



Feedback

VIDEOFREEX/MEDIA BUS at MAPLE TREE FARM

The adventures of living and working together with video continue. We've been in the mountains for a half a year now and we find it very comfortable and an easier place to work. We do sometimes feel a bit out of touch and hope that friends and colleagues keep contact...please put us on your mailing lists and if you would like to receive a copy of our Maple Tree Farm Report (which comes out every so often) please write to us.

We have been doing a lot of video. The Media Bus program has visited 30 or so communities in New York State and we have begun to expand the program outside the state, especially to universities and free schools... we are seeking funds to do this. We have also begun to apply video to other fields especially to architecture and environmental design. We've been working with a group of environmentalists called S.I.T.E. as well as several architectural firms. We have also started to interface with computer technology...some people from Meta Information Systems in New York City seem interested in investing computer time and human energy in storing data about video people and video tapes in an information bank... this relationship is just beginning but it looks interesting and of course the implications of a computer/video relationship are grand indeed...aaah, spaceship earth, what's in store for you!

The New Age Communications Manual mentioned in the last Radical Software is almost completed. It's a technical manual for people who are using 1/2 inch videotape equipment with information for people who have little knowledge of the insides of the equipment and for people who are more advanced in their knowledge of electronics. It should be ready in late Winter or early Spring, 1972.

We've also been thinking a lot about Television. We've been watching the tube and have been making TV shows. Our shows are on both cable stations in Manhattan and have been broadcast through the air in Utica, New York.. We are interested in showing our material on TV in people's homes. We are pursuing this by editing show tapes and by contacting cable and broadcast stations. Perhaps someday we'll be known as the Television Freaks.

In the meantime, there will be Videofreex traveling in the East, California, Europe and Israel. We hope that anyone who would like us to visit them with or without our Media Bus, or would like to receive our newsletter, or would like to receive our show tapes would contact us at Maple Tree Farm, Lanesville, New York, 12450.



Maple Tree Farm
Lanesville, N.Y. 12450
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APRIL 29 MAY 7

APRIL 29

ALL THE VIDEOFREEA EXCEPT NANCY, BART, CURTISS AND SKIP WENT TO D.C. TODAY. I ALSO MAILED PHYLLIS HER CHECK.

APRIL 30

I HELP OUT WHEN I CAN. I KEEP THE TRUCK NEAT. I DON'T LOOK FOR NEW RELATIONSHIPS. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO RELATE TO ALL THIS. DAVID IS ANXIOUS TO PLUG IN—MAKE A BIG NOISE—BE A PART. HE TRIES TOO HARD. WE'RE A PART BECAUSE WE'RE HERE. WHAT ELSE? CAROL IS SLEEPING IN THE BUS. THE GENERATOR IS NOISY. IT IS LATE AFTERNOON. PARRY AND CHUCK HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD, TRYING TO GET THE TRANSMITTER GOING. I'M NOT SURE IT ISN'T A WASTE OF TIME. IF WE GET A BEAR PROJECTION SCREEN TOGETHER WE WILL PROJECT TONITE. I'M RETREATING FROM CONTACT AS USUAL.

MAY 1

LAST NITE WE ALL SHORT-CIRCUITED. A SPASM OF SELF-CRITICISM WHICH GRABS US AT CRUCIAL MOMENTS. HERE IS WHAT IT WAS—WE CAME TO THIS EVENT BASICALLY UNPREPARED. WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO CAMP OUT OR TO FUNCTION AS PART OF THE SYSTEM. PARRY AND CHUCK SPENT YESTERDAY TRYING TO GET THE TRANSMITTER GOING. BUT IF THEY HAD SUCCEEDED THERE WERE STILL ONLY TWO RECEIVERS IN THE PARK—BOTH BROUGHT BY US. DAVID SPENT YESTERDAY TRYING TO THINK OF A WAY TO PLUG INTO THE MAYDAY SOUND SYSTEM, BUT WE HAD MADE NO ADVANCE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN. THE PLACE WE WERE STAYING LEFT PARRY AND CAROL WITH BAD VIBES. THEY SLEPT ON THE BUS. IT IS CONTINUOUSLY FRUSTRATING. THE ONE THING WE DID WAS TAPE THE D.C. POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN IN HIS OFFICE. HE GAVE US STOCK ANSWERS. THEY GLAD-HANDED US, THOUGH. EVERY COP WHO WENT BY SMILED AND CALLED US "GENTLEMEN". CURTISS FOUND US LAST NITE. TODAY WE ALL GOT UP LATE. THOUGHT MAYBE I'D GO TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

I DID GO TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY. I WAS GOING TO GO TO THE CONGRAN ALSO—BUT IT WAS CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF THE RIOT. I LEFT THE N.G. AT 4:30. I ATE SOMETHING POISONOUS AT THEIR CAFETERIA. I WENT TO THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEXT DOOR. IT WAS FULL OF CHILDREN. MODEL T FORDS, CUPS AND UNIFORMS, OLD TOOLS. ALL THE THINGS KIDS LIKE. NOW I'M SITTING IN THE PARK OUTSIDE. A COP IS COMING. HIS WALKIE-TALKIE SOVACKING. HE'S LOOKING ME OVER.

