

MAKING (AIR)WAVES AT SCHOOL

Union High TV broadcast beamed via Empire State Building transmitter

By KATHLEEN CASEY

The first official broadcast from Union Township High School to a two-state consortium of school districts was beamed out yesterday via the school's transmitter atop the Empire State Building.

The television broadcast was a panel discussion, in which Gov. Thomas Kean participated, on the school's innovative instructional program in broadcasting which began 15 years ago.

At welcoming ceremonies in the school's lobby, Kean said he has spoken about the school district with other governors, the U.S. secretary of education and the President.

"When I tell them there is a microwave transmitter atop the Empire State Building and it doesn't belong to CBS or any big broadcasting company but to the Union Township schools, they sit up and take notice," Kean told the assembled school band, twirlers, cheerleaders, flag team, educators and school board.

The inaugural broadcast took place in "Studio One," the school's fully equipped television studio and home of WGM-95.

Until the advent last year of the microwave transmitter atop the Empire State Building, the high school's programming was available only to the 10 school buildings within the Union County township.

Now, the high school's broadcasts, both live and taped, can be received by the 10 New Jersey and New York school districts in the consortium and by the subscribers of wireless cable service offered by The Microband Companies Inc. of New York.

The township school district and Microband recently entered into an agreement under which the district leases its off-school-hours television time to Microband, which broadcasts entertainment to its subscribers. In addition to paying a fee for the air time, Microband maintains the district's transmitter.

The effective range of the transmitter is within a radius of 25 miles of midtown Manhattan.

The school districts in the consor-



Gov. Kean watches as student Brian Derr operates a new studio video camera at Union High School in Union.

tium are Union Township, Bayonne, Paramus, the Long Island, N.Y. districts of Franklin Square, Hewlett, Valley Stream, Great Neck and Lawrence, and White Plains, N.Y. and Tarrytown, N.Y.

Among the broadcast services available to the consortium through Union High School's new network are commercially prepared educational programs, original programming by Union High School, and physics and calculus classes by professors at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark.

During the inaugural broadcast to consortium members, NJIT President Saul Fenster, who was on the panel, noted that high schools can elect to offer the physics and calculus courses to their advanced students for college credit.

Bayonne Schools Superintendent Frank Murphy, also on hand for the inaugural broadcast, said the NJIT physics program is offered at Bayonne

High School as an honors course and carries not only high school credit, but also three college credits.

Because of the network created by Union Township and the broadcasting facilities available there, Murphy

noted, his school district has decided to establish a television studio. When it is complete, he said, Bayonne High students will be able to create and tape programs for broadcast via the Union Township schools' facilities.

Harry Galinsky, Paramus school superintendent, who also was at Union High School yesterday, said his district already has a television studio, and he is pleased his students' work can now be broadcast via the Union facilities.

Don Franco, president of Microband, also was on the panel. Franco said it is his belief that because of the partnership between his company and the Union Township schools, some educational programming will become "part of the viewing habits of the public."

Union Township is one of two districts in New Jersey and 16 in a group of eight states to be named model districts by the National Governors' Association. The model districts were named at the behest of eight governors who want to enact school reforms on a local, rather than a state, level.

A spokeswoman for Kean said the schools chosen as models are already doing outstanding jobs, and Union Township schools were chosen in part because of the television arts and sciences program.

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Building porter is charged in slaying of elderly woman

By KEVIN DILWORTH

A building porter in Orange was charged yesterday with the September murder of an elderly woman who lived in the apartment building where he worked.

Police Director Charles Cobbertt identified the suspect as Donald Brown, 21, of Eaton Place in East Orange.

Brown was taken into custody in police headquarters about 10 a.m. and charged with the first degree murder of Fannie Hilton, 80, of 749 Scotland Road on Sept. 26, Cobbertt said.

Hilton's nightgown-clad body, bound at the hands and ankles, was found lying on the floor of her apart-

ment where she had lived alone for about six years. The residence had been ransacked, police added.

Cobbertt credited Detective Lt. Dominick Scarola, Police Detective William Combes and Investigator James Gold of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office with breaking the case.

Brown was called into police headquarters for questioning yesterday and subsequently was charged with the murder, said the police director.

"He was the number one suspect all along," Cobbertt said of Brown, who was employed at the building for at least six months.

Cobbertt said authorities have a motive for Hilton's murder, but declined to divulge it.

No weapon was recovered in connection with the homicide, police said.

Brown is being held in the municipal jail without bail pending an arraignment today, Cobbertt said.

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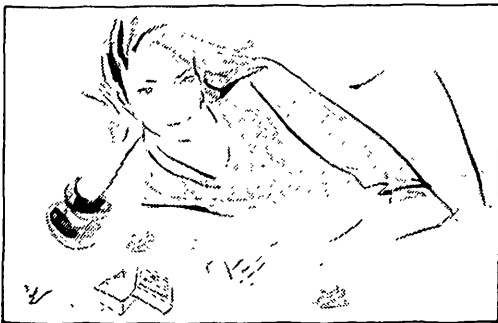
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