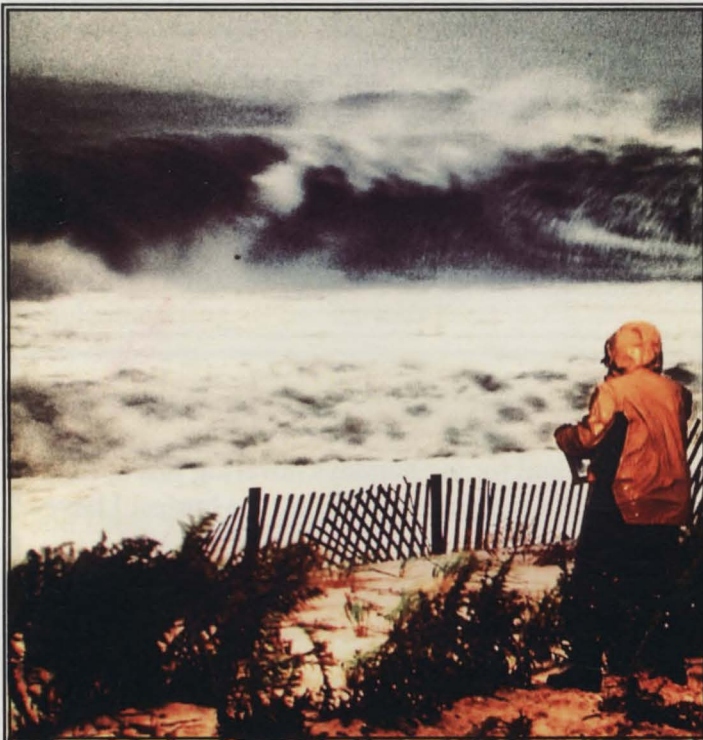




One Week of NBC News Special Reports



Hurricane Sandy Devastates Huge Area

Unprecedented damage

This story broke just as we were going to press.
We wanted to acknowledge the hardships
experienced by our fellow citizens
and shown in close-up
by teams of NBC reporters and crews.

Left: Al Roker at the height of the storm.

Photo by Callan Griffiths
NBC News staff cameraman

Democracy Plaza

Just days later Rockefeller Plaza became
a spectacular Election Night Headquarters
with several anchor booths, and the entire eastern façade
of 30 Rock transformed into an electronic bar graph
displaying the running Electoral Vote count.



INSIDE PN

Breaking News.....	1
Marilyn's Page	2
We Get Letters—Peg Peterson.....	3
What's Now! Burbank Tours End / Two Great Videos	4
What's Now! Jack Weir & Cory Leible to Hall of Fame	5
What's Now! Willie Geist to Host 3rd Hour of Today	6
What's Now! Two Special Birthdays.....	7
We Get Letters—Bob Daniels Jr.....	8
What's Now! News about NBC News.....	9
What's Now! A PN "Third Generation" Success Story..	10-11
What's Now! Education Nation New York Style	12
What's Now! How 8H Spent Its Summer Vacation.....	13

INSIDE PN

We Get Letters— Blair's World.....	14
Peacock Profile: Nanette Fabray—First Color Girl	15
Silent Microphones - Dan Grabel.....	16-17
Silent Microphones - Isabel Schmerler	18-19
Silent Microphones - Henry Champ.....	20-21
Silent Microphones - Carolyn Lord	22
Silent Microphones - Chuck DeJan.....	23
Silent Microphones - Frank Pintauro	24-25
Silent Microphones - Tom Davis	26
Silent Microphones - Tedi Thuman ("Miss Monitor").....	27
Membership Coupon.....	27
New Member	28

Marilyn's Page

**WE MOURN THE GREAT PERSONAL LOSSES
EXPERIENCED BY MILLIONS OF AMERICANS DURING THIS STORM.**



I want to especially recognize the bravery and dedication of the NBC crews, producers and correspondents who put themselves at great personal risk as they drove into this monster storm called Hurricane Sandy in order to keep us informed as a community and a country.

I watched the reportage for hours on end as they endured the violent winds, life-threatening flash flooding and devastating fires. These were the people who left their own families and homes to keep NBC News on the air as an information network. I also want to pay tribute to all the support personnel, many also separated from their homes and families, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the people out in the field had what they needed to be safe while they did their job. All this on the heels of the enormous undertaking of transforming Rockefeller Plaza into Democracy Plaza for election night coverage. I couldn't be more proud of the men and women who comprise NBC News.

THIS COLUMN WAS WRITTEN PRIOR TO HURRICANE SANDY.

Fall is always such a rich time, full of excitement for the new school year and for the holidays hovering just around the corner. It also lends an air of nostalgia for the summer just passed. This summer was among the busiest I have ever seen in our broadcast history, and I have been around a very long time.

At NBC we had the Olympics, with a myriad of shows and a variety of platforms for broadcast and streaming from across the pond. The Tampa and Charlotte conventions followed, along with the Education Nation Summit at the New York Public Library (a particular favorite of mine) and then the debates.

On the horizon are Democracy Plaza at 30 Rock for Election Day, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which will now march down Central Park West and Sixth Avenue as opposed to Broadway!! It is also a very exciting time for our historic landmark home at 30 Rock. The 80th Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree and its 30,000 energy efficient LED lights will be lit on Wednesday, November 28th, 2012, while the building is going through an enormous facelift to accommodate a new NBC employee commissary as well as a number of renovated spaces for all of those who work there.

One added personal note of sadness for all of us at Peacock North: Dan Grabel died recently. He was one of the founders of this wonderful organization, for many years our editor, and always the conscience of the magazine. Dan was a gracious and kind man who will be keenly missed by all of us at PN. There is much more in *Silent Microphones*.

And now for the rest of this issue...

**Support Our Troops,
Our Crews
and Our Correspondents
In Harm's Way**

Current E-mail Addresses

REMINDER—When you change your e-mail address, please remember to notify us at peacocknorth@yahoo.com. This is a great way for us to help members keep in touch with each other.

We Get Letters

This note is from Margaret “Peg” Peterson, widow of one of Peacock North’s founders, Pete Peterson. She has been a major force in all of our activities.

Dear Marilyn,

I just received the latest issue of *Peacock North and the Second Generation* and I had to stop everything to congratulate you on a wonderful issue. There were so many names that I recall hearing from time to time and alas, all I can do is write you a note saying “Bravo.” I do not have a typewriter and I don’t know anything about *You Tube* etc. That was not in my generation.

But I felt so bad when I read in *Marilyn’s Page* about someone who did not care for the *Silent Microphones*. Apparently that person did not know what *Microphones* is [all about].

Silent Microphones is perhaps the saddest and sweetest part of the whole magazine. It breaks your heart and it also gives you grace and tenderness. These people were all great in their day. They worked in a great organization and spent most of their lives away from home.

Please don’t let anyone take away the *Silent Microphones*.

Keep going, Marilyn. You and your crew are doing so well.

God Bless you all!

Fondly,

Margaret Peterson.

**Dept. of Corrections**

Due to a production error in our previous issue we misidentified one of our Spring Brunch guests on Page 19. The person with Sunny Carmell (L) is in fact Cathy Lavaty, not Pat Lynch.



*What's Now!***NBC Ends Burbank Tours**

A little bit of history happened in Burbank on Friday July 13th as the last tour of the famous NBC Studios took place at noon.

For decades, tourists have been able to pop in on NBC's Burbank lot and get visits to sets including the *Tonight* show from willing and cheerful pages. But the studio has been sold and most of NBC has or is moving over to the Universal lot, so the tours are ending.

—David Schwartz reporting on a story seen in the Los Angeles Times

Two Fascinating On Line Videos

Check out these links to some fascinating material:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jApD3VIZu_4

Priceless NBC material from 1939! World's Fair Opening Day, Empire State Building transmitter, mobile unit operations (seen below left), 3H or 8G studio and control room.



...and also for your viewing pleasure, "Behind Your Radio Dial: The Story of NBC" from 1947. Some of you will recognize faces here, such as George Voutsas and Gil Markle (seen above right), Teddy Kruse, Aggie Horine! You will also be treated to lengthy views of Studio 8H at the end of its radio-only era.

<http://www.archive.org/details/BehindYo1947>

*What's Now!***Steve Capus Announces the NBCUniversal News Group**

We are creating a new division called the NBCUniversal News Group. This division will be composed of NBC News, CNBC, MSNBC and the Weather Channel and it will be led by Pat Fili-Krushel as Chairman. Steve Capus, Mark Hoffman and Phil Griffin will continue in their current roles and Mark and Steve will continue to serve on the Executive Committee.

