



# the monitor

a publication of the minneapolis television network

august - september 2006



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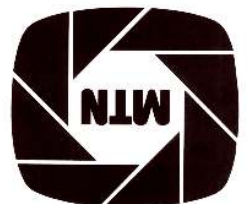
City Council Members discuss "Community Standards" at the annual MTN Members Meeting (above). See page 3.  
Community TV workers gather in Boston for the 2006 Alliance for Community Media Conference (left). See page 2.

## program schedule, profiles, news, information

mtn closed for labor day  
mtn will be closed monday, september 4 for labor day. regularly scheduled series programs will not air. series tapes are due tuesday, september 5 at 1 pm.

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# acm boston 2006: 2 reports colby: twin cities host next year's event

I am writing from **Boston** where the annual **Alliance for Community Media** conference has just concluded. This is an international conference and trade show with attendees from as far as Amsterdam, Africa, the Caribbean and Hawaii. Five hundred and fifty community media advocates, producers, staff people, digital storytellers, technical wizards, attorneys, public policy wonks and more attended this event. Next year this amazing conference will happen in **downtown Minneapolis** from **July 18-21**. So **SAVE THOSE DATES!**

I've been coming to this conference since 1993. Many faces are familiar and many faces are refreshingly new. But among both the new and the familiar is an activist fever that is palpable this year because community television as we know it is endangered. New bills in the **US House of Representatives** and now the **Senate** threaten the entitlement of cities to regulate their "right of way." In the case of cable television this is called franchising. This regulation of cable by the City of Minneapolis is how MTN is funded. Check these web links out if you would like more information on what is happening at a national level and for some specifics on what you can do: [www.mtn.org](http://www.mtn.org), [www.saveaccess.org](http://www.saveaccess.org). MTN has a free public Internet terminal near the dub rack if you need Internet access.

So what is this activist fever? It is a hotel filled with people who believe that community media is an essential right. It is the right to tell our stories and to communicate with our neighbors utilizing community television. That is why this community media movement is still going strong after 30 years. We are communicators and we need the tools and the capacity to do our work. That is what this conference is all about.

Each year the organization passes on a very special Hawaiian drum to

the group hosting the next conference. This symbolic drum is used because in many cultures the drum was an important tool for communication. This year I along with **Mike Wassenaar** of **Saint Paul Neighborhood Network** and **Cor Wilson** of **CTV** accepted the drum. There will be much excitement and a lot of work in hosting the conference but primarily it will be an opportunity for MTN members to participate. We will be looking for many volunteers to assist with the work of the conference as the year progresses. I hope that as next July nears, you will consider the opportunity to get involved. You will not regret it.

If you are interested in the ACM Conference in full detail, including web streams of seminars and participant blogs and video blogs, visit [www.acmboston.org](http://www.acmboston.org).  
-Pam Colby



Pam Colby and Doug Cain at the Alliance for Community Media Conference in Boston.

## cain: conference builds understanding

This is Doug Cain reporting live from the **2006 Alliance for Community Media** conference in Boston. Last night, July 6, we met in **Faneuil Hall**, where **Sam Adams** spoke out against colonial rule to start the American Revolution (see photo on page 1). With public access one of the bargaining chips at risk in rewrites of current telecommunications policy, we could lose an important tool to insure our First Amendment right to Freedom of Speech. In the face of that threat, we gathered to rally and celebrate our success over nearly thirty years.

The annual **Hometown Video Awards** recognized quite an impressive array of community media projects. Access productions from centers large and small across the US won awards. From City Cable Minneapolis, **MPD Cops** won as an informational feature. Minnesota had winning representation by other metro centers in **White Bear Lake**, **Coon Rapids** and **Lake Minnetonka**.

Next year may be your best chance to showcase what makes MTN so special. Think of how we can highlight what we do throughout the year. Watch for the applications this winter. Next year, the awards program will be held in Minneapolis as the Twin Cities will host the 2007 ACM conference.

Following the awards ceremony, we reconvened for a discussion on how Community Media has been fixing what mainstream media have been breaking. One speaker addressed a "3D vacuum" within the mainstream media: "diversity, disagreement and debate" are all sorely missing from our press and airwaves. Looking over the changing landscape of new media technology (broadband, cellular and wireless), an artificial scarcity has been imposed, in spite of so much

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the mtn monitor (august - september 2006)

editor/design... john akre (send contributions, suggestions, complaints, news tips, hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer, etc to: [jakre@mtn.org](mailto:jakre@mtn.org) (612) 331-8575 ext. 307.) the monitor is published bi-monthly by the minneapolis television network.

