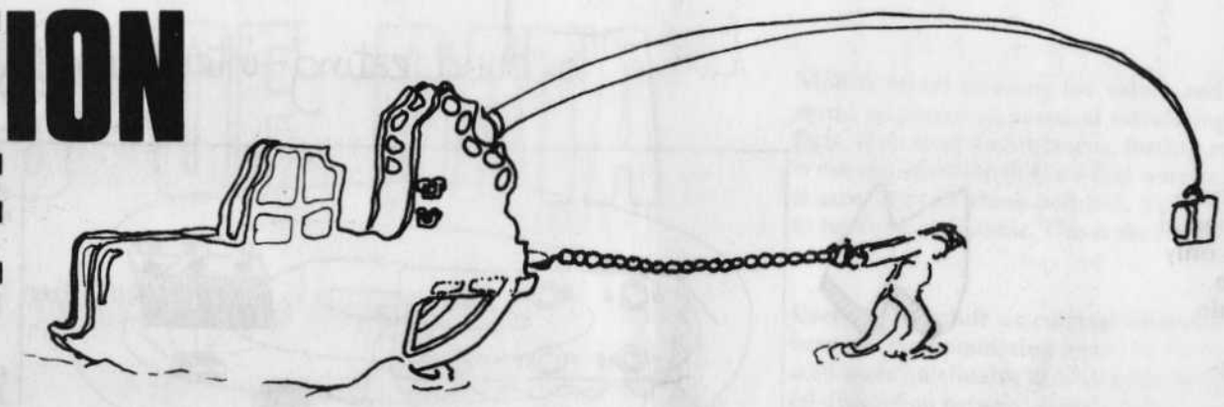
INFORMATION EXCHANGE



EXCHANGE INFORMATION

How is video being used in psychotherapy?

At these early stages of experimentation, we are all still learning what video can do with our minds. You might refer to Milton Berger's book, Video Techniques in Psychiatric Training and Treatment. **Merrily Paskal of Box 151, Shawbridge, Quebec is writing an article about video and therapy. She feels that video confrontation in itself has therapeutic value, although psychiatrists are quick to add that, with a trained therapist, the video is more effective. Joyce Wyden has been using video as feedback in working with groups back in working with groups (see Radical Software I). We would of course be interested in hearing from people who are experimenting in these areas.**

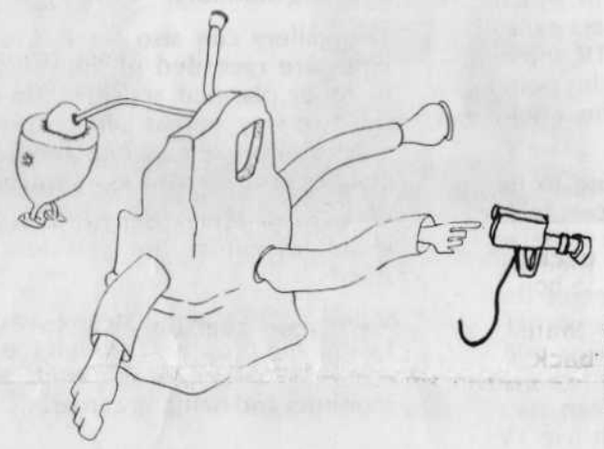
Interested in underground uses of feedback & different methods of setting up tv for bizarre performances.

Simple feedback (camera pointed into monitor recording itself, itself, itself, etc. and varying contrast and patterns) is probably one of the first video fun games most people discover. Other setups of varying complexity have also been developed, one of which is the double feedback delay loop (see diagram), which allows you to see yourself from fore and behind during different time sequences, present, 2 seconds past, 5 seconds past, and further and further into the past. hmmmm! Try it for yourself using different combinations of monitors, tape decks, and cameras.

Video feedback is one of the simplist ways of changing images. More abstract images can be formed using a video synthesizer. The Sony special effects generator (SEG) can also be used to create fades, wipes, double exposures, negative images, etc. using two or more live cameras. Shooting off a monitor sometimes has weird effects and varying brightness, contrast, and vertical and horizontal holds can increase abstraction.

