

Section Meetings

New England, May 23 — Two topics were featured at this meeting, held at WNEV-TV, Boston. The first half of the meeting was a joint presentation by Karl Renwanz, vice-president for operations and engineering, and Brian Lay, engineering manager, WNEV-TV. Renwanz and Lay described the extraordinary measures taken at WNEV in the selection, testing, and qualifying of various manufacturers of M-format VHS videocassettes. Renwanz explained the methods, procedures, and protocol which ensure fair and objective testing. Lay described the qualitative evaluations that take place when various batches of tape stock arrive from suppliers. The speakers discussed the methods by which videocassettes are disassembled for evaluation of their merits and mechanical performance.

The second presentation, on the new Panasonic M-II AU-600 teleproduction video recorder, was by Ernie Mathews, Panasonic Video Products, and Dick Lip-

son, DLE, Inc. Mathews outlined the history of the recorder and traced its stages of development by Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK), which later brought the format to the U.S. marketplace. He discussed the operational features which closely approach the quality level and flexibility of Type-C 1-in. reel-to-reel VTRs. The M-II VTR employs the component video signal recording scheme, a departure from the earlier *YIQ* component scheme. The new AU-600 employs the *Y/R-Y/B-Y* component scheme.

The unique technologies, still in development at Panasonic, which contribute to the overall quality and high performance level of the unit were discussed. Paramount among these technologies is the metal particle videotape, the only tape formula usable on the present AU-600 format VTR. Mathews explained how the AU-600 senses the presence of non-metal particle VHS cassettes, and promptly ejects them (because they would not prop-

erly record or reproduce M-II format signals). This information benefited the users of existing M-format standard VHS cassettes who plan to integrate the newer M-II format into their operations.

The recorder was set on display for full evaluation and performance checks. Many of the members and guests took advantage of this opportunity to get hands-on experience with the Panasonic VTR. They evaluated the features that will be standard on the units, scheduled for introduction in the U.S. in January 1986.

The total of 50 in attendance included SMPTE section members and their guests, along with invitees of the New England Section's Non-Member Outreach Program (NMOP). The section's Board of Managers has followed up these non-members and reports strong results. Since January 1984, 25 membership applications have been received. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary-Treasurer), Emerson College, 71 Cross St., Foxboro, MA 02035.

New England, June 19 — C. Robert Paulson, AVP Communications, opened the meeting held at WVJV-TV by inviting the



Karl Renwanz discusses tape evaluation process employed for VHS cassettes at the May 23 meeting of the New England Section.



Ernie Mathews demonstrates the AU-600 M-II format VTR at the meeting of the New England Section, held on May 23.

