



### BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Ira Schneider, Michael Shamburg,  
Paul Ryan, Editors of *Radical Software*

The International Section of the Black Panther Party has begun a video tape program to be directed to the United States and Europe on a regular basis to cover the spectrum of the international anti-imperialist revolutionary movement. We need much more equipment and material than we have accumulated so far, in order to make the best use of this revolutionary communications medium. Now we are in the process of building up a tape library for information, research, and distribution purposes. We would sincerely appreciate having some of the tapes you have announced in the RADICAL SOFTWARE paper.

- Specifically, these are the tapes that we need:
- Apollo 10 (11 and 13)
  - Post Kent State—Washington D.C. Peace Demonstration
  - News taped off TV during the week of the Kent State killings and Cambodia protest demonstrations
  - President Nixon's State of the Union Message
  - The Party the President threw for the Astronauts
  - Computer: document on the home computer
  - Rose Art Museum Show: Vision and Television documentary, Jan. '70
  - New York State CATV operators convention
  - Glen Falls, N.Y. profile of a town about to install CATV

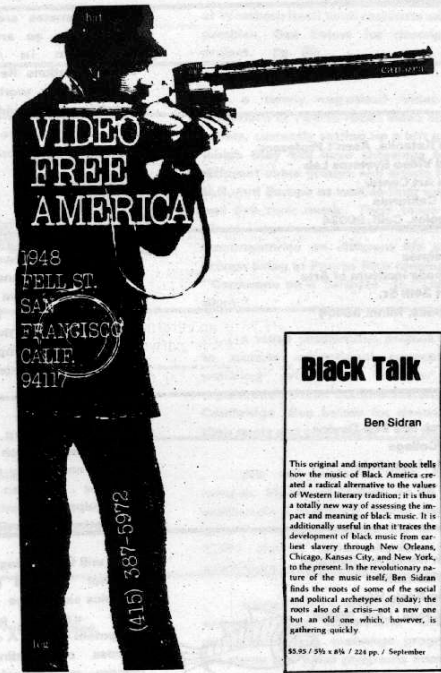
We don't know what kind of arrangements have to be made in order for us to receive these tapes, but we really need them and you can be certain that they will be put to fantastic use once we receive them. The best thing would be for you to send them to us immediately, and we can then send you copies of our tapes in exchange. So far, we have produced all of six tapes here and we are already getting political repercussions. Time is of the essence, the faster we get them the faster we can make more powerful propaganda for the people's revolution around the world.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

*Eldridge Cleaver*

Eldridge Cleaver  
Minister of Information

16 March 1971



### Black Talk

Ben Sidran

This original and important book tells how the music of Black America created a radical alternative to the values of Western literary tradition; it is thus a totally new way of assessing the impact and meaning of black music. It is additionally useful in that it traces the development of black music from earliest slavery through New Orleans, Chicago, Kansas City, and New York, to the present. In the revolutionary nature of the music itself, Ben Sidran finds the roots of some of the social and political archetypes of today; the roots also of a crisis—not a new one but an old one which, however, is gathering quickly.

\$5.95 / 5½" x 8½" / 224 pp. / September

## VIDEO COMMUNITY AT WESTBETH

Submitted by Ann Douglass to New York State Council on the Arts

To expand our just-started project we wish to develop a program of education conceived of by artists and their families. We will use video-recorders to make instructional video tapes, to be first viewed by residents and then copied and distributed to N.Y. State video-educational centers; and throughout the country and the world. We are co-ordinating distribution with *Raindance*.

An Educational Environment must have self-discipline with the time-freedom to explore at one's own pace; have friends and resources available for feedback, growth, reference, relaxation; have the well-made, servicable tools that are understood by their users—respected but not worshipped.

On May 27th, Westbeth began broadcasting live and showing pre-recorded ½" video tapes through its master antenna. There is an antenna outlet in each of the 383 living/studio apartments. Those residents who have connected their TV sets to this cable outlet are able to receive our broadcasts on Channel 3. There are over 150 TV sets now connected and receiving Channel 3. The number is growing each day and week.

Broadcasts originate from Studio H-354, where the video signal from the recorder is transferred to a radio signal (because of a RF Modulator inside the deck) that travels over a co-ax cable into the master antenna system, where it is directed to Channel 3. There, the signal is amplified—along with all the other broadcast signals—and carried via cable into every apartment. The master antenna system was built into the renovation. Our video equipment is 1 porta-pack deck, 1 monitor; both owned but not paid for by Ann Douglass. The video camera, RF modulator, and amplifier are borrowed.

