

# Could video visions prove better than the real thing?

By Marilyn Schwartz  
Syndicated Columnist

There's a whole new concept in home videotaping. Now you don't get just entertainment. You can get atmosphere.

Who needs a real fire with real wood in a real fireplace? For \$30, you can buy a videotape that shows 60 minutes of roaring fire. No ashes. No embers. No drafts from the chimney.

Who needs pets? For \$35, you can buy a tape that shows 30 minutes of nothing but swimming fish. Instant aquarium. No messy equipment. No fish food.

Both tapes can be played on home video cassette players.

Video Fish is "a bold, new concept,"

said Michael Stoddard of Candle Corp. in Los Angeles. "It's based on published studies at the University of Pennsylvania that show the significance of having a bond between humans and pets."

People sat in front of an aquarium for hours and showed a noticeable reduction in blood pressure and respiration. If watching the fish was all that mattered, who needed a real aquarium?

Stoddard's company did a test tape of one hour of fish and "boiled that down to the best moments," he said. "Now you get 30 minutes of the fish, with lots of relaxing shots of bubbles and water movement. The whole idea is to get rid of stress. And it makes an attractive addition to any room in the house," though it was developed originally for "office concepts of the future" — video goldfish in every corner.

**A slice . . .**  
A fire that never needs tending,  
snow that doesn't need shoveling

"Some dentists are already using our goldfish tapes," he said, "and one hospital in Florida is also using it to help soothe patients' pre- and post-operative tensions. And we're testing other 'natural' tapes, too. We've already done rough footage on tapes of surf and of clouds."

Different versions of the fireplace — the other hot "atmosphere" videotape —

are marketed by several companies. Don Kaufman of San Francisco, distributor of one, said:

"The tape is so real that the whole room is brightened and made more cozy by it. I tried it out at a dinner party last year. Everyone was entranced. The next day I just stretched out on the couch and watched that tape for one hour. It was wonderfully relaxing. And I didn't have to keep running and throwing on more logs."

Kaufman is working on a video rain-storm and a video snowfall.

"Can you imagine how wonderful a video snowfall could be in the southern states during Thanksgiving and Christmas?" he said. "We might even arrange to put some Christmas carols in the background."

"I even envision a video food tape that comes with its own frozen TV dinner. As you watch the show, you eat the food that corresponds with a cooking lecture on the tape."

"If a videotape store doesn't want to stock a freezer, the food can be sold at the grocery stores. There will be numbers so you'll know which TV dinner goes with which tape."

Kaufman is also considering video pets other than fish. As he talked, a dog could be heard barking in the background. Real or video pet?

"Real," he said. "But the way I calm him down is to let him go to sleep in front of a videotape fire."

## Do brunettes have more fun?

The April issue of Glamour magazine contains a survey that found the average man's "ideal woman" is a curly-haired brunette with a round bottom and a sunny personality. What happened to the flashy blonde who, according

## Apple Sauce

to the famous Clairol advertising campaign, is supposed to have more fun? "We don't take sides," said Clairol spokesman Jack Shor. "But the fact is, we are seeing more and more women who want to become blondes." Wait until they read Glamour!

**SPEAKING OF BLONDES:** Actress Morgan Fairchild — who has played the bad girl in "Flamingo Road" and "Dallas" — says she's ripe for a change. Miss Fairchild currently is negotiating with NBC for a new television series. Although she won't say what kind of part she'll play, Morgan told an Apple source,



Morgan Fairchild

"I'd like to be a nice guy for a change." Miss Fairchild recently took a successful stab at serious acting in the Off-Broadway play "Geniuses." She must have been serious. She told our source she was paid a relatively meager \$198 per week for her part.

Morgan said she may stick with the play in a Los Angeles edition, but only in between far more lucrative TV assignments — presumably as that sought-after "nice guy."

**ANTI-DRUG ENCORE:** First Lady Nancy Reagan is returning to the tube with the same anti-drug message she delivered recently on NBC-TV's "Diff'rent Strokes." Mrs. Reagan, a former actress, will act as hostess for two Public Broadcasting System programs on drug abuse. Taping is scheduled for April 13 in Pittsburgh; the programs will air in November.

