

*ACCESS*  
**ACCESS**

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## **PUBLIC ACCESS SHOW, *ALTERNATIVE VIEWS*, WINS COVETED GEORGE STONEY AWARD FOR HUMANISTIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Drs. Frank Morrow and Doug Kellner, creators of the eleven-year-old public access television series, Alternative Views, will be presented with the 1989 George Stoney Award, the highest honor conferred by the the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers (NFLCP). The award will be presented at the NFLCP convention during their annual Hometown USA Video Awards ceremony, at 8 p.m. ~~Thursday~~, July 13 at the Studios of Los Colinas within the Dallas Communications Complex.

Named for the visionary access advocate, the award was instituted ten years ago by the NFLCP, a non-profit membership organization which promotes the development of local programming on cable television and provides information about national cable policy issues. "What they have done, is enlarged our view of access," says Stoney, the New York University professor, known as the father of public the access television. Alternative Views has shown us how access "is a way of linking people of like minds in communities all over the country."

In 1978 Morrow and Kellner created the show as a vehicle for informing the television viewing public of news and views not seen on mainstream media. They have since produced, hosted, edited and developed a national distribution network for more than 380 editions of the show, which in addition to playing weekly on Austin Access Channel 10 is distributed to more than 55 cable systems, serving 270 cities and more than 4 million households. The show has been produced with resources and services managed by Austin Community Television (ACTV) and currently provided by the City of Austin, through its franchise agreement with Austin CableVision. ACTV, a non-profit organization, has been enabling Austinites to communicate on Austin's cable television system since 1973.

Alternative Views provides interviews, documentaries and news from alternative sources. More than 80 of the guests are published authors in their fields. By reporting news and views from alternative print media, by providing an electronic soapbox for public interest group representatives and by providing a television outlet for independent video and film documentaries, Alternative Views enhances the freedom of speech of its guests and the freedom of information to its viewers. The hosts and guests encourage viewers to participate in the democratic process, and to make our local, state and national institutions more democratic and more accountable.

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The news and interview sections of the program are conducted by Kellner, professor of philosophy at the University of Texas and author of several books and articles, and by Morrow, whose communications dissertation, "The U.S. Power Structure and the Mass Media," includes a substantial analysis of the role public access television plays in this country's information environment. Kellner's writing includes material on the effects of television on society.

"The selection committee was really impressed with the amount and diversity of programming," says Jeff Mansfield the coordinator of the 1989 Stoney Award selection process. "This show epitomizes the need for access and the meaning of social action. The show covers things not normally covered by network media. This is what it (access) is all about."

"The show has definitely reached beyond its borders," adds NFLCP President Sharon Ingraham, "Frank Morrow is the quintessential access producer. He has touched the lives of many people. His dedication has served as an inspiration for others."

As producer of the show Morrow secures talent and production crews, plans the programs, edits the shows and, following the cablecast of the show in Austin, he administers the Alternative Information Network which distributes the show nationwide. "ACTV proudly congratulates Frank and Doug," says ACTV Executive Director Alan Bushong. "They are indeed access pioneers, creating access programs in a pioneer access center."

The awards ceremony will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 22 on the Learning Channel (Austin CableVision Channel 50) and on Austin Access, Austin's public access television channels, soon after.

Past Stoney award recipients include Everett Parker, former Director of Communications at the United Church of Christ, Nicholas Johnson, former FCC commissioner and Michael Meyerson, professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law.