We have already made 15 tapes. We have opened our studio and channel weekly to the video community. (Thursday nights at 8 p.m.) Informally, they talk with residents, exchange information, educate us about video tape, educate each other and show what tapes they please.

Recorders are available in studio/living privacy, where residents can record conversations, fun; experiment.

Equipment available to children to work independent

of adult direction.

Inter-building exchange; international cooking; plant-growing; repair; clever ideas for improving living space, etc.

Recorders available to residents to take with them:

to visits to other artists  
to important conferences  
to music events, or just for the fun of it.

Porta-pack for use in community immediately around Westbeth (See Summer Program).

### Training Program

We want to give 3 people instruction on repair of video equipment, to be followed by their making an instructional tape in cooperation with the video community.

### Program

Broadcasting: to develop a model for community broadcasting.

We are the first building to offer free, unsponsored video broadcasting, with complete access to the studio. We are training all interested in using the equipment. There are already 10 people here who know how to operate a porta-pak and run tapes. The studio is open to all residents, management, and staff. Our channel is open to video community.

(We have already shown work from Videofreex, Raindance, Space, Global Village, Peoples Video Theater, Alternative Media Project, Vega (Ithaca, Cornell) Jackie Cassen, Video House (Washington, D.C.).

Video making at Westbeth to include the following:  
live broadcast of tenant/management meetings (now limited to 20 people). We need cable and boosters to be able to broadcast live from the public spaces in the building. (The monthly meeting is held in the cabaret) 500 feet from present cable;

to have recorders available to performers at development and rehearsal stages, so they can judge the effectiveness of their work:

recorders to tape our public performances: festivals, dance concerts, etc.

To train 2 residents in TV repair; followed by instructional how-to-tape for national distribution to libraries, video centers, etc.

### SUMMER PROGRAM

Because our feedback has been instructional,

supportive, and imaginative, we want to continue this program without pause.

### Summer projects wanted:

Community-neighborhood is 14th St. to 7th Ave: 7th Ave. to Canal and to River. Some residents are in panic over personal security (muggings and robberies). We want to educate our neighbors about artists and how we live; and to educate ourselves toward better understanding of our neighbors. (They include street gangs, gay cruisers, straight people, meat packers: a very poor neighborhood to the south, truck drivers and warehouse attendants). We want to work with them and the established community associations; such as, churches, block associations, small businessmen, neighboring artists; Bella Abzug; the 6th precinct; other local theaters and concert halls; and hospitals: all directed toward a more informative, yet informal, understanding with our neighbors.

Rent is needed for present studio. We have been offered free studio space from Westbeth on the top floor of a building overlooking the river. To make this space workable, we will need money for locks, minimal building supplies, lighting. In either case, we will need reimbursement for material presently loaned (about 500 dollars worth on loaned equipment); about \$200 for building material.

Also for:

- continuing live broadcasting.
- continuing playing tapes as they come in from around the world.
- beginning to tape graphics arts collective: instructional tapes; how-to set up a collective tape.
- beginning to make other education/information tapes, i.e., to develop our program along its natural lines; to be free to have equipment and tape to go where we want to; to develop the media experimentally and continually.
- extending cable beyond Westbeth into neighborhood. We are in process of investigating technical feasibility. (FCC regulations do not apply to area within 15 block radius.) Community demand and awareness are accelerating. Receiving Manhattan Cable and Teleprompter service at great discount. Supplying these Cable Franchise companies with Community broadcasting from Westbeth.
- Cable to work with Citizen's Committee.
- Request money for feasibility study and negotiation time.

Sales of videotape is not a self-supporting enterprise and definitely cannot yet support a straight exchange. (Our losses, however, are minimal, as we are using our existing hardware and administrative structure to handle requests. It receives support from *RADICAL SOFTWARE* sales, New York State Council on the Arts grant money, and consultancies.)

We are hesitant to push the plan and have it appear as something it is not intended to be (i.e. a super-slick "underground" videotape network mail order service.) However, we feel there is a difference between traditional marketing, where people are forced to buy; and access, where critical information is available to allow users to make their own decisions. Thus, we want to accelerate the availability of videotapes in as intelligent a manner as possible.

At this point our own affairs enter in. We have decided to relax business activities over the summer and concentrate on creative ones. This means our administrative structure will function solely on existing projects: *RADICAL SOFTWARE* distribution, preparation of a New York State index of video activity, and response to current (including this one) tape offers.

During the summer period (July and August) we are going to do a variety of things. Beryl and Ira will spend part of their time traveling and videotaping through the Mid- and Far West. They plan to attend a convention of the National Student Association in August

(in Colorado) and see what interest heads of college governments have in a university tape exchange network.

