

Static

The Newsletter of the Radio-Television Journalism Division of AEJMC

Vol. 42, No. 1

October 2002

September 11-- Six Thousand Miles From Home

by ED FREEDMAN

Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

It started as all days have for me since I came to the United Arab Emirates in early August. The muezzin's call to morning prayer, blasting on a loudspeaker a little after 4:30 each morning.

It was Wednesday September 11, and if one year later was any different for people in the states, it wasn't very different outwardly here in Abu Dhabi or at Zayed University where I started teaching this semester. Wednesdays here are like Fridays back home, the last day of the school or work week. Our weekends are Thursday and Friday. And this Wednesday here was not any different for the students, all are female and all are Emiratis (from the United Arab Emirates) or for the faculty, made up of expatriates from 33 countries from all over the world.

If there were any personal feelings about the day, they were kept that way. No one I saw that day on the Abu Dhabi campus (we have another campus in Dubai, 150 or so kilometers up the road) talked about it. The only mention at all came in an email from a colleague on the Dubai campus, a Texan, who wrote "I find it interesting in a place that appears so normal on the outside when I feel so out of the ordinary on the inside." He continued, "I ran across two songs that I think offer interesting insight into the thoughts of the 'average' American (i.e., Joe Redneck) concerning the tragedy of a year ago." He then went on to give URLs for web sites where we could listen. I for one didn't.

I grew up and worked almost my entire life in New York City. I lived in Battery Park City. The view from my apartment was the South Tower of the World Trade Center, barely two blocks away. On 9/11/01, I was teaching at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina. As always, we had our Mass Communication office TV, one of the few on campus, set to the news. Soon after the first plane hit,

the office became a gathering place for students, faculty and staff.

My training as a journalist kicked in immediately. Objectivity, dispassion, lack of outward emotion. Don't let the public know what you feel; you're there to report the story, not be part of it; just deliver the news. "Don't let the students see you crack."

Forty years of ingrained training worked well. On September 13th I held a symposium at school, one of a series we had done over the years on what we called "critical issues in the news." We were trying to calm and allay the fears and emotions of the students, trying to put it all into perspective.

In classes over the next few weeks and months, we objectively dealt with 9/11 and its aftermath. But for the first time in my life I felt scarred psychologi-

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cally.

As I said earlier, I grew up in New York City, lived there for all but a few years of my life, and now I wouldn't or couldn't go back

The offer for me to come to the Zayed University came during the AEJMC convention last summer in Washington, D. C., a month before 9/11. I committed to coming here after 9/11, perhaps using my journalistic mindset of being where the action is, or more likely, thinking the action would be over by the time I got here.

I now look back at 9/11 from a perspective of the impact that day has had on me personally and the things I've learned in my brief time here. And I've come up with some questions I'd like to pose to my colleagues.

- Should we train our "innocents," if there are still innocents, any differently than we did before 9/11?

please see Freeman, page 3

Head Notes

by LEE HOOD
RTVJ Division Head

I need your help to solve a mystery: the case of the disappearing membership. While AEJMC is growing, now with more than 3,400 members, membership in RTVJ has been shrinking in recent years. While we once had more than 300 members, our numbers had shrunk to less than 250 as of the Miami convention, ranking us 12th out of 18 divisions. That is why one of the main goals I have identified for the year is to increase membership. More members means a richer diversity of ideas, more funds for activities to benefit all members, and more fun at division activities! I have asked the division officers to help in the effort to increase membership, and we would like your help, too. Please send any ideas you

have to me, to our membership chair, Anthony Moretti, or to other division officers.

I also want to broaden the base of active participants in the division. While RTVJ could not function without the dedicated, dependable members whose names and faces you often see, I know there are many other talented people whose contributions would enrich our division. If you have been sitting on the sideline waiting for an opportunity to get involved, or perhaps to re-involve yourself in RTVJ activities, now is the perfect time! Submit a panel proposal for next year's convention in Kansas City. Start working on a research paper to submit. Volunteer as a paper judge. Those are just some

ideas; we're open to others you have, as well.

