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pushing out the placenta came next, and signaled the end of the delivery itself. What remained was for the baby girl to be looked at, admired and cooed over, while Linda was treated for her exhaustion and slight shock. The midwife attended to it all, professional and competent, while we enjoyed the delightful little bundle.

Now, months later, whenever the tape is viewed, it still gives me a rush. I find myself pushing along with Linda, trying to get that all important head out into the open. I've been told by many that the tape constitutes their only real information about birth. It's important stuff to know . . . and regardless of the heavy moments involved in this particular delivery, it can go a long way towards opening all those closed minds and secret doors about the origin of life.

The tape was shot in February, 1972. By July, I had shown it a number of times throughout the local area, and had received a warm reception everywhere. People seemed to feel it was an important tape, one which clearly showed the process of birth.

With that in mind, I designed a show for Kingston Cablevision, which would include the delivery sequence from the birth tape, along with hard facts and information about giving birth in the Kingston area.

The doctor and nurse who appeared on the show were both very involved with promoting Lamaze childbirth methods. They spoke clearly and effectively about the attributes of the Lamaze method, and I assembled their talk along with the birth sequence.

Now, I knew that the birth itself was not an example of a 'good' Lamaze delivery. The woman was not happy and smiling, and was not without distress. I felt it was important to have a disclaimer in the tape, absolving the doctor and nurse of any relationship with the actual birth, and stating that the birth sequence was not meant to depict Lamaze methods. I thought the disclaimer was clear and forthright. It proceeded the birth sequence, and also gave anyone viewing adequate time to switch the channel away from the "sensitive" material to follow.

Little did I know that the audience (or at least a part of it) would be unable to make the distinction between talking about Lamaze as a method of childbirth, and showing a childbirth that was clearly stated to not be a Lamaze delivery. The viewers connected the pieces for themselves, and both local doctors and pregnant women called the doctor who appeared on the show, complaining to him about the strong birth they had witnessed on their living room screens. Many women were afraid that this would be the situation they would meet in labor and delivery.

The doctor called me, and told me what had transpired. Since the show was scheduled to be repeated the following week, he asked that the part in which he appeared be separated from the part showing the birth. He was under great pressure from his colleagues and patients. They were taking the delivery sequence as an example of Lamaze; an example that he felt was harming the cause.

So I agreed to separate the sequences, and to show only the informational part, leaving the childbirth for another time. Indeed, in my mind that was the most vital part of the show, the part that really 'explains' what childbirth can be like. So, the key is to now develop a format in which that footage can be used without fear of misinterpretation by the audience.

Maybe I'll cut it with the sequence I recently shot of a cat giving birth to two kittens. Maybe I'll just show the human birth by itself, with a statement by the mother on the front. What is obvious is the lack of hard information most humans have about the process which brought them into the world, and the importance of having readily available this and other video material on giving birth.

Tobe Carey

Giving Birth: A 30 minute tape showing a live childbirth shot in the Yucatan, Mexico in February 1972. All the pressure and reality of giving birth are depicted—no punches pulled—very dramatic. \$28 for tape + the information. \$15 if you provide the tape. For more information contact: Tobe Carey, True Light Beavers, Willow, N.Y.