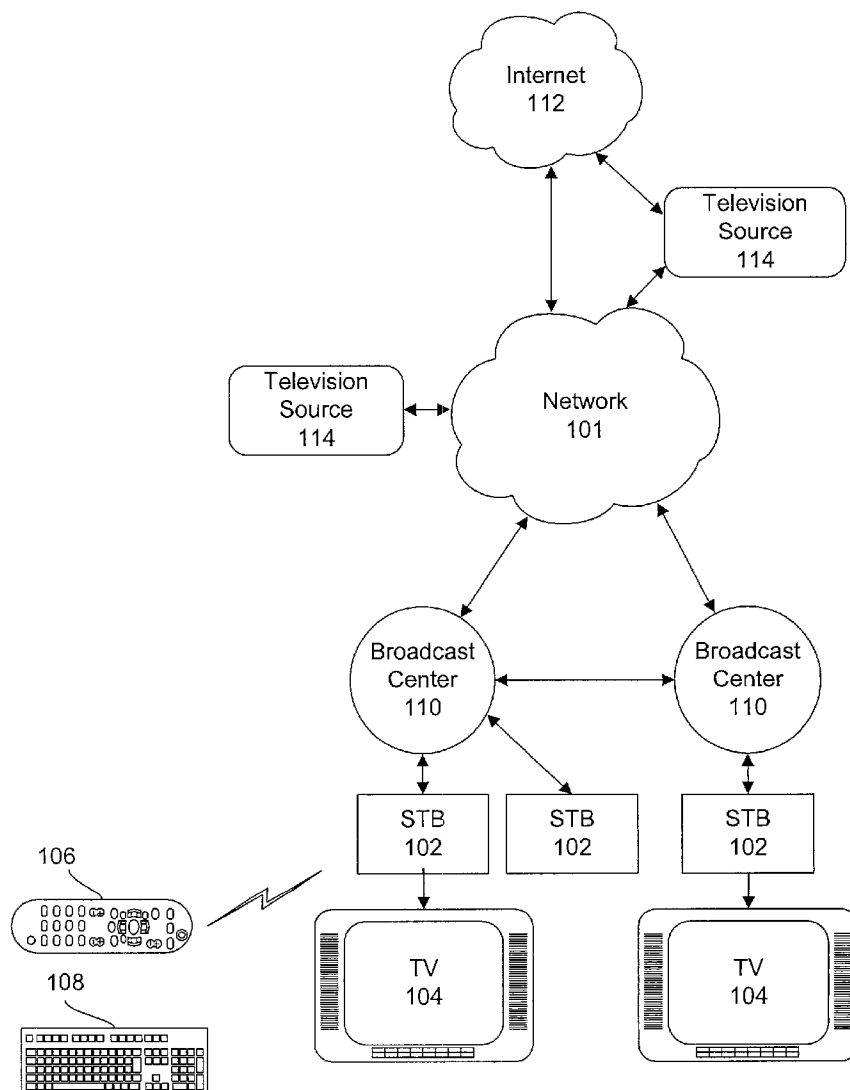


(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2003/0041333 A1****Allen et al.**(43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 27, 2003**(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
AUTOMATICALLY ANSWERING AND
RECORDING VIDEO CALLS****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **H04N 7/173**(52) **U.S. Cl.** **725/106; 725/122**(76) Inventors: **Paul G. Allen**, Mercer Island, WA
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SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111 (US)(21) Appl. No.: **09/940,181**(22) Filed: **Aug. 27, 2001**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A request to establish video communication between a caller and a user of an interactive television system is detected. The caller is identified using information contained within the request. The user is prompted to accept or reject the request. In response to the user rejecting the request or not accepting the request within an established time interval, a pre-recorded video greeting is sent to the caller. Thereafter, a video message is recorded including a video signal received from the caller. While the video message is being recorded, the user may interrupt the recording to establish two-way video communication with the caller.

