Please Read Me

An Open Letter From the Producers of "Are You There?"

Winter 1972 511 Beach Dr., N. Cape May, N.J. 886-9369

Many of you know something about us now. You may have seen us on "Are You There?", your first local cable television program, attended our videotape workshop at MAC, seen us in the process of making a videotape, or seen us showing tapes in the streets or at a local event. Others may have only heard rumbles of our existence in the schools, libraries, local organizations or the good old grapevine. Most of you have read about us in the local newspapers. This is an open letter to the people of Cape May County about who we are, where we came from, what we've been doing, what members of your community have been doing in connection with us and what we're planning to do in the future.

Glad to meet you -
Carole and Maxi

What We've Been Doing

We have been trying to introduce the concept of making programs on 1/2" videotape for non-commercial cable television which is "by the people and for the people" of this county. We have actively shown many of you not only how you can integrate this means of communication into your own daily life, but how you can also help bring about change and better understanding between us all. We have accumulated a library of about 75 tapes which we've used as examples of how, why and where 1/2" videotape can be used. Local government officials, individual citizens, organizations, teachers, librarians, conservationists, ecologists, scientists, and artists, both the young and old of Cape May County have already utilized this facility. We have offered a video workshop at the mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, on the usage of equipment (hardware) and the understanding of process and concepts of 1/2" videotape (software). Because reception and feedback have been so great, this class will continue, and two more workshops have been scheduled to begin mid-January. We have devoted much of our effort to exposing and cultivating cable television (channels 2 and 10) as an outlet and resource for locally originating TV programming. "Are You There?" is the result of all these efforts and seems to be working as a catalyst for other series of programs which will begin in the near future.

What's Happening Now

For those of you, who would like to explore this new means of communication, 1/2" videotape, we are starting a 5 week session at the Wildwood High School on Jan. 20, Thursday at 7:30 PM. This workshop is open to anyone; no prior training is necessary, just a bit of good enthusiasm. This workshop will cover 3 areas: (1) video equipment and how it works (2) various uses of 1/2" video and philosophies behind them (3) human feedback and critiques of all tapes made by members of class; videotapes made by workshop members may be aired over cable TV. For information call Arthur Motz, Adult Education, 522-6955, or us.