**MEL'S FEELING SWELL:** Country singer Mel Tillis is feeling just fine after the hernia operation he underwent last Thursday in



Mel Tillis

Nashville, Apple Sauce has learned. In fact, the singer's first request on his way to recovery was for a whopping-big country meal of fried chicken, potato salad, fried oche, corn bread, a cheeseburger and milkshake. Tillis is planning to continue singing just as soon as

his recovery is complete. "Just don't send me songs with any high notes," he told a friend.

**BACK ON THE BEAT:** Jim Capaldi, drummer for the late, great British rock band Traffic, was in New York recently to help hype his new Atlantic LP, "Fierce Heart." With Capaldi was Steve Winwood, Jim's former Traffic-mate and his co-producer on "Fierce Heart." Capaldi is resurfacing after a disastrous late-'70s dive into disco.

**JACK IN SPACE?** Jack Nicholson begins work next month on location in Boston for his next film, "Terms of Endearment." The star of such films as



Jack Nicholson

"Chinatown" and "The Postman Always Rings Twice," will play a former astronaut in the comedy-drama. The film also will star the red-hot Debra Winger and veteran actress Shirley MacLaine. James L. Brooks will direct. "Terms of Endearment," which explores the relationship between a mother and daughter over the course of 25 years, is based on a book by Larry McMurtry — author of "The Last Picture Show" and "Hombre Pass By" (the basis for Hollywood's "Hud").

**CAN'T STOP HIS MUSIC:** Word from the Left Coast is that film producer Allan Carr ("Grease," "Can't Stop the Music") is heading into the concert promoter business. Carr recently staged two sold-out Barry Manilow concerts in Hawaii and is now eyeing concert possibilities in Los Angeles and New York.

— Lisa Faye Kaplan, Ken Schlager and Brian Donlon

# Lifestyles

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Patient Gerard Hammond of White Plains Hospital indicates his choice to White Plains Hospital volunteers Cissy Shuman and Nelly Ammann

## Paintings for patients: Brightening a hospital stay

By Kathie Beals  
Theater/Arts Editor

I can't even remember the picture — it may have been a vase of flowers or just one flower," Millie Vero said, sitting up in bed at the White Plains Hospital. "But whatever it was, when I came to after my operation and saw it on the wall, I said to myself, 'That picture will make me well.'"

Such a reaction gladdens the heart and lightens the load of every volunteer who pushes an "art cart" through hospital halls and hangs pictures in patients' rooms.

The art cart service is offered intermittently in area hospitals, depending on the availability of volunteers who know something about art and are willing to organize and maintain a hospital collection.

Most of the pictures are reproductions of commercial paintings made in Europe for the reprint market. The scenes recall or imitate such noncontroversial subjects as Portuguese fishing boats, greeting-card snowscapes, old houses, generalized landscapes, folk art and, occasionally, well-known works such as Van Gogh's "Sunflowers." (Although nobody likes "Sunflowers" because its colors are so muddy.)

As art, the reproductions are on the level of department store art — the kind a store would hang over a sofa — and their sole value is the ability to evoke a pleasant memory.

"At the Nyack Hospital we had fantastic art because the local artists donated it," said Jane Livesey, former director of community relations at Nyack and, before that, at United Hospital in Port Chester. She said the mere act of a volunteer asking a patient to choose a picture or discuss why he or she liked it would often stimulate a lethargic invalid. "Art has a way of reaching people," she said, "and the volunteer

should try to find the picture that does it."

At Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, Pat Smith, director of volunteer services, says pictures brighten rooms where there are no colorful window curtains. Landscapes are the most popular, abstract paintings the least desirable. "They upset people who are coming out of anesthesia," she explained. On the whole, representational art is seen as the most comforting.

Another art cart enthusiast is a director-of-volunteers who doesn't have one. She is Margaret Archibald of St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains who visualizes a strong and beneficial reaction, even if it were negative, along the lines of: "I can't stand that picture and I'd like to get out of this bed and take it down."

Funding for the art carts comes from various sources. At White Plains Hospital the service is sponsored by the White Plains and Scarsdale auxiliaries, each of which provided \$1,500 for initial funding. Tips given to volunteers by grateful patients are another source of funds.

The chief expense of an art cart is framing, even though it is done without glass, for safety reasons. The prints are usually purchased from art reproduction publishers at a hospital discount of 50 percent off the regular prices, which range from \$7.50 to \$38.

What was formerly a rather muted color range is giving way these days to clear, bright hues on white backgrounds.

