

# The New Nixon Tapes

By Tom Spain  
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**N**ow that we won't find our TV screens filled with speculation about who will be our next president every time we turn the set on, we'll soon be able to get our political fix by tuning in to videos of some past White House residents. The general viewing public may claim relief that the election's over, but the more politically minded will have a lot to look forward to in the coming weeks, when an unusually high number of presidential profiles will arrive on tape.

Two of next month's releases will feature Richard Nixon, whose biggest political mistake celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. CBS Video's "Watergate: The Secret Story" gives a new, 94-minute account of that mistake, as reported by CBS News and The Washington Post—"together for the first time," according to CBS. Narrated by Dan Rather, the tape features "60 Minutes's" Mike Wallace interviewing The Post's Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward and Ben Bradlee; CBS also offers up Rather and Walter Cronkite as interview subjects. "Watergate: The Secret Story" will retail for \$19.98.

For those who prefer their Nixon center stage, MCA/Universal Home Video has just released "The Nixon Interviews With David Frost," a five-tape series of the famous one-on-ones that broke the president's media silence and made him a TV presence once again in 1977. Offering about an hour and a quarter of Nixon and Frost on each tape, the five volumes—"Watergate," "The World," "The War at Home and Abroad," "The Final Days" and "The Missing 18½ Minutes and More"—are due in stores this week priced at \$19.98 each.

The assassination of John F. Kennedy comes under media scrutiny yet again this month, this time from British documentary filmmaker Nigel Turner. His 1988 film "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" will make its video debut later this month from Braintree, Mass.-based G&G Communications. In addition to the usual clips from the Zapruder film, news reports and eyewitness interviews, "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" includes what its marketers claim is a screen exclu-

sive—an "enhanced photo analysis of the famous Mary Moorman Polaroid picture," which, according to the filmmakers, depicts a police-uniformed gunman behind the "infamous 'grassy knoll'" firing a shot at the exact moment that Kennedy was fatally wounded. The 105-minute film will be priced at \$49.95.

Finally, Abraham Lincoln will get the gala small-screen treatment later this fall. Hoping to duplicate—or even approach—the success of PBS's "The Civil War," ABC has lined up "Lincoln," a four-hour documentary scheduled for broadcast immediately after Christmas. Like "The Civil War," "Lincoln" has already been immortalized in a \$50 coffee-table book (from "Civil War" publisher Knopf), and also will be issued on video cassette by direct-marketers Time Life Video and by retail label Pacific Arts. Those Time Life operators reportedly will start taking orders immediately after the series airs; Pacific Arts' retail package—four \$19.95 volumes—is expected in January.

## Cher and Cher Alike

Today brings the answer to the question that more than 1 million viewers really have been asking: What will Cher do for an encore? Since this time last year, her debut fitness video, "CherFitness: A New Attitude," has sold more than 1 million copies worldwide, ranking as one of the fastest-selling fitness videos ever released. Today her sequel hits the stores, and fans will be relieved to learn that "CherFitness: Body Confidence" offers more of the same: more Cher sweat, more Cher music, and another opportunity to share the expense of the \$19.98 tape thanks to the generosity of promotional partner Equal sweetener, which is offering a \$5 rebate to buyers of the tape. In addition to repeating a successful formula, "Body Confidence" does represent a stretch beyond what's been done before—the video package includes a pair of level 1 CherFitness resistance bands as depicted in the workouts on the tape, an \$8 value. Level 2 and 3 bands, in addition to other CherFitness merchandise, can be ordered through materials included in the package.

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