How did I get a rhythmical drop-out throughout ½ inch tape that doesn't show up frame by frame?

Drop out is usually caused by dirty heads. However, sometimes the tape has been recycled too many times or is the old brown back tape. Black lines or white streaks across the picture may be caused by dirty rings. (Rings are on the white plastic cylinder at the axis of the two tape heads.) Refer to the Sony or whatever manual which will tell you the areas on the machine to be kept clean. Sometimes you can record over, but with clean heads.



How is video being used for change in values & awareness?

. . . a new global network of communication! Total access to information. More complete and positive communication. A more conscious evolution. Working with video usually means working with other people who share many of these concepts. The nature of the video medium lends itself to honest documentation, recording life as it is. Of course some people would abuse the medium, but more and more people are simultaneously arriving at similar conclusions, regarding video, that is, that it must be used in the interests of social change, to create an ecologically sound information environment.

At present, there is no real access to established channels of communication (i.e. broadcast networks, cable systems, cassettes) so in order to reach as many people as possible, we have to do a little legwork! Vic Gioscia of the Center for the Study of Social Change in N.Y. suggests that solidarity and revolution are facilitated by broadening the collective imagination. It would then follow that only if we use our tools in a creatively new and different way, will we have any effect on social consciousness.

Are there any groups working around Denver or Boulder? (OR ANYWHERE ELSE we haven't mentioned?!)

Yes! Surely you're there but how can we find you if you don't speak up? Write us a letter so we can tell everybody else who you are and what you're doing.

...next step is video. Where do I start?

BUY A PORTA-PAK! Beg or borrow one. Take out a loan. Sell your car. Go co-op. Form a video pool More can be done in groups anyway and it's more fun. Turn on your friends. Once you have the equipment in hand, the rest follows naturally. Start a video theater. Build a video environment. Take to the streets. Start taping your community. Instant replay. Give shows. Travel. Seek out other video people. Exchange tapes. There is no teacher, no school that can replace the experience of doing it yourself. And the price is right. Buying a Porta-pak is like buying a friend!

Want more information on video theaters, what they are doing, what they are showing.

Video theaters are springing up all over the country and the interest they generate for video tape keeps expanding. We know of theaters in New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Austin, Texas, Toronto, Canada, Boston, etc. etc. They range from the simplest of systems (one tape deck with several monitors) to more complex video environments involving several decks playing several channels simultaneously, complementary. Some theaters also emphasize participation and interaction, encouraging the audience to become a part of the video event. Double feedback tape delay loops (see above), and live forum feedback format (see article by Ken Marsh, People's Video Theater) are among the options for increasing involvement.

Please, please. More information on programming.

Look around! You can see the kinds of things other people are doing which varies so much, and you can look to your own life, your own niche, and just imagine you could show to someone else or even to yourself. You actually have the opportunity to increase the experience of people you don't even know. Who are you? Where is your head? What are you into? Believe it or not, we want to know. Show us your environment. Show us yourself. Teach us something we haven't yet come to know. Give us an experience we haven't yet had.

Can you suggest some outlets for ½ inch video tape?

Distribution systems are certainly being considered by many people working in 1/2 inch video and since the established channels have failed to meet our needs, philosophically and financially, we must certainly come up with our own answers. Simple tape exchanges are the first step toward getting our tapes circulated but we must also assure ourselves of some means of support. Rather than go into detail in this space, I refer you to articles by Ira Schneider, Paul Ryan, Allen Rucker and Michael Shamberg in the distribution section of this issue. We would be interested in all the feedback we can get on this subject as it is such an important aspect of our video lives.

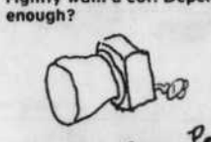
Please print more information on foundations & grants.

