

Section Meetings

Detroit April 18, 1995

A Dutch Treat dinner at the Chianti Restaurant in Southfield, Mich., preceded the April meeting at WKBD-TV in Southfield. Bill Rogers and Kent Boekenhauer, Avid Technology, presented "Avid Newsroom for the Future" to the 15 attendees. The speakers used computer-generated graphics to aid in describing the unique combination of systems in which a network of computers is integrated to provide video storage and access from acquisition to transmission. The system gives multimedia access to the journalist's desktop for creating, editing, and presenting stories and allows the reporter to consult archives, compose graphics, edit moving video, and write scripts from the desktop. Rogers described "Newscutter," a disk-based news editing system that includes hardware and software and allows editors to edit news stories without going to tape. The meeting was adjourned following a 30-minute question-and-answer period. — Harold L. Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

Houston February 22, 1995

Thirty-five members and guests attended the February meeting held at Silicon Graphics, Inc. That company's Ashley Cowart, with Ric Gregory, Broadcast Digital Systems, began the evening by demonstrating the audio and video interactive communications that can take place between two artists sharing the same graphic. Describing the ideal as "fluent communication without boundaries," Cowart stated that many graphics firms are finding it possible to artistically collaborate on large projects using dedicated data lines or the Internet. Then Kipp Aldrich, Texas A&M, described some of the recent history of graphics programs and the computers that support them. Drawing on some of the current Internet software offerings as examples, he stated that much of the low-cost software, and particularly utility software, is available on a freeware or shareware basis. — Andy Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston

Houston April 19, 1995

Mike Pingenot, ElectroTex, presented "Accessing the Information Age: A Provider's Perspective" to the 35 members and guests who attended the joint SMPTE/SBE meeting. Pingenot explained how his company had grown from an



Napa Valley College students and alumni pose at the SMPTE booth at the NAB's annual convention in April.

organization serving its own communications needs to a public provider currently offering 200 lines of Internet access at speeds up to the T-1 data rate, presently reading 14 lines of ISDN level service. He was followed by his colleague, Gary Geer, who described the equipment used to service customers. He stated that ElectroTex found it most advantageous to use multiple servers rather than to concentrate all services and customers in one device. Starting with the "home page" of many Houston organizations, Gary then proceeded to thoroughly demonstrate what Internet connectivity offered from a user's perspective. — Andy Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston

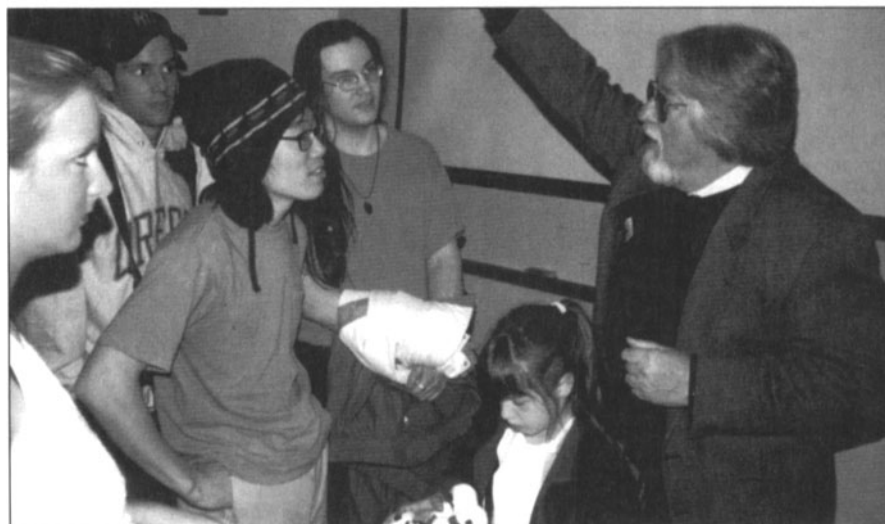
Napa Valley College April 14, 1995

A number of Napa Valley students ventured to Las Vegas to attend the NAB's

73rd annual convention. Graduating seniors used this opportunity to catch up with the latest developments as well as network with industry professionals. The SMPTE booth once again became a meeting place for alumni and students to meet and discuss industry trends and employment opportunities. Among those who were on hand to offer advice to the students were SMPTE Sections Vice-President John Carlson, Monaco Laboratories; Gary Snyder, Clark Production Associates, Inc.; Tony Cox, Filmcore; and Ken Spickler, KSEE 24, Fresno, Calif. — Dave Parker (Secretary/Treasurer)

Rochester April 11, 1995

Laszlo Kovacs, American Society of Cinematography (ASC), was the guest speaker at the annual Cinematographer Evening, held at Rochester Institute of



Laszlo Kovacs makes a point to RIT students at the Rochester meeting in April.

Technology. Rochester Section members were joined by an enthusiastic group from the RIT Student Chapter to hear about Kovacs' early struggles to establish himself in Hollywood after leaving Hungary with Vilmos Sigmund in the 1950s. His list of credits is well known, including *Easy Rider*, *Ghostbusters*, and *Radio Flyer*. Kovacs noted that the director of photography is in charge of all aspects of cinematography and encouraged his audience to concentrate on lighting, the main tool of the cinematographer. He reassured those present that the unique theatrical experience would ensure the continuation of the feature film industry. — Alan J. Masson (Chair), Eastman Kodak Co.

