



the monitor

a publication of the minneapolis television network

program schedule, profiles, news, information

mtn appreciation night

December
Mark your calendar!
Friday, December 9
MTN Studio A
5:00-8:00 pm.

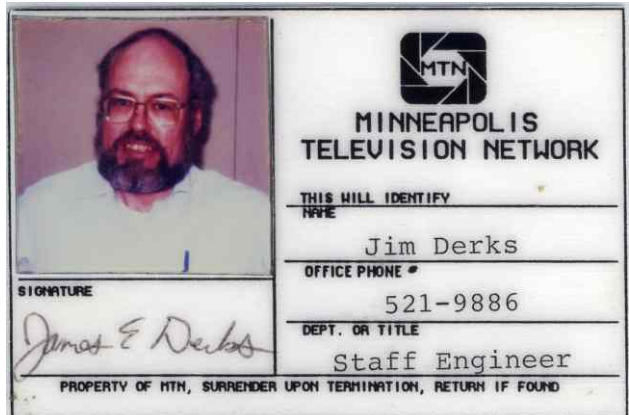
Mark your calendar for Friday, December 9, 2005, MTN Studio A, 5:00-8:00 pm. Join us then in celebrating community television and the many people who make MTN and our channels “the place to see and be seen.” We will be live on MTN 17 from 6:30 - 7:00 pm. The party will include plenty of food, beverages and people to celebrate. At this time we are soliciting short segments from your program to include in our live roll-in salutation to our producers. Please talk to any MTN staff person about how to submit your show. Show segments are due by December 2.

something to celebrate: tweaking community tv for 20 years

Jim Derks began working at MTN twenty years ago this September. Jim came on board as the fourth staff person hired for the new public access organization in Minneapolis. The first two staff hired were co-executive directors. Many suburban communities already had cable up and running by the time MTN was founded. There had been a long battle to select the cable provider for Minneapolis.

MTN was then located in a public school building, the Lehman Center, in the Uptown Area. Jim planned, purchased and set-up all the new

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december 2005 - january 2006

Speaking of collaboration: Hablando de Salud

Leon Mitchell has been producing TV shows at MTN since 1998. In that time he has worked with various community groups to make videos to get a wide variety of information to the community through public access television.

In the past, Mitchell worked with the Rev. Norma Patterson on the "Community at Work" program. Recently she asked him if he would produce a series of programs on health and wellness issues. These shows would be directed to a Latino audience and be in Spanish. "That was a challenge for me," Mitchell said, "since I do not speak Spanish."

The TV series that resulted is called "Hablando de Salud," or "Speaking About Health." The TV show is an outreach tool of the "Women's Wellness" program at the YWCA of Minneapolis. Patterson introduced Mitchell to three instructors at the YWCA program. They are Diane Love-Scott and Yiraco Chichaco, who are social workers at Hennepin County, and Maria Padilla, who is the director of the Nosotras program at Centro, Inc.

The three instructors would host the show and Mitchell would

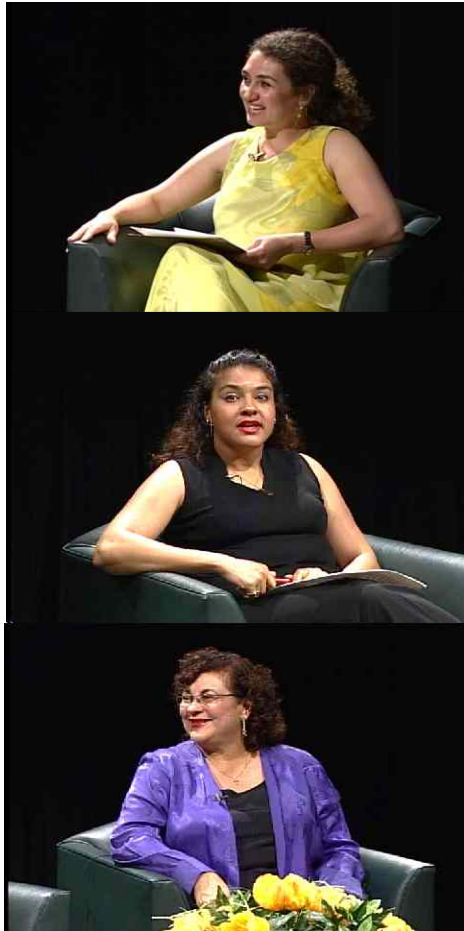
direct it. They sat down and worked out the details to make it possible for Mitchell to produce a program in a language he does not know.

