

Seventh Annual Beta Awards

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Talented Bronxites who produce local shows at Bronxnet were recently honored during the Seventh Annual Best Excellence in Television Access (BETA) Awards. Jim Carney, former executive director of this public access station, was also given a special tribute.

The BETA Awards ceremony was held in the auditorium of the Lovinger theatre on the Lehman College campus. Its purpose was to honor access producers for the good quality shows they create. Over 50 guest-sattended including nominated producers, members of community organizations, and Lehman students and professors. Local comedian, Abel Gonzalez, hosted the ceremony, which began at 7:30 p.m. and lasted for about two hours. In addition, Los Más Valientes, a Latin Jazz band, entertained the audience with its musical compositions.

The idea of creating the BETA Awards started in 1996, when Audrey Duncan, director of development at Bronxnet, saw the importance of recognizing their producers' work. "Many access producers are committed to what they do" explained, Duncan.

"In most cases, they have a message they want to pass on to their Bronx neighbors, and they do it through their programs," she added. Currently, Duncan is responsible for organizing the BETA Awards, which involves a three-month preparation process going from the submission of shows for possible nominations, to the technical production for the ceremony.

The awards were presented in 13 different categories including "Best Health Program," "Best Talk Show," "Best Educational Program," "Best Studio Series," and a "Technical Excellence Award".

Distinguished reporters of local affiliated networks like Victoria Mondesire (WCBS) and Kendra Farn (WNBC) were among those who presented awards to Bronxnet producers.

One of the big winners at this ceremony was The King's Table. This religious television program, which focuses on presenting the productive lives of people with disabilities, airs Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The King's Table, produced by Florence Lunde, Manford Lunde and Alan Carlton, received awards for "Best Music," "Best Educational," and "Best Inspirational Religious Program". "I feel overwhelmed... I'm very excited and happy that I won," said Lunde, who for the past two years was nominated in the BETA Awards, but never won. Lunde believes that the BETA Awards are extremely important because they recognize the work that access producers do.

Another distinguished winner was Isaac Tirado, producer of Poder Para Vencer. This show is a bilingual series designed to

improve people's lives through biblical instruction. The show, which airs Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., received awards for "Best Entertainment Program" and "Best Studio Series".

Furthermore, Skitz, which won the "Best Location Series" award, airs Wednesdays at 12:30 a.m. and Sundays at 5:30 a.m., is a new comedy show that started on December of last year, and it won the "Best Location Series" award, and Denise Finelli, producer of Skitz, feels happy that her show was one of the winners. However,



Photo: Alejandrina Bello

not everything is without controversy. Although Finelli thinks the BETA Awards ceremony is a good way to honor producers, she believes the awards were not judged properly. "It's kind of weird... A non-music show won a music award," expressed Finelli, who referred to The King's Table show.

Bronxnet has over 300 programs produced by Bronx residents. Nearly 50 of them submitted their shows for BETA Awards, but only 15 were nominated. Among these were Penelope Peach and Friends, a puppet-feature program for children produced by Sheran Tavarez, which airs Fridays at 7:00 a.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.; and Community Voice, a talk show that focuses on local issues related to housing, business and the law. This show is produced by Emmanuel Wansi and airs Mondays at 2:30 p.m. and Fridays at 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

The selection of nominated shows, itself, takes some time. First, producers have the option of submitting tapes of their shows in any category they want. In the case of The King's Table, the producers submitted to the music category a taped show of two of her guests who were singing (though it is not a music show.)

Once all the shows are submitted, a judging panel follows. "We select judges from community and media organizations... They come in over a period of four days," explained Duncan.

This year there was a panel of 10 judges. According to Duncan, judges score (from 0 to 10) each entry based on different criteria: content, overall technical execution (use of camera) and audio production, influence in the community, and the judges' general reactions to the show. Once the judges total the scores, they select the nominees based on the highest scores. One show may submit two different tapes in the same category.