Another goal for the year is to increase our research participation and profile. We've already made strides in that area. The AEJMC Standing Committee on Research praised our "excellent increase in submissions" for the recent convention in Miami. Both our outgoing research chair (incoming program chair), Kathy Bradshaw, and you, the members who submitted research papers, should take great pride in that accomplishment!

I am honored and privileged to serve as your division chair this year. I welcome your input as we try to build on our strengths and shore up areas where we can be stronger.

Graduate Students Encouraged to Get Involved

by ANTHONY MORETTI
RTVJ Membership Chair

I got involved in a conversation at the beginning of the academic year with a student, who is also my wife's intern. This woman — an energetic go-getter majoring in public relations — seemed surprised when I told her that another intern had decided not to continue assisting my wife once the academic year began.

I explained that the second young woman didn't want to work during the school year because she thought it interrupted her studies. My wife's returning intern said she agreed with that policy, and had found that her internships had in some form or another detracted from her ability to concentrate on her classes and to devote the kind of time she wanted to them.

I was surprised because I know she is a good student and consistently earns excellent grades. I told her that she was wrong. I mentioned that my experiences as an undergraduate — and those of people I knew — led me to believe that students can never have enough internships on their resume.

I think that need for a battery of internships is especially relevant in the communications fields. Let's face it: There are plenty of broadcast, print, public relations, advertising, and other mass communication discipline graduates preparing to enter the 'real' world each year. The ability to

demonstrate that you've succeeded both inside and outside the classroom is an excellent way to separate yourself from that pack.

One of the best pieces of advice my undergraduate adviser gave me was to intern early and often. She insisted I accept my first internship, in public relations, during the fall semester of my sophomore year. I hesitated for two reasons. First, I was a broadcast major. I didn't want a p.r. internship! Second, I was concerned that the internship would take away from my studies. (Hmmm, the more things change...) I grudgingly agreed with her. And was I glad I did. Within months, the internship I didn't want led to another internship at a southern California radio station and a few months after that into a part-time job.

I think there is a similar need for my fellow graduate students to get involved in the organizations that are part of academe. Obviously there is the benefit of getting to know people and getting them to know you. (Especially relevant when one is on the job hunt!) But membership also gives a person the chance to shape the decisions that benefit the entire division. In much the same way that an undergraduate student would be advised to accept an internship, I think graduate students should be strongly encouraged to learn more about and become a member of the division.

I welcome the chance to talk with graduate students about what RTVJ can do for them and what they can do for RTVJ.

September 11-- How Much is Too Much Coverage?

by JEREMY H. LIPSCHULTZ

University of Nebraska-Omaha

As the nation remembered 9-11 recently, some questioned the amount of anniversary coverage. My telephone lit with a request to comment the next morning on a local news-talk station. The announcer's thinking on the segment, as articulated in his request, was telling. Didn't I think the networks were carrying on too much over this? Wasn't there a limit to public interest on the subject?

From our vantage-point in the middle of the nation, sometimes it has been difficult to place in context the impact and meaning of the deadly attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. ABC's Peter Jennings has commented that 15 hours of all-day coverage might seem to be "too much," but in some ways it also was "not enough." Television, it seems, was a limited frame by which to experience the devastation. Even though most of us watched that fateful morning, and were horrified, we moved on quickly without taking full measure the attack.

I would suggest that the "war on terrorism" has not seemed much like a war to people removed from the Ground Zero nightmares. Clearly, the attack was symbolic as well as real and, in part, made for TV by the terrorists. Yet, morning television shows and local news rather quickly returned us to "normalcy" – whatever that is in a world threatened by global terrorists. There have been days when it would be hard to realize the extent of our ongoing war in Afghanistan and the thousands of ground troops there.

So, it may be useful to answer the "too much?" question this way:

- We should distinguish between the legitimate memorial coverage of news *events* in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania and other coverage that re-told the 9-11 story. Our nation had a need to remember, honor and mourn.
- We should separate coverage that offered *new* information and context on 9-11 from purely emotional-driven story-telling. The CNN and CBS DVDs were especially useful to me in learning what might I missed as the chaos of 9-11-01 unfolded.
- We need to worry about the potential effect of ongoing news coverage of terrorism on our children. There is a role for academics to play in reminding our communities about the need to mediate media messages.

