

Section Meetings

Australia North, March 7, 1993 — A report on the recent BKSTS seminar on film cleaning was presented by Section Manager Dominic Case, Consultant. The report, which was prepared by John Hughes, focused on film cleaning in the light of the Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances.

The film-cleaning solvent 1:1:1 trichloroethane has been identified as an ozone depletant. Fumes that escape into the atmosphere reach the ionosphere where they continually destroy ozone molecules for up to 100 years, without themselves being destroyed. The urgency of finding replacement chemicals is particularly noticed in Australia, as it is close to the Antarctic ozone hole. Under the Montreal Protocol, manufacturers are phasing out the production of such chemicals; the alternatives for film cleaning were summarized as dry, wet, or organic.

The dry alternative is the particle transfer roller, which is rapidly gaining acceptance in printers, telecines, projectors, and film-handling benches. The wet alternative is a water-based cleaner with rapid drying, achieved by RF waves.

Reports from France and Germany showed that laboratories are switching to perchlorethylene, a chemical commonly used in wetgate printing. Trichloroethylene was recommended as another ozone-safe alternative, although future controls relating to the "greenhouse effect" were likely to affect both of these chemicals.

A lively discussion, which focused on the benefits of good film-handling practices to minimize the need for film cleaning, followed the presentation. — Dominic Case (Section Manager), Consultant.

Houston, March 18, 1993 — In honor of college students' celebration of spring break, the Houston Section showcased the works of the students attending universities and colleges in the southwest.

Maryjo Cochran and Dwight Brady, Sam Houston State Univ., described their school's programs and played a 15-min videotape of

the variety of programs produced and aired from their campus.

Robert Musburger, Univ. of Houston, described the School of Communication's programs and aired samples of several programs produced and broadcast in the Houston area. A videotape, *This is the SMPTE*, was previewed, as was a tape provided by Sony, which will be shown at the NAB. The meeting concluded with tours of the school's audio, video, and film facilities. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

Montreal/Quebec, April 6, 1993 — The April meeting took place at Theatre Capitele, where the 37 members and guests learned about the history of the recently renovated building from Michael Rodrigue. Martin Bolduc led the group on a tour of the technical facility, explaining why certain renovations were made.

Marcel Rheault then talked about the technical installations that were made at the Assemblee National du Quebec (Quebec Parliament) and gave an overview of existing technical facilities available for viewing tapes. All of the audiovisual services and new equipment to be installed in the building will be partially provided by the government. The Assemblee will completely automate its audio, video, and lighting equipment. — Jacques Lachappelle (Chairman), Centre de Montage Electronique.

Nordic, February 14, 1993 — The Nordic Section was invited to the Swedish Television Co. (SVT) for a presentation and demonstration of the HD-DIVINE system — which was the first time the system was demonstrated in an over-the-air transmission. Per Appelquist and Olle Franceschi, SVT, said that the system was built to show the feasibility of the technology. HD-DIVINE is a digital terrestrial HDTV broadcasting system for European 8-MHz channels using hybrid motion-compensated DCT and OFDM. — Per Appelquist (Section Member), Sveriges Television.

Pasadena City College, March 9, 1993 — Charles Armijo, an independent make-up artist who also operates his own cosmetic distribution company, was the guest speaker. Most of Armijo's current work is done on the sets of soap operas, made-for-TV movies, and pilot television episodes.

He explained the benefits of make-up as well as its shortfalls, noting that when make-up is combined with proper lighting, camera angles, and post-production, a director can usually achieve a desired look.

Armijo compared the differences in working in television and film: film is the more difficult because of the size of the screen. All make-up details must be done with great care since a person's face can be quite large during a close up.

As part of his presentation, Armijo applied make-up to a student volunteer, showing how scars, tooth stains, oil grease, and blood are created. He also showed how to apply graying hair and how to work with wax to create a stab wound. — Janna Nava (Student Chairperson), Pasadena City College.

Pasadena City College, March 20, 1993 — Over 60 people attended a chapter-sponsored seminar, entitled "Electronic Picture Display Technology."

Joe Kane, Joe Kane Productions, was the first speaker. He discussed telecine transfer from video to film and outlined the history of black-and-white television to color and how NTSC was developed. He also explained the elements of color, including black and white, emphasizing fidelity and gray scales.

He continued his presentation with specifications for the best viewing environment: one should be at least five to eight viewing heights from the monitor, have a primary viewing angle no greater than 15%, minimize stray light from hitting the monitor, and have some ambient light behind the monitor.

Kane concluded his presentation with a discussion of the problem with cathode ray tubes (CRTs). He demonstrated light fall-off and color changes. Light fall-off on monitors larger than 20 in. can be as great as 50%.

After a break, Jan Yarbrough, AME, Inc., spoke about current monitor requirements,



The panel at the Rocky Mountain Section meeting: (l) John Newell, Bill Russell, Dave Kenig, SMPTE President Irwin Young, and Glen LeFeber.



Members of the SMPTE Nordic Section at the meeting held in February.

such as composite and letterbox. Various movie clips were shown and the different color elements were explained, such as black levels and differences between letterbox and pan and scan. The seminar then concluded with a question-and-answer period. — Janna Nava (Student Chairperson), Pasadena City College.