100

100

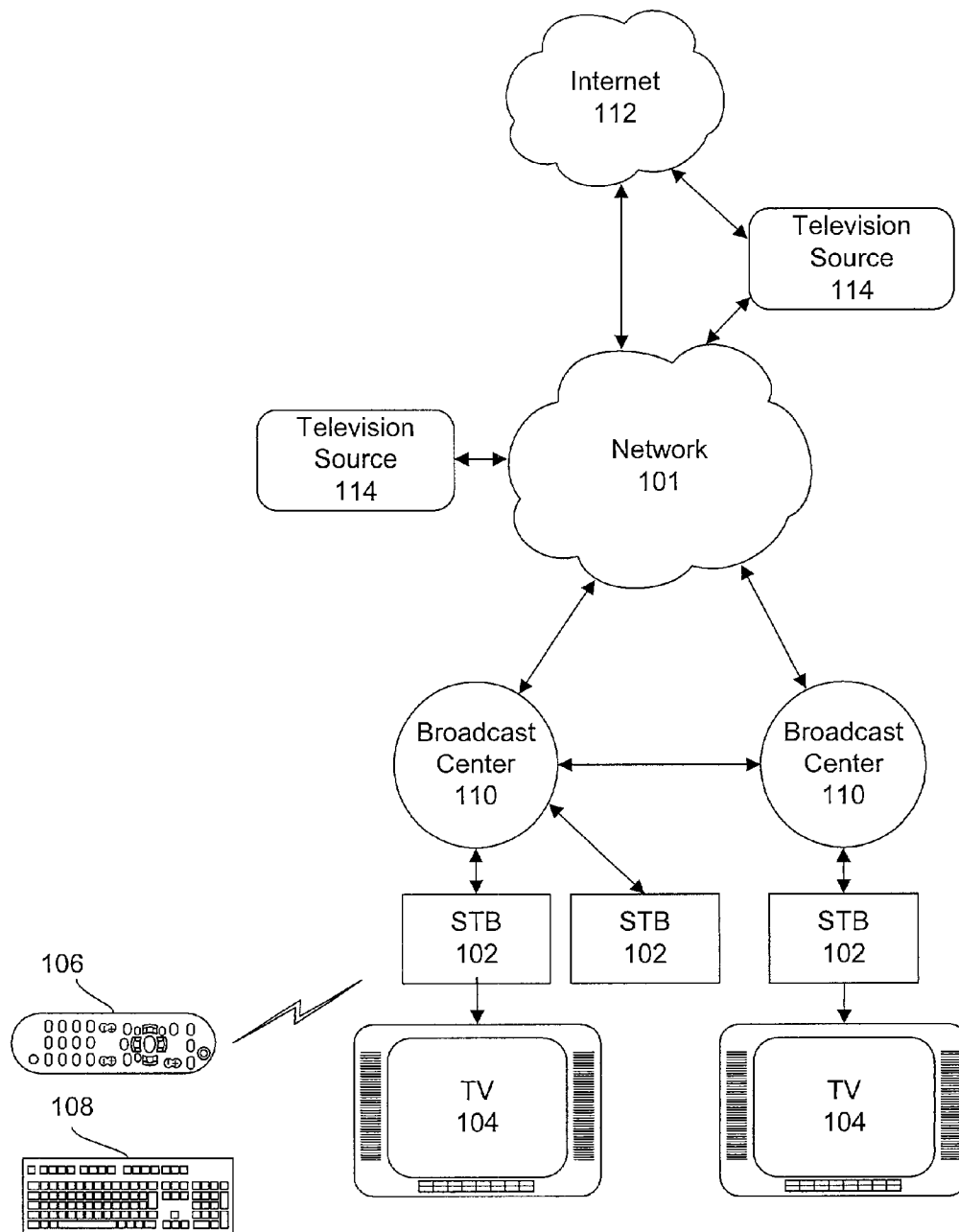
