



BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Ira Schneider, Michael Shamburg,
Paul Ryan, Editors of *Radical Software*

The International Section of the Black Panther Party has begun a video tape program to be directed to the United States and Europe on a regular basis to cover the spectrum of the international anti-imperialist revolutionary movement. We need much more equipment and material than we have accumulated so far, in order to make the best use of this revolutionary communications medium. Now we are in the process of building up a tape library for information, research, and distribution purposes. We would sincerely appreciate having some of the tapes you have announced in the *RADICAL SOFTWARE* paper.

Specifically, these are the tapes that we need:

- Apollo 10 (11 and 13)
- Post Kent State—Washington D.C. Peace Demonstration
- News taped off TV during the week of the Kent State killings and Cambodia protest demonstrations
- President Nixon's State of the Union Message
- The Party the President threw for the Astronauts
- Computer: document on the home computer
- Rose Art Museum Show: Vision and Television documentary, Jan. '70
- New York State CATV operators convention
- Glen Falls, N.Y. profile of a town about to install CATV

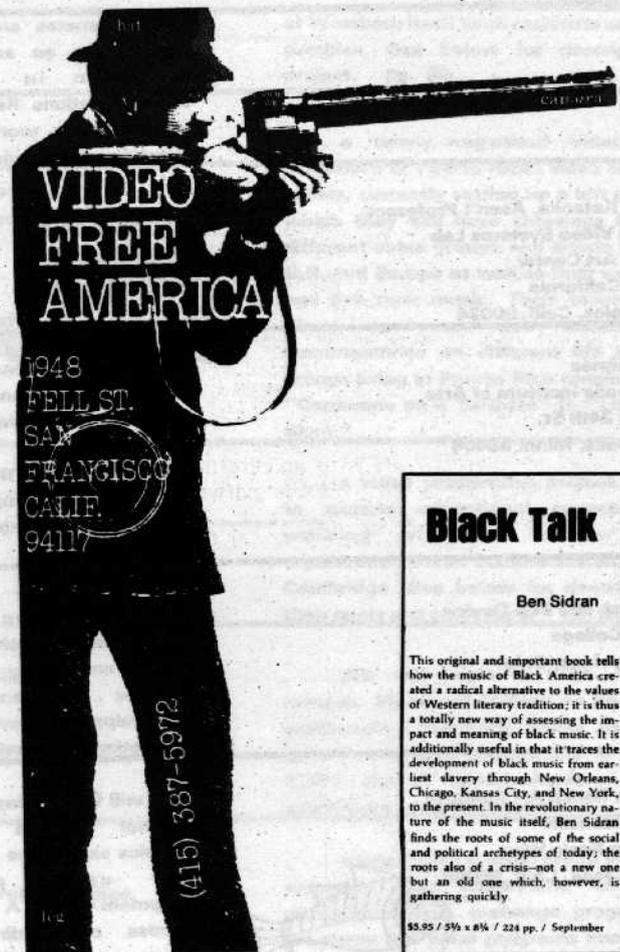
We don't know what kind of arrangements have to be made in order for us to receive these tapes, but we really need them and you can be certain that they will be put to fantastic use once we receive them. The best thing would be for you to send them to us immediately, and we can then send you copies of our tapes in exchange. So far, we have produced all of six tapes here and we are already getting political repercussions. Time is of the essence, the faster we get them the faster we can make more powerful propaganda for the people's revolution around the world.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Eldridge Cleaver

Eldridge Cleaver
Minister of Information

16 March 1971



Black Talk

Ben Sidran

This original and important book tells how the music of Black America created a radical alternative to the values of Western literary tradition; it is thus a totally new way of assessing the impact and meaning of black music. It is additionally useful in that it traces the development of black music from earliest slavery through New Orleans, Chicago, Kansas City, and New York, to the present. In the revolutionary nature of the music itself, Ben Sidran finds the roots of some of the social and political archetypes of today; the roots also of a crisis—not a new one but an old one which, however, is gathering quickly.

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VIDEO COMMUNITY AT WESTBETH

Submitted by Ann Douglass to New York State Council on the Arts

To expand our just-started project we wish to develop a program of education conceived of by artists and their families. We will use video-recorders to make instructional video tapes, to be first viewed by residents and then copied and distributed to N.Y. State video-educational centers; and throughout the country and the world. We are co-ordinating distribution with *Raindance*.

An Educational Environment must have self-discipline with the time-freedom to explore at one's own pace: have friends and resources available for feedback, growth, reference, relaxation; have the well-made, servicable tools that are understood by their users—respected but not worshipped.

