

Section Meetings

Chicago, December 15, 1994 — Nineteen people attended the December meeting, held at the Midwest regional offices of the Sony Corp. That company's Craig Beardsley discussed the various aspects of video servers for use in a facility. Particular attention was paid to the technologies used in specific designs. For example, data rates, compression techniques, storage media, back-up methods, and interconnection were all treated with regard to their advantages and disadvantages. A key point made by Beardsley was that video servers tend to be much more application-specific in their design; therefore, those who adopt this new technology should thoroughly investigate many new products before implementing a video server system. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Detroit, December 13, 1994 — Following a Dutch-treat dinner, Bill Fleming, Sony Electronics, presented "All-Digital Camcorder Technology" at the Burton Manor, Livonia, Mich., to an audience of 26. Fleming remarked upon the progress that has been made in coming closer to film quality with the aid of this new digital technology. For example, the processing in the DVW-700 uses digital signal processing and high-density LSIs that allow a variety of functions in a compact unit. Two preset memories for gamma correction make it possible for the picture quality to more closely approximate film characteristics. Lowering the speed of the rotating drum and using high-power lithium-ion batteries provide for lower camera noise and longer recording time. After the presentation and a question-and-answer session, an assortment of Sony products, including the camera Fleming had used in his discussion, was made available for viewing and hands-on operation. — Harold L. Miller (Secretary/Treasurer),

New York, November 17, 1994 — More than 70 people came to New York University for the November meeting. Bob Strickland, Eastman Kodak Co., presented his company's new film stock, 5287/7827. He was followed by Peter Able, Able Cine Tech, Inc., who demonstrated the Aaton code system from practical field operation to the film-to-tape transfer to the editing process. — Michael Paul Brown (Chair), Eastman Kodak Co.

New York, December 12, 1994 — The new SONY IMAX Theater in Manhattan was the site for the December meeting, which attracted 427 members and guests. "The Imax 3-D Sight and Sound

Experience" began with a presentation by Kenneth Baker, Imax Corp. Baker described the design and development of camera equipment for the IMAX 3-D process: two 70mm IMAX films are projected to show left and right images, and these are viewed with lightweight cordless headsets having liquid crystal lenses. Infrared signals trigger the lenses to alternately open and close left and right lenses. The viewer then integrates the images, perceiving them as 3-D. The headsets also contain speakers that produce sound in front, behind, and around the listener, creating a personal sound environment.

Michael Satran, SONY IMAX, then described the challenges in projecting IMAX 3-D, comparing it to 35mm and 70mm systems. The equipment is designed to project 2-D, 3-D, and IMAX high-definition formats.

Attendees were treated to tours of the technical facilities, as well as a private screening of *Into the Deep*, a 3-D feature film in which the viewer visually inhabits an underwater wonderland. — Ed Schuller (Program Coordinator), Entertainment Video Systems

Pasadena City College, November 8, 1994 — Jim Goss, NBC Entertainment, began the program by giving the 31 attendees an overall view of the changes that have occurred in the network over the years. Industry dynamics were also discussed; Goss explained that with corporate downsizing becoming a trend, private contractors are replacing permanent staffs. He also implied that one's marketability relies on the mastery of a variety of skills. Goss encouraged his student audience to become more involved in industry conventions and conferences, stressing that involvement is the key to opportunities. — Charles W. Postell (Program Coordinator)

Pasadena City College, November 22, 1994 — Thirty-five people were on hand to listen to a presentation given by David Disarro, Dick Crew Productions. After describing his job duties as a line producer for "Sci-Fi Buzz," a news magazine shown on the Sci-Fi Channel, Disarro explained how his experiences as a student at Pasadena City College were directly related to his work. He went on to talk about the finer points of television production, including some of the things that need to be done in order to keep the audience interested. — Adam Ferrar (Chair)

Rochester, December 13, 1994 — The December meeting was the Rochester Section's annual "Family Night," held to

celebrate the holidays. One hundred and twenty family members and friends enjoyed the feature film *The Little Rascals* at the Loews Theater, Webster, N.Y. The Rochester Section of the SMPTE would like to thank Universal Pictures for the use of the film, Loews Theater for providing the projection, and Eastman Kodak Co. for helping with the arrangements. — Walter C. Snyder II (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

San Francisco, December 13, 1994 — The December meeting took place at Silicon Graphics, Mountain View, Calif. Jim Karpe, Pinnacle Systems, discussed desktop digital video effects. As personal computers reach video speeds, devices such as DVEs and paint units can now be constructed in software. Embedded processing, distributed processing, and parallel processing can overcome the demands of video clocking and address manipulation, especially at 13.5-MHz sampling. A number of manufacturers make chip sets to decode and encode NTSC and PAL video so that picture manipulation can be done in the component digital domain inside the PC. — Charles Hintz (Secretary/Treasurer), KTVU

Toronto, January 10, 1995 — The January meeting, attended by over 200 members and guests, was held at the Global/Canwest Network Centre; the topic was "The Infotainment Highway." This was the ninth annual satellite-distributed meeting, seen live in the U.K., New Zealand, and Australia, as well as in North America. Charles Poynton, Sun Microsystems, began the program with an overview of digital technologies and related techniques, including an introduction to ATM.

Paul Briscoe, Leitch, Inc., followed with a more in-depth look at ATM. He highlighted the differences between Ethernet and ATM technologies and related them to their utility in the distribution of television signals throughout a plant. Philip Smith, MediaLinx Interactive, then discussed the creation of broadband multimedia services over the telephone network and how the telephone network was going to change to accommodate the new services. Smith described some of the tests his company was conducting to further the development of these new technologies. John Anderson, Rogers Cable, presented CATV's vision of the highway using the existing coax as the backbone; he also reviewed the trials and tests with high-speed modems being conducted by his company. — Stephen Pumble (Promotions Adviser), IMMAD Broadcast Services