Here is the speech and the proposal for Open Channel that has been funded. I think it is all there. The main points are 1) the availability of public channels; 2) the liability question that still is not answered but will be soon, (that means that the cable operator still has the right to screen tapes before playing them and so can still censor). I tried to get a bill through the State Legislature to change this but was unsuccessful this year, therefore I will have to wait till next year, or until the FCC acts in that area. I cannot stress enough, that we are in the process of developing rules of access; in other words how it shall be determined who gets on and when. If you could wait a while for those I think this whole thing would have more relevance to your readers. For that is the actual mechanism that will guarantee access to all those interested in utilizing the channels. However since the channels are available as of July 1, I am going ahead and will help to create programming for those channels. The importance of the success of this public use of cable here in Manhattan cannot be stressed enough. I truly believe that if we can make it work here, we will be setting a precedent for the nation in opening up this utilization of television. However, if it fails, if these channels are not used, or if they carry programming that no one cares about or relates to, or if they are utilized for the entertainment of the esoteric few, then we probably will have provided the necessary fuel for those who are fighting against this opening up of the medium.

See you soon,
Thea