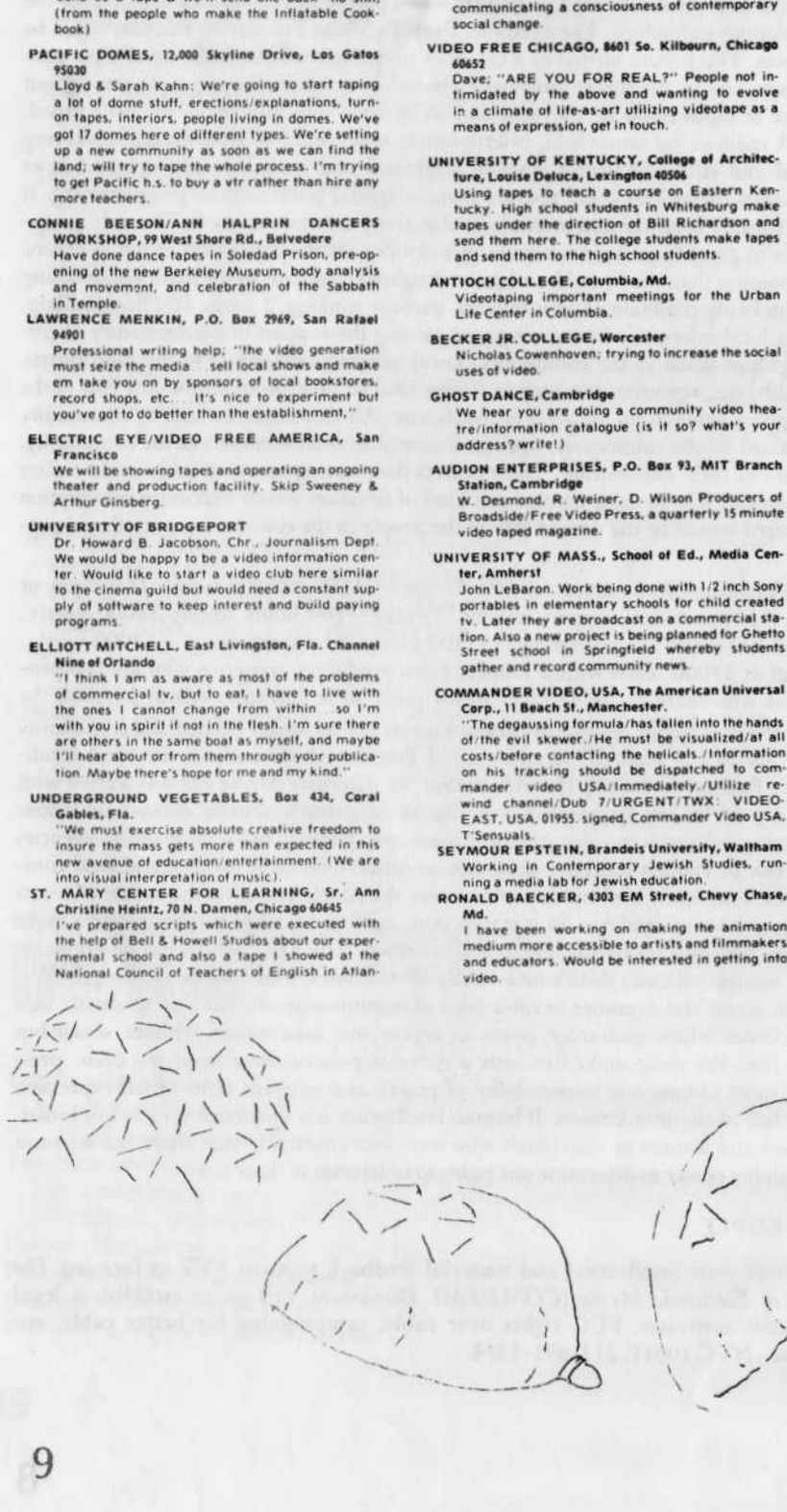
Foundations are slowly coming around to supporting the kind of work we are doing, but beware. They hold the carrot in front of your nose and will put you through changes! N.Y. State Council on the Arts has promised large sums to local video groups but has yet to produce.

