

# Cable Comments

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It was Saturday and we had just moved into our new offices and studio. Boxes were piled high and we had no phones. I was camped out to oversee the painting contractors for the day. Peeking around the corner were two sets of eager eyes with glowering grins on their faces. Meet the co-producers of the new monthly series, "The Cosmic Connection" Jill Turley and Fran McClellan. Jill is a counselor at Harrison High School and Fran is in promotion for 90.3 Radio. They have been friends and business partners for years. With all the television options in our area they decided to become reacquainted with us.

Preproducing their show with Jean Lalhe of MetroVision, they decided to capitalize on Fran's natural, insightful characteristics and center their show around Metaphysics. Fran has been unusually aware of her capabilities since six years old and at the age of thirty-eight she felt confident enough to pursue learning more of this phenomena. She is a member of the Astrological Association and had training in California.

Jill is a natural organizer who understands production and she also has people skills and professional training which will help to create a very well-tuned team as a production crew.

The objective of "The Cosmic Connection" will be to develop an awareness and an understanding of the "Aquarian Age". Guests will include local celebrities such as Michael J. Fox and they are also gathering their resources to bring on movie stars who come to Detroit. The show will encourage residents to be part of a studio audience and there will be a segment for live call-in questions. Evelyn Rutton, a teacher-lecturer will be co-

host with Fran McClellan. Her expertise is in providing Astrological Predictions.

A very unusual feature is the introduction of the Tederington family. Mary and Todd Tederington have a three month old son Tory. The family is interested in the Astrological phenomena which surrounds their lives. An Astrological chart will be created for Tory. The show will feature Tory through home video clips and the shows followers may follow Tory's development.

The "Cosmic Connection" program will have expenses. Preproduction for Community Television everywhere is a very creative process whereby resourceful people use new found treasures in their attics, cellars and garages, and search for funding to reimburse or funding to underwrite costs or services.

Grants for Community Television usually deal with the material expenses and usually do not allow for labor cost. Every show will have considerations for promotional items such as posters, flyers, newsletters or ads. Most print shops and even duplicating services have artists or staff to assist those of us whose artistic flair leans to a different medium.

Supplies and Materials can add up to include props, new sets, artificial plants, cue cards or costumes. Research materials may need to go beyond a library or a supplier and therefore have an expense.

Production Services, such as having large "special effect" props hauled or expenses for talent such as appearances, fees, lodging and food expenses if the talent is from out of state. Graphics or artwork could be a subcontract and supply expense. Special effects such as design cookies or artificial environment inducement such as a fog machine or a fan for a wind effect will have costs. Copyright approved music is usually sub-



Fran McClellan

scribed to by a studio. One may select to secure the rights and pay the fees, or needle-drop for a paid musical score.

Grants may also cover miscellaneous expenses for such things as long distance telephone calls, postage for budgeted out of town projects, necessary for travel, child care, with down time, studio or edit scheduling, photocopying, necessary for information distribution or facilitation fees or entrance fees.

Once an organization has completed a television grant proposal, there is always a procedure necessary to ask for the funding. This may seem helpful, however, this process is necessary to assure two things: that you follow-through with the commitment your series will have and commitment to your television project. The second is that money for such grants is a privilege and only those who remember need the funds should apply for them. This process will assure the serious producer that there is competition for money, playing on a level field.

Grant forms and contracts will ask for several levels of detailed information. The first form will have you detail your request for financial help. A