Pat is a great fit for this role. She has a wealth of experience in cable and broadcast television. While at Disney, she ran the ABC Television Network, which included ABC News, and she launched the daytime talk show *The View*. She has held senior positions in programming and production at Lifetime and HBO and immediately before joining NBCUniversal was Executive Vice President of Administration at Time Warner. Since joining NBCUniversal at the close of the deal she has been a valuable member of my senior team and she has my complete confidence.

This new division is designed to enhance collaboration among our news brands. Whether it's launching a new TV show, producing the Olympics or promoting a film, the more we work together the better we do. We've seen this in a big way with the NBC Sports Group, which enables all our sports properties, both broadcast and cable, to collaborate in new and productive ways. It is now time to take the same approach with our news businesses.

Our news properties already have a history of working well together, from CNBC and MSNBC talent appearing on *Today* to all three of our cable news networks along with NBC News and our local stations coordinating coverage of Hurricane Irene. Today, by placing NBC News, MSNBC, CNBC and the Weather Channel into the NBCUniversal News Group, we are creating a structure that should help foster even more cooperation. With the London Olympics beginning next week, the presidential election this fall, and taking full control of our main news website and launching NBCNews.com this week, it now is the perfect time to make this move.

Pat's current responsibilities will be reassigned to other members of our senior executive team as follows: Human Resources will report to Adam Miller, Operations and Technical Services will report to Ted Harbert, and Strategic Planning and Development and Real Estate will report to Stuart Epstein.

We have called NBC News our "crown jewel" in the past and that is how we should think of all of the businesses that will be part of the NBCUniversal News Group. This new structure will play a big role in ensuring our news properties continue to be the best in the industry for years to come.

--Steve Capus announcement on July 19, 2012

NBC Sports Radio Network

Dial Global and the NBC Sports Group have tapped Erik Kuselias and Jon Stashower for duties on the new NBC Sports Radio Network. Kuselias will host a new talk show, Monday-Friday, from 7-10pm (ET), while Stashower has been named as morning anchor for the *NBC Sports Radio National Updates* that will air live Monday-Friday, 6a-11a (ET). Both hosts will debut in conjunction with the launch of the new Sports radio network on Tuesday, September 4th, along with other soon-to-be-announced programming. Kuselias currently hosts *NBC SportsTalk* on the NBC Sports Network and previously served as co-host of *Morning Drive* on The Golf Channel. Prior to that he was the host of *NASCAR Now* on ESPN2 and *The Erik Kuselias Show* on ESPN Radio. Stashower is a familiar voice to sports fans from his years as a sports update anchor for ESPN Radio. Chris Corcoran, Executive Vice President, General Manager of the new DG/NBC venture commented, "As we kick off our exciting talent announcements for the NBC Sports Radio Network launching this fall, we are thrilled to have two tremendously talented sports minds and voices join our team and our lineup."

—©NTS MediaOnline August 6, 2012

*What's Now!*Willie Geist Is Named Co-Host of 9 A.M. Hour of *Today*

On October 10th NBC's "Today" show welcomed Willie Geist, the MSNBC newsman and occasional comedian, as the new co-host of its 9 a.m. hour. The network confirmed that Mr. Geist would become a permanent presence on "Today," where he has regularly filled in for Matt Lauer this year. His impending appointment was first reported last month.

Mr. Geist is currently the host of the irreverent 5:30 a.m. newscast "Way Too Early" and a co-host of the 6-to-9 a.m. "Morning Joe" on MSNBC, a favorite of political junkies. He said in an interview that he will continue co-hosting the 6 a.m. hour of "Morning Joe" because he "wanted to keep a foot in the 'Morning Joe' political world." Then, he said, "I'll jog across the street and finish prepping for the 9 a.m. hour." (The "Today" studio is in a building across 49th Street from MSNBC's studio, both at Rockefeller Center in Midtown Manhattan.)

"Way Too Early," which was conceived by Mr. Geist three years ago, will continue, but with a new host. He or she has not been chosen.

Mr. Geist's appointment on "Today" will begin Nov. 12, the Monday after the presidential election. He will replace Savannah Guthrie, the previous 9 a.m. host, who was promoted to co-host the flagship 7-to-9 a.m. hours earlier this year after NBC removed Ann Curry from the position. Mr. Geist's transition is intended to be a smooth one, unlike Ms. Curry's. He appeared on the show on Wednesday morning to talk about his promotion, and he'll continue to show up in advance of the appointment date. "I do expect there will be some Halloween hazing, although they won't tell me what it is yet," he said in the interview, referring to the show's annual Halloween costume episode.

Jim Bell, the executive producer of "Today," said in a statement: "We are thrilled to add Willie to the 'Today' team. He brings a solid news background with a keen sense of creativity and humor. From politics to pop culture, Willie is a skilled and versatile reporter who will make a great addition at 9 a.m. and contribute to the entire broadcast." Mr. Geist will continue to fill in for Mr. Lauer, who has been the co-host of the 7-to-9 a.m. hours since 1997. Mr. Lauer recently renewed his contract at "Today." He'll also continue to contribute to the NBC Sports Network, where he anchored some Summer Olympics coverage earlier this year.

But his main job will now be the 9 a.m. hour of "Today," which was created in 2000 as an extension of the morning show franchise. He'll be joined by Al Roker and Natalie Morales, two members of the 7-to-9 a.m. ensemble who already co-host the 9 a.m. hour. Of the 9 a.m. program, Mr. Geist said, "it's going to become more of its own hour." Already "Today" has taken some steps toward becoming more of a talk show. Earlier this fall it added a conversational segment called "Take Three," where the co-hosts and a guest talk about hot topics of the day. "Loose, smart with a sense of humor is a great combination," Mr. Geist said.

For more than 15 years "Today" was the No. 1 morning show in the United States, but it has fallen behind ABC's "Good Morning America" in the ratings this year. Mr. Geist is the second fresh face, after his friend Ms. Guthrie, who has joined the cast since "G.M.A." started winning. "Right now I see a moment of great opportunity," Mr. Geist said, "and the great news is that everybody over there at the 'Today' show feels the same way too."

-- By BRIAN STELTER The New York Times October 10, 2012

What's Now!
Birthday Milestones: Tony Romeo (93) and Peter Flynn (80)


Standing: Phil Parlante, Tony Rivera, Vince Gabriele, Jan Kasoff, Bill Freeda, Warren Langrock, Joel Spector, Hank Huestis. Seated: Frank Gaeta, Lou Gerard, Murray Vecchio, Tony Romeo.

Our Long Island Lunch of July 17th had to be one of the best we have had in a very long time. Just great, and my thanks to Joel, Frank Gaeta and Bill Freeda for always making these luncheons so successful. On the day before, Monday July 16th, I reached 93 years of age! We have a magnificent group of buddies that we have spent more than half a lifetime with. I am proud to say that I have been blessed with a group that is as close to me as my own family. God Bless you and I hope that you continue to carry on with that wonderful group.

Thank you - from the heart, Tony Romeo



L-R: Laura, Kelsey, Peter Sr, Jaime, Hudson, Dan, Peter Jr, Andrea

Here's the family at my 80th Birthday celebration on March 31st!

—Peter

We Get Letters

A Note from Bob Daniels Jr.

Here's a reply to an email from Noel Engler:

Dear Noel,

When I was 11 or 12, I used to take the train in during school vacation and work in the Video Tape library. I felt really cool when the tours came by and they saw this kid behind the scenes. Later on as an adult I lived in Dallas and would work sports events. The stress and level of pressure in the trucks convince me to do something else.

We keep finding interesting scrapbooks and memorabilia. Some of the black crawls they used to use for shows like *Wide Wide World* were in a box, some original video tape samples in an envelope, along with pictures and stories from many events that were TV firsts. He was the cameraman for the first World Series done live; the first US Open golf; the first live broadcast in Congress, where he dropped a lens on a senator and had to go retrieve it; as well as Winston Churchill's funeral.

You were not the only one that he intimidated, but it was not something he did on purpose. He was just trying to get thing done right, down to the smallest detail.