San Francisco April 30, 1995

More than 70 members and guests met at Silicon Graphics, Inc., to hear WebFORCE Product Manager David Frerich present "CyberSurfing on the InterNet." The first WebFORCE tool demonstrated was an authoring tool for those who are interested in producing products for the World-Wide Web (WWW). The WWW, which supports audio, video, graphics, and text files, is a

layer of the InterNet created in an effort to connect all human knowledge into an organism that is globally accessible. Already heavily used, it is anticipated that the tools to access the WWW will be available to the general public (many free of charge) by the end of this year. System requirements are a fast PC, an ISDN phone line, and a 28K modem. — Charles Hintz (Secretary/Treasurer), KTVU

Toronto March 14, 1995

Over 400 enthusiastic SMPTE members and guests attended the March meeting, held at Cinesphere, at Ontario Place, Toronto. The first speaker was Marty Shindler, Cinesite Digital Film Center, who provided an excellent overall picture of digital imaging systems and the Kodak Cineon process in particular. Digital imaging pioneer Mike Boudry, Computer Film Co., then illustrated different pixel densities in various film formats and, along with stunning examples of his company's work, explained the technical production of a number of realistic special effects.

The third speaker, Gordon Harris, Imax Corp., explained how obstacles in produc-

tion were overcome by the development of specialized equipment. These included water-tight and heat-resistant camera housings, which enable Imax to achieve spectacular images deep underwater and close-ups of space shuttle rocket engines. Samuel Zhou, Imax, then joined the three speakers for a spirited question-and-answer period.

An unscheduled fourth speaker was Graeme Ferguson, co-founder and past president of Imax. Ferguson told a number of anecdotes about events which occurred during the shooting of various productions, including the training of astronauts to be professional Imax camera operators.

Ferguson then introduced the superb 45-minute Imax film, *Destiny in Space*. As a viewer, one could fully appreciate the digital technology used in the production of the incredibly realistic images, such as soaring over the rugged and colorful contours of Mars and Venus. These sequences were created from data collected and analyzed by Jet Propulsion Laboratory from space probes, and imaged by Imax on MGI Solitaire film recorders at their Oakville, Ontario, production facility. — David Corley (Manager), D & S Corley, Ltd.

Books, Booklets, Brochures

Digital Audio and Compact Disc Technology, 3rd ed., by Luc Baert, Luc Theunissen, and Guido Vergult, has been published by Focal Press, 313 Washington St., Newton, MA 02158-1626. Designed for audio engineers, students, and hi-fi enthusiasts, the book contains an easy-to-follow introduction and a new technical description of digital audio tape (DAT). Also covered in this 320-page paperback is a short history of audio technology; the principles of digital signal processing; and overviews of A/D conversion systems and the compact disc medium.

Compression in Video & Audio recognizes the wide variety of compression applications, beginning with its most simplified forms. A chapter on fundamentals contains all the necessary background information necessary for a beginner to follow the rest of the book. This 224-page paperback is written by John Watkinson, an independent consultant in digital video, audio, and data technology, and the author of several books on digital technology. The book is available for \$44.95 from Focal Press, 313 Washington St., Newton, MA 02158-1626.

Producing and Directing the Short Film and Video takes the reader from script to final product, illustrating all of the steps involved in pre-production, production, post-production, and distribution. The book, which looks at filmmaking from the perspectives of both the producer and director, contains stills and scripts from two short narrative films and one short documentary; samples of various production forms; and appendices with information on festivals, grants, insurance, and film schools. The authors are Peter W. Rea and David K. Irving, both of whom are assistant professors of film and television at New York University. For more information, contact Focal Press, 313 Washington St., Newton, MA 02158-1626.

The 1995 IC Master CD-ROM PLUS has been released by Hearst Business Publishing/UTP Division, 635 Stewart Ave., Garden City, NY 11530. A single CD delivers the latest product and design information on 108,000 integrated circuits with more than 20,000 new device listings. Product and vendor information

published in the IC Master catalog, including the Alternate Source Directory, is contained on the compact disk. An annual subscription in the U.S. is \$495.

The 1995 IC Master Alternate Source Directory (ICMASD), an industry-wide cross-reference listing of 127,000 current and discontinued devices, is now available on floppy disk. This newest version includes complete manufacturer contact information and device category information. An annual subscription is \$179.50 and comes on either a 3.5-in. or 5.25-in. high-definition floppy disk. For more information, contact Hearst Business Publishing/UTP Division, 635 Stewart Ave., Garden City, NY 11530.

The Audio/Video Engineer's Guide to Wire, Cable, and Fiber Optics, 2nd ed., provides the reader with detailed information on the uses of wire, cable, and fiber for both analog and digital audio, video, and multimedia. This 151-page book, written by Stephen H. Lampen, is available from the author at 763 SW 15th, Richmond, IN 47374.