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 Viliz 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.

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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 lecture, followed by questions (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 seen before. 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 into Park Visitor Parking, JPL Building 180, Room 101.

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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
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

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, Yoichi Kawaguchi held his 6th Annual sake barrel opening. Our most gracious host showed his beautiful work to date: Artificial Life Metropolice 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 con-
ference would hold up to past
years. I knew, though, it was
going to be a great confer-
ence when Michael Kass start-
ed juggling keys in the Hilton
Lobby Bar and closed by bal-
cancing 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 worth-
while 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 TDI'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
next to George Burns.

Nothing though could com-
pare 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 remem-
ber forever:
Kyoto drummers,
private screen-
ings 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 com-
puter programmers slam dance to
Fishbone, and my own
favorite...the Brazilian carni-
val 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 SIG-
GRAPH and local group atten-
dees 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 "con-
struction" that
allowed the
Who's Who of
Computer
Graphics in
attendance to lit-
erally walk on
water (no virtual
reality involved).
Throughout the
week there were
many generous
and well-attend-
ed 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.
L.A. SIGGRAPH MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New member
☐ Renewal
☐ Address change

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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:

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Explore the Planets
at JPL on Sept 14th.

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