He really had three distinct lives:

WWII, where he survived a plane crash in the Himalayas in which he was paralyzed and rescued by cannibals after 2 weeks;

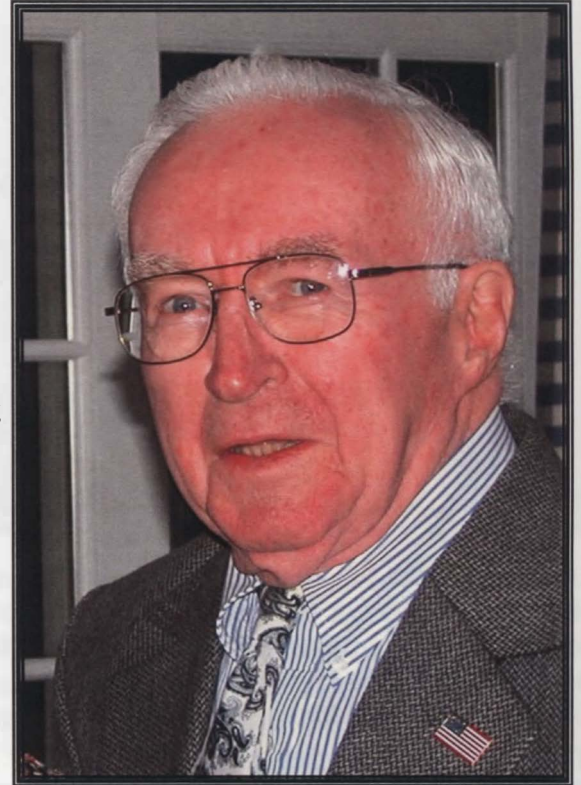
then NBC;

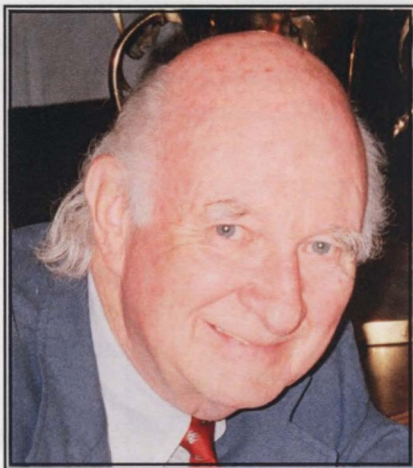
and, after he retired, he was driving my mother crazy so he started a charity golf tourney for Juvenile Diabetes featuring blind golfers. That was his full time job after retirement.

Thanks again for the email.

Regards,

Bob Daniels Jr.



*What's Now!***Jack Weir, Corey Leible Inducted into Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame**

The Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame is proud to announce the Class of 2012, eight industry leaders who will be honored on Dec. 11, 2012, at a ceremony at the New York Hilton Hotel. Ken Aagaard, Chairman, Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame, revealed this year's class of distinguished inductees at an SVG Advisory Board meeting held Wednesday night in New York City. "Sports networks, leagues, teams, and viewers owe much to this year's class," says Aagaard. "The influence they have had on the current sports-broadcasting industry-whether in management, production, or on-air - is tremendous, and it is a credit to their knowledge and dedication."



The Hall of Fame's sixth class of inductees is made up of ESPN executive chairman George Bodenheimer, audio pioneer Ray Dolby, famed NFL commentator Frank Gifford, sports production visionary executive Ed Goren, legendary NBC cameraman Cory Leible, former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, NBC operations and engineering guru Jack Weir, and iconic broadcaster Jack Whitaker.

After finishing Army service, **Jack Weir** began his career at NBC in 1952 as a page and remained with the network for more than 40 years. Early in his career, he, Don Kivell, and Frank Badami sold NBC technical management on the concept of a central department where instant on-air management decisions would be made. From that idea evolved the BOC (Broadcast Operations Center), the go-to place for all operational decisions on breaking news, sports, and programs. In 1962, Weir was a key player in the evolution of TV broadcasting from terrestrial transmission over telephone lines into the satellite era. Though involved in NBC's coverage of many major events - including John Glenn's orbiting the Earth and Neil Armstrong's landing on the moon - Weir is remembered by many for his work on various Olympic Games.

A legendary NBC camera operator, **Corey Leible** was widely known as the daredevil of sports television. The low-flying tee-to-green survey shots that he invented became a staple of NBC telecasts as golfers approached each hole. Capturing the shots required him to fly 5 feet above the ground at 70 miles per hour, with only a safety belt to hold him to the chopper's side. Aside from his stunts, Leible is generally considered to be one of the most accomplished handheld operators ever to work in the business. He routinely came up with the sensitive or ironic portrait: the baby sleeping in its mother's arms during a break in the action of an especially tense game, the quirky close-up of an icicle dripping from a crossbar, or the tear on the cheek of a cheerleader for the losing team.

The 2012 Hall of Fame ceremony will be held at the New York Hilton Hotel on December 11, 2012. The ceremony begins at 7 p.m. and will be preceded by a networking cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m.

All ticket sales for this year's ceremony will support the SVG Sports Broadcasting Fund, the industry's first charity designed to support those in the sports-broadcasting industry who find themselves financially challenged due to illness, accident, or death.

"The industry support for the SVG Sports Broadcasting Fund has been tremendous, and the Hall of Fame is at the center of its activities as we honor some of the industry's legendary leaders while simultaneously building a support mechanism for those most in need," says Aagaard, chairman of the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame and the SVG Sports Broadcasting Fund Advisory Board.

*We Get Letters and Pictures***A Peacock North Third Generation Story
by Enid Roth**

Today's Al Roker recently interviewed a 13-year-old chef prodigy named Flynn McGarry. He was accompanied for the segment by the famed chef and restaurateur, Daniel Boulud, who acted as his "sous chef". During Flynn's cooking demo, Boulud declared on the air that he expected that Flynn will become one of the best chefs in the world one day. Those of us with long memories will be interested to learn that Flynn's grandmother is our own Peggy Rogers Daniels.

How many of you remember Peggy? She came to NY in 1949 to get in to TV after doing a stint at Washington D.C. radio station WBCC. She met producer-director Larry Schwab at a cocktail party (how many of you remember Larry?) who gave her a job on a new show called *Television Screen Magazine*. (Even I don't remember that one.) TD was Don Pike, Audio - Carl Lindemann. (Them I DO remember.)

In those days - the prime years for TV - and before the era of the DGA - the "girls" on staff at NBC were PAs doing many shows at a time. Take a trip down memory lane with me. Lucky Peggy was a PA on *Lights Out*, *Philco Playhouse*, *Armstrong Circle Theater*, *Candid Camera*, *the Kate Smith Show*, *Colgate Comedy Hour*, and *Your Show of Shows*. I'm guessing that a lot of you reading this must have worked with Peggy on these shows. She had become Greg Garrison's (remember him?) favorite PA and Greg chose to make her his AD which made Peggy the first "girl" AD at NBC. That was in '52. (PN ladies - anyone have an earlier claim?)



She did her shifts in BOC when it was in 5H (see above with Peg, me and John Canevari) and continued with shows like *Jack Paar*, and worked with directors you all remember such as Clark Jones, Fred Coe and Delbert Mann. On a personal note - Peggy worked on the Milton Berle show in 1954 and Milton's sister Roz made Peggy's wedding veil, and since she was doing *The Eddie Fisher Show*, Eddie sang at her wedding, which was filmed by an NBC news photographer. When I finally got on the AD staff, Peggy became my mentor and I used to babysit for her first born, Larry Daniels, Jr. He's now an entertainment lawyer with a wonderful family of his own.

hell is Dorothy Arzner?"- she was the first woman to direct major motion pictures.



But to get back to Flynn. At age 10 he got bored with the meals he was getting at home and started cooking his own. He soon designed a kitchen and his father built it for him in Flynn's bedroom. He caters to a monthly supper club (Eureka) operating out of his home and cooking a tasting menu of 10-12 dishes out of his bedroom kitchen with a small staff, and for which Peggy supplies the tablecloths, silverware and glassware.

It is my hope that in a few years we might be able to persuade Peggy to have Flynn volunteer his services and plan our Peacock North luncheon. Just kidding Peg.



What's Now!

