dimension

Todd Rundgren   March 12th   JPL

Our March meeting will be held Tuesday the 12th. Our speaker will be Todd Rundgren. Known formost as a musician and producer, Todd also owns his own software company, Utopia Grokware Software. He'll be speaking about graphics, interfaces and operating systems and his latest MTV video which he modeled and rendered using ten Amigas and Newtek toasters. **See last page for map and other meeting details.** We'll be at the Von Karmen Auditorium at JPL. It's a fun room, with lots of life size space gear. You might want to bring your Amiga animation demos as there will be a few machines at the meeting. There will be video tapes for sale made at our last months Amiga/Toaster Workshop.

APE CALL FROM TOKYO

APRIL 3, 7PM

SIGGRAPH members are invited to attend the opening of Ape Call From Tokyo, an exciting new exhibit of computer art. The opening will take place at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's Doizaki Gallery from 7-9 p.m. on **April 3, 1991**. The gallery is located at 244 South San Pedro Street.

An exhibit showing new applications of the computer for graphic design will go on view at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's George J. Doizaki Gallery April 3 through 21, 1991. The show Ape Call From Tokyo features the works of 6 leading Japanese graphic artists. Because computer graphics is still at an elementary stage in its development, the organizers have given this exhibit its whimsical title. The sixty images display the versatility and range of the computer's capacity. Some images appear to be photorealistic, while others are vividly colored abstractions.

The six artists whose works are included in the exhibit are Masaki Fujihata, Mitsuo Katsui, Yoichiro Kawaguchi, Taku Kimura, Hajime Tachibana and Eiji Takaoki. All of the artists were invited to participate in this project by Toppan Printing Co., Ltd. which is a leader in the field of high technology printing and the application of the computer for graphics in Japan. The six featured in the exhibit are active in the field of graphic design, computer animation, stage design and film animation.

The exhibition was organized and sponsored by the Toppan Printing Co., Ltd. and premiered at the Art Directors Club Gallery, New York, December 4, 1990. Los Angeles will be the only West Coast venue for the exhibit. Accompanying the exhibition is a full-color catalog with an introduction and biography of the six artists.

Thanks Craig R!

LA FREEWAVES

SIGGRAPH TRAVELING ART SHOW

MARCH 16, 8PM

LA Freewaves and MOCA are presenting a gathering of Southern California's independent video community for the month of March. For recorded information (updated weekly) call (213) 657-6558. Participating will be a vast group of arts organizations, cable stations, media centers, and schools offering screenings, exhibitions, installations, panel presentations, and twice-a-week cablecasts. The festival will showcase video art, radical documentaries, experimental narratives, and new animation ranging from high tech computer graphics to personal tapes made on consumer equipment. NOTE **March 16, 8pm** there will be a screening of the **SIGGRAPH Traveling Art Show** at EZTV, located at 8547 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood. A selection of animated works on video

ACM Notes

The local chapter of ACM has a newsletter called the DATA-LINK which prints meeting announcements and news of local SIGs, TACs, Chapters, and other organizations. Out of around 250 members of local SIGGRAPH almost 100 are members of local ACM and another 55 are members of national ACM.

Following excerpts were taken from an article in the Chapters Network a newsletter of the Chapters Committee of the ACM from a presentation by John White, ACM president at ACMs 25th anniversary in October 1990.

The Association for Computing Machinery is officially an educational and scientific organization, not a professional society, initiated to develop the integrity of the professional and the scholarship of individuals within the profession. It's purposes are: to advance the sciences and arts of information processing; to promote the free interchange of information among specialists and the public; and to develop and maintain the integrity and competence of individuals engaged in the practice of information processing.

ACM will be governed by a 15-member council in 1991. There are seven boards in charge of association activities. The Chapters Board coordinates and guides the activities of 100 regular chapters, 500 students Chapters and numerous Local SIGS (of which Local SIGGRAPH L.A. is one). One program provided by ACM to the ACM Chapters and SIGs is a Lectureship program which provides for speaker assistance. Their catalogue lists over 50 speakers covering such diverse topics such as: SPLASH, Computer Security, Protection and Crime, Neural Nets, CIM, AIDA, Natural Language Human Interfaces, Document Filing, Computing Projects Which Failed (our favorite!!), Software Theft, Computer Ethics, Fiber Optics, Code Generation, Computer Viruses, Improving Job Satisfactions of the Computer Professional, Toolkit Presentation, Semantics, Object-oriented Software Design, Petri Net Modeling and Applications, Temporal Hyperprogramming and many more. We'll bring the Lectureship Program Catalogue to our monthly meetings so you can take a look at it to request a particular speaker and topic.

