attended so that later on they could "watch themselves" watching the parade on ETC 33!

Even O'Blarney the Crazy Irish Dinosaur was on hand, much to the delight of the throng

of kids who repeatedly mobbed him!

The parade is always a great opportunity for the staff, members, and Board of ETC 33 to participate in a local event and spread the word about public access television. Several people called in to ask about our facility after watching us in the parade or seeing the replay of the event.

In addition, this year members



Float Designer Jeff Lindberg

Frank Taylor and Robert Bissonette taped the 49er Day's "Variety Show" which was also a very popular program.

A special thanks to all of you who came out and lent us a hand and we hope to see you all again at next year's parade!

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FROM THE DIRECTOR...

By T. J. Larson

I am very pleased to announce that ETC 33 has been awarded \$36,000 to upgrade and replace some of our production equipment. The funding comes out of the equipment grant which Nortel Cable pays the city of Fridley as part of its franchise fees. The City Council then determines what funds the Workshop will receive.

We are very excited at the prospect of replacing some of the equipment that has been on its last legs while we try to keep in step with the ever-changing video technology. Some of our equipment is 10-15 years old with literally thousands of hours of use! We will keep you updated on our progress and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to give me a call at 571-9144.



FROM THE COORDINATOR..



By Karla Rydrych

Greetings! I am Karla Rydrych, the new Access Coordinator at ETC 33. In the past few weeks, I've been occupied with learning my way around the station and meeting "YOU" the members.

Now that the sun is shining and it has stopped raining (?), it is the perfect opportunity to check out a camera and preserve those warm weather

activities on tape. In just a couple of months when we are knee deep in fallen leaves, you will be grateful that you recorded that croquet tournament to relive again and again!

I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks. Stop by and say "Hi," and bring in some new potential members with you!

HAPPY TRAILS LIZ!

Former Access Coordinator Liz Nehring has left ETC 33 to pursue a full-time position working for the Southern Washington County Cable Commission. The staff, Board of Director's and members at

ETC 33 all join in wishing Liz the best of luck and in thanking her for all her hard work while at ETC 33. Yep, just yet another success story to come out of the Workshop! Stop by and see us some time Liz!



WHAT A LONG, STRANGE TRIP...

Long time ETC member and friend Steve Herrig takes a look back before leaping to N.Y.C.

By Steve Herrig

I've always felt Minnesota has too much sun, lakes, and wide open spaces for me. I like shadows, darkness, and the constant threat that tonight may be my last night on earth.

"Minnesota Nice?"-Who thought of that anyway??? Just give me a home where terrorists from all over the world build explosives on my block and my block is just like every other block and other blocks are...well, you see what I am trying to say. I like it hot.

As I prepare to depart from Minneapolis for New York City, a couple of thoughts about my 13 years as a member of ETC 33 come to mind.

I have never been a "community" oriented producer. My interests were mostly artistic. I've always wanted to be involved in larger projects and public access has given me a solid foundation.

Next to going to film or video school, public access is the best way to get real "hands-on" experience with the video world, allowing you as a producer to create your own "vision" without a lot of outside interference. Then, when you've created a program, it can be presented to a cable-ready community for viewing.

In the 18 years since it began, ETC 33 has become the

standard for public access centers all over the country. It's a heritage that we should be very proud of.

At the same time, access activity is declining all over the region, and this a big concern. On the one hand this is inevitable, as producers want to



Big Apple Bound Steve Herrig

move up in the quality of approach and equipment and with funding cuts by various cities, the access centers can't afford to upgrade equipment enough to keep some of the more creative producers coming back.

ETC 33 was the starting place for a lot of film/video and music personalities. People I've worked with such as Phil Solem, now in the pop music group The Rembrandts; Michael Bland, now in Prince's New Power Generation; plus a whole slew of MTV groups including Babes in Toyland, Soul Asylum, The Jayhawks, and the forerunners of "flannel" Run Westy Run, have all been featured on programs produced at ETC 33. My point is that

these people, who are now being seen by millions, were first seen on ETC 33. But that's just the beginning, there's so much more work to be done.

My personal favorite memories about ETC 33? The '87 and '90 Fool-A-Thons stand out. People working at 60 hours of live and taped programming over a three day weekend. Also, shows like Zoom, Video GA-GA, Artistic License, and the controversial My Town. These programs brought me in contact with "my kind." I thank and respect all of those talented people who I worked with and who have remained my good friends for all these years.

The future of ETC 33? Who knows! If the budget gets cut it'll be increasingly difficult to

"Public Access is the best way to get real, hands-on experience..."

serve the public. But I hope for the best. I truly hope this access center never ceases to provide alternative programming to the city of Fridley.