Education Nation - New York Style

By Marilyn Altman



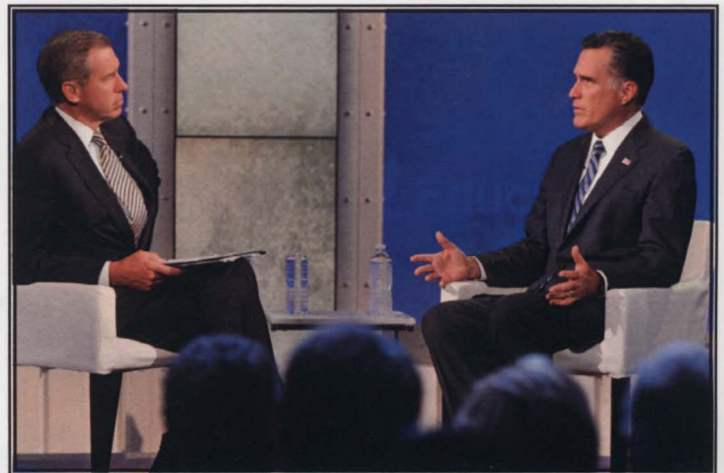
From September 23rd through 25th NBC transformed the New York Public Library's Main Branch at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street into the location of the 3rd annual Summit of Education Nation. NBC News, MSNBC, CNBC and Telemundo provided cross-network on-air coverage of this crucial conversation about education in our country. NBC has taken on this initiative for two full years, shining a light on the issues at hand as well as some of the solutions. For those of us privileged enough to participate in its planning and execution the Summit provided an incredible platform of shows, panel discussions, and town hall meetings led by some of the most prestigious people in education, business and leadership roles.

How often do you get to say something like that?

This year's event was twelve months in the making, with its aggressive agenda and all of the moving pieces involved. Sunday started off with a first ever student town hall which aired on MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry show. Joining her were Luke Russert and Maria Schiavocampo. This was followed by live coverage of the Teacher Town Hall moderated by Brian Williams with help from Rehema Ellis, Tamron Hall and Jenna Bush Hager. Later that evening there was lively commentary from Michelle Rhee, founder and CEO of Students First and Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers, concerning the movie premiere of *Won't Back Down*.

Monday saw Andrea Mitchell interview both Condoleezza Rice and Chelsea Clinton. Michelle Caruso-Cabrera from CNBC was on hand to interview Intel's CEO and Chairman, Craig Barrett. Tom Brokaw, Savannah Guthrie, Arne Duncan, Governor Mitt Romney, and Colin Powell, among many others, were front and center at the New York Public Library for this incredible week.

I urge you to click onto EducationNation.com to view some of the panel discussions and case studies that were covered. This is a conversation which will go on for a long time and involves all of our futures.



What's Now!

How 8H Spent Its Summer Vacation



This summer, as in 2008, the floor of Studio 8H, home of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, was host to many components of the NBCU family.

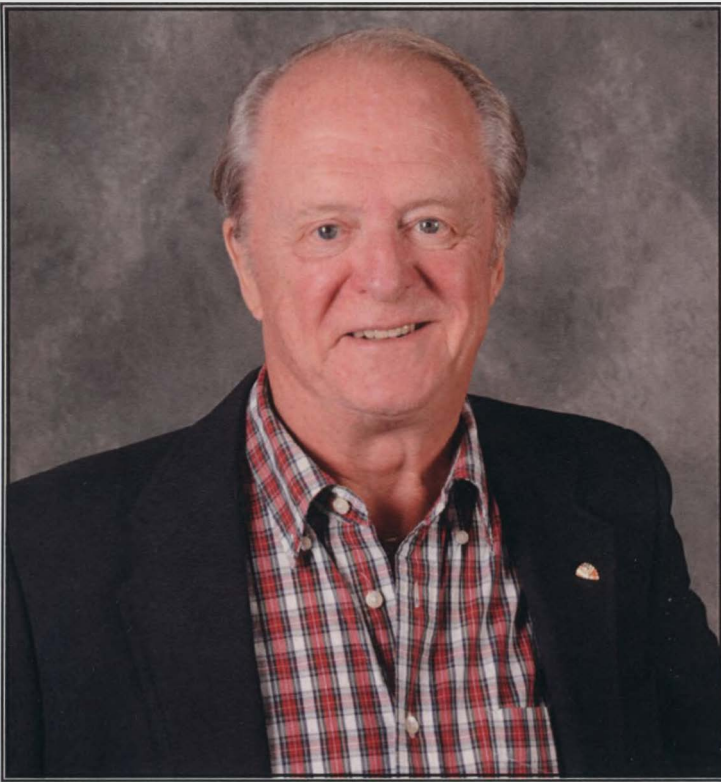
Announcers from MSNBC, CNBC, NBC Network, NBCSN, NBC Specialty Channels (Basketball and Soccer), and NBC Web Streaming staffed individual booths where they provided voice-over commentary of Olympic events while watching live action on a video monitor.

Each booth was routed from a "mini BOC station" in the studio, with inbound and outbound router panels in and out of the plant.



This photo shows the Workstation area of the studio. Here "shotpickers" logged events and integrated commercial ads in the webstream.



*What's Now!***Blair's World**

Hello up there,

Your excellent publication is a nice reminder of how many longtime NBC TV types fill your pages and yet managed to migrate over to us little old radio persons. The like of the ageless Beryl (the Girl) Pfizer, Walt Ryan, and a whole bunch who headed back to your halls when our dear radio network was sold to that very second-rate Westwood One operation [in 1987]. Not even close, and it was the catalyst for quite a few of us deciding to call it a career when they took the net down to Alexandria or someplace like that close to D.C. Oh yes, can't forget Ann Taylor, still doing her thing in D.C. radio as far as I know. Good for her.

Then we began running into great folks like Pete Fatovich when we were assigned to recovery carriers back during the Gemini and Apollo days and we Pool voices and/or faces were teamed up with the various TV Nets from the tech side of things. What great opportunities to meet and work with some of the best in the business.

AND NOW....so casually mentioned on the 38th page of your latest edition.....

A 24 HOUR NBC RADIO NETWORK!!!

Are you kidding me? The higher-ups at NBC actually know that there used to be something called radio network news? Hey, I'm only going on 80....and I can still read and speak English. This could be the start of a whole new career. Your Florida stringer...keeping you up to date on beach conditions and occasional photos of our local bathing beauties. Well, they are getting up there in years...maybe not.

Anyway...always great to get my latest copy of Peacock North.

Best to you all,

Don Blair,
NBC Radio Network, ret.

*Peacock Profiles***Nanette "Color Girl" Fabray****Nanette Fabray On Camera in 1951****The Original Live Test-Pattern "Girl"**

In the November 6, 1954 issue of TV Guide magazine, Nanette Fabray was given the title "The Original Live-Test Pattern Girl" because of her experience (begun in 1942) with early color television presented by CBS for the Federal Communications Commission.

By 1949 she had logged over 1000 hours of color television work when she appeared in the RCA color demonstration which led to the acceptance of compatible color television.

Some of her TV credits include:

Caesar's Hour, NBC/1954-57;

Westinghouse Playhouse, NBC/1961;

and *One Day at a Time*, CBS/1975-84.



Nanette had to overcome a significant hearing impairment to pursue an entertainment career. Therefore she has made it a priority to be an advocate for the rights of the deaf and hard of hearing and is admired by many for her humanitarian efforts.

She was married twice, first to NBC Vice-President Dave Tebet from 1947 to 1951, and then to writer and producer Ranald MacDougall from 1957 until his death in 1973.

Tributes to Silent Microphones

**"Hold for Release"
Dan Grabel, Newsman**

[Dan Grabel, consummate Newsman, updated his 1,200 word obituary on April 19, 2008.
We present it here, slightly, but respectfully, edited.]



Dan Grabel, a pioneer in television news and public events in a broadcasting career that dated from 1946 to 1987, died on September 24th. He was 91 years old.

He was a newspaperman, then writer, editor, reporter and producer for NBC News for 32 years. In retirement he continued to write a weekly ski column in winter for 25 years, and, for a time, a biking column in summer for the Scarsdale, NY *Inquirer* and also for the Hometown Group (Rye, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, and Bronxville) and the Westerly RI *This Week*. He also contributed articles to the Westchester section of the New York Times, *Westchester Generation* magazine, and was principal writer and managing editor of *Peacock North*, the NBC retirees' magazine, for 14 years.

His first position was with Amy Vanderbilt's Publicity Associates, Inc., in 1933 after he graduated from DeWitt Clinton high school and began attending Long Island University at night. Returning from military service after World War II, he started as a copy clerk at the New York Journal-American, and then at the Daily News in 1946, and advanced to radio newscast writer in 1947 for "News Around the Clock." The hourly broadcast over WNEW NY probably was the first 24-hour news service in the nation.

