

Section Meetings

Atlanta, March 11, 1993 — The March meeting was a joint venture with the local chapter of the Audio Engineering Society. The event took place at the new Fernbank Museum of Natural History, which has over 160,000 sq. ft. of exhibits, theaters, and offices. The 60 attendees started off in the Cosmos Theater with an HDTV drama of the "Big Bang" theory of the universe. Wayne Lee, of Baker Audio, who is the designer/contractor of the A/V installation in the museum, then talked about the making of the "Big Bang" presentation and the audio system design of the theater.

The group then walked through the exhibits, and saw the equipment that controls the exhibits, laserdisk players, and solid-state audio repeaters, which are integrated with sensor motion detectors and touch-screen displays for the visitors' interactive learning environments. — Mickey Kroll (Secretary/Treasurer), Video Tape Associates.

Houston, February 27, 1993 — Three different systems for the distribution of electronic signals were the topics of the February meeting, which took place at station WLPB-TV in Baton Rouge, La.

David Bird, Broadcast TV Systems (BTS), delivered a paper on the BCS-3000, BTS' open-architecture approach to a facility-wide control system. The system uses industry-standard LAN and ES-Bus machine control protocols and hardware interfaces to eliminate hardware dependencies. A wide variety of machine- and control-room panel devices may be selected without changing hardware or PROMS.

Kent Hatfield, WLPB-TV, explained a DigiCypher prototype distribution system that allows multiple digital programs of selectable quality to be delivered over one transponder. The system is upwardly compatible through minor hardware and software modifications.

Houston Section board member C. R. Caillouet, Caillouet Technical Services, reported on the latest ATV information available from the FCC. Because of the changes in Washington, very little is occurring until the new commissioners and chairman are appointed. The major questions yet to be answered are political and economic, rather than technical. The ATTC will begin its second round of testing this spring, which will be completed in the fall. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

Italy, February 19, 1993 — The February meeting, which was the first meeting organized by the new SMPTE Italian Section Managers, was held at Telepiù Pay TV in Milan. The speakers representing Telepiù were M. Zanzone Poma, M. Cassanmagnago, G. Sartori, and U. Leoniddi. In addition, M. Rasini, Omega-TV, also gave a presentation.

The first portion of the meeting helped the 40 attendees to understand the new television application in Italy and see Telepiù's solutions. Each speaker presented a paper on the key aspects of the company's engineering, operation, and management strategies. The second part of the evening was devoted to a tour of the organization's facilities. — Angelo D'Alessio (International Relations Advisory Committee), BTS — Broadcast Television Systems.

Montreal, February 9, 1993 — The February meeting was held at C.E.G.E.P. du Vieux Montreal, an educational institution, and was attended by 135 people, the bulk of which was students. This is the first time a Montreal Section meeting was geared specifically toward students.

The topic of the evening was "Quick Time — A Macintosh Extension." Ricardo Torres and Stephane Paiement of Microserv, Inc., were the guest speakers. A scheduled demonstration of a variety of software packages was canceled because the computer's hard drive was damaged during the installation. However, the audience was provided with technical information on such software programs as Adobe Photoshop, Electric Image, Adobe Premiere, Program Animation 3D, and FileMaker, and a lengthy question-and-answer session took place. A make-up demonstration of all multimedia and animation software packages took place on February 10. — Jacques Lachapelle (Chairman), Centre de Montage Electronique.

Montreal, February 23, 1993 — Ghyslain St-Pierre, Television Quatre-Saisons, gave eight proposals on the business potential of digital HDTV systems using a conventional antenna, including production equipment, competitive pricing, and the obligation of a broadcaster to plan the acquisition of future technology. The 64 members and guests expressed great interest in his ideas.

During the second part of the program Sylvain Gelinat, of the Transmission Group of Bell Canada, provided information on the current and future modes of



Ricardo Torres discussing computer programs during the Montreal Section's February meeting.

video signal transmission, such as digital hierarchy, routing networks, microwave, and digital and fiber-optic technology.

The meeting was held at Television Quatre-Saisons. Prior to the meeting, attendees were invited to assist in the production of Sonia Benezera's talk show. — Jacques LaChapelle (Chairman), Centre de Montage Electronique.

Pacific Northwest, January 15, 1993 — A demonstration and discussion of the Sony SEPS-1000 camera, UPD-7000 printer, and the Macintosh system for electronic still photography was the topic. The speakers were Sony representatives Bob Michels, Michels Advertising/Photography, and Karl Paulsen, Digital Post & Graphics. The meeting was held at Michels Studios, which is where the first U.S. production version of the camera has been in operation since mid-1992.

Michels demonstrated the techniques used for image capture and manipulation, how the Macintosh and "off-the-shelf" software is used for photographic retouch, and the uses of the Sony UPD-7000 continuous-tone dye-sublimation printer. Michels uses the camera for about 30% of his print/photography business because of its quality, as well as the steps it saves over the conventional print/photography process. The 22 members and guests were impressed at how the hardware and software were integrated to produce near-photographic-quality images that could be used in print and prepress applications.

Paulsen also displayed some print

imaging that was originally created in component digital (D-1) format and exported to the Macintosh. The image files were then imported into Michel's system, sized, and then printed on the UPD-7000 printer. This demonstration represents the improved print capabilities of video imaging for prepress application.