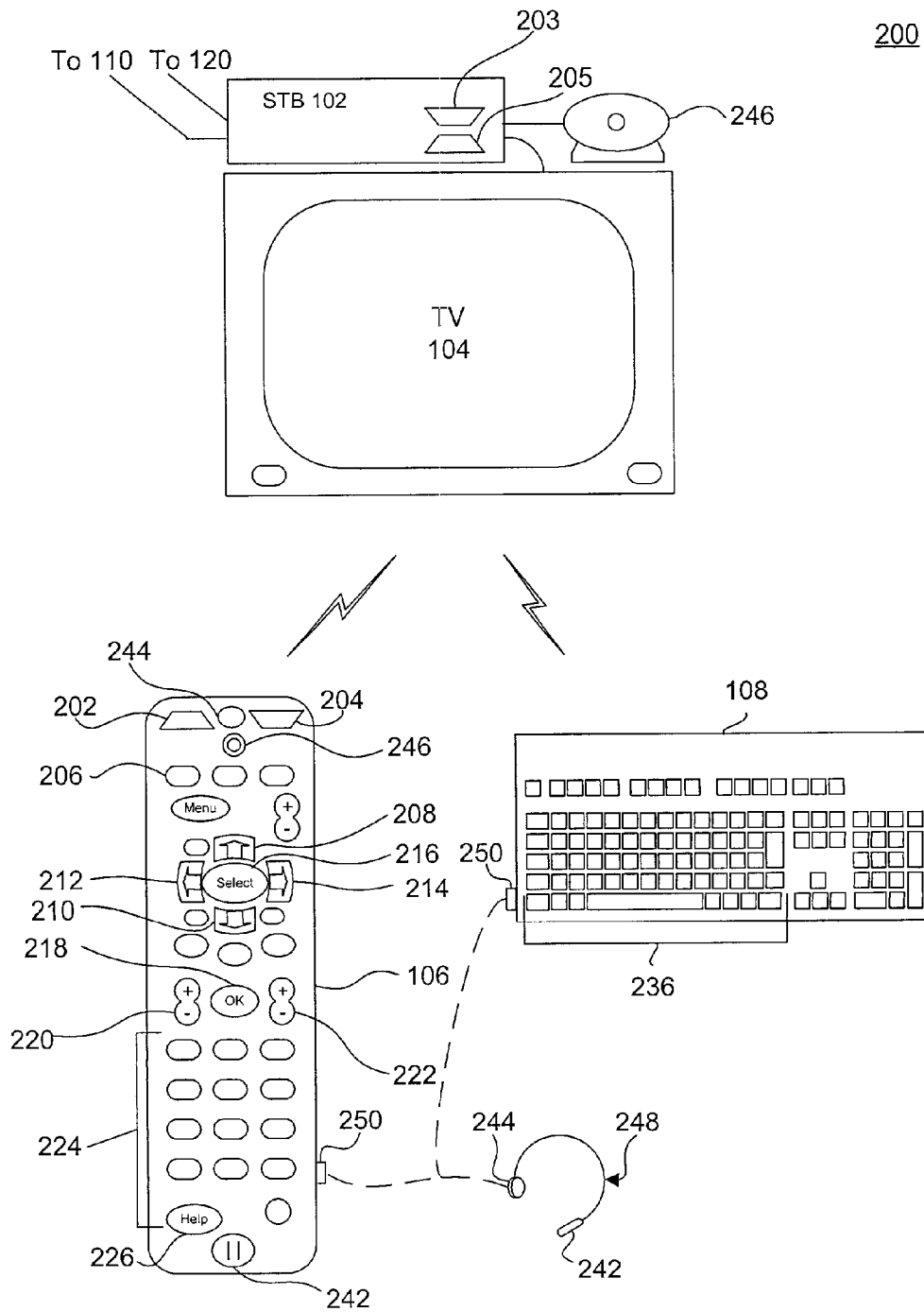