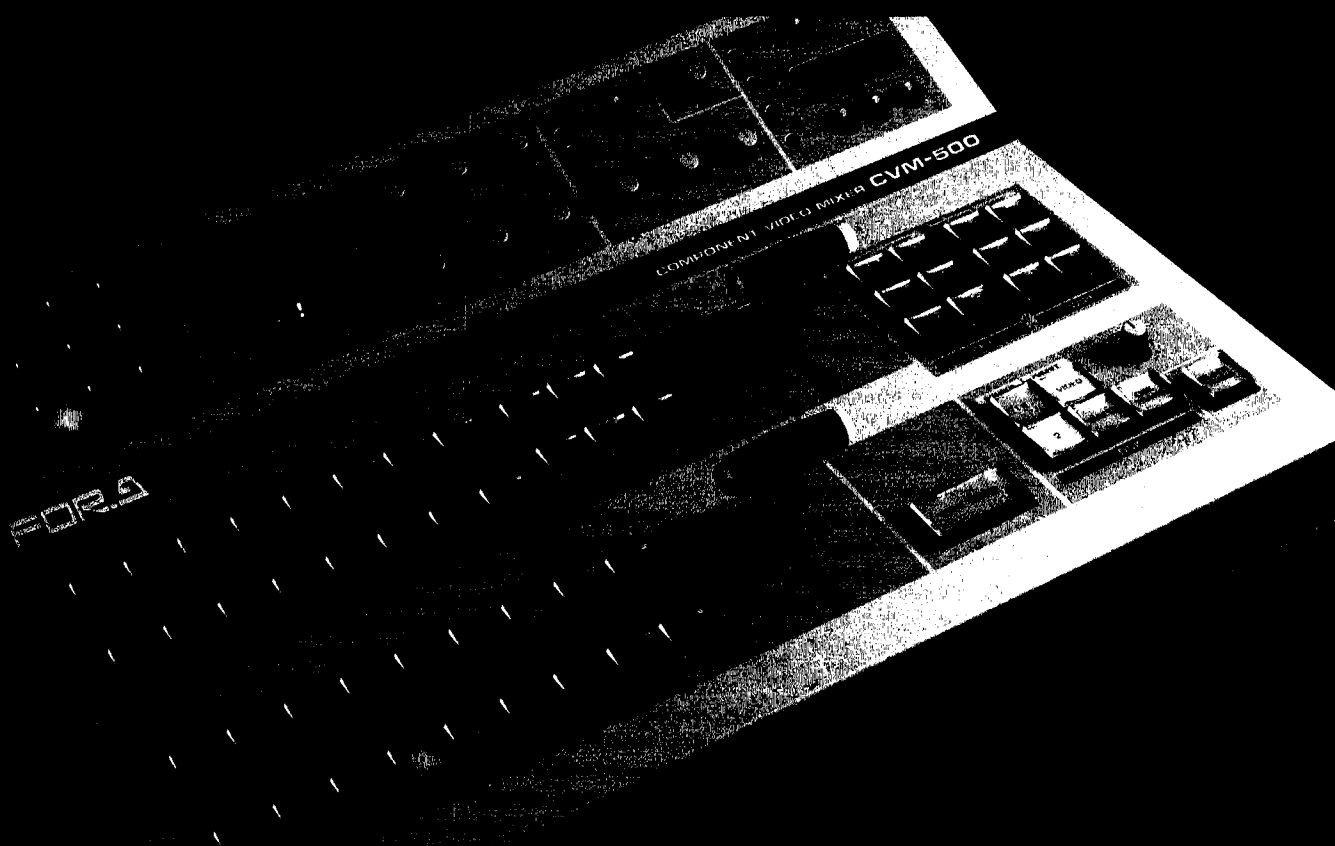


Richard Ellis gives an overview of a turnkey television facility during June 19 meeting of the New England Section.



Brad Reed and Michael Keller presenting the Nisus/Ikegami HL-79EAL Shutter Cam at the New England Section meeting held on June 19.

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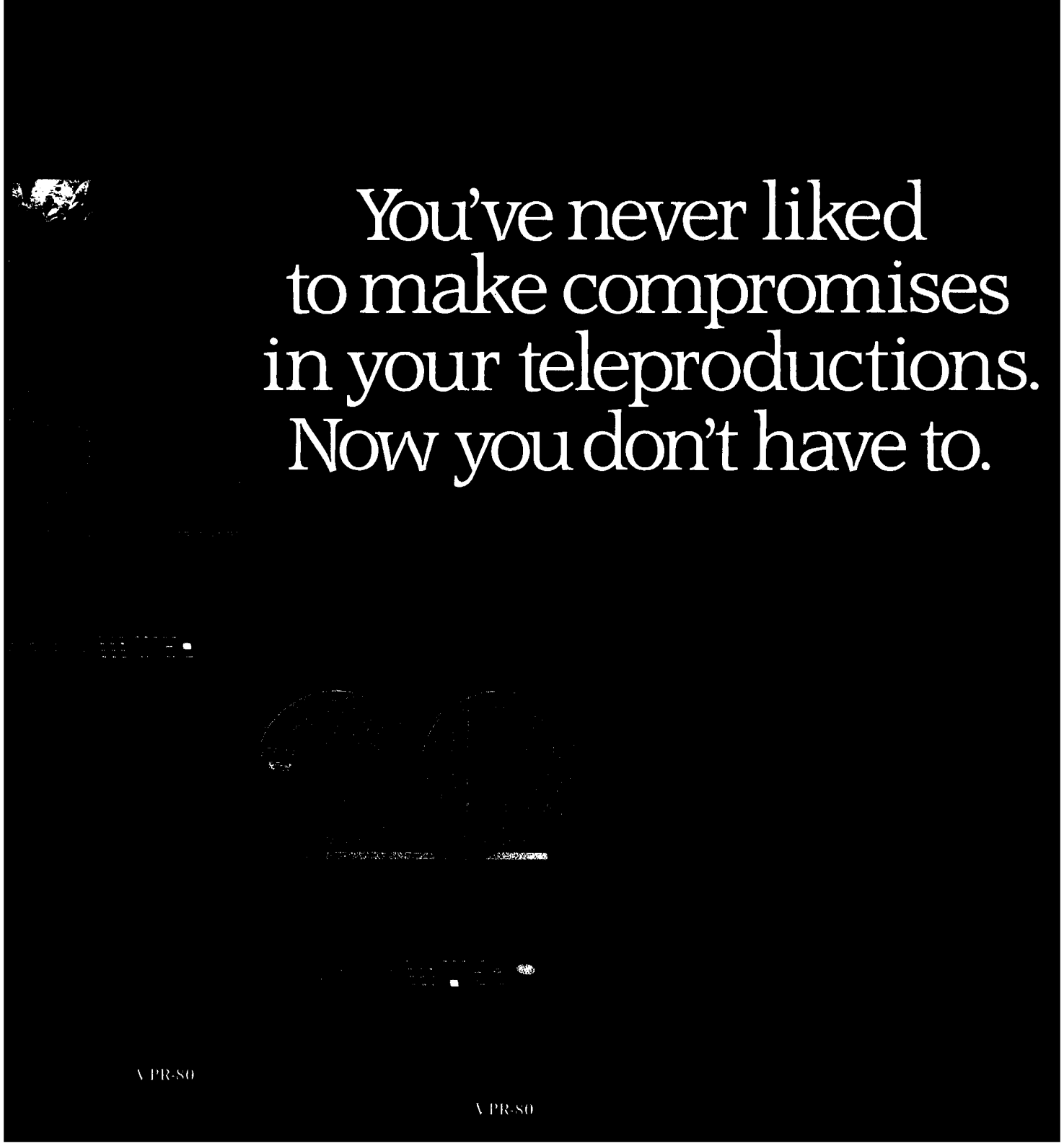
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The audience at the June 19 New England Section meeting.



