

# JR. HIGH SCHOOL VIDEO-TAPE WORKSHOP, SPRING '71

*Day 1:* Brief technical demonstration of equipment (the zoom, focus, how to record, play back, check batteries, etc.). This should be appearing live on several monitors.

Students taping themselves and each other and play back.

Presentation of various things done by or through Raindance with videotape. Group discussion of presentation and our objectives in the workshop. This discussion should be taped by someone at Raindance.

Perhaps some free time for students to make a tape in a small group.

*Day 2:* Brief technical demonstration of the mixer (audio and video).

Playback of tape made by Raindance of discussion on Monday. Four students could be shooting and mixing this discussion.

Then playback of this mixed tape and discussion, while 4 other students are operating cameras and mixer, etc.

*Day 3:* Brief technical demonstration of editing.

One group could proceed to edit discussion tapes of Tuesday while others go out on a treasure hunt (looking for certain specified things in their surroundings, for instance, "Look for someone who looks like you").

Playback and discussion of tapes.

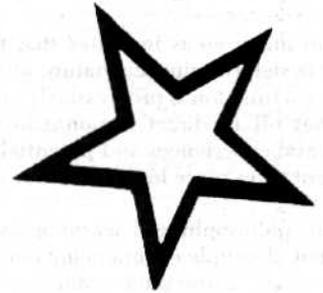
*Day 4:* One group could edit the various tapes recorded on the treasure hunt while others go out on a specified route with a specified duration of tape.

Simultaneous viewing of the various tapes and discussion.

*Day 5:* One group edits the tapes made on Thursday. Others begin a project of their own choosing.

AT RAINDANCE CORPORATION

through Metropolitan Museum of Art



## EXCERPTS FROM A REPORT ON THE CITY HILL VIDEO PROJECT

The City Hill Video Project was an experiment in video access. It was providing a small group of high school dropouts with videotape recorders so that they could develop, by first-hand experience, a feeling for what it is like to produce and control programming about themselves and their personal environments. The experiment followed from a general attitude on the part of the project coordinators and the Model City Communication Center that people in the community can gain more effective control of their lives if they can enter into the information/communication processes which are for the most part not available to them.

The City Hill Videotape Project grew out of a previous one in which the coordinators took videotape recorders (VTR's) to four free high schools, one therapeutic pre-school and two university programs. In each case, with the exception of the therapeutic pre-school, the coordinators demonstrated the equipment and then gave it to the students, allowing them to create their own videotapes.

One of the schools visited was the City Hill Street Academy, which is directed to the education of the delinquent dropout from the South High area. After only the briefest of instructions on how to operate the equipment, a group of City Hill students taped in rapid order: sequences of traffic on Lake Street, shoppers, a bank, a theater; an interview with a local merchant on his attitudes about City Hill and its students; and verbal exchanges with a teacher at City Hill, a girl hitchhiker, the former director of City Hill and an official of South High asking them to leave the vicinity of the school.

The playback of the tape to the entire school population, both students and staff, generated immense enthusiasm—the audience was highly involved with what they saw. What everyone in the school had seen a hundred times before every time they walked out of the building was now seen through a new medium and thus transformed. Most recognized that the VTR had provided a new viewpoint on well-known surroundings and personalities.

Prepared by Kurt Myers and Brian Smith

The second contact of the coordinators with City Hill was made possible with equipment and funds from the Model City Communication Center . . .

. . . Four students, Tony Bester, John McCallson, Scott Olson and James Scholtes, participated in the project with a considerable range in their degree of involvement. We used a SONY AV3400 Portapak, a portable, battery-operated videotape recorder with playback capacity only through a special monitor, though a small unit added to the system enables it to play into any television set. The project ran from Monday, April 12 for five weeks until Friday, May 14 and was conducted during school hours: 9:30am-12:30pm. During the first three weeks the coordinators came three times a week, and during the last two weeks they came every day, amounting to from 50 to 60 hours spent at City Hill. Approximately 4 to 5 hours of tape were made.

The original proposal for the City Hill Video Project included as one of its goals the completion of a finished tape of ½ hour, but this became impossible when shortly after the conclusion of the project all of the tapes were stolen. As of the date of this report the tapes have not been recovered. In lieu of the edited tape which would have emerged from the project, another tape is being prepared by Brian Smith and Tony Bester. The new tape will consist of capsule descriptions and referrals for several Model City projects. This report, however, will deal only with the City Hill experience.

The following list of videotape sequences represents samples of taping and interviewing done entirely by the City Hill students.

### Interviews-----

With Greg Coler, former director of City Hill

With a Model City policeman, some pointed question about harrassment

With a Model City fireman, questions about his work, preferred shifts, etc.

With a group of students attending South High, their opinions on the school

With two old men in their front yard, their views on Model City, home repair programs and senior citizen facilities

With a couple hitchhiking, on the quality of life in Model City and the ease of hitchhiking

With a local shopkeeper, his opinions of City Hill students

With a girl hitchhiker, on sex

With a farmer selling oranges from the back of his truck

With a three or four year old girl, no response

With a woman shopper, her views on what the Model City program has accomplished

### Events-----

Views of South High demolition

Walking tour and nostalgia inside and out of Old South, the students relate experiences there, point out old classrooms, talk about what it used to be like

Impromptu skit involving other City High students, fit for and in a graveyard

Spontaneous role playing as policemen upon passing an empty patrol car, students took turns playing "officer of the day" and questioning one another

Lunch at City Hill, close-ups on many of the personalities and foods

Street scenes from moving vehicles and from the sidewalk, rain and sunshine

A camera-eye tour of City Hill, outside and in, all the people, many of the activities, rock music was dubbed in over parts of the original soundtrack creating an appropriate effect

Shots of City Hill students working with elementary school children at a nearby center

Fooling around with the same children in a park

Young musician playing an electronic organ in a Lake Street store

Girls and football tossing outside of the new South High School, a record of what happened when some South High students break a window with the same football



### Classes and discussions-----

With Allen Rucker from Portola Institute, some pointed questions and discussion on many issues, student attitudes on the school begin to emerge

Discussion on anxiety and "Who am I?" conducted by one of the volunteer staff members of City Hill

Record of a sensitivity training session or rather an attempt at one, what happens when a group leader finds attitudes which do not include "touching other men"

Talk on sex and student reactions, conducted by a university professor

Discussion on police and the effect of Model City on the neighborhood, here the students on the project focused on themselves, a very frank discussion, unusually serious and probing into matters they rarely talked about with such composure, the students questioned one another, perhaps one of the best tapes made in the entire project