

# Section Meetings

**Baylor University Student Chapter, November 6, 1990** — Peter Kramer, Panasonic, conducted a tutorial on the principles of MII and S-VHS recording. He specifically discussed chrominance time-compression multiplexing, tape transport systems, and head arrangements of recorders. Via video examples, the performance of a variety of recording formats were analyzed and compared. He also discussed CCD imaging technology, highlighting comparisons to camera tube technology. To demonstrate these comparisons Kramer used an on-site Panasonic-equipped television mobile remote truck with signals routed to a video projection display within the Baylor Telecommunications Division auditorium. Following the formal presentation, the 30 students and guests toured the mobile truck and viewed the equipment. — Corey Carbonara (Faculty Advisor), Baylor University, Telecommunications Division.

**Hollywood, November 28, 1990** — Two hundred and fifty SMPTE members and guests gathered at CBS TV City for a meeting entitled "Computer Graphics: Small Computer Innovations Applied to Film and Television Production." Host Paul Carey, Component Videographics,

and a panel of speakers explained how today's powerful desktop computers are capable tools for image generation and manipulation for film and television production. Byron Wagner, 4C Technology, discussed real-time video applications and the issue of worldwide still and motion-video compression standards. Carl Calbria, Truevision, provided insight into high-resolution applications. He talked about elements that will enable small computer systems to dynamically process images for film and print applications, such as frame buffer and graphics accelerator technology. — John L. Mason (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

**Hollywood, December 18, 1990** — Disney Studios hosted a holiday screening of *Lady and the Tramp* in its original CinemaScope format with stereographic sound. As an opener, the 400 SMPTE members and guests were treated to *Toot, Whistle, Plunk and Boom*, the first CinemaScope cartoon and the winner of an Academy Award. — Ron Little (Secretary/Treasurer), CFI.

**Houston, December 12, 1990** — At a meeting focusing on nonlinear videotape editing, the technical operation of the

EMC<sup>2</sup> system was demonstrated and explained by Bill Moore, POV Editorial Services. The system is based on a rewritable magneto-optical disc coupled with an IBM computer. All usable shots are dubbed in real time to the optical disc. The video is recorded in the optical disc and the audio is recorded onto a separate Winchester disc, but kept in absolute sync. The material may be sampled by individual frame, by every other frame, or even by every third frame, while being able to edit to the frame.

The system can reach any point on the disc in a fraction of a second, creating a continuous view of the edited material. The computer compiles an EDL that can be dubbed to a floppy disk in any format required. Four miniature pictures appear on the monitor, showing the first and last frames of each shot as they are edited. The edit frame may be magnified to check for continuity or details. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

**New England, December 12, 1990** — The December meeting provided attendees with an overview of 1/2-in. digital composite recording. Philip Livingston, Panasonic Broadcast Systems, gave a lively presentation detailing the background



Bill Moore, POV Editorial Services, demonstrating the operation of the EMC<sup>2</sup> nonlinear videotape editing system during the Houston Section's December meeting.

behind the NHK 1/2-in. digital format VTR. He also described the major features and benefits of his company's 1/2-in. digital series.

During his presentation Livingston delivered technical explanations of new developments in electronic and mechanical technology. The key point, he said, is that there is no carrier in the new format. He also gave a precise description of the construction of the super structured Nitride alloy head. The technical features of the new format were compared to D-1 and D-2 recording. Discussion was devoted to the new 8-14 channel coding as opposed to the S-NRZ and Miller squared methods. Descriptions of error correction, error concealment, and data shuffling recording techniques were also provided. Livingston was assisted by Charles Gaydos and Raymond Blumenthal, also of Panasonic. — Edward Dextraze (Secretary/Treasurer), Raytheon Co.

**Pacific/Northwest, November 14, 1990** — The November meeting was held in conjunction with the Seattle Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) at their annual Electronic Media Expo, held in the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Center. The subject of the meeting was automated audio testing, featuring demonstrations of the Tektronix VM-700A audio option and the Audio Precision System 1, a personal computer-based system.

Adolpho Rodriguez, Tektronix, Inc., described the Audio Option 40 which, when used with a VM-700A, can conduct automated testing. A one-second frequency-shift keying signal identifies the source of the test signals and indicates which measurement sequence to use. Bob Metzler, Audio Precision Systems, demonstrated the System 1, which is designed to be used as a transmission link test system and can also provide general audio testing, multitrack alignment and performance measurements, acoustical testing, and more. The system uses real-time fast Fourier transform to generate graphics that can be displayed on a monitor, saved to a disk, and sent to a low-cost printer. — Clifford E. Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer), KCTS-TV.

