

Films

Newport Jazz Festival - 1956
Jammin the Blues - CBC
Help - Richard Lester.

Records

For a good example of New Orleans style listen to any Jell Roll Morton or early Louis Armstrong.
For examples of good modern mainstream any Ellington or Basie record will demonstrate how far the music developed technically and in other ways.

Voluntary Community Action and Television - Conference Feb. 26-27 1976.

The potential of television on community development could be far reaching and the conference was very exciting and stimulating. It seemed to me particularly appropriate at it seems to indicate a way in which voluntary action can be expanded without any or very much extra need for cash.

We saw four actual programmes (TV tapes) from Granada, Yorkshire, Thames and Border TV. They are all very different, from Thames' 3-minute appeal to Yorkshire's magazine-type 25 minute documentary. But they all had one thing in common: far too little exploratory work, that is discussions with the community and voluntary organisations involved either before or after. This was agreed by everyone at the conference. More work needs to go into planning and likely programme response and what to do with it.

In Holland where a similar scheme has been operating for some years, some six months are allowed for planning and making sure the organisation is able to cope with the results. Where no such organisation may exist in a particular locality, it may have to be created, and this is where community development may be undertaken by the pressure from the programmes.

In Ealing the BBC programme on literacy seems to have produced some 400 new volunteers to help teach reading and writing but only some 150 people wanting to be taught. There are some plans afoot of what to do with the other 250 but so far they have not been involved to any extent and volunteers won't wait for weeks or months.

And that is really the heart of the matter, matching supply and demand. On several occasions speakers singled out voluntary organisations as not coming up to scratch and making proper use of the volunteers offered to them. But there is no use blaming such organisations when they have not been involved from the beginning of the planning stage of such programmes.

I would suggest that a stronger infra-structure may be necessary, that is the first programmes to go on the air may need to ask for volunteers who are then willing to build a network of users of volunteers, that is a network of voluntary volunteer bureaux, possibly based in a relatively small geographical area and co-ordinated centrally. Without such a willing network of neighbourhood contact points the influx of new volunteers could be largely wasted and may lead to a backlash against such media meddling.

Hans Lobstein

O. Mahala Edwards

Some Observations of Self

When I was in my teens there was a popular song that began, 'O me, myself and I are all in love with you', the 'you' in that instance, one assumes, being a member of the opposite sex. When I was thinking about relationship to self these words popped back into my mind, not in terms of 'in love' as it is commonly understood but in thinking of self and how we should feel about it. Not in love with self in the narcissistic sense of self love but giving self the honest attention, the sincerity of intention and the openness one would offer and expect from a caring friend.

What am I? Am I what I could be, should be, is expected of me? These questions occur to all of us from time to time, usually when we are feeling least able to deal with them, and our picture with often be a jaundiced one because of the circumstances that prompt the question. When life is progressing fairly smoothly, and is busy and reasonably satisfying, we are not nearly so inclined to ask ourselves these questions as we are when new demands are being made of us that we do not know whether we shall be able to meet, or when we are facing rejection of overtures of friendship, decisions that need to be made, readjustment to loss, and so on. Does this imply that we only look critically at ourselves at these times? I do not think that this is necessarily true but that in such situations we are looking for 'reasons for' and often tend to 'take stock' more during these periods. Probably the reason the stronger minded among us tend to say that crisis and adversity have strengthened them and have been instrumental in giving them a more single-mindedness of purpose is because they have looked at the 'reasons for', been able to be honest with themselves about their part in the situation and made use of what they have found. Sadly, part of the reason for being unable to weather such situations, and opting out into a state of emotional imbalance, is the inability to examine the situation and, more importantly, one's own part in it and so be unable not only to deal with it but also effect any growth as a result of it.

We each have a picture of ourselves in our mind. Some so dislike looking at it that it is seldom, if ever, fetched out. Others look at it ceaselessly, polishing it daily with loving care. In both cases it remains the same, unchanging with the years. Both such attitudes