It is difficult not to see 9-11 as a dividing-line for the country, as well as our mass media. My recent analysis of the network coverage of terrorism in the year before the attack reveals less focus on the threat posed by terrorists to Americans on our soil. Today, we are more likely to see news coverage of a dangerous world, menacing terrorist networks and our vulnerable nation they seem to hate. Today the victims are no longer "over there."

Personally, I think the coverage on 9-11-02 was appropriate, but that is a matter of personal judgment. Others may have been quick to use the remote control or the "off" button. Thankfully, we remain a country of freedom—filled with content and message choices. For those not satisfied with broadcast and cable options, tape, DVD and Internet selections offered the opportunity to pay more or less attention to the threat of terrorism.

Freeman, from page 1

- Do we offer a new curriculum which includes courses in crisis or trauma management?
- Do we need to train our students on how to protect themselves, both physically and emotionally, while covering war, death or destruction?

I think we as journalism educators have to think about these things.

We don't have a TV in our offices here at Zayed University. On 9/11/02 we went about our business, teaching our classes and getting ready for the weekend. That night my wife and I went to dinner, and selected by coincidence, an American chain restaurant

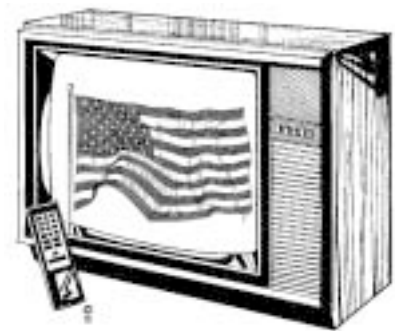
here in Abu Dhabi. The television sets throughout the restaurant were carrying memorial ceremonies, from New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. There is an eight-hour time difference between here and the east coast, so I was surrounded by reminders of what I was trying to forget. I thought I did pretty well. I enjoyed the dinner. I just didn't look up very often.

Before coming here in August, I did stop in New York to see family and friends. I avoided my former home in Battery Park City, the area close to what everyone now refers to as "ground zero."

Maybe I came to the United Arab Emirates to get as far away from New York City as possible. Maybe I came

to show the students here that I can be "unemotional, dispassionate and objective."

And maybe one day, they say time heals, I'll get used to it and I'll get over 9/11. And maybe one day I won't be awakened by the muezzin's call to morning prayer.



“The War on Terrorism Threatens Our Freedom”

by ROGER MELLEN

George Mason University

The terrorists cannot win this war. Not in the classic way. We do not expect to ever see Al Quaida or Taliban soldiers marching down the Main Streets of American waving their banners. We will not surrender outright.

But the terrorists can win, bit by bit, by making us change who we are. We see evidence of that every day, when we wait in security lines at the airport, when we see barricades outside the U.S. Capitol building, when we visit lower Manhattan. Another change cuts more deeply to the essence of who we are, yet remains mostly unseen.

It started just after the attack, and Presidential Press Secretary Ari Fleischer warned Americans to “watch what they say!” As University of Michigan Communication Professor Susan J. Douglas notes, this is frightening in a time in which we so badly need public debate. “We don’t need less information and commentary, we need more.”

Quick to follow were subtle, insidious incursions upon the First Amendment. When the Attorney General of the United States urges federal agencies to resist most Freedom of Information Act requests, a small but important freedom slips away.

Traditionally open public records are simply shutting down: “The Nuclear Regulatory Commission — an agency which has long received high marks for keeping the public informed — shut down its Web site at the request of the Department of Defense,” according to First Amendment scholar Ken Paulson at the Freedom Forum.

Many states across the country have used September 11th as an excuse to pass bills exempting some government records from the light of day — many having nothing to do with national security.

Some two thousand allegedly illegal aliens have been arrested in this country, but as Freedom Forum First Amendment Ombudsman Paul McMasters notes, “information about charges or suspicions has not been available, suspects’ and witnesses’ names have been withheld, search warrants have been sealed, court appearances have been closed, and gag orders have muzzled lawyers.”

President Bush signed an order to allow trials by military tribunals for noncitizens accused of terrorism. The reasoning was that cases can be handled with greater speed and secrecy there than in civilian courts. We may not even know who is held nor tried.