WHEN I GOT BACK TO HILTZER ST. BOSTON NEWSREEL WAS THERE. THEY GAVE ME A CAN OF COLT 45 AND I SAT WITH THEM A WHILE. THE MAYDAY VIDEO PEOPLE ARE VIBING ABOUT NBC SINCE PARRY, CAROL AND I TOLD THEM OF OUR EXPERIENCES WITH CBS. I'M EATING IN THE NAN-KING ON 'P' ST.

MAY 2

LAST NITE I CONNECTED WITH PARRY, CAROL, CHUCK AND ANN. WE STAYED OUT ON G-LOVER DRIVEWAY. IN THE MORNING WE WENT TO THE LAND AND I WAS ARRESTED. I SPENT THE DAY IN JAIL AND WAS RELEASED AT 11 PM OR SO. I MADE A TAPE IN JAIL. NOW DAVID IS DETERMINED TO BE ARRESTED. I WAS LUCKY, OF COURSE, TO

BE ARRESTED BY A POLICEMAN IN GOOD HUMOR AND LET OUT AFTER A FEW HOURS. DAVID, NO DOUBT, WILL BE BEATEN TO A PULP AND THROWN IN THE CAN FOR WEEKS. I DON'T MUCH WANT TO GO BACK.

MAY 3

I JUST WITNESSED THE MOST INCREDIBLE PRESS CONFERENCE I HAVE EVER SEEN. IT WAS AT THE MAYDAY OFFICES. I WENT THERE WITH TWO PEOPLE FROM MAYDAY VIDEO TO SET UP A PLAYBACK SYSTEM FOR THEM. THE STRAIGHT PRESS CAME IN SCEPTICAL ONLY, BUT THEY LEFT IN A HOSTILE MOOD. THE WAY THE CONFERENCE WAS CONDUCTED IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE. THE MAYDAY PEOPLE INFURIATED THE PRESS BECAUSE THEY USED WORDS CYNICALLY. WORDS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN THE WORLD TO REPORTERS. I GUESS THEY'RE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE TO US. WHATEVER WE ARGUE WITH THEM WE GET DESTROYED. THEY ARE BETTER ARGUERS THAN WE. WE'LL NEVER BEAT THEM AT TALKING. BEFORE WE LEFT WE ATTENDED A MEETING OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. IT WAS A HEAVY MEETING. THEY WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE PROBLEM OF KEEPING THEIR PEOPLE ON THE STREET IN THE FACE OF 7000 OR SO ARRESTS. AS WERE THERE THE RUMOR STARTED CIRCULATING THAT WE WERE ABOUT TO BE BUSTED. THE POLICE ACTUALLY SEEMED TO BE GATHERING OUTSIDE SO WE HUSTLED OUR EQUIPMENT DOWN THE ELEVATOR AND INTO THE BUS. [THE PEOPLE IN THE LIVING-ROOM SAID THAT THE MAYDAY OFFICES DID GET BUSTED TODAY SO I GUESS IT WASN'T JUST PARANOMIA. PARANOMIA IS A TOOL THAT KEEPS US ALIVE AT TIMES. IF WE HAD NOT RESPONDED TO PARANOMIA TODAY WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN GARBAGED AND ALL OUR EQUIPMENT.] PARENTS ALL SAY THE SAME THINGS AND ALWAYS AT DINNER. WE JUST ATE A FINE MEAL AT BOB QUINN'S PARENTS HOUSE. A DIFFERENT WORLD. ONLY AN HOUR AGO I WAS LIABLE TO BE ARRESTED ANY MINUTE. NOW NO DANGER, A SHOWER, A GOOD SLEEP.

THEY DIDN'T BUST THE MAYDAY OFFICE. JUST PARANOMIA.

MAY 4

RIDING AROUND D.C. IN VW BUSES. THIS IS MY FORTN TODAY. PARRY HAS CREATED A REAL EFFICIENT VIDEO HEADQUARTERS BACK AT HILTZER ST, COMPLETE WITH MAPS, TELEPHONE AND BULLETIN BOARDS. SORT OF LIKE A BUNKER IN WARTIME EUROPE.

MAY 5

LAST NITE I HAD AN ARGUMENT WITH DAVID WHICH RESULTED IN AN OUTLINE OF OUR POSITION VIS A VIS THE STRAIGHT PRESS. I FEEL THAT WE SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM AS IT UNDERMINES OUR COMMITMENT TO AN ALTERNATE STRUCTURE. DAVID FEELS THAT I AM TOO RIGID. SO WE CLASH. WE HAD A LATE NITE VIDEOFREEA MEETING. WE DECIDED THAT WE'D GO ON STRAIGHT TV ONLY IF THEY PUT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME AT OUR DISPOSAL FOR US TO PROGRAM. CAROL WILL EXPLAIN THIS AT A MAYDAY VIDEO MEETING TONITE. THEY WANT TO BROADCAST—SO THEY ARE SCEPTICAL OF OUR POSITION.

MAY 7

PARRY DID A FAST EDIT OF D.C. MATERIAL. CBS CALLED ABOUT THE JAIL TAPE. PARRY TOLD THEM TO GET LOST. DAVID IS STILL MAD AT ME.