

Steve Hawley

To; Rodney Wilson

Report on Video Bursary

I started at NELP at the end of October and showed and discussed my work to date to the students as soon as I was able, in my second week.

So far I am in the process of completing three pieces. One is an installation for the Air Gallery/LVA in January, for two monitors and five slide projectors. One on one monitor is a re-edited version of a tape I made earlier this year, mixed with new sequences of stills taken from children's books inserted into coloured backgrounds, done in the studio here. On the other monitor extracts from school reports are keyed over images of a black and white monitor, which is displaying various tableaux -- two actors posing motionless in scenes reminiscent of the children's books. The slides, which I have yet to do, will be a sequence shot directly from a monitor where the two separate images -- children and posed tableaux/reports -- are combined.

I have also shot and edited the visuals for another short (6-7 min) piece again using the language of school reports. Selected quotes from reports are seen one after the other while a series of chroma-keyed inserts gradually reveal a person writing, then typing. The soundtrack which will be spoken over an unchanging musical phrase, will be quotes from the reports but with the word "work" replaced by its antonym..

A third piece is at a slightly earlier stage of completion -- I have shot the source material but have not yet had time to edit it. It is in two parts and basically consists of two linked stories. The first is a description of a film from someone who has apparently just seen it coupled with images of a film projector seen in a

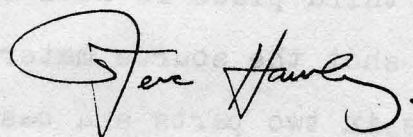
projection booth from various angles. The second is a true and rather bizarre story where the teller (me) is seen encompassed by, and perhaps trapped in, a blown up video image of himself. The two stories interact in certain details but treat "reality" very differently.

I have also done a lot of research for another longer piece which I hope to start next year, about language and reason. I have not had time to arrange a show of my work in progress this term but will arrange this at the beginning of 1983.

In addition to my own work I have been teaching one day a week, and have seen and discussed the work of a number of students. I have also run two video induction courses and have taken responsibility for helping students who want to use the TV studio or use video generally. I have also arranged this term for two video artists (Mick Hartney and Ian Bourne) to show and discuss their work at NELP and will be arranging for further video makers to come next year.

I have received a lot of help and encouragement from the staff here, especially David Parsons, for which I am grateful. The only problem has been the lack of a video technician, which has meant that I have had to spend a fair amount of time finding out myself how the studio worked (perhaps no bad thing), and also that when the equipment has gone wrong repairs can take time.

This apart, I am more than satisfied with the way my nine weeks here has gone, and look forward to working here in the coming year.



Steve Hawley 16.12.82