

## BERKELEY PUBLIC ACCESS

Presently, in Berkeley, Calif., as in Santa Cruz, an active effort is being made to amend the present cable franchise so that it provides for "community access channels and a public access center where people in the community can come to borrow (or rent—for a minimal charge) video equipment to produce their own programs. It also calls for the implementation of an educational channel (to give educational institutions and all other groups specifically interested in educational programming in the city an unfettered opportunity to experiment with educational uses of catv technology), and the formation of a non-profit

community controlled corporation—Community Access Corp.—to regulate said channels. In addition, it provides suggestions for developing an attractive package for Federal, State and foundation funding; for generating jobs and job training in the cable television industry, particularly for poor and minority people; for establishing regulation of the cable system before feverish legal activity precludes the city from having an effective power."

To obtain a copy of their full report write to: Committee on Berkeley Cable Access, 2616 Russel St., Berkeley, Calif. 94705.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### CATVIS

Raindance:

We've been running around for bucks all month so I haven't gotten around to getting our blurb to you. Finally we are funded for a three-month study to determine the economic and social effects of two alternative system configurations for metropolitan cable systems—the urban multisystem and the metropolitan regional system. Beyond this people at M.I.T., at N.S.F., and in the Urban Institute are interested in CATVIS as a two to four year ongoing operation.

Enclosed is a part of our brochure which will be out in the near future.

We will be forwarding more printouts to you soon.

Bill Klein  
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**C.A.T.V.I.S.—Cable Antenna Television Information Service** is a multifaceted organization intended to develop a comprehensive view of broadband communications in urban areas. It is our feeling that research into cable until now has disregarded CATV's potential as an urban problem solver in favor of determining the most expedient way of getting CATV service to entire regions. While RAND, Sloan, Arthur D. Little et al., would open the door to regional systems operations we urge that other options be considered: that problems of economic underdevelopment in areas of a city might be vastly improved if cable were locally owned and capital generated by a system within the area the system served; and that a city be looked at as being composed of multitudes of service operations (i.e. business, social and educational) that could be reshaped around cable to create a total information transferral system equally accessible to everyone. Our efforts are directed towards providing data to communities, municipalities, political decision makers, and service operations on the logistics, economics, and potential of cable for their specific situations. Our interest is to facilitate the development of economically strong and informationally abundant cable systems in cities that will eventually grow outward to suburban and rural systems.

CATVIS was born in the Urban Fellows Program housed at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is staffed by students, teachers, and professionals in the areas of engineering, political science, economics, televisions, and data processing. Collectively we can prove cable's potential as a great panacea for all kinds of urban problems and can give real direction for the advent of cable systems that would transcend and redefine this society's ideas about communication.

## AUSTRALIA

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Australia

Dear Raindance,

We're finally managing to get a few things together over here, and there is one way in which you may be able to help. By some weird mischance our Neanderthal government has decided to hand out money to "experimental" film and video projects.

All media in this country has been colonized by England and the U.S. Australia is a dumping ground for any and all garbage they choose to palm off on us—one of the few countries who have still to erect some protection against the flood. But things are beginning to change. Nationalistic distaste for multinational corporations has developed a desire for local film and TV production industries.

None of us is heavily into establishment power games but we are engaged in several projects at the moment—all on the ragged edge of the government's tolerance. We hope you will be able to work with us on the project outlined below.

Cable TV arrives here in 1975 and we are beginning to lobby for community access; but without a pool of alternate facilities and technicians and an awareness of their potential, community control doesn't have much chance. So, with the government footing the bills, we are putting one Sony AV3400 and one AVC3400 with all backup requirements in each of five main state capitals. Each fortnight 30 minutes of composite edit will come from these centres to Melbourne. In Melbourne the tapes will be copied and sent out again. The master tape will be filed. So 2½ hours of tape per fortnight will be available in each capital for showing at film co-ops, in shop windows, in the television department of a trade-union-owned department store and in the streets from vans equipped with recorder and monitors.

As well as our own tapes we would like to be able to distribute tapes from your library on a regular basis. Would you be interested in a fortnightly exchange of a 30 minute tape? The costs would be low if our tape went out with our program and came in with yours. (No duty etc.) It is very important to us at this time to be locked into the world video net.

A last thought. Don't know what sort of feedback you're getting from people who use *Radical Software* and *Guerrilla Television*—how important it is to them. In Australia the information flow is down to a trickle—you are it. Without you on the scene there would be no scene.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Love Bert Deling

I forgot to mention that all facilities and tapes will be free to anyone who wants access to them to make original tapes or composite edits.