

# DIMENSION

## THE L.A. SIGGRAPH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER THE LOCAL LOS ANGELES SIGGRAPH CHAPTER 1993

### Meetings Ahead...

- OCTOBER 12: Kleiser-Walczak Construction Company. After a year's stint with Doug Trumbell in Massachusetts on the "Luxor" project, Jeff Kleiser and Frank Vlitiz will let you in on their motion capture achievement.
- NOVEMBER 9: Panel Discussion "Film Scanning and Recording". A panel of experts including Hoyt Yeatman of Dream Quest Images, Paul Carey of Component Video and president of SMPTE, will discuss the state of high-speed/ high-resolution film scanning and recording.

#### LA SIGGRAPH Executive Committee:

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213-962-1662

### Explore the planet at JPL

On Tuesday September 14, at Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL), Dr. Eric De Jong of NASA-JPL, a planetary scientist, will speak on solar system visualization.

At 6:30 p.m. we will start registration and networking (or better known as the schmooze hour). Then at 7:30 we will have a brief election referendum (5 mins.), after which our main speaker will present video and describe the use of computer graphics in planetary exploration.

The images were recorded from space crafts, and are rich in scientific data. They give us a first glimpse at planets we have never

before seen. Eric will talk about the technical aesthetic use to produce these startling "way cool" images.



Member \$1, non-members \$3. Call SigGraph SIGPHONE to RSVP by September 9, so we can have your name on the guest list at JPL - No Exceptions!!  
MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN.  
PLEASE BRING PICTURE I.D.

**Directions:** Take 134 East, 210 West (North) two miles, exit "Berkshire", JPL/NASA, Turn right to light (100 feet), left Oak Grove. Park Visitor Parking, JPL Building 180, Room 101.



#### Letters from Contributors

### Feds Investigate Author of Popular Software

U.S. Customs investigators from San Jose, Calif., recently interviewed Boulder, Colorado software engineer Philip Zimmermann over allegations that his free (and widely used)

data protection program PGP was illegally exported from the U.S. by persons unknown.

Zimmermann, who denies involvement of any such exports, was obliged to retain

## Investigation

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costly legal counsel to deal with the customs investigation.

PGP (short for Pretty Good Privacy) is a powerful encryption program, designed to conceal stored data from prying eyes by making it unintelligible to anyone not authorized to have it. U.S. export control laws classify encryption products as "munitions," and forbid their removal from the country unless weakened enough to satisfy the governments code-breaking arm, the secretive National Security Agency (NSA).

Federal law enforcement officials, concerned that independently developed encryption products will impede their search and surveillance operations, began in April to promote a competing "tame" technology developed secretly by NSA and sold by AT&T. Data protected by these new products is fully accessible to officers with a wire tap order or search warrant. But encryption users were skeptical that this technique is as secure as claimed. Zimmermann, as an independent software developer, warns of the dangers in government control of privacy-enhancing technologies, and welcomes assistance and support from like-minded members of the computing community. He may be contacted at: *Boulder Software*

Boulder, Col. 80304.  
Voice or FAX (303)541-0140. E-mail:  
prz@sage.cgd.ucar.edu



For a non-technical review of some recent developments in cryptography and of Zimmermann's contributions to that field, we recommend Steven Levy's well-researched cover story entitled "Crypto Rebels" in the May/ June 1993 issue of "Wired" magazine (pp. 54-61).

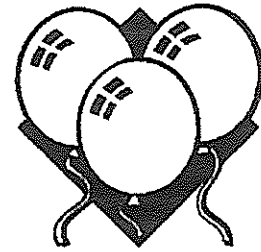
## SigGraph Social Scene Review

I believe that one of the most important part of any SigGraph conference is the socializing and networking that goes on after hours.

These parties are a barometer of what is going on in the computer graphics industry today. They give attendees a chance to discuss the year's developments with their peers and often meet industry leaders on a more friendly basis. But more importantly, they give everyone a chance to unwind from another year filled with endless hours in front of the CRT.

The first "unofficial" SIG party was held the preceding Friday, July 30, at the CyberSpace Gallery above EZTV. Most notably, Timothy Leary dropped by to see the 20 plus artists and mingle with fine computer artists, such as Rebecca Allen, Stewart McSherry, Victor Acevedo and Tony Longson, among others.