Barry Murray (left) and Paul Cunningham at the Sept. 4 meeting of the SMPTE Toronto Section.



Paul Cunningham demonstrates a miniature, fully automatic television camera system for some of the 85 persons who attended the Sept. 4 meeting of the Toronto Section.

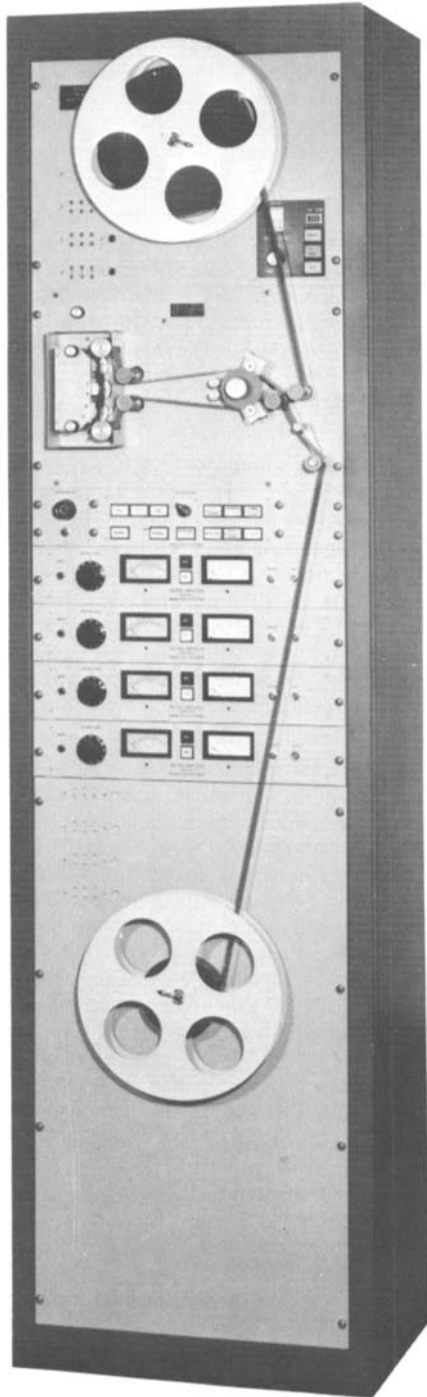
members and guests to provide input with regard to tape recording formats, operational features, and other standards-setting matters. Brad Reed and Michael Keller, both representing Landy Associates, then took the stage for an unusual technical demonstration of the Nisus Shutter Cam HL-79EAL camera system. To graphically illustrate the dynamic resolution enhancement of the shuttered video camera, when used with a fast-moving object, Reed and Keller televised a close-up view of a model train in high-speed motion. Extraordinary pictures of sharp clarity were obtained. The small letters and details on the toy train were very clear, as if captured in a non-motion freeze-frame. By contrast, the unshuttered view of selected still frames, using a framestore grabber, showed very blurry and unrecognizable images.

The second presentation was by Richard Ellis, senior design engineer, Lake Systems Corp. Ellis described his company's effort to design, construct, and document a turnkey television facility for WVJV-TV. Highlighted were the preconstruction plans and design work involved in the effort. Before the close of his presentation, Ellis fielded questions regarding the special audio configurations and fabrications designed by Lake Systems.

Over 125 persons, including several Non-Member Outreach guests, attended the meeting and were treated to a light buffet and guided tour of WVJV-TV. Many membership application forms, along with other SMPTE literature and information, were handed out. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College, 71 Cross St., Foxboro, MA 02035.

Toronto, September 4 — The section's first meeting of the 1985-86 season, held at VTR Productions Ltd., Toronto, attracted 85 members, spouses, and guests. Arranged by Jerry Zaludek, the meeting offered a review of current technologies and techniques in consumer television devices. Following an introduction by Section Chairman Fung Lam, Sony Corp., David George, Imagineering Ltd., reviewed recent developments in consumer television hardware, including TV receivers, monitors, VTRs, and camcorders.

Paul Cunningham and Barry Murray, JVC Canada, then discussed the attributes of the various products that were on display. They related recent technological developments to the demands of the consumer market. A question-and-answer session followed, during which all in attendance had an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the items on display. Refreshments and a tour of the VTR Productions facilities were also part of the program. — David L. George (Secretary/Treasurer), Imagineering Ltd., 20 Rondeau Dr., Willowdale, Ont., Canada M2H 1R4.



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