In 1948 he became one of the original staff members of WPIX television when the Daily News received a broadcast license, and he worked as an associate producer in the News and Special Events department.

His assignments included opening day of Idlewild Airport, now called John F. Kennedy, opening day at Shea Stadium in 1965 when Casey Stengel was the manager of the new New York Mets. He regularly covered boxing and wrestling with sportscaster Guy LeBow, and harness racing at Roosevelt Raceway/ where he worked with the celebrated race caller Clem McCarthy.

Switching to WPIX's news operation as a writer and producer, Grabel covered the Democratic and Republican Party conventions in Philadelphia in 1948, the first to be broadcast on television, when Harry S. Truman and Thomas E. Dewey were nominated for president.

In 1955, executive producer Gerald Green invited him to join NBC News' "Today" show. He was assigned to the overnight staff, which prepared material for Dave Garroway and news announcer Frank Blair. As a personal writer for Blair, he wrote commentaries for "Emphasis," a daily NBC radio program and contributed material to "Monitor," a weekend radio program, as well as newscasts for the NBC-TV "Home" show hosted by Arlene Francis and Hugh Downs.

On one of former President Harry Truman's visits to New York, Grabel was assigned to join him for his traditional early morning walk in the vicinity of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel for a "Today" show report. Years later, looking at a photograph of the walk, Grabel noted that it appeared only one secret service man accompanied Truman.

In 1963, he worked for NBC News' local operation on the 11 O'clock News, then hosted by John K.M. McCaffrey. When the network joined forces with the British Combine for International News Association (BCINA), Grabel was the first New York producer.

When NBC created News Program Service (NPS), the first TV network news syndication operation offering network affiliates a daily 15 minute closed-circuit feed to supply local stations across the country with same day Washington, domestic and international news, sports and features, he joined that staff. Eventually the service was re-named Affiliate News Service and expanded to one hour daily and then several times a day. He served as a line producer, sports and features producer, reporter, writer and editor and was involved daily with the page-one newsmakers who visited New York. He interviewed scores of sports, theater and political personalities in more than 60 years in journalism. He also created and wrote a monthly NBC newsletter promoting News Program Service.

As a reporter, Grabel often provided a personal angle on stories. Covering boxer Cassius Clay, who later became Mohammad Ali, while preparing for a title fight with Joe Frazier in the early 60s, he joined the heavyweight during road work around the Central Park reservoir. With a camera and sound man on the tailgate of a station wagon just ahead of them, he used a wireless microphone to interview Clay during the jog. Grabel was a second-row ringsider at all of Clay's fights at Madison Square Garden, as well as every other New York title fight in the 60s and 70s. His interviews with Jack Dempsey, filmed in the one-time heavyweight champ's Broadway restaurant and at Madison Square Garden, were later the basis of Dempsey's NBC television obituary.

Assigned to cover skating star Peggy Fleming when she appeared at the Rockefeller Center rink to promote her ice show, Grabel was the only reporter to show up with his own ice skates and interviewed Fleming while skating.

As a freelancer, he wrote and produced a year-end news review for the Associated Press which was narrated by NBC radio commentator Morgan Beatty and distributed by the AP as a recording. He was invited by government offices to Taiwan and to Finland to speak to local television broadcasters.

In 1975 he taught a course sponsored by The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences at the New School: *The Sponsored Film Clip as a Public Relations Tool*.

As a lifetime downhill skier, Grabel and his wife Patricia had skied at nearly every major resort in North America from Saint Anne in northern Quebec, westward to Whistler/Blackcomb in British Columbia, Canada, and as far south as Las Lanas in the Andes Mountains of Argentina. He was a member of the North American Snowsports Journalists' Association and the Eastern Ski Writers Association for more than 30 years and downhill skied until his 87th year. He then took up snow-shoeing. He was also a bike-rider and thrice a week doubles tennis player.

The Grabels were regular international travelers and made 50 trans-Atlantic trips. His London-born wife Patricia once estimated they had visited 40 countries. They met on a blind date on his first trip to London in 1957. They renewed the friendship in May, 1959 and were married that September in London.

Grabel was a licensed amateur radio operator with the Federal Communications license N2FLR. He served 8 terms as president of the Westchester Amateur Radio Association, and was a member of the Westchester Emergency Radio Communications Association, the American Radio Relay League, the Old Oldtimers Association and the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

He also was a member of Scarsdale Post 52 of the American Legion and, for a quarter century, the Scarsdale Golf Club. He had been a one-time member of the New York Newspaper Guild, The Writers Guild of America (WGA), American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA), and the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET).

During World War II he served in the Army Signal Corps as a staff sergeant, seeing overseas duty in Hawaii, Guam and Saipan in the western Pacific.

He was born in Manhattan and graduated from New York University with a BS degree in journalism in 1948, attending at night while he was a writer at the Daily News.

He lived in Scarsdale for 28 years, then in Rye Brook and Westerly, RI and is survived by his wife, Patricia, a retired publicist and writer; son Jonathan of Scarsdale, NY; daughter [also] Patricia and granddaughters Amanda and Courtney; and son Peter of Greenwich, CT, his wife MaryAnn and grandsons Spencer and Michael.

The family may be contacted at 52 Doral Greens Dr West, Rye Brook, NY 10573-5403.

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Remembering Isabel
by David Schmerler**

Isabel and I met at NBC on June 18, 1968. It was the night of a New York Primary Election and NBC News was covering it as a dress rehearsal for the Presidential Election in November. Isabel was taking phone calls with election returns and I was the Election Unit coordinator for her group.

There wasn't much real work to do so Isabel and I started to talk, and talk and talk. She was 26 and at the very height of her beauty: wavy blonde hair, bright blue eyes, obviously very smart, and with a radiant smile when she chose to use it. I wanted to ask her out right there but I found it hard to believe that a woman that wonderful would be interested in a very junior level NBC News Associate Producer. But I did ask her out and we found that we just "clicked" together. We dated a few more times and on July 10th, 1968, we went to a Swedish movie in Greenwich Village about two lovers who were starving but would not leave each other to get food.

We looked at each other and said in unison, "That's really dumb." We left the theater and headed for Sutters, a nearby bakery and café where we each ordered the biggest, gloppiest pastry on the menu. We went back to her apartment on Ninth Street and, with a sudden burst of courage I asked her to marry me. Isabel thought about the idea for about 10 seconds and said "Yes." We were married on September 21, just three months after we met for the first time. We knew that we were deeply in love, so "why wait?"

As the years went by our love only deepened and grew. We hated being apart. We both were News people and had to travel for work: I was still at NBC. Isabel had transferred to ABC News because, at that time, NBC rarely promoted women. Unless one of us was at a place in the world where the phones didn't work we talked every night. Isabel rose to a fairly high-level financial job at ABC. But she never forgot struggling to advance at NBC. She had an eye for talent and she was excited each time she discovered a smart young woman in her department whom she could mentor. She had learned how to do numbers by helping her accountant father at tax time and she was very good at it.

But work was not the most important side of Isabel:

Isabel had a passion for art and music and ballet and French culture. She knew far more than I did about all of those things. She made the Metropolitan Museum of Art one of our favorite places. I had only been there a few times before our marriage. I never stopped learning about the arts from her but I could never catch up: She was always learning more. She made me a complete person. And, her enthusiasm for art and music affected our entire family. We all learned from Isabel.

We traveled a lot: mostly to France and later Italy, Holland, German and Portugal. Isabel's college major at Brooklyn College was French and she spoke it well. She planned our vacation trips as thoroughly and meticulously as she did everything else, pouring over guidebooks to find the perfect inn in the perfect French village and the Paris restaurant with the perfect old-time atmosphere, or, as she called it, "the right ambiance."

Isabel had been taking drawing and painting lessons when we met. But her responsibilities at ABC grew with each promotion and she reluctantly gave up art lessons. Instead she found artistic expression in cooking. The first Julia Child cookbook inspired her as soon as we bought it. She became a magnificent cook, with me as her assistant, or, as she put in French, "her sous-chef." Dinner invitations to the Schmerlers' were almost never turned down. We learned about fine wine together to accompany her fine meals. Her birthday present to me one year was a 100-bottle wine cooler.

At the end of 1998, we each discovered that we could volunteer to be laid off from our respective jobs and take early retirement two years earlier than we had planned. Isabel was a managing director at ABC at time and was offering early retirement to some of the people she supervised. She discovered that, due to a quirk in the corporate downsizing plan, she actually could make more money over the next two years by leaving. It was an easy decision.