Early Monday night, Yoichiro Kawaguchi held his 6th Annual sake barrel opening



Our most gracious host showed his beautiful work to date: **Artificial Life Metropole Cell**, and signed small pine box sake cups (a hot collectible these days). This event gets more popular each year. Mr. Kawaguchi ended up ladling out sake to a mob who felt more like festival seating near the front row of a Grateful Dead show, than a computer conference.

Monday also saw the course reception at the Kellogg Mansion. There was a large variety of food and some attendees gathered herbs and fashioned them into hair wreaths. Later at the Marriott Bar, pals McSherry and Kawaguchi even ventured to taste some of the freshly picked rosemary. It certainly was a far cry from '87 SIG-

# Social Scene Review

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was a far cry from '87 SIGGRAPH's course reception - a night on Knotts Berry Farm. I began to wonder if this conference would hold up to past years. I knew, though, it was going to be a great conference when Michael Kass started juggling keys in the Hilton Lobby Bar and closed by balancing a chair on his face.

Digital Domain's Tuesday soiree definitely got things into full swing. The hard-to-come-by invitations gave everyone a long but worthwhile bus ride to *Grand Slam* in downtown L.A. - Prince's latest hot spot. Those who didn't catch the bus, but made the drive, were let in as well to see Dweezil Zappa playing an all star jam and then an up-close listen and look at Billy Idol's newest CyberPunk rastafarian doo.

Wednesday night was the night for action. The evening started by surviving TDP's Devil's Mine ride at the Showscan Theater in Culver City. I survived it twice thanks to my Belgian friends, devilish animators Jos Claeson and Toon Roebben. Next, Amiga showcased the Video Toaster 4000 at Movieland Wax Museum. There was live music, dancing and lots of stars (the wax kind - although Elvis was nowhere to be seen) and everyone went home with a picture of themselves sitting

Nothing though could compare to Fishbone's special encore at the Richard Nixon Museum, where Industrial Light and Magic and Silicon Graphics took the best of the show award for their no-holds barred bash.

This was the toughest ticket to come by in Yorba Linda, but worth the groveling (Thank you Lincoln Hu and Mark Dippe). It was definitely a night full of things to remember forever: Kyoto drummers, private screenings of *Jurassic Park*, Pee Wee in

person, the return of Timothy Leary with a personalized video reading of *How to Expand Your Brain*, the very unforgettable experience of seeing straight-laced computer programmers slam dance to Fishbone, and my own favorite...the Brazilian carnival band and dancers making a conga line all the way around the Nixon reflecting pool! Plus Elvis showed up on a T-shirt shaking Dick Nixon's hand.

On Thursday the paper-panel's reception took up two of the Marriot ballrooms and part of the parking lot. There

were face painters and circus performers and again...lots of food. Later the Local Groups Party at Cowboy Boogie was a fun place for out-of-town SIGGRAPH and local group attendees to wind down the week. The happening place for L.A. locals, however, was Kleiser Walczak's Construction Party.

Live music, great food and a "construction" that allowed the Who's Who of Computer Graphics in attendance to literally walk on water (no virtual reality involved).

Throughout the week there were many generous and well-attended courtesy suites by the likes of NICOGRAPH, Metrolight

Studios and BOSS Film. All in all it was an excellent year for socializing at SIGGRAPH. And since the courtesy extended by companies at SIGGRAPH is usually a reflection of the health and wealth of our industry, it looks like it's going to be a good year ahead! *Mary-Margaret Stratton.*

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**There was live music, dancing and lots of stars (the wax kind - although Elvis was nowhere to be seen) and everyone went home with a picture of themselves sitting next to George Burns.**

# L.A. SIGGRAPH MEMBERSHIP FORM

- New member
- Renewal
- Address change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/state \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

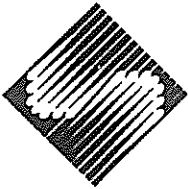
Please indicate where announcements should be sent:

home     business

National ACM# (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is tax deductible and includes our monthly newsletter and reduced admission to monthly and special events. Please make your \$15.00 check payable to: "Treasurer ACM" and mail to:

LA Chapter ACM  
P.O.B. 90698  
World Way Postal Center  
Los Angeles, CA 90009-0698



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Explore the Planets"  
at JPL on Sept. 14th -

----- your place -----