

Toronto Section Holds Technical Seminar

The fourth in a series of technical seminars was presented by the Toronto Section on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, at the Sony of Canada Service Training facility in Toronto. Registration was limited to 40 for the seminar, entitled "Compression Theory and Application."

Most of the first day was devoted to the "Signal Compression Primer," given by Michael Robin, broadcast consultant. The presentation progressed from a review of NTSC to sampling, encoding, and transmission, to the principles of data reduction, coding, and compression. In a second session, Robin discussed MPEG

guidelines, including the concepts, a workable system, and encoding. Friday's second subject, "Nonlinear Editing and Video Compression," was presented by Paul Garmon, Avid Technology, Inc.

On Saturday, Thor Culverhouse, Tektronix, Inc., led a session entitled "Video and Networking Overview." He discussed the data rates required for various qualities of imaging and the storage architecture needed, as well as the cost-effectiveness of various storage methods. He was followed by Denis Nechaevski, Tektronix Canada, Inc., who described a test set suitable for evalu-

ating an MPEG data stream.

"Convergence of Networking and Broadcasting" was the title of the final presentation, given by Randy Conrod, Leitch, Inc. This session reviewed the familiar communication systems of telephone and computer networks and conventional broadcast techniques and then moved on to asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) techniques.

The seminar was organized by a committee of Toronto Section members: Fred Benedikt and Howard Wilkinson, CBC, and Sections Vice-President Fung Fai Lam, Sony of Canada Ltd. — Howard Wilkinson (Membership Chair), CBC



Randy Conrod discusses the convergence of networking and broadcasting.

Left to right, seminar organizers Howard Wilkinson, Fung Lam, and Fred Benedikt pose with chef David McKay as seminar participants enjoy their lunch.



Forty Toronto Section members participated in "Compression Theory and Applications."