Louis, Megan, and Jodie plan to remain in or near New York to administer distribution of tapes and circulation of *RADICAL SOFTWARE*, and help ease the transition to our new loft (see inside front cover).

Michael will be traveling and videotaping through Japan and the far East.

And Desai and Dudley will be working out of a country home in upstate New York on a local CATV project along with tape editing and duplication. They will also run student videotape workshops in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In the fall, our current grant (which pays salaries) from the New York State Council on the Arts expires. While we have applied for renewal and expansion (to include computers in symbiosis with video), we are not planning on it. This is not out of pessimism, but because we want to maintain flexibility so that if we do receive more money it will aid an ongoing structure, not resuscitate a dying one.

Thus, the role of a distribution network becomes very important to

our own future. If we are to do it, it has to be self-sustaining. And we need it to distribute our own videotapes.

Our distribution strategy will be a synergy of the intelligence we accumulate from visiting people and seeing their tape, and what they say their needs are.

We will implement it through personal contacts and our own mail order network which includes *RADICAL SOFTWARE* subscribers (more than 1,000 past and present), returns from questionnaires we have distributed asking people if they have hardware, and other mailing lists we have access to (e.g. Sony dealers, schools).

While we have only committed ourselves to six issues of *RADICAL SOFTWARE*, we now plan to maintain some print presence (with a less expensive and time-consuming format) and that will help maintain access to the network.

So, in short, we commit ourselves to making the network self-sustaining. (We may offer it as a service to groups with enough money to support an ongoing subscription.)

If you have tapes you think we can help with, if you want to exchange tape, or if you have general feedback, please let us know.

END

page 2: EXCHANGES

PROCESS PRINT-OUT

VIDEOTAPE EXCHANGES: April thru June 1971

<u>Producer</u>	<u>Software (minutes)</u>	<u>Software (minutes)</u>	<u>Postage</u>
7. HOMESKIN P.O. Box 3125 San Francisco	Doukhobors community in Skaskatchewan 2(30)	San Francisco Oil Spill (30); Ezekiel Family commune (30)	no record
8. MEDIA ACCESS CENTER 1115 Merrill Street Menlo Park, Calif.	Video Potatoes: California living composite (60)	Jack Moore European underground tapes 2(20) plus \$30 royalty*	nr
9. ANTIOCH COLLEGE AV DEPT. Yellow Springs, Ohio	Ohio farm environment (20)	Clinton Project kids make own TV (30)	\$1.07
10. JOHNNY VIDEOTAPE 465 9th Avenue Santa Cruz, Calif.	Economics of video (40)	Tender is the Tape II: Raindance composite (60)	
11. CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE Montreal, Canada	we initiated	Tender is the Tape II (60)	nr
12. STATE UNIV. OF NEW YORK Buffalo, New York	Composite: University life (60) & raw (60)	Yippies invade Frost, Cleaver (60); Altamont (60)	nr
13. BOB WITHERS 275 Dwight Street New Haven, Conn.	Abstractions (30)	Knowledge & Industry III: Raindance Media primer (30)	\$.98
14. BLACK PANTHER PARTY BP 118 Grande Poste Algiers, Algeria	we initiated	D.C. demonstrations 1970, Nixon peace speech, moon-walk, astros party (80)	\$6.09
15. BRIAN SMITH 2417 Dupont Ave. S. Minneapolis, Minn.	borrowed tape, software promised later	Clinton Project (30)	\$2.40
16. ANT FARM 247 Gate 5 Road Sausalito, Calif.	Wild Seed: media nomad composite (30)	Raindance composite: double feedback, Altamont, rap on junkies 2(30)	picked-up
17. X-TV 9945 86 Avenue Edmonton, Canada	Electric Letter: sights of Edmonton, rock music, FLQ raps (20)	Clinton Project (20)	nr
18. FREE VIDEO P.O. Box 11 Station N Montreal, Canada	Free Video Festival, March 1971 (30) on tape	Ecology edit, motor-cycles, farming (60)	picked-up
19. SOURCE COALITION 2115 S Street NW Washington, D.C.	we initiated	Bucky Fuller, Nixon off-air (80)	picked-up
20. VIDIOTS c/o Fred Endsley UCLA Dickson Art Center Los Angeles, Calif.	Information Sampler: organic farming, jamming, studio work (20)	Bucky Fuller (30)	nr

IN →

OUT →

\*Royalties paid by Raindance for tapes used at college gigs