The alternate method of support of coursel is offering your services in return for just compensation. There is money in the school systems for community related projects and with enough forethought and a sound proposal these funds may be tapped. (See the proposals submitted by the Watts Communications Bureau and the Santa Cruz Community Service Television Project for style and content).

Are contracts necessary for individuals appearing in tapes that are not news oriented?

To protect yourself, it would be wise to have people in your tapes sign releases. There are, however, other considerations besides legal which you should note. If you are not making a lot of money off your tapes, people probably won't mind being in them. But, if you should start making a profit off them, people in them will rightly want a cut. Depends on how you use them. Fair enough?





UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Santa Barbara
Apollo (Art That Hurts)/Pleiades Communication (Richard C. Lailer) into light projection and holography. Instituting a class which will generate information and get us into the tv studio.

CAL ARTS, 7500 Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank 91504
Leonard Horowitz: "Video in the Streets" People doing, being, fed-back to each other, all together, laughing, smiling, games, etc.

UCLA, School of Architecture & Urban Planning
James Hirsch: perspective of Fuller-Youngblood rather than aesthetics. Interested in use of video-in ghettos, barrios, and blue collar areas. Also possibilities for the very elite to effect awareness.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS & VENICE FILM FRICASSEE
Have Shibaden and specially modified odetics time-lapse vt equipment

ANT FARM/SOUTHCOAST, 247 Gate 5 Rd., Sausalito
Send us a tape & we'll send one back—no shit, (from the people who make the Inflatable Cookbook)

PACIFIC DOMES, 12,000 Skyline Drive, Los Gatos 95030
Lloyd & Sarah Kahn: We're going to start taping a lot of dome stuff, erections/explanations, turn-on tapes, interiors, people living in domes. We've got 17 domes here of different types. We're setting up a new community as soon as we can find the land; will try to tape the whole process. I'm trying to get Pacific h.s. to buy a vtr rather than hire any more teachers.

CONNIE BEESON/ANN HALPRIN DANCERS WORKSHOP, 99 West Shore Rd., Belvedere
Have done dance tapes in Soledad Prison, pre-opening of the new Berkeley Museum, body analysis and movement, and celebration of the Sabbath in Temple.

LAWRENCE MENKIN, P.O. Box 2969, San Rafael 94901
Professional writing help; "the video generation must seize the media . . . sell local shows and make em take you on by sponsors of local bookstores, record shops, etc. . . . It's nice to experiment but you've got to do better than the establishment."

ELECTRIC EYE/VIDEO FREE AMERICA, San Francisco
We will be showing tapes and operating an ongoing theater and production facility. Skip Sweeney & Arthur Ginsberg.

UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT
Dr. Howard B. Jacobson, Chr., Journalism Dept. We would be happy to be a video information center. Would like to start a video club here similar to the cinema guild but would need a constant supply of software to keep interest and build paying programs.

ELLIOTT MITCHELL, East Livingston, Fla. Channel Nine of Orlando
"I think I am as aware as most of the problems of commercial tv, but to eat, I have to live with the ones I cannot change from within . . . so I'm with you in spirit if not in the flesh. I'm sure there are others in the same boat as myself, and maybe I'll hear about or from them through your publication. Maybe there's hope for me and my kind."

UNDERGROUND VEGETABLES, Box 434, Coral Gables, Fla.
"We must exercise absolute creative freedom to insure the mass gets more than expected in this new avenue of education/entertainment. (We are into visual interpretation of music).

ST. MARY CENTER FOR LEARNING, Sr. Ann Christine Heintz, 70 N. Damen, Chicago 60645
I've prepared scripts which were executed with the help of Bell & Howell Studios about our experimental school and also a tape I showed at the National Council of Teachers of English in Atlanta about the need for radical reform in high school English cirricula—especially contemporary media. It's called "To Know Ourselves." Our own freshmen & sophomores (mostly Chicano and Black) do great work in the studio. They have an intuitive sense for visual expression despite low standard "achievement"—they're all girls too.

SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE, Chicago
Philip Lee Morton is doing location "live" set-up experiences for demonstration to groups/schools, etc. Video, vt as an art form. His students are interested in exchanging tapes with other vt students (art departments.)

RICHARD GREEN, 1006 W. Main, Urbana 61801
Into video, food, and recycling. Planning to make some tapes on their ecological activities for exchange.

KNOX COLLEGE, Galesburg
Bob Shellenberger, Bruce Brabec: Using video tape in a social philosophy course as a means of communicating a consciousness of contemporary social change.

VIDEO FREE CHICAGO, 8601 So. Kilbourn, Chicago 60652
Dave; "ARE YOU FOR REAL?" People not intimidated by the above and wanting to evolve in a climate of life-as-art utilizing videotape as a means of expression, get in touch.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, College of Architecture, Louise Deluca, Lexington 40506
Using tapes to teach a course on Eastern Kentucky. High school students in Whitesburg make tapes under the direction of Bill Richardson and send them here. The college students make tapes and send them to the high school students.

ANTIOCH COLLEGE, Columbia, Md.
Videotaping important meetings for the Urban Life Center in Columbia.

BECKER JR. COLLEGE, Worcester
Nicholas Cowenhoven; trying to increase the social uses of video.

GHOST DANCE, Cambridge
We hear you are doing a community video theatre/information catalogue (is it so? what's your address? write!)

AUDION ENTERPRISES, P.O. Box 93, MIT Branch Station, Cambridge
W. Desmond, R. Weiner, D. Wilson Producers of Broadside/Free Video Press, a quarterly 15 minute video taped magazine.

UNIVERSITY OF MASS., School of Ed., Media Center, Amherst
John LeBaron. Work being done with 1/2 inch Sony portables in elementary schools for child created tv. Later they are broadcast on a commercial station. Also a new project is being planned for Ghetto Street school in Springfield whereby students gather and record community news.

COMMANDER VIDEO, USA, The American Universal Corp., 11 Beach St., Manchester.
"The degaussing formula/has fallen into the hands of/the evil skewer./He must be visualized/at all costs/before contacting the helicals./Information on his tracking should be dispatched to commander video USA/Immediately./Utilize rewind channel/Dub 7/URGENT/TWX: VIDEO-EAST, USA, 01955. signed, Commander Video USA, T'Sensuals.

SEYMOUR EPSTEIN, Brandeis University, Waltham
Working in Contemporary Jewish Studies, running a media lab for Jewish education.

RONALD BAECKER, 4303 EM Street, Chevy Chase, Md.
I have been working on making the animation medium more accessible to artists and filmmakers and educators. Would be interested in getting into video.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, Omaha
Eric Somers, Instructor in Communications; university cctv system. Summer workshop in experimental video.

CONCORDIA TEACHERS COLLEGE, Seward, Nebr.
Jack L. Middendorf, audio visual center. Using video in college classes, high schools, and in the campus elementary lab school.

SANDY LEEDER/VIDEO ACCESS, INC. 227 W. 13th St., NYC 10011
1. Swami tapes for yoga groups (Satchidananda, Venketesananda, etc.)
2. Organizing a bulk buying tape service for the video community. (1 hr. Sony V-32 @$23, 1/2 hr. V-30H @ $14.50 plus postage; Box of 12 hr. $ 276, 1/2 hr. $174).
3. Tapes with children's workshop school. 5-11 year olds making their own tapes.
4. Would like to exchange with video high school students in New York and in deep South. Anyone who is interested, please get in touch.

HARPUR COLLEGE, SUNY, Binghamton
Jack Amon. Setting up a 1/2 inch video tape station and would appreciate establishing and maintaining contact with other video groups. i.e. tape exchanges.

COLGATE UNIVERSITY, Hamilton 13346
Robin G. Halwas; need access to Sony SEG to complete film/tape documenting architectural change in Manhatten; dis-orientation resulting thereof, etc.