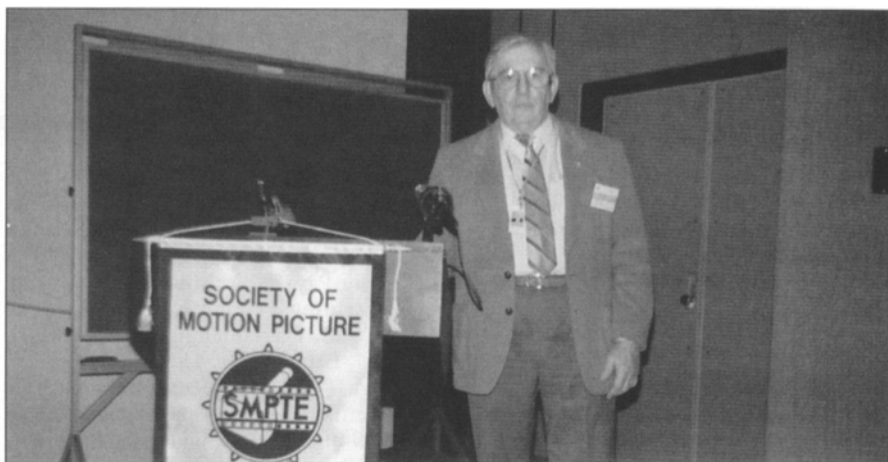
Members and guests in the audience discussed file image formats, terminology differences in electronic print imaging, and the interfacing of video, as well as the usual discussion of the Macintosh versus the PC DOS formats. The meeting concluded with hands-on demonstrations of filtering, sizing, scaling, and lighting of various images and their effects on the printed output. — Karl Paulsen (Manager), Digital Post & Graphics.

Pasadena City College, February 23, 1992 — The guest speaker was Laura Dash, a stunt double who has appeared in a number of films, including *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Halloween 4 and 5*, *Goonies*, *Patriot Games*, *Hook*, *The Last Boy Scout*, and *Lawn Mower Man*. Because she stands at 4 ft, 6 in., Dash has found many opportunities to stunt-double for children.

She said that one of the benefits of her career is meeting and working with established directors and actors. She also enjoys traveling around the country. However, the trials of the job include coping with last-minute changes to rehearsed stunts, which can prove to be dangerous. She also noted that it is not unusual for a stuntperson to redo takes again and again.

Dash explained the process whereby she selects the jobs she will accept or decline. For example, she will not do falls higher than 150 ft or any pyrotechnic work. The 31 members and guests viewed clips of her work in *Halloween 4* and *Kindergarten Cop*, and she explained how the stunts were performed and pointed out where the edits were made. The meeting concluded with a short question-and-answer period. — Janna Nava (Student Chairperson), Pasadena City College.

Rochester, February 9, 1993 — Roland Zavada, former standards director for imaging technologies at Eastman Kodak Co. and a former SMPTE Engineering Vice-President, presented his 1991 paper, "Managing the Moving Image — From an Engineering Point of View," illustrated by many slides and several film and video examples. In his presentation he traced the history of the Society as a standards-setting organization for first the film industry, and later, the television industry. Examples such as perforations, frame rate, sound, and videotape recording standards were cited. Zavada con-



Roland Zavada making a presentation at the Rochester Section's February meeting.



Dick Carta demonstrating CID imagers to attendees at the Rochester Section's March meeting.

cluded with a discussion of the current debate on standards for digital video and high-definition television. — Alan Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

Rochester, March 9, 1993 — Rochester SMPTE members joined with the Syracuse chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) for a visit to Cidtec in Liverpool, N.Y. Dick Carta and Joe Carbone, Cidtec, gave a presentation on charge-injection device (CID) technology. These imaging devices are less well-known than CCDs, as they are intended for nonbroadcast applications in the scientific, industrial, and military fields. They have high immunity to blooming and nuclear-radiation effects and have the facility for each pixel to be X/Y addressable by computer, as "eyes of the computer." If necessary, only part of the device can be addressed, which allows rapid scanning of small subarrays at up to 10 MHz, with applications such as active target seeking in airborne missiles and quality control of products passing on a production line. One type of CID has the facility for complete random access to any of the pixels. The meeting concluded with a tour of the Cidtec plant where the

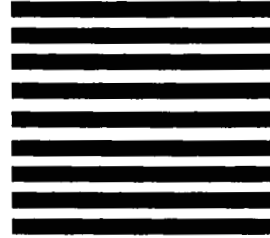
CIDs are tested, certified, and incorporated into cameras. — Alan Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

San Francisco, January 19, 1993 — The January meeting was held at the KTVU/2 facility in Oakland, Calif. Jim Miller, Sony, arranged a presentation by Adam J. Schadle, Sony VTRs/Video Recorders, who was assisted by Virgil D. Moore. Charles R. Hintz, SMPTE Section Manager, arranged for the presentation in a KTVU studio, which was set up for 55 people; 77 were in attendance, ending up with standing room only.

"Hot Topics From the Sony Perspective" was the theme of the meeting. Schadle reviewed the current status of the HDTV developments and the almost definite choice of a digital HDTV standard. He outlined Sony's views for cost-effective solutions for broadcast/post-production operations with current technology and the advantages of digital component signal handling. Sony's proposed Advanced Television could provide an interim system using component digital video at $4f_{sc}$ with 16:9 aspect ratio, which would allow for these productions to be scaled up to the future HDTV standard. Schadle demonstrated some material that



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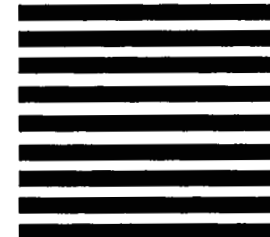
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