Mitchell said, "I briefed them on what I need to produce the show. For example, if one of them makes a mistake in the studio, I have her raise her hand to let me know that it is a mistake, so when she starts over I can make it fluid in editing." Mitchell also brought in MTN member Eduardo Bernal, producer of the Latino variety and news show "Zona Latina." Bernal, whose first language is Spanish, assists Mitchell in the studio production.

The "Women's Wellness" program at the YWCA is a free program for low income, minority women. The program gives them instruction on proper exercise, health, and nutrition. Co-host Chichaco said that the TV show helps them take the program out into the community, because "everyone understands TV."

Chichaco said that she was resistant at first to doing the TV show, but now she considers it fun. She and her two co-hosts do the research, find guests and plan out the one-hour information shows by themselves.

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the mtn monitor (december 2005 - january 2006)

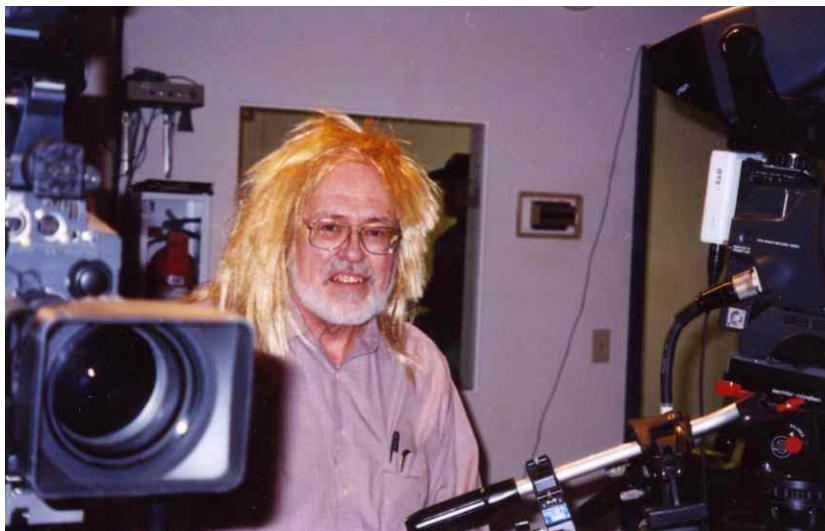
editor/design... john akre (send contributions, suggestions, complaints, news tips, unreasonably ambitious resolutions, etc to: jakre@mtn.org (612) 331-8575 ext. 307.) the monitor is published bi-monthly by the minneapolis television network.

jim derks from page 1

equipment. Our advanced cameras at that time were large three tube Hitachi cameras that connected to a heavy 3/4 inch twenty-minute tape deck. Those cameras are long gone but some equipment such as our original video monitors are still in use today. Such equipment longevity is in great part

due to Jim Derks and his talent and resourcefulness as our chief engineer. Join us on December 9th at the MTN Appreciation Night in saying, "Thank you, Jim!"

Pam Colby



"I always wondered what it would be like to be a blonde." Jim Derks.

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www.mtn.org

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marcy gets media mtn collaborates with neighborhood school

This fall, MTN began another Youth Training collaboration with Marcy Open School, located within easy walking distance of our St. Anthony Main location. Frank Dewey's class of middle school students worked on video projects both at Marcy School and at MTN to not only learn how to make media but also to learn how media works.

The students chose a topic for their media adventure. The topic they chose was "Heroes of the Big Screen."