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO
Mitch Ackerman; Just to let you know we have porta-pack equipment here!

URBEX AFFILIATES, INC., 365 Rockingham St., Rochester
Larry C. Coppard; using video in training community groups in how to deal with community problems.

MANHATTEN COLLEGE, VIDEO COOPERATIVE
Thomas Hall, Riverdale; we have a student run cable tv system done in cooperation with Mt. St. Vincent College, scheduled to begin broadcasting by end of Feb. to students, administration, and faculty of both campuses.

EXPERIMENTAL TELEVISION CENTER, SUNY, Binghamton
Looking at into out of thru. Touching smelling threading adjusting listening outlining inlining pointing tasting planning timing talking living with videotape. Thinking un thinking the intertace of art and 1/2 inch. contact collaborate and sharpen Ken Dominick.

GUY PIGNOLET, VEGA, VIDEO CENTER URIS LIBRARY, Cornell University, Ithaca
I have brought back from Algiers two really heavy 1/2 inch tapes which I think should have maximum distribution: "The Bust of Timothy Leary," visuals of Leary and wife with audio overdub by Eldridge Cleaver. Also "The Panther Embassy in Algiers."

GEOFF STILES & PETER CUOZZO, 3701 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
Working to set up a local community oriented video project in Phila. area. Want to get together with other people who have 1/2 inch hardware: to develop, produce, and display new video material.

FOTO GRAY GANG, 1601 Pearl St., Austin
Charlie; a mosaic of 4 people starting a video theater. Need programs.

EUGENE PRODUCTIONS, 1239 Ingleside Ave., McLean, Va.
Interested in information regarding in-being theaters, what they are doing, what they are showing.

GERALD BYERLY, 2215 A Floyd Ave., Richmond
Virginia Commonwealth University, Art Education Dept. Would like to establish tape exchange with other video artists.

UNIVERSITY MEDIA SERVICES, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin
Lee Ann Mason, Box 151, Rt. no. 3; using video to teach English classes. Ron E.lis, an English professor produces his own pieces called "plastic poems" in his rural home.

WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY, Stevens Point, Eric McLuhan
We have on campus a tv station that broadcasts for a brief period each day over local cable channel. We are trying to evolve this place into a sort of experiment/information center for this multi-state area using underground tv as the real education form for kids (classroom without walls) but totally divergent from so-called educational tv.

MIKE MILLS, Systems Engineer 8300, Bell-Northern Research
Box 3511, Station C, Ottowa. Interested in all aspects of visual communications, especially experiments dealing with two-way inter-actions. We are in the process of designing and running interaction experiments which will entail various kinds of storage (feedback) and hopefully will entail some computer-TV hybrids. Canada is an interesting position concerning cable & videophone.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD, Challenge for Change, Box 6100, Montreal 101, P.Q.
Dorothy Todd Henant; ten new Sonys!

McGILL UNIVERSITY, Montreal
Nelson Becker; free video is happening in Montreal. Gathering of international video freaks early March.

PEACE TV (who are you, where are you, what are you doing?)

INTERMEDIA, 2023 E. 1st, Vancouver, B.C.
"hi, friends!"

ENVIRONMENTAL CINEMAS, 730 Yonge St., Suite 217 Toronto
We are opening our first 100 seat videotape theater in downtown Toronto as a prototype. We are interested in product, presently on videotape.

GREGORY LOBOTOMOWSKY, 43 King St., London, W.C. 2
We're starting an underground video service here and would be interested in exchanging tapes with other video people. We intend to explore the spectrum of video programming from down-home reporting to spirituality in the tube.

JOE PAT, Rotterdam Arts Foundation, Afd. Tentoonstellingen, Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam-2
The first step on a video news service has now taken place. We're working from the art center with a mobile video unit. Also interesting in exchanging tapes.

FELIX DENNIS, "Oz" Magazine/"Ink" Newspaper 52, Princedale Rd., London W 11
Keep feeding. We aim to produce a newspaper with a heavy video feature each week.