

11/11/96

Dear Woody,

Enclosed is a copy of the most recent edit I have made with the 1992 interview. This one is longer than the version published in "The Squealer" (1995), because the server has plenty of memory. I was especially interested to include more of the discussion of the Rutt-Etra and framing issues in this new edit. This longer edit is intended for the SUNY Buffalo/Alfred media study server project, which I described on the phone last week. Essentially, Peer and some others at SUNY Alfred received a grant to establish this server for students and faculty in these media departments. Since I'm currently presenting the 17-hour video survey at UB, I proposed that these interviews appear on the server as a kind of research site. Also, more than half of the interviewees worked in New York State during the early 1970s, and so these detailed discussions of various scenes and aesthetic constructions may help to represent the integrity and importance of these early upstate media scenes, especially during this current period of serious university cutbacks which seem to be aimed at departments established in the late 60s (Media Study and American Studies at UB, Media Study at Binghamton). This server space makes these interviews publicly accessible. Others interviewed: Peer Bode, Phil Jones (Ithaca Video Project), Bob Devine (Antioch College and public access), Parry Teasdale (Videofreex), Tony Conrad, Ken Marsh and Elliott Glass (People's Video Theater), Doug Hall.

I still haven't spoken to a lawyer yet about the issue of copyright. My understanding is that if I indicate that the material has a copyright (c.) anyone could download the interviews for educational purposes, but could not publish them or substitute his or her name as author. If that's the case, that's fine. I hope that people download and read them. I only don't want someone else to publish them for profit. I will call you when I get some legal advice.

I'm working with Barbara Lattanzi (who is teaching in the Digital Arts Lab now) and 2 of her students to design the website for the interviews. I'd like to finish the project by the end of this semester or at the latest at the beginning of the next semester, as I'll be leaving for Brno by mid-February if plans don't change. Please look at the new edit; make changes or additions where you want, and either email or post me back the new version, or fax or call me the

changes. We'll also need a graphic image to make into a few "tiles" for the html layout. We've used stills from tapes for some of the other interviews. I would recommend an image from "C-Trend", which I have a good copy of here. We could also use an image from the videotaped interview (1992). My preference is to refer to the tape, but I'm comfortable with anything you suggest.

I haven't had time to speak to Barbara about any of the other material you mentioned—that you have the Ars Electronica catalog and the SF MOMA catalog on disk...I'm particularly interested in putting out the Ars Electronica catalog as another kind of research project that is otherwise very difficult to access.

Also, Julia Dzwonkoski (who was working, volunteering, on the Hallwalls Library--(716-883-0479=Julia's home) should be sending you soon the Filemaker Pro program for tape archiving and information on the NAMID (National Moving Image Database) video archiving work. She said the Bob Doyle, who is back at Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester now, had some hand in developing the program, and has been working for the last few years with Synapse and Everson collections at Syracuse University. So you may want to talk to him as well.

I've also included some other documents. One is the draft of my essay, which will be published and accompany the 17-hour survey. It's intended to be a general orientation to the work and the working ideas of the period. There is more specific information on each program and on each tape, as well as a massive bibliography. I've included the introductions to the 8 programs, for your interest. Note especially Program #5—Performance of Video Imaging Tools and Program #6—Decentralized Communications Projects (yours and Steina's tapes appear in these 2 programs). [Steina may have an earlier draft of this material]. There is additional information in the tape descriptions. I should say that one of the major discussions that has happened through the process of putting together this project is whether this is essentially an exhibitions project or an educational project, and how potential audiences for this project should be approached through the analytic material. And of course during the 4 years that I've worked on this project there have been major shifts in the field. I'm not happy about all of the decisions that were finally made (like dropping the interviews from the text), but I do feel that I was able to develop a responsive curatorial framework that accommodates a broad spectrum of activity from the time, and of

course, to a great degree the tapes will speak for themselves. I keep on saying that there's a very important discussion about what this period was about that needs to happen within the field, especially in view of the telecommunications industry's desire to claim that current initiatives about information, community, etc. are "new," and the shifts in the alternative media cultural infrastructure given the changes in funding climate and in educational agendas...

I'm not asking for any specific feedback on this material. Only I'm sending it along because it's close to being finished and you and Steina were very helpful to me throughout the process. You'll notice that the title of my essay is a direct reference to Steina's title "Switch! Monitor! Drift!", though reworked through the broad issues that I try to address in the essay.

So, the important issue is the new edit. I'll include a copy of "The Squealer" article as a reference point (the original file is on my Amiga which has been integrated into another system, so I'll send along the reprint because it's more convenient). If possible, let me know within the next few weeks if you want to make any changes.

Chris

tel, fax: (716) 884-4571
email: chill@ubvms.cc.buffalo.edu

70 N. Pearl St.
Buffalo, NY 14202

P.S. I also need some short bio information for the server.
I will call you about that soon.

C.