FIG. 1



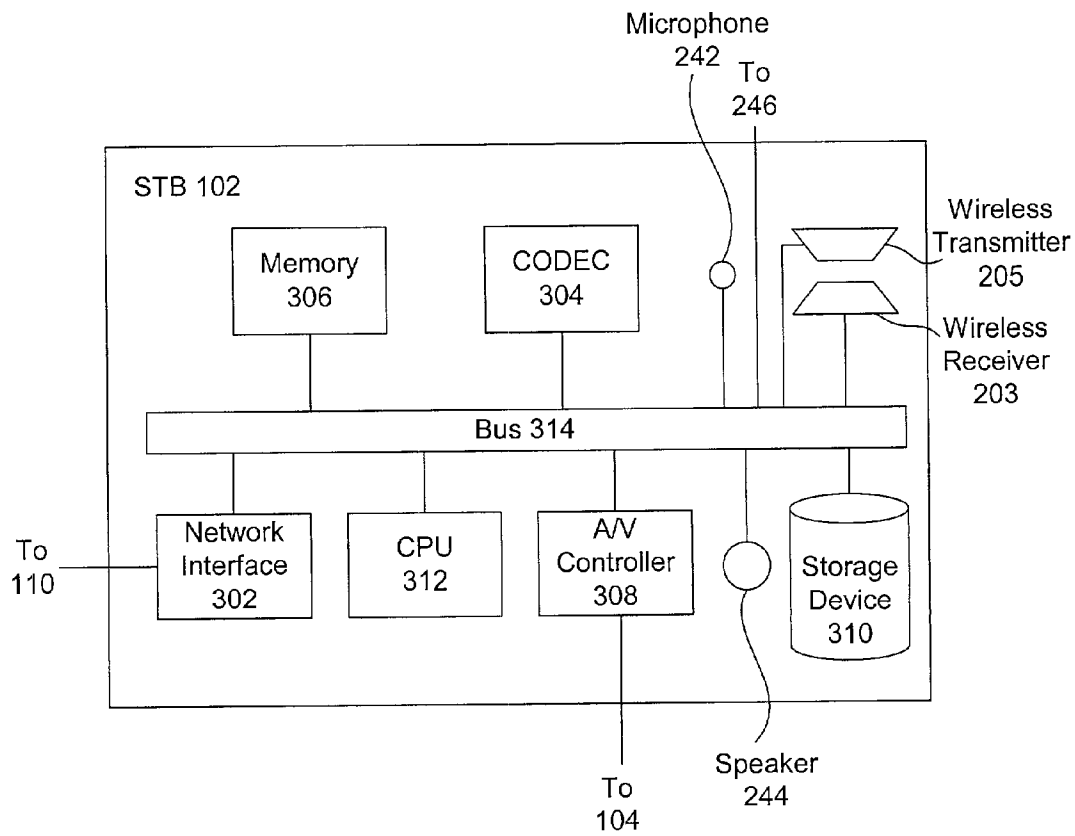


FIG. 3

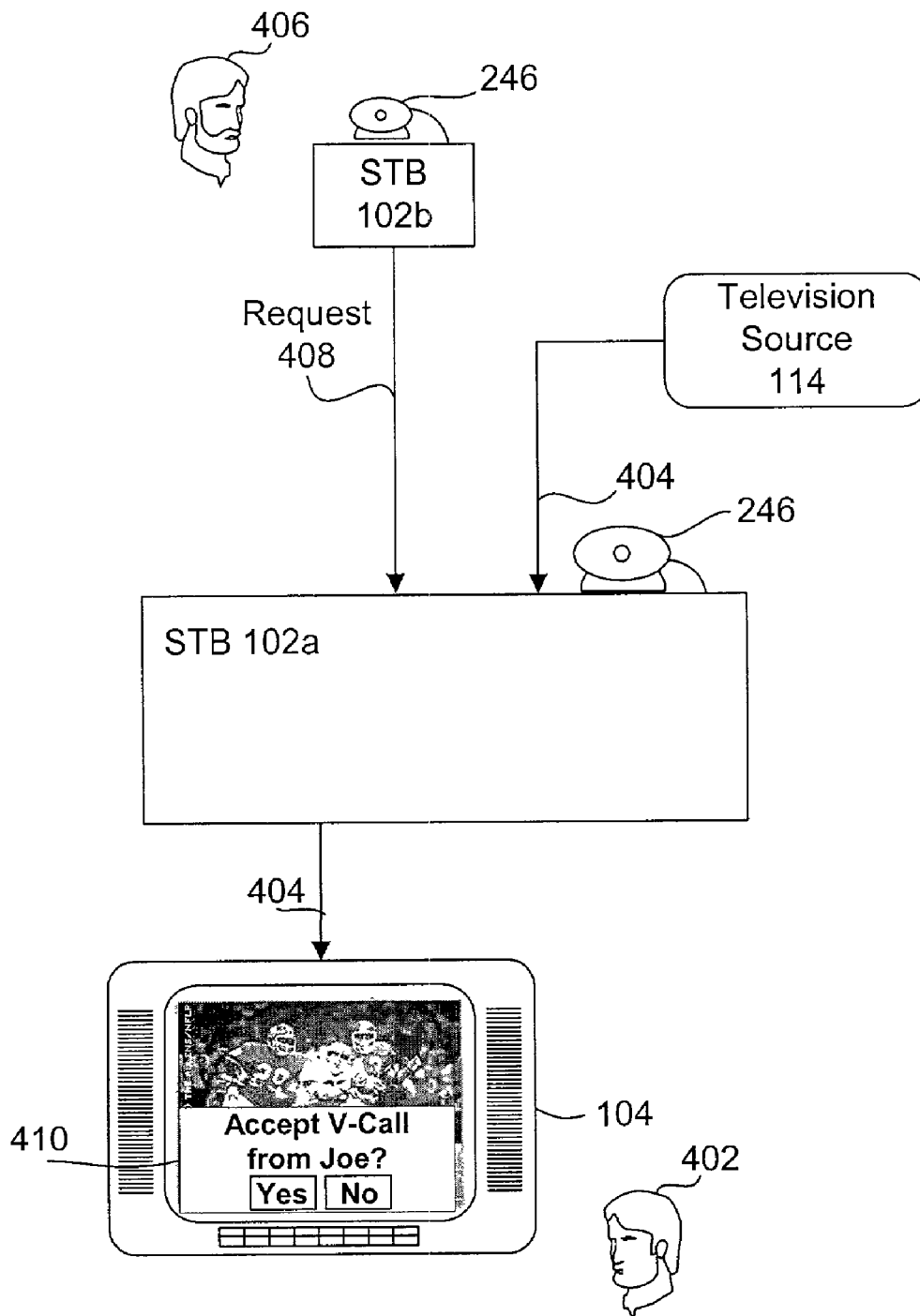


FIG. 4

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