

Institute of Urban Studies

The Institute of Urban Studies was established in 1969 at the University of Winnipeg—a centrally located, small, Arts and Science University in the heart of Winnipeg. The Institute was created as a university-based centre for research, community action and education in the area of urban issues.

For the past two years the Institute has been working with citizens groups in an effort to develop more effective and democratic methods of reviving communication. Two surveys were done in the central city area—surveys which showed that less than 10% of the population knew what was going on in their area, plans that would effectively change the physical shape and social character of the area.

The Institute initiated the following research projects to explore the possibilities of community-communication:

a) In the summer of 1970 VTR and 16mm film were used to produce films on youth, the aged and the Main Street transient population. These tapes and films became the tools with which to involve a greater number of people in the discussion and elucidation of their respective needs.

b) In the Roosevelt Park area, an urban renewal area, the Institute was instrumental in helping the people set up the People's Committee for a Better Neighbourhood Inc., a neighbourhood development corporation attempting to engage in renewal and rehabilitation in its area. VTR was used by the people to document an analysis of conditions in the area and a record of their meetings amongst themselves and with members of local and provincial governments.

c) TR was also used extensively in the Windsor Park area, a middle-class suburban community. Attempts were made by the residents to identify the unique needs of this type of community. This community was even more interesting because of its bilingual issue in the education system had been creating conflict due to an inadequate understanding of Provincial Bill 113 on French language instruction. The people arranged to tape a series of School Board Seminars on the question using both French and English film crews and ending up with one French and one English tape. Requests to view these tapes have been overwhelming and the availability of a cable channel on which to show these tapes would certainly increase the awareness of a greater number of people.

d) In January 1971 a grant of \$10,000 was given to the Institute by the Winnipeg Foundation to support a pilot program designed to explore the feasibility of a system of television broadcasting or cablecasting to expand the flow of information to and participation of Winnipeg citizens. A large part of the Institute's time at present is taken up in investigating the legal and financial implications of community television. In this work, the National Film Board is associated with the IUS supplying both equipment and technical advice.

e) During the past few weeks the Institute in cooperation with Red River Community College carried out tests with various ½" and 1" VTR equipment—tests which were in essence, plugging tapes into the CATV system in Winnipeg. From these tests it was indicated that ½" VTR could be successfully used as a program vehicle for cablecasting.

f) The Institute is operating with its own equipment, equipment on a loan from MFB, equipment and technical help provided by Red River Community College and equipment from various private sources. The Institute, through the Federal Opportunities for Youth Program is providing 12 summer jobs in our community television project, and six of our full-time staff members are also involved at this time.

At the present, we are in a very exciting stage in the development of our community television program. In the weekend of May 14-16 we held the first of a series of communications workshops attended by some 150 interested Winnipeg people. This workshop resulted in the setting up of a 27 member Ad-hoc committee which will look into ways of setting up a community television system for Greater Winnipeg and to examine questions aired at the weekend workshop.

Jim Cassidy

Dalhousie

I am a graduate student in sociology at Dalhousie University studying communication and systems theory mainly. Also an amateur filmmaker and video freak. Our facilities here are growing and we hope to get our own type 1 video set next year.

Regards,
Barry de Ville

Le Videographe

Le Videographe is a \$100,000 half-inch video project financed by the Federal Government. The money came through Mike McCabe Planning Department, Department of Citizenship, Secretary of State, 130 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario and there is probably money for similar projects in other parts of Canada.

The proposal specifies a paid staff of five and a voluntary committee of five (3 to come from youth groups interested in programming). The committee will decide on productions.

Le Videographe plans to:

1. make available equipment and *expense* money for production
2. catalogue, copy and distribute tapes
3. run a mobile production unit
4. conduct and disseminate up-to-date technical research
5. have a 150 seat video theatre and several small playback areas

Equipment includes:

- 6 AV 3400
- 6 AV 3650
- 2 AVC 3200
- 1 SEG-J
- 1 EV 320 1"
- 1 sound synthesizer

Le Videographe's initial location will be the National Film Board Building. The project was conceived by people from Société Nouvelle and got the big grant because of its connection to the Film Board (the audio-visual arm of the Federal Government). The latter propose to move near the Carré St. Louis. Let's hope they make it out of those security-manned corridors.

