IN THE HANDS OF CITIZENS: A VIDEO REPORT

DOROTHY HENAUT AND BONNIE KLINE

The Comité des Citoyens de Saint-Jacques, a dynamic citizens' organization of downtown Montreal's many neighborhoods, was founded in March 1968 at a public meeting called by a handful of concerned citizens to help support a community center organized by the Urban Social Redevelopment Project. At the meeting the citizens agreed that the health ward was their most immediate problem. On spotting two ward health inspectors from an office of civic authorities, the citizens decided they would take the affair into their own hands. They rented a room, arranged it, nominated themselves, recruited medical and dental personnel, and the health ward was born in the idea of a citizen-run community clinic. By October, they opened their clinic five nights a week.

with involvement

It seemed to be a convergence between the needs and ideas of the Citizens' Committee and those of Challenge for Change, and we approached the Committee with the idea of projecting the use of video recording equipment in community organizing. The Committee recognized its potential for effectiveness as an organizing tool and formed a VTR-film group. This group has eight members, of whom six are from the neighborhood and two from the NFB (the authors of this article, who write "we" and refer to the VTR-group). This group has carried out all activities with the video equipment, and has also given VTR film courses to the staff of VTR films, organized an evaluation of subjects and ideas, nominated the citizens' Committee, and is now working closely on the editing process. We hope to present the VTR films in the future.

The most interested students took camera and tripod in hand and went from classroom to classroom eliciting free flow of their perceptions of their neighborhood. They used the camera to view themselves and their classmates for the first time. Many students were surprised at the realization that they were being photographed, and that their comments and reactions were being made available to the community through the VTR. Some classes generated an avalanche! This was exactly what the VTR group needed to give it some direction. We proposed to prepare a half-hour program to prepare the students and teachers alike. The whole operation was surrounded by the aura of glamor and excitement. The material was edited down from about four hours to forty minutes. At first, members came to the Film Board to do the editing by electronic transfer with the NFB technicians. This transfer, as well as the necessity to do the rest of the editing here, was not satisfactory, and subsequently we brought the tapes to the Board with requests from the group on exact focus for editing. Neither system nor the visual result of transferring the scenes were completely satisfactory, but the result came to be a recording of the speeches, without physically cutting the tapes, which the citizens can do themselves and which is visually far more interesting.

The public meetings

The VTR group spent interviewing in the streets on the day of the meetings, inviting people to come and see themselves on TV. These tapes were run, unedited, a half-hour before the start of the meetings, and students were encouraged to bring their tapes to the closed-circuit TV. We placed six monitors around the room with about 20 chairs in a halicircle in front of each. The active member of the group by standing amongst themselves among each group. When the Montreal city government was shown, each group moved its chair into a circle and plunged into a discussion. Having some people like themselves around, they know how to express themselves. It helped the gain more confidence in myself. It's important to know who you are.

After the Welfare team organized a large demonstration, the action was taped and was show the night in a half-hour presentation in which the Welfare team showed the tapes. We asked the Committee to have them show the tapes to their audience.

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We recorded on tape a number of meetings of various types, but we found that people rarely had the time to view the tapes afterwards. The few members who did have time to view old tapes had gained a good deal in self-awareness and in understanding of others, as well as a historical perspective on their progress.

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Our efforts are directed to explore the various views of the people in the area, and we are working on the idea that the people should have all the information that they need to make decisions of their own. If someone didn't know how to express himself, we sometimes helped him with the words. Some people didn't know what to say. We simply said, "I guess this is the place where I can talk freely," and talked at length of problems shared and possible collective solutions.

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Canada, P.O.Box 6000.

There was no videotape recorder in the country. For schools, cable offers a unique opportunity to function effectively in six thousand or more separate information systems: the possible restructuring of communications in this area is to increase the community's awareness of their existing cultural system, thereby giving them more creative destruction. We do not yet understand the information contours of culture well enough to usefully transform media use.

Unfortunately, video cannot be transformed to the 2nd broadcast video with any degree of technical satisfaction for the moment. Perhaps technological advances will overcome this obstacle in the near future.

warning

We hope that cable does not become a mythic "communications," with all its glamour and mystification, become an end in itself rather than a means toward better human relations. Some may want to use it to improve their lives, but it could become one more way of avoiding real social change. It should be clear that cable can be a useful tool, and it should be clear that the key to success is the choice of channels and the use of appropriate images - a key that does not exist in an instant. There must be a real sense of urgency, and films and videos can be used for social good rather than social disarray. Communications cannot be used as gowns for technology. Technology must serve the communities.

In Saint-Jacques, a strongly organized Citizen's Committee guaranteed responsibility and continuity. These volunteers, including a group of engineers who committed to stay in the community a certain length of time. Social continuity is essential.

Video should not be used as a vacuum, and it should not be used to disintegrate citizens from their social aims.

conclusion

Video equipment does not create a vacuum when used in a vacuum. "Communications," with all its glamour and mystification, can be used in a vacuum, and it should not be used to divert citizens from their social aims. It is a useful tool.

