

She'd run cable to the public

By Bruce Vilanch

ANDA KORST WANTS you to get the message and the message is, without question, the medium.

The medium is cable television and Anda Korst, which is so catchy it should be a brand name, is really a determined young woman who, like so many young, creative people, has reached the fed-up point with commercial TV.

Unlike most of those young, creative people, however, Anda is not spending long hours in smoke-filled rooms, dizzily expounding on the glories of the future cable. She is too busy for all that.

Instead, she has been preparing resolutions, submitting proposals, sitting down with bankers and talking dollars, sitting down with politicians and talking community relations and sitting down with local groups of videoactivists to round up equipment and talent and actually plan something.

SO, AT THIS MOMENT, Anda Korst is one of the most visible names in the cable TV news here, so much so that the Chicago Journalism Review, when it initiated a monthly section called "Cable Report," asked Anda to write the lead article and head up the news team.

More recently, Anda organized a three-day festival of

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video communication at the Chicago Circle Campus of the University of Illinois. The festival followed with breathless timing the close of the National Cable Television Association session in the Conrad Hilton, and many of the registrants found their way to the Circle for at least a few hours.

Once there, they were ushered into an Inflato, or artificial environment, into which had been inserted all sorts of hardware [tape portapacks, editing machines, etc.] and software [people with radical ideas for television]. The software was demonstrating the hardware, which was the purpose of the festival. To show Chicagoans how to use the new portable videotape devices that will make cable TV community TV.

Naturally, all this is just a means to Anda's beginning.

In the last several months, she and her group have submitted a proposal before the Illinois Arts Council [Media Panel].

THE PROPOSAL notes that, according to federal regulations, each city using cable TV will be required to maintain at least one public access channel. This channel will, of course, be open to any local groups that wish to program on it. So, once cable comes in, there will be a specific need for public access programming.

Anda aims to fill that need. Her proposal asks for a \$35,000 grant with which she intends to establish a community videotape center on the North Side. The center will be fully staffed [with many of Anda's colleagues from the festival] and fully equipped and will serve as an instructional as well as production center.

Hopefully, some of the people attracted to videotape by the Circle festival will organize groups at the center.

The ultimate goal of all this activity, naturally, is to get community groups interested in cable TV and, therefore, to make the cable a truly reflective medium, not just another funnel for Bears games, new movies, or even Lucy reruns, which is what it shows every dread sign of becoming.

The proposal has already been accepted by the Media Panel, but now the full Arts Council must pass judgment. A favorable decision is hoped for by fall.



WBBM-TV (2)	WGN-TV (9)	WCIU (26)
WMAQ-TV (5)	WTTW (11)	WFED (32)
WLS-TV (7)	WXXW (20)	WSNS (44)

(R) Retransmissions • Paid Listings

8:50—TV College	20	Kennedy at Night	7
Topic: History.		Guests: Tony Randall, Dom De	9
9:00—Marcus Welby, M.D. (R) 7		Luis, Singer Paul Williams.	
See Tonight's Best on TV.		Elections: '72	7
Perry Mason (R)	9	Oregon Primary.	
All About Welfare	11	WGN Presents	9
The Computer		1:00—Everyman	5