

# Cable Comments

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An abundance of energy is the first prerequisite of a cable company's television production staff. In the early years of

cable franchising, many cable company staffs were committed to cover every community event. Eventually, this was modified to provide reasonable coverage of large community events. One of the persons that handles those responsibilities is the cable coordinator. Omnicon has just hired Ms. Kelly Wingo, a recent graduate of Eastern University, in this capacity.

The responsibilities of Omnicon's Public Access Coordinator include teaching Public Access video workshops, assisting access users (residents trained on the television equipment) in developing their ideas and production techniques, and coordinating the use of the PA facilities (camcorders, studio and editing). Much to Kelly's delight, she will also be responsible for coordinating Omnicon's local origination programming for sports, leading the pack as the television crews cover on-location high school football games once a week. Three or four people will make up the crew, with two or three on camera.

As a Cum Laude graduate majoring in Telecommunications and Film, Kelly minored in both General Business and Comprehensive Communications. Omnicon Cable's Community Affairs and Program Director, Maria Homes, explains that Comprehensive Communications includes public speaking, interpersonal communications and small group interaction. Kelly Wingo is the recipient of the Dean's List Recognition of Excellence Award. Her professional experience includes teaching assistance in video production, data processing and business management. Welcome aboard, Kelly!

We would also like to introduce MetroVision's Community Access Coordinator Ms. Kathleen Freidrichs. Kathy has proudly worked with her staff and the cities of Farmington, Novi and Farmington Hills since 1983 to develop the Community Service of Community Access Television. Confusing to



Kelly Wingo

some, but most functional for our television audience, is the concept of Community Television. With a Masters in Telecommunication Arts from the University of Michigan, Kathy gathered experience as a freelance writer. The interviewing and people skills which she developed have served her well while working closely with individuals and their television dreams.

Where Omnicon has a division between the residents' produced television shows and those initiated by the cable company staff, MetroVision's access Community Channel is a cooperative blend of both. This concept is unique and yet makes the marketing of community ideas simple and enhances a singular objective for both the cable company staff and the government authority staff.

Kathy's job has evolved throughout seven and a half years. She joined the company when the early television workshops were being developed. Her writing skills enabled her to build up her strengths while learning the television equipment first hand. Passing on her knowledge to the public was quite an intellectual challenge.

Known for her delightful smile and quick wit, Kathy still enjoys teaching the workshops. It is through this activity that she recharges her energy. The residents'

enthusiasm inspires her, especially the Senior Adults. Kathy says, "They are appreciative of the television classes and are thrilled with the skills they learn. This is so rewarding!"

As both Kathy and Kelly embark upon the creative fall season, both spoke about their roles as being a service in an arena where you gather with others who enjoy learning. Refreshing and real are the individuals who come to the workshops and then go on to become local access video crews.

Kelly, commenting on local residents, said that "most fear getting involved because they think it is going to be hard." She went on to observe, "They learn that being creative is more than drawing. Through television they find a new medium and then let the creativity flow out."

The staff quarters of the Community and Public Access Television have always been available to the public. Kathy, having recently moved down the hall into her own office, wanted you to be sure to know how happy she is when you pop your head in and eagerly tell her of what you are about to produce and say "hi." "I am still as accessible as ever!"

To meet Kelly Wingo of Omnicon call 459-7335. To talk with Kathy Freidrichs of MetroVision call 553-7303.



Lalla Robins plays Victoria Heller on the new drama *Gabriel's Fire*, on ABC Thursdays.