# mtn members meeting

## council members discuss community standards

Each year, MTN hosts a **Members Meeting** with the **Minneapolis City Council**. MTN is a non-profit organization, but the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor are identified as the Members of the organizations in MTN's bylaws. It is they who appoint the members of the volunteer board that sets MTN policies and oversees MTN's Executive Director.

This year, the **Members Meeting** was held on June 27 in MTN's Studio A. Many MTN members attended as did the majority of the Minneapolis City Council. After making a presentation about MTN and showing clips of many of the shows on the channels, **MTN Executive Director Pam Colby** answered questions posed by the Council Members present.

A major topic of discussion at the meeting was the development of **Community Standards** that might restrict some kinds of programming on MTN. The Mayor and Council President Barbara Johnson have encouraged MTN to adopt such standards. Here are some excerpts of that discussion.

**Council President Barbara Johnson (Ward 4):** I just would ask, and Ms. Colby and I have talked about this... about the development of Community Standards.

**Pam Colby:** ...I am pushing up against our need to be a First Amendment/free speech forum... but I have promised the Mayor to gather information about this.

**Council Member Ralph Remington (Ward 10):** ...I think it would be hard to discern what those standards would be without infringing on

the First Amendment... I know a little bit about it being an artist and having done work that sometimes offends people and sometimes doesn't.

**Council Member Elizabeth Glidden (Ward 8):** I for one think we have to be very cautious in how we press against these First Amendment rights.... We have to be very careful that we're not making content-based regulations that are violating our role. And what does that mean in relation to what are Community Standards? I have no idea.

**Council Member Betsy Hodges (Ward 13):** There are some challenges being faced right now and a lot of issues on the table. I want to just recognize that in the clips we saw there is so much good programming going on. There is so much of an opportunity for the public to have a genuine voice.

**Council Vice President Robert Lilligren (Ward 6):** Thanks for your work and the work of your staff, your board and your members. It is an incredible amount of work that you do, and on behalf of the Council I would like to say that it is appreciated.



Nate Mains and Andy Speake did a great job of setting up Studio A for the Meeting.

next mtn member's screening:  
friday, september 8 at 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.

## cain from page 2

bandwidth available. Great opportunities are available right now to create another kind of media, and we already have a vision of what that would be.

Our strength is understanding the tools of communication and our ability to shape technologies for more vital human and non-commercial needs. Applying new emerging media through internet outlets such as blogs, vlogs, podcasts, and archiving servers also point the way to more democracy. New collaborations are afoot in these challenging times and we must continue to identify our needs and organize links to build bridges spanning

communities.

The wide expanse of infrastructure has room for everyone and it must include us all. Public access centers have been links for many in the past and can be the means to design a media forum that is local but global in its scope.

We can help shape this new era in telecommunications so our voices will be heard. It's not too late to let your state and federal officials know that access to community media through PEG television channels is important to you! We also have to be ready to adapt to changes that may take place in the near future.