News helicopters and planes have been denied access to the air over U.S. cities, when identical civilian flights,

not for news purposes are allowed. Our eyes are being closed.

New York Times’ columnist Frank Rich claims that there is little evidence that President Bush even supports the idea of a free press, claiming greater damage to that ideal than since the days of President Nixon. Rich says it goes beyond just homeland defense, “the administration is equally determined to thwart journalists whether they’re looking into a war abroad or into possible White House favors for a lavish campaign contributor who has fallen into legal peril.”

Chief Justice William Rehnquist (not exactly known as a civil libertarian) once observed, “It is all too easy to slide *from* a case of genuine military necessity.” In the current situation, it is all too easy to slide from a real military need to an artificial political need, not justifiable by the concept of national security. But we might never know!

The only way terror can win is if we give up the essence of who we are, give up the very freedoms which make us who we are. Quite simply, it is precisely these rights for which we are fighting.

The founders of this nation took great care to launch a society that would not revert to totalitarian government where personal freedoms are no longer valued. The free flow of information in the marketplace of ideas is crucial to democracy. The Virginian for whom my university is named, George Mason, who inspired our Bill of Rights, said, “... the freedom of the press is one of the greatest bulwarks of liberty and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.”

This is not the media’s right, but rather the right of the people. The public’s right to know must prevail, even when we are under attack by terrorists — especially when we are under attack.

According to George Mason University Professor Roger Wilkins, “One of the ways to speak back to the murderous people who attacked us and our values is for Americans to say we’re not going to have the equivalent of a red scare this time.”

We must ensure that in this time of crisis, our important rights are upheld, otherwise we may not have our freedom in the future. And the terrorists will have won.

(Editor’s note--this commentary was originally delivered to a panel at the Eastern Communication Association Convention, April, 2002)

“Idea Forum” new feature on web site

by LEE HOOD
RTVJ Division Head

If you're like me, you've picked up a lot of great ideas in conference sessions or other venues and wished there was a way to share them with colleagues. I know many members also have some tried-and-true methods, or new innovations, that would help others in the same teaching or research setting. Occasionally you might see such ideas come across the RTVJ e-mail list, but unless you save them you have to rely on memory.

That's why we're creating an “Idea Forum” on the RTVJ web site, to function as an ongoing resource for division members to share ideas and tips. That way, you won't have to wait for the next *Static* issue to submit material, or remember which issue contained the great tips on something you found helpful.

Submissions for the Idea Forum will go to RTVJ web master Larry Burkum <lburkum@drury.edu>. Written material should be sent as a Word attachment. Graphics, images, and photos should be submitted in JPEG format. Contact Larry if you have questions about either the form or the content of what you would like to send. And look for the Idea Forum next time you click on the RTVJ web site!

Wanted: Research Paper Authors, Judges for Mid-Winter Conference, '03 Convention

by PHILIP J. AUTER
RTVJ Research Chair

With a world in turmoil, and broadcast journalists constantly reinventing themselves and the profession, it's certainly an exciting time to be in RTVJ. But then it's always an exciting time to be involved in this business. For us, “static” may mean snow, interference, noise or feedback – but it certainly does not imply fixed or unchanging.

Despite what our students might think about research, there are plenty of new trends and evolving issues out there that cry out for study. Broadcasters are covering many – but not all – of these events. As teachers and researchers of this industry, we need to report on the reporters, observe the observers, review the reviewers.

RTVJ provides a number of opportunities for you to involve yourself in broadcast research. I hope you'll consider taking advantage of some of them. Over the course of the year we'll solicit panel proposals for the 2003 conference, as well as publish a call for research papers to be reviewed for possible presentation at the conference. Of course judges will have to be pressed into service to evaluate the wealth of submissions we receive every year.

The convention research paper deadline is a ways out yet. Traditionally, and somewhat ironically, the deadline is always April Fool's Day. But now may be the time to dust off that study in progress and bring it to a close before April.

In addition to our presence at the national conference, a mid-winter conference co-sponsored by several divisions including RTVJ is in the works. That event will be in February in Boulder, Colorado.

Stay tuned to RTVJ Online for details. And there will be an AEJMC Southeast Colloquium in Little Rock, Arkansas this March. Details about that conference are available on AEJMC's web site. Dana Rosengard of RTVJ is the paper chair for the open division.