On May 27th, Westbeth began broadcasting live and showing pre-recorded 1/2" video tapes through its master antenna. There is an antenna outlet in each of the 383 living/studio apartments. Those residents who have connected their TV sets to this cable outlet are able to receive our broadcasts on Channel 3. There are over 150 TV sets now connected and receiving Channel 3. The number is growing each day and week.

Broadcasts originate from Studio H-354, where the video signal from the recorder is transferred to a radio signal (because of a RF Modulator inside the deck) that travels over a co-ax cable into the master antenna system, where it is directed to Channel 3. There, the signal is amplified—along with all the other broadcast signals—and carried via cable into every apartment. The master antenna system was built into the renovation. Our video equipment is 1 porta-pack deck, 1 monitor; both owned but not paid for by Ann Douglass. The video camera, RF modulator, and amplifier are borrowed.

We have already made 15 tapes. We have opened our studio and channel weekly to the video community. (Thursday nights at 8 p.m.) Informally, they talk with residents, exchange information, educate us about video tape, educate each other and show what tapes they please.

Recorders are available in studio/living privacy, where residents can record conversations, fun; experiment.

Equipment available to children to work independent

of adult direction.

Inter-building exchange; international cooking; plant-growing; repair; clever ideas for improving living space, etc.

Recorders available to residents to take with them:

- to visits to other artists
- to important conferences
- to music events, or just for the fun of it.

Porta-pack for use in community immediately around Westbeth (See Summer Program).

Training Program

We want to give 3 people instruction on repair of video equipment, to be followed by their making an instructional tape in cooperation with the video community.

Program

Broadcasting: to develop a model for community broadcasting.

We are the first building to offer free, unsponsored video broadcasting, with complete access to the studio. We are training all interested in using the equipment. There are already 10 people here who know how to operate a porta-pak and run tapes. The studio is open to all residents, management, and staff. Our channel is open to video community.

(We have already shown work from Videofree, Raindance, Space, Global Village, Peoples Video Theater, Alternative Media Project, Vega (Ithaca, Cornell) Jackie Cassen, Video House (Washington, D.C.).

Video making at Westbeth to include the following:

live broadcast of tenant/management meetings (now limited to 20 people). We need cable and boosters to be able to broadcast live from the public spaces in the building. (The monthly meeting is held in the cabaret) 500 feet from present cable;

to have recorders available to performers at development and rehearsal stages, so they can judge the effectiveness of their work:

recorders to tape our public performances: festivals, dance concerts, etc.

To train 2 residents in TV repair; followed by instructional how-to tape for national distribution to libraries, video centers, etc.

SUMMER PROGRAM

Because our feedback has been instructional,

supportive, and imaginative, we want to continue this program without pause.

Summer projects wanted:

Community-neighborhood is 14th St. to 7th Ave; 7th Ave. to Canal and to River. Some residents are in panic over personal security (muggings and robberies). We want to educate our neighbors about artists and how we live; and to educate ourselves toward better understanding of our neighbors. (They include street gangs, gay cruisers, straight people, meat packers: a very poor neighborhood to the south, truck drivers and warehouse attendants). We want to work with them and the established community associations; such as, churches, block associations, small businessmen, neighboring artists; Bella Abzug; the 6th precinct; other local theaters and concert halls; and hospitals: all directed toward a more informative, yet informal, understanding with our neighbors.

Rent is needed for present studio. We have been offered free studio space from Westbeth on the top floor of A building overlooking the river. To make this space workable, we will need money for locks, minimal building supplies, lighting. In either case, we will need reimbursement for material presently loaned (about 500 dollars worth on loaned equipment); about \$200 for building material.

Also for:

- continuing live broadcasting.
- continuing playing tapes as they come in from around the world.
- beginning to tape graphics arts collective: instructional tapes; how-to set up a collective tape.
- beginning to make other education/information tapes, i.e., to develop our program along its natural lines; to be free to have equipment and tape to go where we want; to develop the media experimentally and continually.
- extending cable beyond Westbeth into neighborhood. We are in process of investigating technical feasibility. (FCC regulations do not apply to area within 15 block radius.) Community demand and awareness are accelerating. Receiving Manhattan Cable and Teleprompter service at great discount. Supplying these Cable Franchise companies with Community broadcasting from Westbeth.
- Cable to work with Citizen's Committee.
- Request money for feasibility study and negotiation time.