There will be about 50 productions with a possible budget of \$700 each. If you are interested in working in this context, now is the time to contact

Robert Forget
NFB
Box 6100
Montreal 101, Quebec



Videotech

Videotech is a summer project operating on a grant from the Opportunities for Youth program. (For our American friends, Opportunities for Youth is a Federal government scheme to provide funds for students during the summer to carry out projects of their own design).

We plan to survey the extent of community involvement in cable television on a Canada-wide basis. The first step, we believe, in getting things together, is to find out the who's and the where's of the action. The result will be a Canadian Cable User's Directory to be available free at the end of the project.

We also will be conducting specific research in the areas of legislation and financing with end in mind of producing "How to" kits for groups wishing to use community channels on cable. We are going to pay particular attention to the field of co-operative ownership in the hopes that people may, in the near future, be able to co-operatively own their own cable system.

During the course of the summer we will be traveling across Canada for our field research to meet with people and groups involved in cable. We are presently compiling lists of such groups, but you could help by getting in touch with us first so that we could arrange to talk to you during the summer. That goes for any and all Videofolk who might read this.

Craig Layng, Simon Riley

Mosaic

We made tapes:

- 1) a Hum Dept meeting discussing, "What is Humanities?", juxtaposed with a tv show on pygmies.
- 2) in New York City we taped a Washington Square Sunday jam.
- 3) taped the Dawson "Save the Park" rally.
- 4) "Gunslinger" taped at Dawson and McGill.
- 5) taped the Education Symposium at Mosaic, held in March, with Gertrude MacFarlane, Squee Gordon, Sister MacDonald, Terry Tagney, Harry Wagschal, and John Slattery.
- 6) we did assorted, odd improvisations.

Ken Cameron went to the C.R.T.C. (Canadian Radio Television Commission) hearings in Ottawa, also went to the public hearings on April 30th to help present Montréal's case for peoplized TV.

Mosaic went en masse to McGill's FREEVIDEO. Also met the videopers on our New York trip—Global Village, Raundance, Videofreex.

Wrote the VIDEO ENSEMBLE proposal for Bill Conrod's package to the Secretary of State's summer project deal.

Submitted briefs to Paul Gallagher on the importance on Video in Dawson.

No educational institute in Canada as yet has large-scale, open access to video facilities. Dawson College, as an innovative, community (sometimes) college, might prove an excellent testing ground for an experiment in communications. The school could be put into the 1980's by providing two-way video experience as a regular, natural event. By "two-way," I mean that decentralization and dialogue occur in this televisual age when you can talk back to your television sets.

Further, the converging of equipment, motion, talented individuals, a population of 4500, and an idea that challenges reality even as it presents it before your eyes—this implosion—would act like a lens, concentrating all energy available onto the smallest point possible in order to burst through the thin skin of a "James Last: Non-Stop Dancing" world.

This implosion of Dawson would explode onto the Montréal and Québec community. Video becomes a catalytic instrument of growth forcing all factors to a critical mass. Technology declares its innocence and washes its tubes clean of the crimes committed by a world without consciousness.

Fred Rosenzweig

Video Ensemble

VIDEO ENSEMBLE is the coming together of an idea centering on coming together, of the technology we are developing with what needs developing—us; community groups, blocks, parks, peace.

The Secretary of State of Canada has accepted the Ensemble as an "Opportunity for Youth" program, and is now paying fifty french and english Montreal students of communication to do it, for the summer.

The idea is to give as many people as possible enough of a choice of information, so that an island consciousness can be built upon what the island people see. So, instead of looking at them (us)

"Good afternoon, madam. What's your name, please. And who did you vote for?" we offer the resources for them (people in communities) to do the looking—through the television eyepiece (eyepeace?).

Build on a positive reality, focusing much attention on what good is being achieved. This, essentially, is the healthy television reflection—rather than deflection into a commercial market.

Video Ensemble as bilingual reality is an information correlator, a production commune, a Videotheatre and a Videotheque.

A body of workers gathers information on community events about Montreal, and maps activities. The production commune does audio and video tapings. The Videotheatre is the feedback room on production as it's happening. The Videotheque keeps a library of tapes and operates a tape exchange.

Workshops serve as communication links between production teams and the community-at-large. Interested citizens are shown the various media tools. Project workers teach technically, and learn through interaction the needs and feelings of the community students.

Quoting the original brief to the government, "the working field groups do not draw from the community. Rather, every group—reflecting the spirit of this project—remains offered to the community as a means of higher achievement; perhaps the true role of the student in any society..."

Howie Arfin, project worker