**Pacific/Northwest, December 7, 1990** — At a meeting held at KOIN-TV, Rick Swiers, Sony Broadcast Systems, explained the company's library management system (LMS) and its interface to traffic systems. In 1986 the company issued a standard gateway protocol to easily accommodate various log formats. Utilizing this protocol, a confirmed log can be translated into a playlist and an as-run log can be returned in standard format. These operations can be accom-

plished using floppy disks or an LAN to transfer information. According to Swiers, the ideal process would be to tie the traffic computer, mobile control room (MCR) computer, and LMS system together using an LAN. Jim Leighton, also of Sony Broadcast, assisted with the presentation.

Jim Oehler, Columbine Traffic Systems, discussed combining his company's traffic management system and the ICA Systems Group's automation system with MCR equipment to obtain an automated system. He cited two reasons to automate: to maximize personnel efficiency and to simplify log reconciliation. WNEP-TV in Scranton, Pa., and WRAG-TV in Memphis, Tenn., are currently using automated systems. WNEP uses traffic-generated floppy disks in the MCR computer, which is connected via RS-422 to a Beta Cart, router, MCR switcher, character generator, and tape machines. At the conclusion of the presentation, the 43 attendees toured the KOIN master control room. — Clifford E. Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer), KCTS-TV.

**Pasadena City College, November 13, 1990** — The meeting featured Mickey Rodriguez, a colorist who received his training at Pasadena City College. He described the job of a colorist, or telecine operator, as being a mediator between production and post-production. He stressed that the colorist must be personable, well-rounded, and willing to work long hours. He noted that during the previous 48-hour weekend, he had worked 36 hours.

He explained videotape formats that are used, how time code is burned-in on some of the tapes, and the concept of the letter box. He pointed out that because of aspect ratio differentials, it is necessary to pan and scan the film. He also emphasized the importance of being proud of your work, doing your best, and not doing a job strictly for financial reward. — Anthony Lacy (Student Co-Chairman), Pasadena City College.

**Pasadena City College, November 27, 1990** — Former Pasadena City College student Mark Cheer, Keystone Communications, discussed the role of satellites in broadcasting. He told the 27-member audience that there are 30 satellites over the U.S. to handle programming services. Each satellite has 24 channels. A single hop is used to go from coast to coast, but two hops are required to get to London.

Topics covered during his presentation included simple closed circuit feeds, composite network feeds, sports backhauls, news round robins, and interna-

tional satellite feeds. He used a videotape presentation that detailed different types of feeds. One example consisted of a person in a studio in Los Angeles who was being interviewed by a program host in London. The audio feed that was being received in Los Angeles from London was included on the tape.

Of note, during the 131st SMPTE Technical Conference in Los Angeles, Cheer was on hand as Keystone played a key role in the first transmission of a live all-digital HDTV signal sent by satellite from Japan to the U.S. — Aileen Braun (Student Co-Chairman), Pasadena City College.

**Rochester, December 12, 1990** — The meeting, entitled "Tour and Concert of the Wurlitzer Theater Organ," was held at the Riviera Theatre, which opened in 1926 with live stage shows as well as state-of-the-art motion pictures. Neil Lang, Niagra Frontier Theater Organ Society, gave the group a tour of the basement dressing rooms and relay rooms through the pipe towers to the projection booths where the 35mm projectors have been modified to accommodate everything from the classic silent movies to today's feature films, including 3-D presentations.

The group also learned that the Riviera's Wurlitzer organ was designed to be an orchestra under the direction of one player to provide accompaniment for silent movies. This organ has been updated through the years to its current stage of 3 Manual, 21 Rank. The tour was followed by a theater organ concert. — Paul G. Kanerva (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

**Soviet Union, December 12, 1990** — The meeting took place at the Cinema and Photo Research Institute (NIKFI). Dr. I. Preobrazhensky, R. Kuliev, and I. Rudinsky, all of Film Presentation Technique and Technology Laboratory, gave reports on the results of their research on winding processes for large rolls of film. The group had created a model of the deformed film state inside a roll and offered new theories for film safety while winding and unwinding large roles of film.

The results of this research has been experimentally confirmed on a special testing stand that makes it possible to imitate the necessary movement conditions for film of all formats. The reports were accompanied by slides and calculation schemes as well as pictures of the testing stand. The reports were of great interest to the 24-person audience and inspired informal post-meeting discussions about the development of theoretical research works. — Elcanora L. Vinogradova (Chairman), NIKFI.