Such was the brilliant floral facing Angela De Palma last month in White Plains Hospital. But the one facing her roommate, Arlene Mackay, was an old-fashioned fishing boat scene that neither woman liked. "The first night I was here, I was glad I had the nicest picture," Miss De Palma recalled.

Although she was smiling and making a joke to tease her roommate, behind the smile was a message: "It helped."

**Art has a way of reaching people. . . and the volunteer should try to find the picture that does it.**

Jane Livesey

## Salute to feature tea pavilion

Direct from London, England, Machin Designs Limited, international exhibitors of conservatories, will furnish the New York Botanical Garden with a Palm House-style Tea Pavilion for its "Salute to Chelsea" opening Wednesday, April 20.

Built indoors adjacent to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the free-standing glass structure will serve the public as a tea house for the month-long salute to British horticulture. In addition to the Edwardian conservatory, Machin Designs will exhibit a trellised summerhouse with two gothic garden seats which will be incorporated into an English rose garden display in one of the indoor galleries.

Machin Designs has for the past decade exhibited annually at the Chelsea Flower Show in London. Their exhibits at the New York Botanical Garden make the Salute to Chelsea show a cooperative link between the two nations. Thousands of visitors are expected to see the imported garden structures.

## Events

**RETIREMENT FETE:** A dinner dance honoring Richard "Dick" Pisco, who is retiring after 25 years of service with the city of Yonkers, will be held Thursday, April 7, at the Scarsdale Elks Club, Central Park Avenue. Pisco has been with the Water Bureau, Department of Public Works, starting as a mainte-

## About Town

By Carmel Camise Marchionni

nance man and retiring as head meter reader for the bureau. Pisco is a past president of the Crescent Club former trustee of Yonkers Elks Lodge, a member of the Jefferson Rod and Gun Club and a trustee of the Yonkers Cellmates Association. A cocktail hour is scheduled for 6 p.m., preceding dinner at 7. Tickets are \$25 per person. Make checks payable to Arthur Pagano and mail with reservations and seating requests to: Pagano, 181 Stone Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. 10710. Ben Pound, deputy city marshal, is general chairman.

**THEATER WORKSHOP:** St. John's Children's Theater Workshop will present a free performance of its season's work Saturday, April 9, at 1 p.m. at St. John's parish house, 100 Underhill St., Yonkers. In the workshop, children between the ages of 5 and 12, have studied dance, drama and music during the year. The

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## Tom Petty:

On his own terms

By Don McLeese  
Independent Press Service

Tom Petty's story is a familiar one. It starts with years in the bars, first in his hometown of Gainesville, Fla., then throughout Florida, then across the South. There's a cross-country van trip in hopes of a record contract, only to have the band break up before congratulations are completed.

Another band, another shot — even some success this time around. Then things start to get weird. Because of various business entanglements, years of threats and lawsuits follow. Music is still of paramount importance, but music can seem almost peripheral within the music business. Too much time is spent in court and conference rooms; too little in concert or recording sessions.



Tom Petty has been well-documented his refusal to let record companies trade his contract as if he were cattle.

Petty's stubbornness has been well-documented his refusal to let record companies trade his contract as if he were cattle.

his refusal to let his album be used as a trial-balloon for an industry-wide price hike. In both instances, he was risking everything he'd dreamed of. In both instances, he was right, he stood firm, and he won.

Tom Petty is now at the height of his popularity and touring America's arena circuit as a headliner with his band, the Heartbreakers. The tour comes to the metropolitan area this week for two shows: Thursday, March 31, at the Nassau Coliseum, and Friday, April 1, at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena.

Petty was determined for as long as he can remember to be a successful rocker. So are a lot of people. What sets Petty apart is not his determination to make it, but his determination to make it on his own terms. Adversity, it seems, just might be character building.

"We always had food on the table, but it was very working class," said the soft-spoken, hard-willed rocker. "I left home when I was 17, and then I was really poor, really had to hustle. And when you go through that, you get kind of — well, I've got certain rights that mean a lot to me. No matter what, we're all equal in that respect."

While some of his words may sound cocky in print, Petty seems uncommonly free of star-trip affectations. There are simply lines that he will not cross. And those lines have been there for a long time.

"I remember we drove one time from Gainesville to Birmingham, Ala.," he recounted of his bar-band days, "and that's a long drive. We set up, got ready to play. And the club owner comes out and says, 'Hey man, you can't play wearin' tennis shoes. We've got tablecloths on the tables here.'"