ACM also sponsors a Scholastic Programming Contest, the winner of which now takes home $150 to $200,000 in computer equipment and services.

The Publications Board oversees the production of 12 regular journals: the *Communications* and various Transactions. The Journal of the ACM began in 1954 and split into two journals in 1958. Now under examination of a means for electronic distribution.

The SIGs Board oversees the activities of the SIGs on the local level. There are 32 groups that produce more than 122 newsletters and 71 conferences with a combined membership of 110,000. One new SIG has emerged in the last ten years—SIGFORTH. White is concerned that ACM may not be keeping up with the trends. He would like to see SIGs spring up to address hot topics and then die away as the technology or topic becomes settled. A model SIG, SIGGraph is the largest and most active, with 11,000 members. It runs the largest conference each year taking in over $6 million a year.

SIGGRAPH LOCAL GROUPS NEWS
FROM HERE TO THERE

SIGGRAPH/LA's February meeting was held at the Electronic Cafe and attracted two hundred people. Thanks to Rick Smith for organizing the presenters and special thanks to all those who showed up and gave demo's from 2pm to 10:30pm! They were: James Woods, president of LAAUG (LA Amiga Users Group (for membership call Kip Hammond at 213/390-3010); Mike Berro, demo'd Video Tools on Tap, a video image processing software system; Jerry Isdale of Xiphias showed their software developed for the CDTV System and the American Heritage Dictionary; Mike Lehman worked on the Special Effects unit on the films Ghostbusters and 2010 and showed the Video Toaster and his 3D work; Brummbaer, one of the hotter fine computer artists' around who works on the Amiga; Brad Schnech, a well known Amiga artist who has won the last two BADGE Killer Demo animation competitions; Steve Segal, a SIGGRAPH award winning animator for his "Dance of the Stumblers" and animation for Pee Wee's Playhouse and Into the Night with Rick Dees; Reichart Von Wolfshield, a software developer of Disney Animation Studio and Who Framed Roger Rabbit, who also showed his new CDTV interface (I hear he's been seen at Rowland High School checking out one of the cooler animation programs in the country!); Leo Schwab, visiting from San Francisco and being his

brilliant self; Victor Osaka, an industrial designer who uses Amiga 3D software to design architectual lighting fixtures and furniture. Victor publishes and edits The Turbo Sig Bulletin which is dedicated to the advancement of Three dimension Animation and Ray Tracing for art and industry. On the Amiga of course. Write to him at 1341 Ocean Ave. #349, Santa Monica, CA 90401 for a subscription ($15/yr).

Even if you're not an Amiga user, the Video Toaster is widely used by TV stations and computer/video artists. The Video Toaster boasts a switcher, digital video effects, dual frame buffer, still store, and a character generator. NewTek spent over ten work-years writing software to combine custom chips and the Amiga's graphic coprocessors into one complete, easy-to-use system. The result is the world's first broadcast quality video computer, the Video Toaster. You're looking at $80,000 worth of broadcast quality equipment for a fraction of the cost.

SIGGRAPH/Chicago's December meeting was held at Micro Ed, a financing and leasing company, and featured the Amiga and NewTek's Video Toaster. Their January meeting was held at the Design Process laboratory at the Illinois Institute of Technology where Professor Charles Owen spoke about the Project Phoenix which is concerned about the greenhouse effect. Images are being created with Alias Software.

SIGGRAPH/Vancouver also had a meeting on the Amiga and the Video Toaster in January. They support a very inclusive check out library of National SIGGRAPH course notes, books and videos. Let us know if you would be interested in a similar service locally. We have "90's course notes and hopefully some

videos available, and will set up a check out 'library' if you would like us to.