Believe it or not, now is the time for me to start lining up judges who will volunteer to blind review a number of article submissions in their field. Skill and knowledge are paramount, but we're seeking psychographic – as well as demographic – diversity in our pool of judges. If you're willing to review some of the papers that will be submitted in April, please let me know now. E-mail me at auter@louisiana.edu or call me at 337-482-6106.

Call for Papers & Presentations (Radio Division)

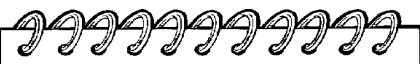
The 24th Annual Conference of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association will take place February 12 - 15, 2003 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The SW/Texas PCA/ACA accepts scholarly papers from academics, students, and professionals for presentation. If it's radio related, the topic will at least be considered.

If you are interested in presenting a paper, send a 100-300 word proposal

and a brief biographical sketch via mail or e-mail (no later than November 4th) to:

Paul MacArthur
Radio Television Department
Sam Houston State University
Box 2207
Huntsville, TX 77341
rtf_pjm@shsu.edu

Final decisions will be made no later than December 2, 2002.



AEJMC Convention

Dates and Sites:

**2003 -- July 30-August 2 at
Hyatt Regency Crown Center
and Westin Crown Center,
Kansas City, MO**

2004 -- Toronto, Canada

2005 -- San Antonio, TX

Plan to attend!!

Panel Proposals Needed for 2003 Convention

Do it now. Plan a panel for RTVJ Division for the 2003 AEJMC Convention in Kansas City. This is where the process begins. With you. Right now. You can imagine, organize, and participate in an RTVJ Division panel at the convention next year. But you must begin now.

The SUBMISSION DEADLINE is October 16 (postmark, email, or fax), and here's how to submit a panel proposal to RTVJ.

- 1) Condense your panel idea to about six lines of text.
- 2) Contact people who are interested in your topic and likely to attend the convention.
- 3) Send your proposal to RTVJ Vice Head and Program Chair, Kathy Bradshaw by October 16.

Put each panel proposal on a separate piece of paper and include the following elements:

- 1) Name of the group proposing the panel: RTVJ
- 2) Title: "Propose a Panel NOW, and Be a Panelist in Kansas City!"
- 3) Type of panel: Teaching, Research or Professional Freedom and Responsibility (PR&R)
- 4) Possible Panelists names, affiliations, telephone numbers and emails: In addition to yourself, who could make a contribution to your panel and is likely to be in Kansas City?
- 5) A six-line description of your panel. For Teaching Panels the description should include the relevance of the panel to curriculum, or course content, or teaching methods, or assessment or leadership. For PR&R Panels the description should include the relevance of the panel to free expression, or ethics, or media criticism and accountability or race, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service. Potential co-sponsors are likely to be prompted by the description.
- 6) The name of division or interest group who might co-sponsor the panel.
- 7) The name of the person who is the contact person for the panel. This is the individual who is organizing the panel.

A couple of final notes. The process for organizing panels begins with your idea, and we hope that you and the people you recruit are enthusiastic participants. When RTVJ Chair Lee Hood and I attend the convention planning meeting we work with the programmers from other divisions and interest groups to craft the final sessions.

Thus, you will find out in December if your panel will be included on the program and who you will need to work with to put the finishing touches on your session. If you are proposing sessions that include non-faculty members, you need to be certain of their commitment to appear at the convention. Requests for travel funding are submitted shortly after the programming meeting. Please be certain of the time commitment of non-faculty members included on your panel proposals.

Submit your proposal (October 16 deadline—postmark, email, or fax) to:

Kathy Bradshaw
Vice Head and Program Chair, RTVJ Division
Department of Journalism & School of Communication Studies
West Hall
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

kabrads@bgnet.bgsu.edu

419-372-2542 office

419-372-0202 FAX... must include "Bradshaw"

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Broadcast Education Association

Broadcast-Internet Radio Division
Faculty Audio Production Competition

This is your invitation to enter the Broadcast-Internet Radio Division's Faculty Audio Production Competition as part of the 2003 International BEA Festival of Film, Video and Media Arts.