Petty wasn't sporting an extensive stage wardrobe at the time, but it's doubtful that he would've changed even if he could've. They told the owner what he could do with their tennis shoes. "We walked out, packed up."

Of course, Petty didn't get where he has on will alone. Underlying his confidence was the realization that he had the talent to back it up. His rock 'n' roll instincts are seemingly unerring. During the '70s — a period when rock, especially Southern rock, was mired in mindless boogie and endless soloing — Petty remained true to the principle that classic rock starts with classic songs.

When Petty and the Heartbreakers released their first album in 1976, it was an early indication that the classic rock song was making a comeback. People didn't know what to make of Petty — or a lot of other folks who were emerging around the same time. Was this punk? New wave? Power pop? What united artists who were otherwise as dissimilar as Petty, Graham Parker, Elvis Costello, Nick Lowe (Petty's opening act on this tour), and

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Globe Theater does adaptation of Molnar play

Ferenc Molnar's 'The Play's the Thing' will be presented by the New Globe Repertory Theatre at the Music Hall, 11 Main St., Tarrytown with the opening on Wednesday, April 6, at 8 p.m.



Robert Burr and Diana Van Fossen in the New Globe Theatre's 'The Play's the Thing'

in a Lifetime" and "Piaf." Broadway veteran Robert Burr is cast as the actor. He has appearances in "The Andersonville Trial," "Look Back in Anger" and Richard Burton's "Hamlet" to his credit, and TV soap operas "All My Children," "Love of Life" and "Another World."

Movie clock

- Mount Vernon PARKWAY - Spring Break (R) Tues 7:30, 9:30
New Rochelle LOEW'S TWIN I - Gandhi (PG) Tues 8:15
LOEW'S TWIN II - Spring Break (R) Tues 8:15

schedule is Wednesday at 2 and 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets for weekday and matinee performances are \$13 to \$8. Friday and Saturday evenings, \$15 to \$10. The box office number is 631-3390 and both Master Card and Visa are accepted.

PETTY/From page B1

even the belatedly appreciated Bob Seger was the combination of passion and craftsmanship that has consistently marked the best rock.

Epstein - are making the richest rock of any mainstream American band. After facing all the hassles of the music business, does Petty still love playing as much as he once did?

art cine MOVIELAND listings for various theaters including White Plains Colony, Galleria I, and Yorktown Hgts.

San Roc Easter Holiday Dinner advertisement featuring live music and a 7-course dinner for \$95.

UA theatres listings for various locations including Bronxville, Larchmont, and White Plains.

'BAD BOYS' IS TENSE AND EXCITING... advertisement for the movie 'Bad Boys' featuring Tom Selleck and Bess Armstrong.

High Road to China advertisement featuring Tom Selleck and Bess Armstrong.

Vienna Choir Boys at Lehman

There is something magical in hearing these pristine voices execute, with uncanny accuracy, the intricacies of these works. One sees young boys who range in age between 9 and 14 years, but one hears the accomplishment of hours of rehearsal and dedication to this art.

The program was divided in three parts with the middle section devoted to a modified stage production of Johann Strauss' one-act operetta, "Wiener Leben."

After the traditional finale of a Strauss waltz and polka, the VCB returned onstage for an encore of "America the Beautiful." This drew a standing ovation for the young singers and more than one moist eye.

The Vienna Choir Boys are bringing to an end the 39th trip to America in their long august history. After witnessing their beauty of sound and technical skill, one can only await impatiently their 40th visit.

THE SWORD IN THE STONE advertisement for the movie featuring Walt Disney's Technicolor production.

'TENDER MERCIES' IS ON MY 1983 10-BEST LIST... advertisement for the movie featuring Tom Cruise.

MAX DUGAN RETURNS advertisement for the movie featuring Max Dugan.

NOW PLAYING AT THESE SELECTED THEATRES listing various theaters and their current offerings.

WINNER - MOST OUTSTANDING DIRECTORIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN 1982 advertisement for Richard Attenborough.

11 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE advertisement for the movie 'Gandhi'.

The Outsiders advertisement featuring the movie cast and promotional text.

THEATRE DIRECTORY listing various theaters and their current offerings.

NEW YORK THEATER DIRECTORY listing various theaters and their current offerings.

GENERAL CINEMA THEATRES \$2.00 listing various theaters and their current offerings.