SIGGRAPH/NYC's February meeting was "Navigation Landscaping through Information Landscapes" chaired by Ken Perlin from NYU. It dealt with new environments, techniques and equipment currently being developed to enhance user's ability to visualize and order information. On March 15th, SIGGRAPH/NYC will feature their third annual conference on *Issues in Computer Graphics Education.* The three hour conference will explore the ways and means to engender interdisciplinary approaches to computer graphics curricula. For info call Lynn Watson at (212) 243-5831.

SIGGRAPH/New England had the following meetings: December - Next NeXT? Multimedia on the NeXTstation.....January - 3rd Annual Currents in Computer Animation Festival....February - Network Computer Video: The Introduction of Digital Audio and Video to Network Desktop Computers.

SIGGRAPH/San Francisco hosted a joint meeting with CPSR in January at the Xerox PARC Auditorium with the hot topic "Computer Erotica? Or Computer Pornography?" Graphics be graphics! Their local phone # (415) 599-2054.

LA FREEWAVES

from around the world including artists such as: Flavia Alman, George Elyyjiw, John Halas and Tamas Wallozky, Patricia Hoffman, Ann Jacobs, Georges Le Piouffle, Rudy Leeman, Michael O'Rourke, Natasha Samant, M. Shan Yeung, Thomas Porett, and Jim Pomeroy. Admission: $3.00.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

THE CRAFT AND FOLK ART MUSEUM GOES TECHNO

The Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles invites SIGGRAPH artists and designers to help add an exciting dimension to their interactive gallery relating to "Perception and Illusion". We are assembling a video cassette of still and animated images relating to our theme for continuous viewing. We would be very grateful to any of you who would allow us to use images you have created. Individual credit will be given on the tape as well as in printed wall signage and brochures.

Opening May 15th, the interactive space is being developed in conjunction with "What A Sight," an exhibition on the evolution of eyeware design from a functional product to fashion statement and into non-functional sculpture. The gallery will feature a number of interactives designed by the Exploratorium in San Francisco to show how the eye works, using optical puzzles and illusions.

The Craft and Folk Art Museum is an arts organization dedicated to documenting, researching, collecting, exhibiting and interpreting objects people use to cope with the physical world, to relate with one another, to create symbols of meaning, and simply to delight and amuse. We are redefining our notions of "craftsmanship" to include the highly skilled use of electronic tools to create innovative visual products. If you are interested, please call Marcie Page at (213) 937-5544

Project MATHEMATICS!

The Problem

American education in mathematics and science is facing a serious crisis. More than half the schools in the United States offer no advanced courses in mathematics and science, and nearly one-third of existing science teachers are inadequately prepared. In the next decade, a large fraction of existing teachers will retire, and there is virtually no prospect of replacing them with qualified teachers because of drastically declining enrollments in teacher training programs. As a result, most school children are at risk of becoming scientifically illiterate citizens at a time when science and technology play an increasingly important role in everyday life.

The Approach

There is no simple solution to the problem os scientific illiteracy, but *Project* MATHEMATICS! is making a significant contribution. The project is producing a series of modules that use computer animation to help instructors teach concepts in high school mathematics. Each module consists of a videotape, 15 to 20 minutes in length, and a workbook to guide students through the video, elaborating on important ideas. The videotapes use animation with color, motion and 3-dimensional images to demonstrate concepts in ways that are difficult or impossible to do in a textbook or at the chalkboard. The animations are blended with live action and stills to provide historical perspective and connections to real-world problems. Together with music and special effects, the video motivates students, enhances their intuition, and stimulates their imagination.

The Team

The project is headed by **Tom M. Apostol**, professor of mathematics at Caltech and an internationally known author of mathematics textbooks. Co-director of the project is SIGGRAPH's own **James F. Blinn**, one of the world's leading computer animators, who is well known for his Voyager planetary flyby simulations. Blinn and Apostol worked together previously as members of the academic team that produced *The Mechanical Universe*, the award-winning physics course for television also developed at Caltech. Joe Corrigan is project manager.

The Modules: How to Get Them

You can order video tapes and workbooks from the Caltech Bookstore, 1-51 Caltech, Pasadena, CA 91125 or call (818) 356-6161. The following titles are available: *Theorem of Pythagoras, Story of Pi, Similarity, and Polynomials*. The cost of a VHS tape and workbook is $11.25 plus $2.90 postage and handling. Extra Workbooks are $1.50 each and for California add 6.75% sales tax. A consortium of 32 states now distribute the tapes and workbooks to high schools at cost, and they can be freely copied for educational purposes in the U.S.