Rocky Mountain, March 18, 1993 — Approximately 100 people attended the March meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section, which featured a very intense and complex discussion of Super 16 film production for the widescreen television standard. The keynote speaker was SMPTE President Irwin Young, DuArt Film Labs, who has over 15 years involvement with the Super 16 film format. Young's film lab in New York City is one of the pioneers in establishing full laboratory support. His presentation included a 35mm film demonstration where identical scenes were shot on Super 16 and 35mm film stock. The Super 16 was blown up to 35mm and compared with the straight 35mm footage.

Dave Kenig, who represented Panavision and Aaton, gave a verbal presentation and demonstration of both cameras. He also showed segments on 35mm film that were shot with Super 16 Aaton cameras.

Glen LeFeber and Richard Hoff, Eastman Kodak Co., read a paper entitled "Consideration in the Use of Super 16 Film for

the Production of Widescreen Television Programming," which was written by M. P. Clark, C. B. Hunt, J. W. Johnston, and W. C. Snyder II. The presentation was a combination slide show and demonstration of film transfers to high-definition video, which clearly demonstrated a balanced partnership between film and the new high-tech video format (HDTV).

The meeting was hosted by Film/Video Equipment Service Co. and was held on its sound stage. A panel, made up of the presenters, fielded questions following the formal presentations.

This meeting was videotaped on Beta SP with multiple cameras (three) by the Colorado Institute of Art's Video and Audio Production Dept. The videotape of the meeting is available; for further information, please call Meeting and Membership Chairman Laszlo I. Varga at (303) 794-0972. — Laszlo I. Varga (Meeting and Membership Chairman), Pannonia International Films.

San Francisco, February 25, 1993 — The February meeting was held at the KPIX/5 studio. Phil Livingston, Panasonic Broadcast and Television Systems Co., discussed the upcoming release of the D-5 digital VTR. He outlined the design concept of the VTR platform that will be used for three generations. The first generation is the component digital D-3, which is now in use; the

next generation is the D-5 digital component format; the third will be HDTV, using a compressed video format.

He discussed in detail Panasonic's philosophy on not compressing video in the digital component format in the post-production environment. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session focusing on the pros and cons of the current DCT system and upcoming Betacam. — Richard LeForge (Secretary/Treasurer), Consultant.

San Francisco, March 25, 1993 — Over 90 people attended the March meeting, which was a joint session with the local Audio Engineering Society (AES) chapter. The meeting, held at Ampex Corp., featured a presentation by Birney Dayton, founder and president of NVision, who explained the compatibility of digital audio in a digital PAL, NTSC, and AES/EBU world, as well as the basic math that, when properly applied, will result in tying together these seemingly incompatible standards. He also discussed the different digital audio variations that are used with 30, 25, and 24-frame rates, both post and precompensations that result in a 48-kHz standard.

During the question-and-answer session, there was discussion on the intricacies of switching digital formats in both NTSC and PAL standards, and the pros and cons of such things as embedded audio. — Richard LeForge (Secretary/Treasurer), Consultant.

News

SMPTE Financial Vice-President Charles Jablonski was named vice-president, broadcast and network engineering, at NBC Broadcast and Network Operations. He will be responsible for network engineering, the renovation of NBC's technical facilities at its New York City-based headquarters, and technology planning, equipment development, and technical project coordination.



Jablonski, who since 1990 served as the network's managing director, Olympics engineering, was the recipient of an Emmy Award for his coverage of the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. His responsibilities included technology development, production coverage, systems development, and implementation of all production and engineering systems. In addition, he was responsible for the engineering effort behind NBC's coverage of the

1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, which also resulted in an Emmy Award.

He joined NBC in 1983 as a project manager for systems engineering, and was later promoted to chief engineer, network distribution. His list of accomplishments at the network include the conversion from graphics to electronic systems and the supervision of the conversion to stereo, for which NBC received an Emmy Award. Prior to joining NBC he was chief engineer of WNET, the PBS flagship station in New York.

David Elliott, a Fellow of the SMPTE, has been named vice-president, engineering services, East Coast, of the ABC television network's broadcasting operations and engineering division. He will be responsible for all New York engineering services, including systems engineering and new technology groups, electronic maintenance, and post-production and graphics. He had previously worked for the network as director of broadcast center operations. In related news, Mary Frost

was promoted to vice-president and general manager, network operations, East Coast, and Elliott Reed was appointed vice-president, television operations, East Coast.

Several engineering short courses will be offered by UCLA Extension during the months of August and September. The courses are designed for people involved in new forms of information distribution, including data compression, CD-ROM, and wireless personal communication systems. The sessions will be held as follows: "Data Speech, Image and Video Compression: Principles, Applications, and Standards," will take place August 9 to 13; "User-Oriented Interface Design: Process and Product," will be offered from September 8 to 10; "Wireless Personal Communications Systems (PCS)," will be held September 15 to 17; and "User-Interface Design for Interactive Multimedia Systems," will take place September 22 to 24. All courses will be held in the UCLA Extension building, adjacent to the UCLA campus, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact UCLA Extension, Engineering Short Courses, 10995 LeConte Ave., Ste. 542, Los Angeles, CA 90024, (310) 825-1047, Fax: (310) 206-2815.