EDUCATION—ALTERNATE PROGRAMMING

* VIDEOTEK * VIDEOTHEQUE * VIDEOTECH * VIDEOTHEQUE * VIDEOTEK * VIDEOTEC * VIDEOTHEQUE * VIDEOTEK * VIDE

Loeb Student Center
Room 622
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EXPERIMENTAL VIDEO PLAYPEN

In our original proposal, we talked about exploring the potential uses of videotape in higher education. This exploration was intended to go beyond the simple operation of making an audio-visual record of an event. Yet, we have found that, while three hours of instruction is sufficient to gain mechanical proficiency, it is not enough time for most people to gain the confidence which underlies creative exploration. The necessity to produce a tape of acceptable technical quality apparently was stifling the imaginative qualities that drew people into the Video-tec in the first place.

The Experimental Video Playpen is held every Monday night. It is open to everyone who has completed two instruction periods. It provides an opportunity to explore the various configurations of feedback, playback time sequence (loops), etc. At the same time, participants are extending their familiarity with the equipment and with the group nature of the whole activity.

Several people who, prior to this experience seem to have been intimidated by the equipment, have now come up with proposals, leading us to believe that the Playpen has indeed generated confidence, originality and enthusiasm as expected.

We have in very many respects found ourselves walking a tight rope. On one hand we are conscious of our responsibility to instill in those who come to join us our own sense of responsibility for the care of the equipment and towards others who are working with it; on the other hand, we want to encourage those who come around to take creative risks. The Video Playpen is the encouragement of creative risk. The Tuesday night viewing sessions are meant to encourage a feeling of accountability on the part of people who are shooting tape.

TUESDAY NIGHT SESSIONS

Each Tuesday night, the tapes shot during the previous week are viewed by those who have shot them along with others who have expressed an interest in video-tape. It is a critique session but it is also a chance for people to explain to each other in detail their experiences in shooting and to learn from each other solutions to the kinds of problems that come up.

WRITTEN PROPOSALS

A third procedure which has evolved is the request that people who want to shoot a project put their proposals in writing. A representative sampling of these proposals is included as an appendix to this report.

Financed by the administration and supported by certain student councils, VIDEOTEC is open to every member of the NYU community.

SIX MOST COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED OF VIDEOTEC PERSONNEL

Why can't I take the equipment out this afternoon?

Because you have not signed up for the instruction course or attended the lessons. (Instruction is given in two 1-hour sessions, Tues-Thurs. or Wed-Fri at 2:30 P.M. PLUS an experimental video playpen on Monday evenings.)

Why can't I take the equipment out this afternoon?

Because you are not a member of the NYU community. If you are, fill in an information card with your student I.D.# and your telephone #. Someone will call you.

Why can't I take out the equipment this afternoon?

Because the last time you took out equipment, you left the microphone behind and you haven't brought it back, making you a non-videotec-person.

Why can't I take out the equipment this afternoon?

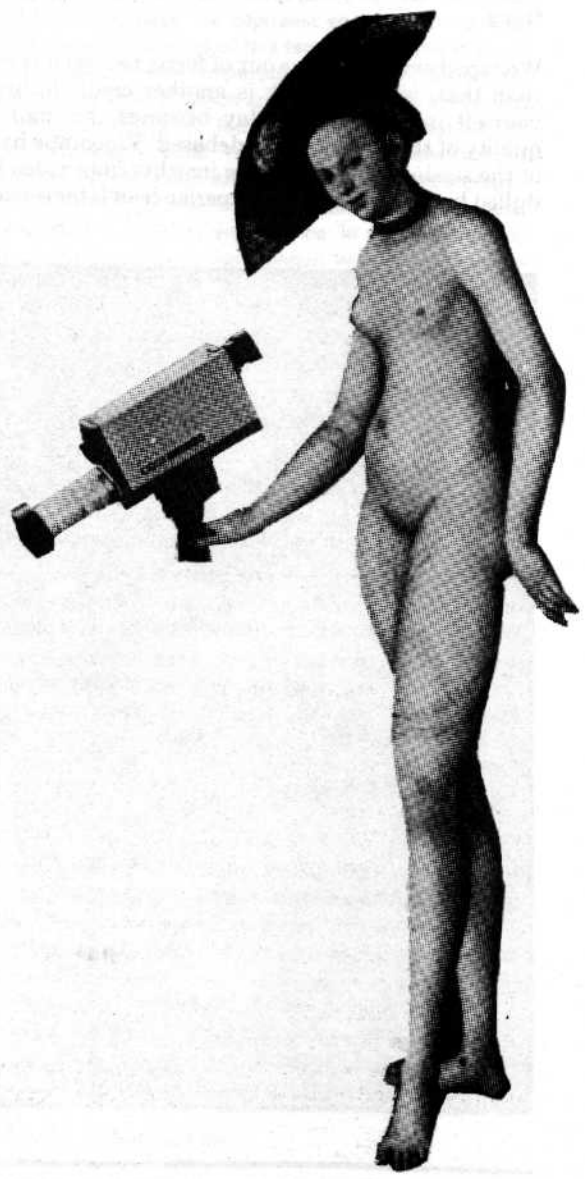
Because the last time you shot a tape, you did not come to see your tape and discuss it at our regular Tuesday night viewing session. Feedback, FEEEEEDBACK, is a unique aspect of videotape technology.

Why can't I take the equipment out this afternoon?

Because you didn't book the equipment in advance.

Why can't I take the equipment out this afternoon?

Because you have not presented a coherent, written plan for your project.



ANTIOCH COLLEGE THE MEDIA PROGRAM

WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE CAMPUS

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH AND ACTION

The Media Program is not a thing in itself. It is the communications support arm of Social Research and Action. Projects will be created out of and feed back into the curriculum. Projects are designed and priorities structured to maximize the impact of media (especially half inch video tape).

Some aspects of the present Media Program which will continue in 71-72

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA:

Exploration of production, presentation and distribution alternatives to the monolithic media structure. The Urban Media Co-op brings together other Baltimore groups in a production context. (With television and radio studio facilities.)—People's video Theater; Mayday Video Collective; etc. Photo journalism and print also emphasized.

COMMUNITY VIDEO THEORY:

Response to feedback—creative critical evaluation in support of working projects. Design and development of new proposals. Experimentation with different media designs (Challenge-For-Change, documentary-drama; newsreel, etc) in an Urban action context. Emphasis on media as a community problem-solving tool.

COMMUNITY (AND INSTITUTIONAL) VIDEO PRACTICE:

Individual and group projects combine production experience in VTR with first-hand involvement in social animation. Work study opportunities arise in training and technical assistance projects with community groups. Emphasis is on process not product; accurate information gathering, responsive information processing, and effective and creative information presentation. (Model cities, Dept of Juvenile services, South East Baltimore Corp, Antioch Self-Study.)

POINT-OF-VIEW MEDIA(TION)

Development of critical and advocacy skills. Watchdog project—working to make existing media more responsive to community needs. Studies in propaganda and attitude change. Baltimore Community Cable Television (CATV)—research and development project. "Grass Roots" journalism—techniques of inquiry.

OTHER COURSES AND CONCERNS:

—Introduction to the hardware and software—*VTR is not TV*
—Technical video workshop
—Film and tape screening with emphasis on the documentary and political statement about social change and for use in social change.
—Advanced 16mm production workshop

For further information on the Center's programs, write to: Alan Kaplan/Tom Johnson, Media program, Center for Social Research and Action, 805 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Phone: Area Code 301, 752-3656.