



Chuck Anderson

Kinescoping

In 1972-73, a Longwood video crew was asked to make a documentary about the education of the deaf at a nearby BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) school for the hearing handicapped. This project developed into one of the most ambitious efforts yet undertaken in our non-program. Working on a volunteer basis over a period of 18 months, Longwood students got a great deal of experience both in video and in working with the handicapped. Production costs, such as a day of editing at the Egg Store in New York City, and the making of a kinescope at Rombex Studios in New York, were funded by BOCES, who was becoming increasingly enthusiastic about the project. The finished product, a 28-minute 16mm. film (kinescope) called "To Break the Silence," has been shown on local cablevision, and has been acquired by the Suffolk County Library System with other libraries expressing interest in acquiring a print. Not just the video team members benefited from



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this project. The teachers of the hearing handicapped found that they had to re-examine and in some cases update their teaching methods. It became clear to administration, teachers and participating parents that both present and future parents of deaf students needed specific and positive ideas about how their children may learn to communicate with the world.

Old Beginnings

Life goes on at Longwood. Students grow up, graduate, get interested in other things. This year, the Longwood video non-program seems to be starting all over again, back at the beginning, but with a slight difference. Video is now part of the English curriculum. Teachers from other disciplines have begun to make off-the-air recordings of science and history specials for selective viewing in school. The school is hooked into the Grassroots TV Network, and recently students were able to watch a tape about Wounded Knee, made by Native American Video.

On the floor above the student commons, there is a new room called the Radio and Television Studio. Longwood's closed circuit system is continuing to grow as a result of student energy and inventiveness, Student Council generosity (about \$100 worth of coaxial cable, connectors, and boosters), and administrative coercion. (The latter took place when our principal talked the middle school principal into giving us three monitor/receivers from his brand new closed circuit system in a recently-constructed building.) We're still using the two Title I machines. By means of workshops that we've conducted, the non-program now shares the portapak with five other schools in a 4,500-student system, where austerity budgets and split sessions are a way of life.

The new video group is producing a daily show called "AM/Longwood", consisting of news, music, interviews, weatherspots, and public service announcements. "The more things change, the more they remain the same." However, we're hoping to repeat some of the good things of the past. We've started a series of exchange tapes with other schools in Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., and New York - hopefully they will be as effective as the one we did with Kit Laybourne and the Concord Academy (Massachusetts) last year. We're negotiating with BOCES about a tape on the emotionally disturbed; the only problem is that they're as tight for money as we are. We've finally gotten through to the school board; they bought us about \$100 worth of videotape last year. Maybe one of these days, we'll be able to start building a tape library. The most important thing is that there is a growing enthusiasm for video among the students and faculty. One of our major goals this year is to see if we can get the cablevision people to interconnect the six schools that are spread out over the 52 square mile school district, and to encourage them to do more public access programming.