-Doug Cain

## the minneapolis television network

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www.mtn.org

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# mtn series program schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>MTN 16 5:00 Somali TV 6:00 Discover Islam 7:00 Islamic View 8:00 As Above, So Below 9:00 Monday Night Live 9:30 The Hemp Channel 10:30 Full Auto 10:30 Difference Makers 11:30 Heavy Metal TV</p> <p>MTN 17 5:00 Spectator 6:00 Friendship Set to Music 7:00 SPNN Youth Videos 7:30 Our Turn 8:00 Video Voices 8:30 Moving Forward 9:30 The Review 10:00 Democracy Now 11:30 Diet to End Diseases</p> <p>MTN 75 5:00 Holding Forth the Truth 5:30 Living Word Church 6:00 New Vision 6:30 Beyond Today 7:00 Lovepower 8:00 Fire of Change 9:00 PRSPKTV on Life 11:00 Army Newswatch 11:30 Atheist Views</p>	<p>MTN 16 5:00 Somali American Media 6:00 Uhura 7:00 Leslie Davis Show 7:30 We the People 8:00 Altera Vista 9:00 The Nancy Boys 10:00 Drinking with Ian 10:30 Prima Donnas 11:00 Rock and Roll Girl 11:30 The Jezebel Johnson Show</p> <p>MTN 17 5:00 WWA 5:30 30 Minutes with an Author 6:00 Republican Roundtable 6:30 Vets Visits On TV 7:00 Kinpride 7:30 Bi Cities! 8:00 Soap Factory Gallery 8:30 Creatures for Adoption 9:00 Black Economics 10:00 Democracy Now 11:00 Totally Scrabble Tuesday</p> <p>MTN 75 5:00 First Community Baptist 6:00 Search the Scriptures 6:30 Piercing Darkness 7:00 Pure Heart Clear Mind 8:00 Trinity Tabernacle 9:00 Word Encounter 10:00 Curtis Farrar Ministries 11:00 The Bible Speaks</p>	<p>MTN 16 5:00 Community Views 6:00 Somaliland America TV 7:00 MTN Com'ry Events 8:00 Let's Learn to Get Along 8:30 Humanist Perspectives 9:00 Judy Corrao Show 9:30 Rainbow Flag 10:00 Irene on TV 10:30 Holistic Health 11:00 LaRouche</p> <p>MTN 17 5:00 Variety Show 6:00 Bal of Minerva 7:00 On Transit 7:30 House Call 8:00 The Mary Hanson Show 8:30 Perils for Pedestrians 9:00 Viva and Jerry's Country Videos 10:00 Democracy Now 11:00 Living Free</p> <p>MTN 75 5:00 Book of Acts 5:30 Hour of Restoration 6:00 Greater Friendship 7:00 Word of God 8:00 Hope Community Presents 9:00 Unleavened Bread 10:00 Metro MN Destroyed 11:00 Healing and Victory Today 11:30 National Socialist Movement</p>	<p>MTN 16 5:00 Somali TV 6:00 Somali Children Association of MN 6:30 Fitness and Faith 7:00 Best of the Cities 8:00 Chinese News and Entertainment 9:00 Somali Democracy Center 10:00 MTN Community Events</p> <p>MTN 17 5:00 Lemmy O Live 5:30 From the Mic 6:30 TV Bookshelf 7:30 Jazz Plus More 8:30 T.C. Muzique 9:30 Art Cunningham 10:00 Democracy Now</p> <p>MTN 75 5:00 Cornerstone Prayer Center 6:00 Transforming Kingdom Hearts 6:30 Tomorrow's World 7:00 Sword of the Spirit 8:00 Turn or Burn 9:00 Hear What the Lord is Saying 10:00 Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church</p>	<p>MTN 16 5:00 Somali Media 6:00 Oromia Regional State TV 7:00 Oromo TV 8:00 Hablando de Salud 9:00 Somali Mai TV Network 10:00 MTN Community Events</p> <p>MTN 17 5:00 Stenglein Byline 5:30 A Conversation with Paul Ostrow 6:00 Toad, Turtle and Whoever Else Shows Up 6:30 Minneapolis Neighborhood News 7:00 Civil Liberties Forum 7:30 MSP Sports 8:00 MBTV 8:30 Third Party Forum 9:00 Art Temple 9:30 Humanist Views 10:00 Democracy Now 11:00 Body Rock</p> <p>MTN 75 5:00 The Best is Yet to Come 6:00 Redeemed Life Church International 6:30 Bible Study Ministries 7:00 Walking By Faith 7:30 Prophetic Word 8:00 Greater Faith 9:00 Shalom Scripture 10:00 Help is on the Way 11:00 That Which Is</p>	<p>MTN 16 5:00 Busho TV 6:00 Awude Ethiopia 7:00 Dancing with Johannah 7:30 Atheist Alliance 8:00 MTN Community Events 10:00 Undercover TV 10:30 The Marty Doogin Show 11:00 T.C. Muzique Late Nite</p> <p>MTN 17 5:00 En Familia 5:30 Inner City Fishing 8:00 My World 8:30 Atheists Talk 11:00 Cinema Apocalypse 11:30 Just a Show</p> <p>MTN 75 5:00 Light on the Gospel 6:00 Imamm W. Deen Mohammed and Guest 7:00 Faith Walk 8:00 Eagle Christian Church 8:30 Solid Rock Church 9:00 Hour of Power 10:00 Truth of God 11:00 Key to the Kingdom 11:30 Galatians Study</p>	<p>MTN 16 5:00 Minneapolis Neighborhood News 5:30 MN at Work 6:00 Wajci TV 7:00 TV Lao 8:00 MTN Community Events 9:00 Somali Life</p> <p>MTN 17 5:00 Black Focus 7:00 Telling People's Stories 7:30 Strictly Seniors 8:00 ETBM 9:00 Lemmy O 9:30 Holding People Accountable 10:00 TBA</p> <p>MTN 75 5:00 Songs of Praise 6:00 Walking in the Light 6:30 Worldwide Outreach for Christ 7:30 Stand on the Word 8:30 One Day at a Time 9:00 The Hidden Truth 10:00 Behel Church 11:00 Farrankan Speaks</p>

click "tv guide" at [mtn.org](http://mtn.org) for a current schedule of stand-alone and series programs