Even though the BETA Awards ceremony was small and intimate, it was also trans-

mitted live through Channel 67, which helped to reach out to those who could not be part of the audience. "I think the ceremony had a good turnout," said Maria Castro, a Lehman student who attended the ceremony. Castro resides in the Bronx, but never had the opportunity to watch any Bronxnet shows. "After seeing bits and pieces of these nominated programs, I'm curious to know what they're about," she added.

Likewise, other invited guests were delighted with this event. "Seeing this ceremony made me feel like I want to be part of it; perhaps, produce my own show," expressed Maurice Mercado, a Lehman student, whose favorite nominated program was Skitz. Mercado resides in Yonkers and did not know about Bronxnet and its programs. According to Mercado, "The BETA Awards looked like a little Emmy Awards in The Bronx... Everyone treated it like a big show rather than a small local ceremony."

At the same gathering, Bronxnet staff and nominated producers paid homage to Jim Carney for his outstanding service to the station. This special recognition was presented to the audience through videotaped testimonials that recounted Carney's work. "It was extremely gratifying... completely unnecessary," he commented.

Carney served as executive director for eight years, and he was very happy to see the impression he had made on so many people.

For next year's BETA Awards ceremony, Duncan is planning to add another component: a category that recognizes the good work that some community-based organizations are doing.

BRIDGE: Excuse me. Can I get by you?

JULIAN LADERMAN

When two bridge players form a new partnership, it is essential for them to establish their understanding when a responder uses a double raise after partner has opened the bidding. There are three common understandings associated with a double raise in a major. In the 1950s when the Goren System was very popular, a 3H bid after a 1H bid showed good heart support with 13 to 15 points. It was, of course, game forcing. This understanding is still used by many rubber bridge players but by very few duplicate players. In the 1970s many duplicate partnerships started using the double raise to show invitational hands with trump support and 10 to 12 points. A third alternative, which has gained popularity over the past fifteen years, is to employ the double raise with at least four card trump support but at most 7 points. The purpose of this weak double raise is to interfere with the opponents' ability to find their best fit.

On the illustrated hand, by partnership agreement, North revealed an invitational hand with the double raise to 3H. South confidently bid 4H.

South was not pleased when dummy hit the table. Declarer was disappointed to find North with 5 points in diamonds where they were not helpful. There were

NORTH			
♠	K J 2		
	10 8 6 5 2		
♣	K Q 5		
	J 8		
WEST			
	A 9 7		
	A 9		
♠	J 8 7 4		
♣	9 7 3 2		
EAST			
♠	10 8 6 4		
	7		
	10 9 6 3 2		
♣	A K 5		
SOUTH			
♠	Q 5 3		
	K Q J 4 3		
	A		
♣	Q 10 6 4		

DEALER: WEST
BOTH SIDES ARE VULNERABLE

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1H
Pass	3H	Pass	4H
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: heart ace

four top losers: one spade, one heart, and two clubs. Declarer can discard two cards on the top diamonds in dummy, but unfortunately, he is still stuck with the same four losers. The discards are useless. Or are they?

After West won the first trick, he contin-

ued with the heart 9. Declarer won this trick in the South hand and led the spade 3. Declarer was hoping that West held the spade ace and would duck this spade trick. West suddenly was faced with a difficult decision. He decided not to play the ace and played the seven of spades. A very reasonable choice looking at dummy. For example, South may have held just the two low spades and declarer might make the incorrect guess of playing the jack from dummy. On the illustrated hand, the spade duck was what declarer had been hoping would happen. Declarer's prayers were answered. After winning that spade trick with the jack, declarer cashed the diamond ace, returned to dummy with a trump, and discarded two spades on dummy's winning diamonds. Declarer then conceded the two club tricks and crossruffed the last four tricks. The 4H contract was successful.

It turned out that the two diamond discards were useful after all. It was essential first to sneak a trick past the defender with the spade ace before taking the two discards. If South had first discarded two spades on the diamonds before playing a spade trick, the defense would not have let the spade trick get past them. Give the defense their tough decisions before revealing your hand.

Professor Julian Laderman (Math and Computer Science) is a Life Master of ACBL.