Local filmmaker and MTN member Lisa Ganser facilitated the classroom portion of the media training, under the supervision of MTN Senior Production Manager J.C. Bagdadi. Ganser will package the shorts into a presentation to be run on the channel.

My collaboration began when the group visited MTN for the Studio sessions. We started by showing the students the cameras and introduced them to the chroma-key backdrop. You could see the excitement in their faces as they imagined themselves in front of moving landscapes and other images. By their next visit, the students were ready for a talk show. Other students claimed cameras or ran into the control room to switch the cameras, control the sound levels, and just watch.

During that visit the students staged a mock trial. A thoughtful young girl took the prosecutor's role. The case placed their teacher, Frank Dewey, on trial for

"too much homework." One of the witnesses, a young boy, testified that he could not cope with the heavy load. It was causing him sleep deprivation. But the defense went to work and proved to the jury that the assignments were not too much to bear. The teacher was redeemed.

A third session produced a talk show on Marcy School issues, like limited bathroom passes, the lunch menu, favorite subjects, and homework.

Then came the Superheroes with their special powers. The blue screen allowed them to talk in front of a postcard of New York City (or was it Gotham City.) Among those visiting were Batman, Superman, and Spider Boy. Tough questions were posed. One false superhero was dragged out by a guard for impersonating a superhero and beating up good people.

Then came a couple of shows on sports heroes and the responsibility they have for doing the right thing. Freshly injured Vikings quarterback Duante Culpepper (as played by one of the Marcy students) took some heat from the host for not leading the team to more wins. Other heroes mentioned were Tupac and Biggy Small.

During the course, the students learned about the communication process of mass media and asked questions about heroism and mass culture. It was good to see all that youthful enthusiasm at 9 a.m. and was personally rewarding for this instructor as well.

Doug Cain

hablando de salud from page 2

Chichaco said that they have heard from a number of viewers of the show, and have gotten positive feedback about it.

Mitchell said that the TV show is definitely needed by the Latino community, which is growing and has needs that must be addressed. Some of the health issues discussed in the shows include diabetes, cancer, family

planning, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and heart disease.

"Hablando de Salud - Speaking About Health" shows on Fridays at 8:00 p.m. on MTN 16.

John Akre

bills threaten community tv

On July 1, Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) introduced Senate bill 1349 and Representatives Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Albert Wynn (D-MD) introduced House of Representatives Bill 3146. Titled "The Video Choice Act of 2005," these companion bills are short on details, but the bottom line is that they threaten our local cable franchises by allowing "competitive video service providers" to provide cable television services without having to get a franchise from the city.

Then on July 29, Senator John Ensign (R-NV) introduced Senate bill 1504, "The Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act." Sen. Ensign's bill is a much more comprehensive attempt to re-write communications law, and it would not only allow competitive video providers to provide service without a franchise, it would also cancel existing franchises.

Some members of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) were told by their senators and representatives that no congressional member thinks he or she will lose an election over giving up telco franchising, but that they would gain the support and adoration (and money) of the telephone and cable companies if they preempt local governments on franchising.

If this happens, franchise fees and funding for public, educational and government access programming would either go away or would be at risk for elimination.

The elected leaders of our nation's cities and counties stand ready and willing to welcome video competition in their communities. Nationalizing franchising, however, would limit the benefits of head-to-head video competition to a chosen few. Eliminating franchises will deprive local government of the power to perform its basic functions.

Congress should not try to manage local streets and sidewalks from Washington, D.C. National

franchising would abrogate a basic tenet of federalism by granting companies access to locally owned property.

Call, write or e-mail your senators and representative. Contact information is given below. Be sure to talk about how you use community television.

Coralie Wilson

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To send an e-mail



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**next mtn member's
screening:**

**friday, january 13
7 p.m. in studio A**

Bring something to screen or just come to watch. There is a 10 minute limit on all show clips. Questions? Call John at (612) 331-8575 ext. 307.



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See page one