My future? Well...if you read about a Minneapolis man being crushed on the subway tracks, that was me. Just trying to shoot 'em from a better

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Over the last couple of months the membership at ETC 33 has risen at unprecedented levels. Over 40 people have joined the Workshop over the past few months and our numbers continue to climb. In an effort to encourage past members who no longer check out equipment but would like to continue to receive our newsletter, the Board has approved a special \$5.00 Patron Membership as well. So now there's no reason why anyone should be left out in the cold. Join ETC 33 today!

The current membership dues are as follows:

- \$5.00 Patron
- \$9.00 Student/Senior
- \$16.00 Regular
- \$26.00 Family
- \$150.00 Organization
(Local)
- \$250.00 Organization
(Non-Local)

To renew or begin your membership send check or money order to:
ETC 33
350 63rd Ave N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432

All members receive the quarterly newsletter "Videosyncrasies" as well as access to all of our video production equipment (except for Patrons). Members also receive discounts on classes and invitations to special Workshop events. Join us today!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

By T. J. Larson

The Annual General Membership meeting is set for September 8th at 7:00pm in the ETC 33 Studio. All members are very encouraged to attend and refreshments will be served!

The meeting is your chance to meet and vote for ETC 33 Board Members, discuss important issues facing the Workshop, bring up your own concerns, and decide various operating rules and Bylaw changes.

The best part about the meeting is that it gives everyone a great opportunity to meet each other and discuss program ideas and trade production tips.

If you are interested in helping to run the Workshop you are encouraged to run for a position on the Board of Directors. The Board meets once a month and decides various issues including access rules, planning special events (parade, Willie Awards), and deciding how funds should be spent. Board Members serve two-year terms and the only requirement is that you are a member of ETC 33.

If you are interested in running for the Board, or have any questions about the General Membership Meeting, please give me a call at 571-9144 and I would be happy to discuss it with you. Hope to see MANY of you at the meeting on September 8th!!

HALLOWEEN BLOODMOBILE

We want to suck your blood! Planning is already underway for the 6th Annual Halloween Bloodmobile to be held Friday, October 29th in the ETC 33 studio. The yearly "bloodletting" is a collaborative effort among Fridley's access channels in cooperation with the St. Paul Red Cross. It is a fun way to contribute the much needed blood while at the same time promoting access television. Donors are asked to come in costume and the event is cablecast live on all of the Fridley access channels. As always, we need volunteers and donors to help out and if you are interested please give the Workshop a call at 571-9144. See you there!

VIEWPOINT:

ETC 33 and the First Amendment



By Karla Rydrych

Recently, I overheard a member of the workshop saying: "ETC 33 is the free speech forum for Fridley," and rightly so. Public access television opens the airwaves to the general public, providing the equipment and the means to use television as a medium of expression.

The producer has the ability to inform, entertain, challenge, and occasionally anger the viewing audience. But unlike commercial television, the audience can respond by producing their own rebuttal.

The creation of the First Amendment to the Constitution set the standard that "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech." Public access facilities should be particularly watchful of any hint of censorship which could bar programming

from being played, and threaten such an inalienable right.

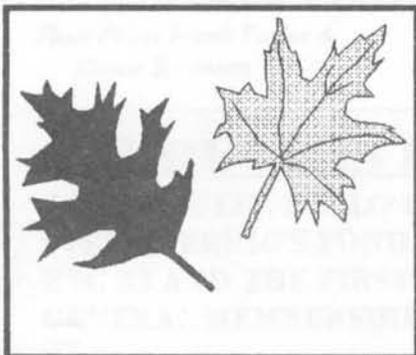
Recently there was a lawsuit filed against the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which challenges the 1992 Cable Act's provision "That allows cable operators to censor the content of cable access channels, which they previously could not control." (Robert Kolker, The Independent, July 1993) This would mean that the cable provider could censor programming containing material which they deem questionable.

Although at this date the topic is being debated in the courts, it would set a dangerous precedent if it is allowed to be enforced as law. This could effect not only the general content of programming on ETC 33, but your own video work as well...

THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances."

Editors assist in editing your letters and contributions. If you would like to submit something for publication just send it to ETC 33 350 43rd Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55421. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



LOCAL CABLE PROGRAMMING WEEK AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Local Cable Programmers of Minnesota have announced Local Cable Programming Week to be held October 3rd-10th and will culminate in the annual Cable Conference on Saturday the 10th. Details are still

being worked out but you can expect more information soon. Once again, ETC 33 will be celebrating the week with special live programming and clips of shows produced at the Workshop. Stay tuned for more info!

VIDEOSYNCRASIES is the quarterly newsletter of ETC 33 Fridley Communications Workshop. Everyone's Television Channel 33 is a nonprofit corporation that owns and operates the public access cable television station in Fridley, Minnesota.

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