



BARBARA GRANT

KMUN

91.9 fm
Astoria, Oregon



HOWARD PYLE

CHERE DEBORAH

3/9/65

*Tu es si jeune et nouvelle au monde
mais tu le comprends bien
Tu veux seulement l'amour et ne
demandes rien
Tu donnes le bonheur avec
ton beau sourire,
Tu allumes notre maison avec
tes joues de vie.
Tu es riche, sans argent —
tu es si chère...
Vraiment, tu es une enfant
de lumière.*

CHILD OF LIGHT

3/9/84

*for Deborah
(Une enfant de lumière)*

Light, illuminating our
darkness

Insubstantial, yet the
source of strength

Unselfconscious, it
penetrates time
and space

Light, requiring nothing
except To Be

~DIANE KAMALI

April 17 is KMUN's 12th birthday. A good dozen years packed into radio history like eggs in a carton about to be busted. The joy is dimmed by greedy media moguls who want to dismantle public broadcasting by ending its funding.

Masking blatant greed with hypocritical ideological rubric the spoilers attack public radio and television as *Liberal*, *Socialist* and *Elistist*, a rather insoluble mix.

The battleground is nothing less than worldwide domination of infotainment fought over by huge ambitious commercial media cartels. Profits promise to be as astronomical as the competition for the money is fierce and merciless. No place for compassion or even sensibility, only relentless combat in a corporate world war that will destroy the media village to dominate it.

KMUN is obviously small fry, a mouse underneath the feet of rampaging rhinoceros. Yet the large consequence trickles down to the least considered.

Ironically, despite the outrageous claims by corporate megamedia that it alone represents democracy and the First Amendment, a small public radio station like KMUN depends upon true democracy to survive, and so it does because ordinary citizens keep it alive.

"I have seen, heard and read more about public broadcasting since January 1st to today than in all the 10 years before combined," KMUN Program Director Joe Vincenza wrote in the March '95 issue of the station's monthly program guide *The Current*. "But now we all know, each and everyone of us, what public broadcasting is. Or do we? Just like happiness, public broadcasting means different things to different people. Actually, I have come to wonder if we are all viewing and listening to the same programming. Really. Some turn on their radio and hear a 'liberal based attack on American society and values, calling for the dismantlement of all we hold dear and true.' While others can't stand to listen or watch because all they see and hear is an 'agent of propaganda for the corporate monsters with designs on breeding all the life and free will from each and every person in the land (which they are poisoning, by the way).' We are anarchistic, provocatively reckless, dangerously passive — you name it, we've been called it in the past few months."

Why does Congress, ruled now by suburban Republicans, want to destroy public broadcasting? "Is it because we are too liberal," Vincenza wonders. "Is it because the government is over budget? Is it because Rupert Murdoch wants the frequencies? Is it because CPB (Corporation for Public Broadcasting) pays its executives too much? Is it because we cater to society's elite? Do we deal too much with truth? Do we live too many lies? Is it something I've completely missed? Is it politics?"

Theodore Bloomfield, former conductor of the Portland (now Oregon) Symphony and a KMUN volunteer DJ of classical music, used a Mendelssohn piece to describe "the storm in Congress" over public support of the arts and media.

KMUN is a class act, even and especially under stress. Happy 12 to Radio Free Columbia Pacific.

~MICHAEL PAUL McCUSKER



HELEN PATTI, 'Self' (1983)

HELEN'S BIRTHDAY

(3/24)

Life spools out
like a detached umbilical
or intestines blown through skin by a bomb

Protoplasm pulses
reverses dissembles
Love flashes
languishes

So years go
days diminish
years ago
Yet marrows of memory
resist maggots & mold

That was now
This is then

I think of you
~MPMc

Sunbelt Stories

V.O. BLUM

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