Godel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid by Douglas R. Hofstadter.

"To my mind, the most beautiful and powerful visual realizations of the notion of Strange Loops exist in the work of the Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher, who lived from 1902 to 1972. Escher was the creator of some of the most intellectually stimulating drawings of all time. Many of them have their origin in paradox, illusion, or double-meaning. Mathematicians were among the first admirers of Escher's drawings, and this is understandable because they often are based on mathematical principles of symmetry or pattern...But there is much more to a typical Escher drawing than just symmetry or pattern; there is often an underlying idea, realized in artistic form. And in particular, the Strange Loop is one of the most recurrent themes in Escher's work. Look, for example, at the lithograph Waterfall, and compare its six-step endlessly falling loop with the six-step endlessly rising loop of the "Canon per Tonos". The similarity of vision is remarkable. Bach and Escher are playing one single theme in two different "keys": music and art."

DIMENSION NEWS

Dimension, our SIGGRAPH/LA's newsletter, would like to print your letters, notices, press releases, product reviews and also feel free to contribute to a Conference Review column. Send your postcards or letters to Dimension, 2207 Willetta Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90068; to Fax, call (213) 462-2109 (attention: Coco Conn at Homer & Assoc.); to leave phone messages call the SIGGRAPH/LA answering machine at (213) 962-1662.

SHOWBIZ EXPO: FREE PASSES FOR SIGGRAPH MEMBERS!

ShowBiz Expo, in the past eight years, has grown to become the largest and most comprehensive production event serving the film and video industries. This is an event for those targeting the **Feature Film, Broadcast Television, Commercials, or Corporate Video** trade.

This year ShowBiz Expo is again mailing out complimentary passes to all members of SIGGRAPH and ACM chapters of Los Angeles for their June 8-10 conference at the L.A. Convention Center. Their second show this year will be held in New Jersey at the Meadowlands Convention Center September 14-16. They will also be represented in Europe this year.

The pass is worth $20 and covers Insider Sessions, the Exploratorium (hand-on-demo's to new technologies by manufactures for end users), Screening Rooms, 170,000 gross square feet of exhibitors offering a wide array of products and services! Conference sessions are also available at an additional charge with topics such as, digital technology, special effects, post production, commercials, digital audio over views, writing and many others.

DIMENSION will be mailing out reply cards to local SIGGRAPH members along with their April newsletter. Simply fill out the card and mail it to their return address to receive a complimentary pass to ShowBiz Expo along with a program guide and other info. Thank you ShowBiz Expo.

TOTAL VISION: CD-I PRODUCTION

Total Vision is a new innovative company specializing in the production of Compact Disc Interactive titles. Paul Rother and Christine Angelli, founders of Total Vision, provide complete production and software expertise for all phases of CD-I title development, including a custom authoring service for problems facing CD-I design.

Some of their unique engineering solutions include; special input devices, cursorless interfaces, special animations, control over other electronic or mechanical devices, auto-demo play, and data-base records. Titles Paul and Chris have engineered include *Tell Me Why I* and *II*, *Cool* and *Golden Oldies Jukebox* and *Classical Jukebox*. Their recent work has been on *Selling Naturally*, a customer service training disc for Philips/GTE ImagiTrek. For information call (213) 450-1315.

ACM TUTORIAL WEEK

June 19-21 1991, ACM is offering **Tutorials for Professional Development.** They'll run two tutorials per day, each from 9 AM to 5PM at the Ramada Inn in Culver City. The titles are: Programming in C, Object Oriented Design with C++ (for two sessions), Distributed and Multiprocessing Architectures, Introduction to UNIX Internals, and X Window System. Costs for ACM members $135/day, $330 for all 3 days; student members $40/day and include lunch, coffee breaks, and a notebook of materials. For info call: Mike Rogson (213)336-5611 or Dave Oppenheim at (818)785-8000.

LOCAL SIGGRAPH L.A. CHAPTER

Thank you to everyone who is helping out with the news letter and meetings.