The Comité des Citoyens de Saint-Jacques could have accomplished any of their aims without video equipment. We could not do at any time a difference between success and failure. But it made good things better, and it helped people to grow. It is a useful tool.

You may have entered a new world, and you may have entered another world, or they may have gone in the wrong direction, but you have to do something about it. You have to do something about it, and you have to do something about it. You have to do something about it.

The broadcast equipment may have been the first time that people have come to understand that they really can do something about it. They have become a little bit more mainstream.

It is a useful tool.

This report is one of the key to the development of local culture can only proceed through a process of creative destruction. We do not yet understand the information contours of culture well enough to make good things better, and it helped people to grow. It is a useful tool.

The broadcaster, we say, is the one who is going to be a useful tool, and it should be clear that the key to success is the choice of channels and the use of appropriate images - a key that does not exist in an instant. There must be a real sense of urgency, and films and videos can be used for social good rather than social disarray. Communications cannot be used as gowns for technology. Technology must serve the communities.

CABLE TELEVISION: THE RAW AND THE OVERCOOKED

by PAUL RYAN

There are over 2000 cable systems in operation in this country now. Roughly another 2000 franchises have been granted and another 2000 or so are pending. Six thousand or more separate cable heads mean that the cable companies will have to do something about it. They have become a little bit more mainstream.

There was no videotape recorder on board Apollo 11, only a television camera. Television, as the most of the work implies, has to do with transmitting information at a distance. In this case a quarter million miles from the moon. Videotape has to do with recording information, as in the kind of feedback that goes on in reel-to-reel systems. Over working with motion picture sets. Don't say, videotaped while a gendarme in the middle of the group with her eyes closed and described how she thought people were reacting to her and there. The contrast between her nuanced and her story-line. The videotapes extend people. You can't turn it off. YT is not TV. Anything, anything, anything.

In some ways, the difference between broadcast television and the videotape recorder is the difference between Hillsborough, the videotape recorder, and therefore actualize action.

The core of this debate is the relationship between the establishment and the new youth who try to put together videotapes. As of this writing, Access has access to the "right kind" of information and withholding the "wrong kind" of information. Educators will want to develop a viable relationship with these community organizers who understand something of the implications of being raised on TV, and the cable television industry.

Practically all of the possibilities I have talked about here are based on the use of portable half-inch recording equipment. This is the kind of feedback that goes on in reel-to-reel systems, the kind of feedback that goes on in reel-to-reel systems, the kind of feedback that goes on in reel-to-reel systems.

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When you think about the power that you have in your hands, the power that you have in your hands, the power that you have in your hands, the power that you have in your hands.

Media like Cable TV means passenger opportunity. You watch other people on the street, in shops, on the phone, in homes. Regular exchanges could be set up between video-equipment. Videotapes would be set up in the streets, in the schools, in the homes. In the schools, in the homes. In the schools, in the homes.

There is a Japanese company, Sony, which has "white noise" as a product. Just as white is the presence of all color, "white noise" is the presence of all noise. The "white one" gets tunes between stations on a radio in the white zone. Noise is the presence of all color, "white noise" is the presence of all noise. The "white one" gets tunes between stations on a radio in the white zone. Noise is the presence of all color, "white noise" is the presence of all noise. The "white one" gets tunes between stations on a radio in the white zone. Noise is the presence of all color, "white noise" is the presence of all noise. The "white one" gets tunes between stations on a radio in the white zone. Noise is the presence of all color, "white noise" is the presence of all noise. The "white one" gets tunes between stations on a radio in the white zone. Noise is the presence of all color, "white noise" is the presence of all noise. The "white one" gets tunes between stations on a radio in the white zone.

Cable can serve not merely as a conduit to total information, but more importantly such an apparatus can provide the skeletal of an information structure in which students can build up the indigestible data. The necessary tools will not be available to the students until they have built a viable relationship with these community organizers who understand something of the implications of being raised on TV, and the cable television industry.

Education becomes the empowering of people to improve it is a useful tool. Video for educational purposes, video for educational purposes, video for educational purposes.

The movie and broadcast televisions have their role. Though there is no way of saying for sure, it is likely that cable will be a major conduit of this information from the data banks to the home communications centers. People will have freedom to the extent that they control the filtering process. Hopefully we can meet a new task system of information, one in which we can meet his schedules to one of random access, of self-processing in a world of information movement. Education becomes the empowering of people to improve it is a useful tool.

There is a technique being used in some schools for teaching an inclusive area of anthropology. Students, instead of just being told what to do, or what to write, students are told that this is a process of filtering in a world of information movement. Education becomes the empowering of people to improve it is a useful tool.

Developing a viable relationship with these community organizers who understand something of the implications of being raised on TV, and the cable television industry.

New media like Cable TV means passenger opportunity. You watch other people on the street, in shops, on the phone, in homes. Regular exchanges could be set up between video-equipment. Videotapes would be set up in the streets, in the schools, in the homes. In the schools, in the homes. In the schools, in the homes.

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