We called it "Free At Last." We could be together most of the day, every day for the first time. We enjoyed doing all the ordinary little things of everyday life simply because we did them together. We traveled a lot, to Europe and to the California Wine Country. When we got tired of traveling we bought a great condo in Portland, Maine with two different, beautiful, water views and enjoyed fixing up and furnishing it. Isabel loved to sit by the big window in her studio in the condo, sketching and painting Portland's busy, working harbor.

Isabel resumed painting, concentrating on watercolors. She started taking classes with a great teacher, Phyllis Rutigliano. Given her native talent, her skill grew and grew. She had a very successful one-person exhibit last November. Phyllis became Isabel's artistic mentor and she and her husband, John, became great friends of ours.

In the summer of last year her chronic anemia was diagnosed as Myelodysplasia, or MDS, a form of bone marrow cancer. Isabel threw herself into learning about the disease, spending hours and hours at medical Internet sites. She found a great and caring hematologist at Englewood Hospital. She found the world's leading expert on MDS, a research professor at Columbia Medical School, and persuaded that doctor to take her on as a patient. She patiently underwent chemo treatment, four days each month. It took two more weeks for her to shake off the effects of the chemo so that she had only one really "good week" each month.

She tried to stay cheerful and to keep her sense of humor but her energy was limited. We had to keep our trips to Maine down to only six days so that she could receive her weekly injections in Englewood to keep her blood count up.

We hoped for at least two more years together after her diagnosis, perhaps several more. But last month the disease became much more aggressive. After three excruciatingly painful weeks in Intensive Care she died peacefully on September 10th at the beautiful Villa Marie Claire Hospice in Saddle River.

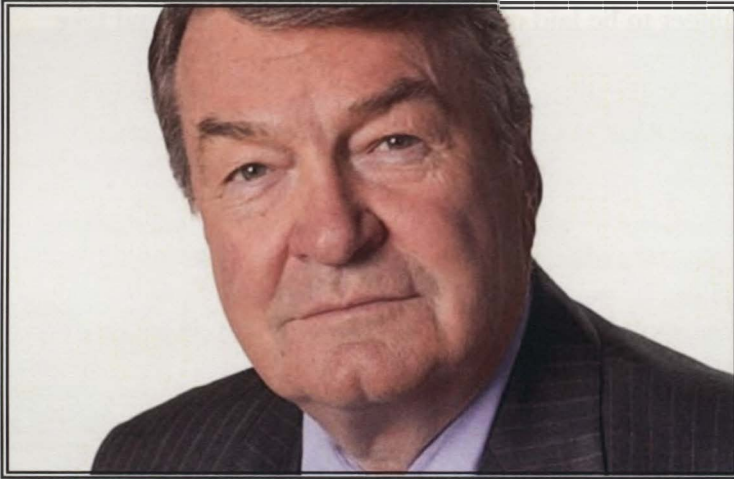
Isabel and I had a little custom at night after we turned off the bedroom lamp. We kissed and we each said "Good night, I love you" before drifting off to sleep. She was heavily sedated at the hospice to control her pain. But, at the very end, she opened her eyes and looked straight at me. I hope that she was saying, "Good bye, I love you." And that was all.

Thanks to all of you who have already expressed your affection and support.

Contact info for David & Family:

122 Surrey Lane
Tenaflly, NJ 07670-2517
Phone: 201-965-2217

If you so desire, contributions in Isabel's name to the
Villa Marie Clair Hospice, a truly extraordinary place, in Saddle River, NJ
(www.villamarieclaire.org/support.asp)

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Henry Champ**

Henry Champ, who grew up on the Canadian prairie and became a distinguished broadcast journalist covering the Vietnam War and Washington and European politics, and whose interview with a fugitive terrorist sparked debate about the role of a free press, died Sept. 23 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington. He was 75. He died of complications from lung cancer, said his wife, Washington Post journalist Karen DeYoung.

Mr. Champ was a District resident and, since 2008, held the ceremonial job of chancellor of Brandon University in Manitoba. "Eleven months of bad weather, and one month of good skating," he often quipped of Manitoba, the central Canadian province where he was raised.

With his chiseled features and arched eyebrows, Mr. Champ epitomized the foreign correspondent with a taste for hazard zones and a handsome wardrobe of trench coats and flak jackets. In a career spanning four decades, Mr. Champ cultivated a salty, common-man persona that connected with viewers. He once described himself as a proud Canadian but "not one of those who runs around with a beaver tattooed on my butt."

After a brief stint as a sports reporter in Manitoba, Mr. Champ rose to prominence with the Canadian network CTV. He was among the first Canadian journalists in communist China when the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1970, and he was one of the last correspondents to leave Vietnam when Saigon fell in 1975.

He covered the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal and Innsbruck, Austria, and served as host and correspondent for "W5," a CTV news magazine show similar in format to "60 Minutes." His reports ranged from the alleged mishandling of Canadian foreign aid for Haiti to police brutality in Toronto.

Like Canadian-born TV journalists Morley Safer and Peter Jennings, Mr. Champ was eventually lured to work in the United States. He joined NBC News in 1982 and was a correspondent in Frankfurt, Warsaw, London and Washington.

In the 1980s, he covered bloody conflicts in Central America and Northern Ireland, accompanied mujaheddin fighters during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and reported on both sides of the war between Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Champ drew significant attention for his 1986 interview with fugitive Palestine Liberation Front leader Mohammed Zaidan, better known as Abu Abbas.

Abbas, who called President Ronald Reagan "enemy No. 1" in the interview, was charged in the United States as the mastermind of the 1985 hijacking of the cruise ship Achille Lauro off the Egyptian coast. The hijackers shot a wheelchair-bound American, Leon Klinghoffer, and threw him overboard. The Reagan administration offered a \$250,000 bounty for Abbas.

In exchange for the interview, NBC had to promise not to disclose Abbas's whereabouts. The terms raised moral and legal questions, and NBC was denounced by the head of the State Department's counterterrorism unit for essentially allowing Abbas to spew propaganda.

Lawrence Grossman, then the president of NBC News, defended the “newsmaker” interview, saying that “an informed public is better than an ignorant one.” Officials at other networks, including ABC and CNN, applauded the interview as a scoop that helped make the public better informed. Media writers weighed in on whether the interview was worth the price, considering that the newsiest aspect of the story — Abbas’s location — went unaddressed. (It was later revealed that the interview took place in Algeria.) It took NBC News personnel two months to arrange a meeting with Abbas.

Abbas died in U.S. custody in Iraq a year after the U.S. invasion in 2003.

Reflecting on the controversy in 2007, Mr. Champ wrote: “It always seemed to me that most people felt NBC had done a decent journalistic job in tracking down Abbas, that we elicited a confession from those involved and showed them for the thugs they were....The NBC debate overshadowed the stories about American failures in Mideast or screw-ups chasing terrorists.”

“The truth,” he added, “was any tinpot government security service would have been able to track a four-person television crew leaving Heathrow Airport for the Middle East.”

Stephen Henry Champ was born in Brandon on July 12, 1937, to a farming family. After attending what was then Brandon College, he served in the Canadian army and entered journalism as a sports reporter for the Brandon Sun newspaper.

His first marriage, to Sarah Smith, ended in divorce. Besides DeYoung, whom he married in 1985, survivors include three children from his first marriage, Abby Armstrong of Bayfield, Ontario, Marylee Barratt of Queensland, Australia, and Adam Champ of Hamilton, Ontario; two children from his second marriage, Kathleen Champ of Leesburg, Fla., and Jesse Champ of Washington; a sister; and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Champ helped cover the Pentagon and Capitol Hill before leaving NBC, citing low morale that he blamed on the corporate bosses at General Electric. He was outspoken in his disillusionment with NBC’s news judgment, which he criticized for its emphasis on show business personalities and lurid crime.

“Television is becoming frothy,” he told the Canadian Press news agency in 1993. “The American networks have sent more crews to cover the Michael Jackson tour by an exponential figure of 10 than they have to investigate NAFTA,” referring to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

At the time, Mr. Champ was among a notable exodus of Canadian-born television reporters — including Brian Stewart and the brothers Arthur and Peter Kent — from NBC. They all returned to broadcasting jobs in Canada. Mr. Champ became co-anchor of the “CBC Morning News” from Halifax on the Canadian Broadcast Corp. and later was Washington correspondent for the news network CBC Newsworld before he retired in 2008 after the election of President Obama. He continued to write online columns on American politics for CBC News.