Our new Dimension logo was designed by **Michael A. Kory** Creative/Technical Director of Homer & Associates, and utilizes a 3D font he developed while a design student at U.C.L.A. It's' just what Dimension needed to break out of it's tired block. He laid it out using Vista Tips from TrueVision. transfered the files to print at Klein Design. Stewart Mc Sherry transfered the files to print at Klein Design. Thanks to Linda Weinman for also donating time to the newsletter. And thanks to ShowBiz Expo for their laser printing and computer use!

Getting a new look together for our newsletter is a bit of a job because I've never played with PageMaker before, so hopefully there aren't too many typos. Thanks to Randy Randall for a PageMaker lesson over the weekend! This is a forum for SIGGRAPH members, so feel free to take advantage of it. Also, let us know if you need to run an add. Coco Conn

APPLICATIONS DUE FOR ACM SIGGRAPH CONFERENCE GRANTS FOR EDUCATORS

APRIL 1, 1991

ACM SIGGRAPH is pleased to announce its 1991 program of conference grants for computer graphics educators. These grants will support up to 25 educators beginning, updating or strengthening computer graphics courses or programs. In addition, there will be a limited number of awards to historically minority institutions. Applications are welcome from anyone who teaches or supports computer graphics education in any discipline, including the arts, computer science, engineering and applications.

Each grant will provide full participation at SIGGRAPH '91, the 18th International Conference on Computer Fraphics and Interactive Techniques, July 28 to August 2, 1991, in Las Vegas, Nevada. This includes full course and technical conference registrations as well as materials such as SIGGRAPH slide sets and course notes to be used in teaching. Minority Institution awards will also include travel support. The total value of each grant will exceed $1,000.

Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 1991, and awards will be announced by May 31. For application materials and information, contact: Deborah Sokolove, Department of Art and Art History, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030 or call (703) 764-6721 E-mail address: sokolove@guvax.bitnet

GRANT AMIGA MEETING NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEO
MARCH 15, 1991

The 8 hour Amiga workshop on February 12th, videotaped by Patric Hedlund and Gary Meyer of Sweet Pea Productions, has been edited to a brilliant 2 hours, jam-packed with detailed demonstrations and lively discussions of the latest graphics, animations and video software packages for the Amiga.

Featured in the video are Reichart Von Wolfshield with his Disney Animation Studio and CDTV, Victor Osaka with Imagine, Brad Schenck with DCTV and Imagine, Brummbaer, Steve Segal, Mike Lehman, and CBM's Richard Thompson with NewTeks Video Toaster and a discussion of Unix for the Amiga.

Tapes are available on VHS at $14.95 each if ordered by March 15, 1991 which you can do at the LA SIGGRAPH meeting March 12th at JPL. After March 15, you can order it for $24.95 + $3 shipping, by sending a check payable to Gary Meyer, P.O. Box 1443, Santa Monica CA 90406. or call (213) 455-3915.

OPENINGS AVAILABLE

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT GORKYS
OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

Every first Monday of each month starting April 1st, local SIGGRAPH/LA will hold it's Executive Council meetings at Gorkys Hollywood. The address is 1716 N. Cahuenga Blvd, a few doors north of Hollywood Blvd.

Plenty of safe parking is available. This meeting will be open to all SIGGRAPH members. We'll be in the back room. Meetings will start at 8:00pm and after taking care of business and a vote or two will promptly turn into a social gathering. Eating is cafeteria style, there's live music, lots of tables and lots of room.

This will give members an opportunity to participate in Executive Council votes and discussions. Member input is very important so that the meetings reflect the interests of the majority. See you then.

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SIGGRAPH / LA Meeting
March 12th
Todd Rundgren
Computer Graphics
JPL's Von Karmen Auditorium

The meeting will be held at JPL at the Von Karmen Auditorium, 4800 Oak Grove Drive in Pasadena. Take the 210 Freeway north get off at Oak Grove, look for the JPL signs. Call (818) 354-5011for directions. Video tapes of our last meeting which was a nine hour workshop on the Amiga and the NewTek VideoToaster, will be on display and for sale. There will be more demo's of Amiga's and Toasters at this meeting. Social hour starts at 6:30pm, meeting begins at 7:30pm. There will be drinks and light snacks. SIGGRAPH members $3.00, visitors $5.00.