

## Seeing the light

### 'Wizard' offers tips for professional videos



MARY LINDA CALDERONE

**CABLE CONNECTION**  
Are your home videos dark, grainy or maybe even washed out? How do you get the video you take to look like the professional?

I posed this question to David Tietmeyer, Farmington Hills video production coordinator, otherwise known around the INPO TV-12 studio as the "lighting wizard."

Dave graduated from the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit with a bachelor's degree in photography and an emphasis in video and film production. He began his video career in 1980 at WMAU, a PBS affiliate in Marquette. In 1985, he began working for the city of Farmington Hills. There he built the video production division from the ground up.

This is what Dave has to say about lighting:

■ To start out, what you see is not what the camera sees. Our eyes are much more sensitive to light, while even the most expensive video camera on the market today can pick up exposure range of only about five levels.

So go out and get yourself a video light. Most people spend \$1,000-1,200 on a camcorder but don't purchase a video light that runs about \$100. It should be the first accessory you buy, and it can be used indoors to fill in for needed light and outdoors to fill in for the shadows.

■ Don't let the salesman trap you into the "low lux" capability of the camera either. With low lux, a camera can record a scene lit only by candle. But most often this image is grainy and undesirable. Buyers should be looking at camera resolution and pixels for the best in recording. A high resolution camera and the right lighting techniques will provide you with exceptional video recording quality.

■ Take the camera off auto white-balance. Auto white-balance is based on a setting from the manu-

facturer. White-balancing references all other colors to the color white. Since different lighting is going to give you a different color of white, it's best to manually white-balance. Make sure you use a white card to achieve this. When you manually white balance, you adjust white to the white that's present under existing lighting conditions.

■ The same goes for auto-iris. The iris controls how much light enters the camera. If you use auto-iris, it will give you the average lighting level of the entire scene you are shooting. This average level is not always the area you want to highlight. It's best to adjust the iris manually with the control on the lens.

■ If possible, shoot outside during the early morning or late afternoon. These times are often referred to as the "golden hours."

Contrary to what you may think, cloudy overcast days are the best days to shoot. However, if you do get caught shooting a parade at noon, keep the sun to your back and set your iris on the face of the participants.

■ Finally, take a close look at your viewfinder and set your iris to match it. The viewfinder can be compared to a reliable TV set. If the people in your viewfinder look dark or washed out, that is what your videotape will look like when you come back home and play it.

"One word of caution here," Dave warns, "good lighting techniques require much practice and patience. It's not a skill developed overnight. So don't wait until your daughter's first birthday or your son's T-ball game, get the camcorder out today and experiment a little."

I hope Dave's expert advice has shed a little light on the subject. Beware, however, the TV bug may bite you. You may have so much fun with your camcorder, you'll want to sign up for our TV workshops at no cost. Call Joan Lillie at 563-7303, ext. 262 for more information.

Mary Linda Calderone is the Community Outreach coordinator for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

## YMCA HIGHLIGHTS

These YMCA Highlights appear courtesy of the Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For more information, call 553-4020.

■ **BASKETBALL CAMP**  
There will be a basketball camp held at the Farmington Area YMCA, Aug. 14-18. This camp is open to youth entering 4-8 grades in the fall. Instruction will be given by Don Peterson, from Northville High School. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to noon. Contact Carol McMillan at 563-1935 to have a registration flyer mailed to you. Enrollment is limited. Cost for the camp is \$65, which includes a basketball and T-shirt.

■ **WRESTLING**  
This program is for youngsters 3-4 years old. It is an opportunity for them to be introduced to the game of soccer. Walk in registration for full facility YMCA members begins Monday, Aug. 14, at 8:30 a.m. Program members may register beginning on Tuesday, Aug. 15 at 8:30 a.m. Contact Carol McMillan at 563-1935 for more information or to have a registration flyer mailed to your home.

■ **FALL T-BALL**

Children entering K-3rd grade are eligible to participate the fall T-ball program. Kindergarten and 1st grade students will hit off the tee at all times, while 2-3 grade students will have the opportunity to be pitched to by their coach. Everybody plays no matter what their ability. Walk in registration for full facility YMCA members begins on Monday, Aug. 14, at 8:30 a.m. Program members may register beginning Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 8:30 a.m. Contact Carol McMillan at 563-1935 for more information or to have a registration flyer mailed to your home.

■ **ANNUAL SHUT DOWN WEEK**  
The Farmington YMCA will be closed the week of Aug. 20-27 for its annual maintenance and cleaning. Feel free to use either the Livonia or Birmingham facilities during that time. The YMCA will reopen Monday, Aug. 28, at 6 a.m.

■ **FALL CLASS REGISTRATION**  
Walk in registration for full facility YMCA members begins Aug. 28 at 8:30 a.m. Program members may register beginning Aug. 29 at 8:30 a.m. Watch for the YMCA activities brochure coming in the mail soon.

## Obituaries from page 6A

Memorials may be made to the Michigan Cancer Society or St. Alexander Church.  
Arrangements were made by the Hoeny-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

**MARIE A. KING**  
Mrs. King, 72, of Farmington died July 30 in Vencore Hospital, Lin-

coln Park.  
Born in Chicago, Ill., Mrs. King was a supervisor for R.L. Polk Co. She was a World War II Army WAC veteran.

Survivors include her daughter, Sandy Sutorka; brothers, John, James and Anthony Benhart; sisters, Margaret King and Marguerite Keen; two grandchildren.  
Mass was celebrated Aug. 1 in St. Mary Catholic Church with

the Rev. Leon Pohl officiating. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Three Oaks, Mich.  
Memorials may be made to the Salvation Army. Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

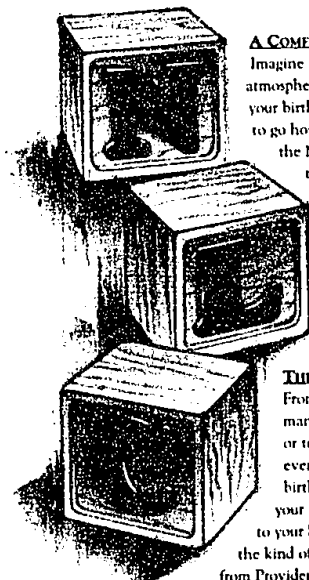
**PEARL VIOLA ANDERSON**  
Miss Anderson, 89, of Livonia

died July 29.  
Born in Lawrion, Mich., Miss Anderson was retired from Michigan Bell after 43 years. She retired in 1965.

Survivors include many nieces and nephews and several grandchildren and nephews.  
Services were at the Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. David Noreen officiating.

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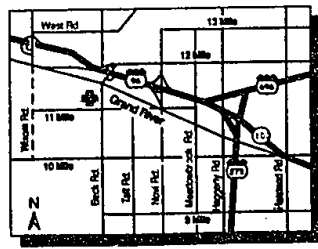
### THE CHOICES ARE MANY

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