In 2009, Mr. Champ received the highest honor from Canada’s association of electronic journalists.

In Washington, Mr. Champ helped in 2008 to launch the annual baseball tournament for public and private high school teams now called the D.C. High School Baseball Classic and played at Nationals Park. He also established relationships with high school coaches and guidance counselors to recruit poor but academically promising District students to attend Brandon University instead of more expensive American schools.

You may contact the family at:

Karen DeYoung
4028 Argyle Terrace
Washington DC 20011

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Karolyn Lord



Karolyn Kennedy Lord, 70, passed away on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at Mountainside Hospital in Glen Ridge, N.J. A funeral service was held at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair on August 2nd at The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair, NJ.

Born in New York, Karolyn was raised in Summit, N.J., and moved to New York City at the beginning of her career. She lived in Lexington, Mass., while working as the bureau chief for NBC News in Boston. She relocated to Upper Montclair in 1979 and then became the New York bureau chief of NBC Network News. She moved to Verona, N.J., in 1997. Karolyn attended Smith College and Simmons College.

She was the wife of the late John G. Lord [See box below]; mother of Annette Lord and Nicholas Lord, both of England, and grandmother of Katy, William and Annie. For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Red Cross, 63 Park St., Montclair, N.J. 07042, or the Bloomfield Animal Shelter, c/o Bloomfield Board of Health, 1 Municipal Plaza, Bloomfield, N.J. 07003.

Published in Star-Ledger on July 31, 2012

Karolyn's NBC friends and colleagues remember her

Ann Kemp: Karolyn was such a wonderful person, I am sure you all are as grief stricken as I am. I hope we can all come together to celebrate and honor her life.

Bob Jamieson: I had the privilege of working with Karolyn both as a producer and as the boss. She was a wonderful, talented, thoughtful person and colleague whose heart was always in the right place.

Cheryl Gould: Always a lady in an often very un-lady-like profession.

M. L. Flynn: She was such a lady and so kind to me when I was a very green field producer

Bambi: Such a talented and lovely gal.

Bill Freeda: Very sad news indeed. I worked with Karolyn before she was Karolyn Lord. It was Karolyn Kennedy at the time, and she was a researcher. In 1965 we worked together on the old *Sunday Show* with Frank Blair, and produced by Craig Fisher. That is where she met John Lord, a producer on the show, and eventually married.

Roberta Spring: Karolyn was one of the backbones of NBC News for so many years. She was here day and night.

Joe Friedman: Karolyn was quite simply a lovely lady with a fine sense of humor! She always had a kind word!

Stand Bernard: As you well know, bureaus can be a focus of bitching and moaning, but somehow the people pull together. Affection grows. Some who worked in that bureau feel they lost a close friend.

Anyone wishing to send cards to the family can address them to:

The Lord Family
107 Fairway Avenue
Verona, N.J. 07044

Air Force right after college as an officer. While in the Air Force, he worked on projects such as the Titan 3B space craft, the KEYHOLE KH-1 Reconnaissance Satellites, the first generation of computer chips, and the Electrostatic Gyro for the B-1 Bomber.

After the Air Force he moved east with his young family and began a long career in television. He worked for Public Television as an editor for such award winning programs as *Dance in America*, *Masterpiece Theater*, *The McNeil/Lehrer News Hour*, and *Big Band Bash*. He moved on to ABC where he worked for ABC News, *20/20*, *Nightline*, and *Wide World of Sports*.



After ABC, he worked for NBC, where he worked for Phil Donahue and on shows such as *Late Night with David Letterman*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, and *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*. He retired in 2000.

Due to boredom, he came out of retirement and began a second career at the Pepsi Bottling Group as an analyst in the procurement department. After his wife Patricia died in 2009, he continued to work for a while before finally retiring in 2011 to be with his dogs.

He is survived by his two daughters, JoAnne DeJan and Carrie DeJan, and his son Philip DeJan. He also leaves behind his sister, Judy DeJan, and brother, James DeJan. A funeral service was held at on September 13, 2012 at Christ Church, Quaker Hill, Pawling , NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Wounded Warrior Project online at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Chuck's daughter Jody wrote to Liz Davis:

We had a lovely service for dad and I made sure he had his Air Force Color Guard. We decorated his coffin with cookies instead of flowers. You know dad. This suited him best.

You may contact the family via Chuck's email:
cdejan@mindspring.com



Tributes to Silent Microphones

Frank Pintauro

Francis "Frank" Neil Pintauro of North Haven and Williston Park, NY died at his home on Sunday, October 7th. He was 61. Frank was born to Anthony and Dorothy Pintauro on June 9, 1951. He graduated from Brooklyn Prep High School in 1969 and Manhattan College in 1973.

Frank started working at NBC when he was in college, and spent the bulk of his years in the Network Advertising and Promotion Department. By age 27 he had become the youngest Vice President in NBC history.

He also worked at ABC and Hal Riney before joining Showtime in 1989. At Showtime he rose to the rank of Executive Vice President and Chief Creative Officer of Red Group. He was instrumental in developing the network's award-winning branding campaigns, and was responsible for overseeing creative for on-air, editorial production, marketing promotion and graphics, animation, digital content and print. In 2011 Red Group was named Best In-House Agency of the year by PromaxBDA.



Frank's passion was fishing. He started fishing as a kid in Sag Harbor and catching striped bass soon became his favorite sport. He was also a collector of antique fishing lures, and he was one of the founders of the Salt Water Lure Collectors Club. His expertise as both a fisherman and collector were well known and well respected.



Frank is survived by his wife of 32 years, Kathy, his two sons Anthony and David [seen left and right in this photo], his mother Dorothy, his sister Barbara (Stephen) Lobosco, brothers Ritchard (Lynnette) and Robert (Laura) Pintauro, sister-in-law Beth (Bob) Kelisek and brother-in-law John Minkowsky. He also leaves behind 14 nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was held at St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church, Sag Harbor, on October 12th.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in Frank's name to benefit research in gallbladder cancer under the direction of Dr. Diane Reidy, MSKCC.

Send Gift by check made out to:

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Attn: Jill Zatorski
633 Third Avenue
12th Floor South
New York, NY 10017

Condolences may be sent to the family
at:
76 Campbell Avenue
Williston Park, NY 11596

*Tributes to Silent Microphones***Frank Pintauro Remembered by his Friends and Colleagues**

What can I say about Frank? Over the course of 40 years, plenty...and yet never enough. The "remarkable" began when the college kid carrying cue cards worked his way up to become the VP of NBC Network Advertising and Promotion. As a boss, he possessed the attribute of recognizing people for their creative contributions and generously making co-workers and NBC in-house clients aware as well. He had your back.

Any time I ever cast a line out to Frank, I always got a bite. No matter how many years had gone by or how inundated he was. He would try to help in anyway he could. Referrals. Recommendations. Freelance work. But the greatest yield of all was his salt-of-the-earth wit and wisdom which always uplifted and encouraged me.

I will always remember that great smile, the non-raucous chuckle, the twinkle in his eyes. And when the humor was laced with sarcasm, he was at his very best!

Frank was a gentleman. He beamed when he spoke about his family. He was loyal. Respectful. Upright.

I called him Frank. Francis. Bass. With extreme gratitude and pride, I called him my friend.

Linda Vitti

I had the pleasure of working with Frank from 1976 to 1981. He was one of those rare people who were both disciplined and creative -- and a delight to be around. Once, (I do not remember the circumstances), Frank had an opportunity to go to Harvard for an MBA, and the word was that he was turning it down. I called him into my office and pleaded with him to do it. I told him that he could return to NBC after he got his degree -- and that in 10 years he would be president of the company. But he still turned Harvard down. Fortunately for me -- because, not only was he superb at his job, he continued to bring me his wonderful bluefish salad which he caught, cooked and prepared himself.

I will always remember him with fondness and respect.

Marvin Korman

He became the best player we had on the NBC softball team. He was the best cheerleader we had. He was a great shortstop as well as a clutch hitter. He always came through when we needed him most.

He was everything on the field that he was in life!