CATEGORIES

1. Best Station Image Promo (submit one spot not to exceed sixty (60) seconds in length; promos are traditionally spots produced to promote listening or enhance station image.)
2. Best Public Service Announcement (submit one spot not to exceed sixty (60) seconds in length; PSAs are traditionally spots produced to promote a charitable or nonprofit organization.)
3. Best Radio Documentary (submit no more than a 20-minute scoped audio clip that reflects the program content; documentaries are traditionally programs that utilize actuality audio, narration, music, and other elements to present actual events, real people or any factual account of a situation.)
4. Best Short-Form Production (submit no more than a 5-minute production that does not fit in the above categories.)
5. Best Long-Form Production (submit no more than a 20-minute scoped audio clip that reflects the program content of a radio production that originally exceeded 5-minutes in length and does not fit in the above categories.)

PROCEDURES

"Rules & Regulations," "Entry Form," and "Fees, Deadlines, & Submission" information can be found at the BEA Festival website: www.beaweb.org/festival or by going directly to the Faculty Audio section at www.beaweb.org/festival/facultyaudio.html.

Entries must be received by December 16th to be eligible for this competition. For additional information, contact:

Competition Chair David E. Reese
Department of Communications
John Carroll University
20700 N. Park Blvd.
University Hts., OH 44118

reese@jcu.edu
216-397-1682



The newsletter of the Radio-Television Journalism Division of AEJMC

RTVJ Division Officers, 2002-2003

Head

LEE HOOD
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
Lee.Hood@colorado.edu

Vice Head & Program Chair

KATHY BRADSHAW
Bowling Green State Univ.,
Bowling Green, OH
kabrads@bgnet.bgsu.edu

Secretary/Static Editor

LARRY G. BURKUM
Drury University, Springfield, MO
lburkum@drury.edu

PF&R Committee Chair

DAVID KURPIUS
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, LA
kurpius@lsu.edu

Research Committee Chair

PHILIP AUTER
University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA
auter@louisiana.edu

Teaching Standards Committee Chair

HUB BROWN
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
hwbrown@syr.edu

Membership Committee Chair

ANTHONY MORETTI
Ohio University, Athens, OH
anthonyandnichola@earthlink.net

Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Educator Committee Chair

WILLIAM R. DAVIE
University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA
wr3819@louisiana.edu

Liaison to Radio-Television News Directors Association

JEANNE ROLLBERG
University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR
jnrollberg@ualr.edu

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RTVJ Online

www2.drury.edu/rtvj

AEJMC

www.aejmc.org

A Visit to the Florida Moving Image Archive

by HUB BROWN
RTVJ Teaching Chair

If you're interested in historical research in broadcast journalism, or any kind of historical research that involves film or video, you now have a very valid excuse to spend some quality time in Miami.

The Florida Moving Image Archive, located in the basement of the downtown Miami-Dade Public Library, is one of the most extensive collections of television news video in the nation. The Archive is now home to more than 10 million feet of film, and thousands of hours of video. Some of the film dates back to 1910.

Members of the RTVJ Division took a tour of the Archive during the the AEJMC Convention in Miami in August, and it's fair to say that the group came away impressed.

Television news operations in Miami have donated amazing bits of history to the Archive, everything from the coverage of hurricanes to the riots in Liberty City. There's the first visit of Elvis to Miami, and the last visit of President Kennedy (his last stop before Dallas). The video is in all formats—from 16mm film to 3/4 inch to MII to digital Beta.

The Archive isn't just logging and storing old newscasts. Every newscast from every Miami-area television station is recorded every day.

The collections are available for academic researchers and filmmakers alike, and material is easily retrieved, as one RTVJ member found out during the tour. An Archive researcher found and dubbed a story she produced while a reporter in Miami in the 1970's. The whole exercise took less than an hour.

The Archive is branching out beyond news video as well. Researchers are looking for home movies, and donations so far have revealed a detailed, fascinating picture of life in South Florida in decades past.

The Florida Moving Image Archive may be based in Miami, but it houses video that comes from all across the state, from Tallahassee to Key West. If you're interested in utilizing their huge database, director Steven Davidson would be happy to talk to you. You can contact the Archive at (305) 375-1505.

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c/o Communication Department
Drury University
900 N Benton Ave
Springfield MO 65802