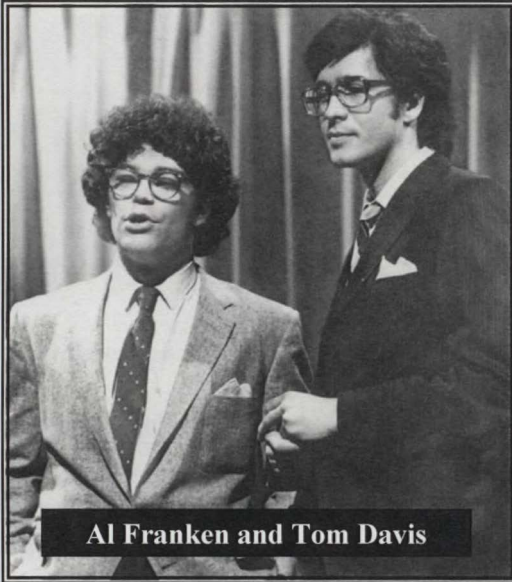
Bruce Soloway

Let's not forget that Frank was more than a fisherman...he was a disco dancer. Remember those Tuesday nights at Court Street?

On a more serious note, Frank has a friend here (John) who is also a serious fisherman. They went fishing together, traded lures, and bonded over their love of the sea. Sunday morning, on a whim, John decided to go fishing. Suddenly a giant striped bass jumped up in the air right in front of him. Now 2 things are of note: striped bass don't jump out of the water and this striped bass was swimming where not respectable bass would swim: the water was too warm. In any event, John spent the entire morning trying to catch him. No luck. It was only when John returned home that he learned that Frank had passed away. It seems to us that this was Frank's way of telling John that he's OK...feisty as ever....and free.

Paula Mermelstein



Tributes to Silent Microphones
Tom Davis, an original SNL Cast Member

Al Franken and Tom Davis

In 1975, Tom Davis, brilliant at improvisational comedy, and Al Franken, a whiz at plotting funny sequences, became two of the first writers on a new show called "Saturday Night Live," which has lasted 37 years. (The two should actually be called one of the show's first writers: they accepted a single salary of \$350 a week. Each, singly, was called "the guys.")

Mr. Davis never lost the quirky, original tone that helped shape the show, and in his last months he referred to death as "deanimation." He deanimated on July 19th at his home in Hudson, N.Y., at age 59. The cause was throat and neck cancer, his wife, Mimi Raleigh, said.

With Dan Aykroyd and others, Mr. Davis helped create the clan of extraterrestrials known as the Coneheads, who attributed their peculiarities to having come from France. He and Mr. Franken collaborated on Mr. Aykroyd's impersonation of Julia Child, in which the television chef cuts herself and bleeds to death after grabbing a phone to dial 911, only to find it's a prop. As she collapses she bids her audience "Bon appétit!" In an

interview on Thursday, Mr. Aykroyd spoke of Mr. Davis's "massive contribution" to the show, characterizing him as "very disciplined" and able to herd less focused writers toward something concrete. "There was no frivolous waste of time," he said.

Mr. Davis was present at the creation of Irwin Mainway (played by Mr. Aykroyd), head of a company that made "Bag o' Glass" and other dangerous toys. He midwived Theodor of York, a medieval barber-surgeon, played by the guest host Steve Martin, who believed bloodletting cured everything. A famous sketch about a drunken President Richard M. Nixon stumbling around the White House conversing with past presidents' portraits and spouting anti-Semitism? Mr. Davis and Mr. Franken wrote it. They flirted with the margins of taste: a sketch about the Holocaust was rejected, but others about child abuse and the murder of lesbians made it onto the air. In the early years of "Saturday Night Live," Mr. Davis and Mr. Franken also appeared as a comic duo. One Franken and Davis routine was "The Brain Tumor Comedian," in which Mr. Franken, his head bandaged, tried to tell jokes but kept forgetting the punch line. Mr. Davis fought tears as he implored the audience to applaud. Mr. Davis shared three Emmys for his writing on the show and another for "The Paul Simon Special" in 1977.

Thomas James Davis was born in St. Paul on Aug. 13, 1952, and attended the private Blake School, where he and Mr. Franken bonded over comedians like Jack Benny and Bob and Ray. After a year of college, Mr. Davis returned to Minneapolis to work in improvisational comedy. And after Mr. Franken graduated from Harvard, the two convened in Los Angeles to do stand-up and caught the attention of Lorne Michaels, who summoned them to New York, where he negotiated with the writers' union to offer the two a single apprentice job.

In a recent interview, Senator Franken said he and Mr. Davis had complemented each other, with Mr. Davis bringing his improvisational experience to the act and Mr. Franken contributing his skill at structuring a routine. Mr. Davis's humor had a sardonic, even cynical, sting, Mr. Franken said, but retained "sweetness and a Minnesota outlook." He and Mr. Franken were so close that Mr. Franken named his daughter Thomasin Davis Franken. But the two broke up as a team in 1990 when Mr. Franken tired of his friend's drug abuse. They reconciled a decade later, and Mr. Davis obliged his friend by publishing his all-too-candid autobiography only after Senator Franken was elected. In his book, Mr. Davis wrote, "I love Al as I do my brother, whom I also don't see very much".

Tributes to Silent Microphones

Tedi Thurman, "Miss Monitor"

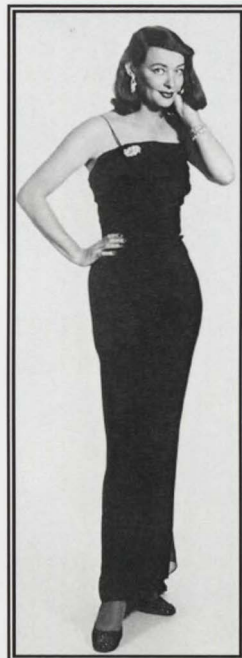
At 5-foot-7, with sea-blue eyes, flowing red hair, chiseled cheeks and a shapely figure, Tedi Thurman was a stunner. But it was her breathy, alluring voice that brought her fame. The "weather girl" on the long-running NBC radio show "Monitor" in the late 1950s and early '60s, Ms. Thurman would take over the mike and in soft, sultry tones — with lush music in the background — virtually drawl, "Cleveland, 34, snow; Boston, 41, cloudy; Phoenix, 62, fair; New York City, 43, sunny; Paris, 38, cloudy." But she would always lead with Atlanta, "because Georgia was her home state," said Dennis Hart, the author of "Monitor: The Last Great Radio Show" (2002), a history of the program, which Pat Weaver, the president of NBC, created in 1955. Starting at 8 a.m. on Saturdays, it originally stayed on the air till midnight on Sundays.

Ms. Thurman, who died on Monday at 89, made the forecasts "sound like an irresistible invitation to an unforgettable evening," Jack Gould wrote in The New York Times shortly after the show's premiere. With hosts like Dave Garroway, Hugh Downs, Frank Blair, Gene Rayburn, Henry Morgan and Bill Cullen, "Monitor" was a hit, offering an array of news, sports, comedy, variety, music and live remote pickups from around the nation and the world. It lasted 20 years, the first six of which featured Ms. Thurman as the so-called Miss Monitor, updating the weather hour after hour. In 1957, while working virtually around the weekend clock on radio, Ms. Thurman was also a television regular, spoofing herself on Jack Paar's "Tonight Show." In sleek dresses and high heels, she would saucily deliver lines like: "I know what you want. You want me to tell you about the weather. In New York it's 74. And me, I'm 36-26-36."

Dorothy Ruth Thurman (she later took the name Tedi) was born in Midville, Ga., on June 23, 1923, one of four children of Ben and Para Thurman. Her father was president of the local bank. She wanted to be an artist and studied at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and Design in Washington. But, she told Mr. Hart, "People were always painting me, telling me I should become a model." Soon after moving to New York, she was on the covers of Vogue and Cosmopolitan and appearing on television shows like "Studio One." That led to her audition for "Monitor."

If Ms. Thurman's fame was brief, it had a long afterlife. "Tedi told me," Mr. Hart said, "that decades after she'd left the show, people at parties and gatherings would still ask her to do the weather in that sexy Miss Monitor voice." She died at her home in Palm Springs, Calif., after a brief illness, Mr. Hart said. She is survived by her longtime companion, Elke Schliwa.

—By DENNIS HEVESI - September 20, 2012 – The New York Times



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Ted Elbert was at NBC from 1964 to 1998.

Starting in 1964 he worked in the Chicago Bureau,
mostly on the News Program Service feeds.

From 1982 until 1991, he received several postings as
Bureau Chief, serving in
Frankfurt, West Germany; Paris; and Moscow.

He then returned to New York where he worked with the
Expose Magazine Show and *Dateline*.

In 1994 he returned to Chicago and retired in 1998.