



Letter from the Editor by Jennifer Eldred

This spring, die-hard animators and enthusiasts arrived at Starved Rock to share their talents and creativity during the 2000 conference & retreat. If you missed it this year, be sure to check upcoming issues for information on how you can be a part of the 9th Annual Conference & Retreat next year, from April 27- 29, 2001. Melissa Bouwman will be the 2001 Conference Chair. Thanks to Mary Lou Haynes and Dave Daruszka for the 2000 conference coordination. They will

return in 2002 for the 10th Annual Retreat.

The deadline for the Summer Edition of *Frame by Frame* is July 15, 2000. Please be sure to get all entries in prior to the deadline. Photos and artwork are also accepted so if you have something to share, don't be shy. Get it published in the newsletter that connects Midwest animators.

Thanks to all the contributing writers who help keep ASIFA/Central members informed and connected throughout the year. If you want to contribute, contact me at eldredj@usa.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jennifer Eldred

Letter from the New President

by Randy Rockafellow

I take office following in the footsteps of a reliable, stable, financially responsible president, who has turned over to my care a healthy and active organization. Deanna, thanks for serving as our president through the nineties. The organization is in great shape in large part to you, and I will work hard to continue to keep ASIFA/Central strong and active. I would like to thank Jennifer Eldred for working on the annual retreat, putting together the newsletter for the last three or four years, and for her continued efforts in these areas. I would also like to thank Dave Daruska and Mary Lou Haynes for their long lasting commitment to this group's success, which dates back to the organization inception in 1976.

To have members like this who commit their time and energy because they believe so strongly in ASIFA/Central, only reaffirms what it's all about: promoting the art of animation and encouraging the sharing of information and ideas between animators and devotees. The annual animator

conference is our strongest case to that fact. We also promote animation with our presence on the World Wide Web, and with our Quarterly publication *Frame by Frame*. My focus will be to maintain and improve these three main activities of ASIFA/Central.

The members I've mentioned above make it a pleasure to be involved with ASIFA/Central. Mostly because they've shared so much of themselves. I hope that during my presidency, I can also encourage more members and non-members to share their knowledge and experience with our organization. As well as work with the wonderful group of people that are already participating in ASIFA/Central.

For this next year I am looking forward to meeting more of the animators out there. So send me mail or email. Tell me what you're up to, and send images of your work.

Randall Rockafellow
President, ASIFA/Central
rockafellow2@juno.com

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E-mail: asifa@asifa.org

ASIFA/Central Conference:
April 27 - April 29, 2001

To contribute or volunteer contact:
Randy Rockafellow
E-mail: rockafellow2@juno.com

To join ASIFA/Central:
Send a check (payable in US dollars to ASIFA/Central) to the address on the back of this newsletter.

ASIFA/Central Mission Statement
ASIFA: Association Internationale du Film d'Animation

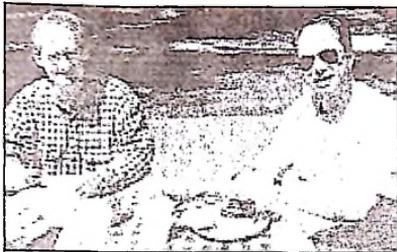
The purpose of ASIFA/Central is to promote the art of animation locally and internationally and to promote communication among animators and between animators and devotees. - adopted 3/92

Printed in the U.S.A on recycled paper.

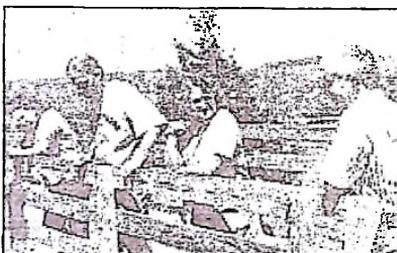
Retreat 2000 (Bouwman) continued from 1



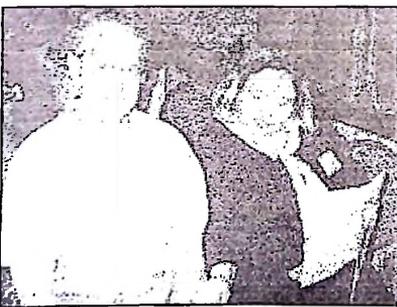
Square dancing at the bonfire ...



Tom and Jim enjoy the BBQ



Jen, Mike, Deanna and Jim on Starved Rock



Tom and Lily discuss the agenda

created by Romulo himself...right down to the bronze cast helmet he wore in the role of the glovemaker. (Yes, he starred in it as well!) After the screening he answered a number of questions about what he did, how he did it, as well as some discussion of content. As if I weren't impressed enough with the piece, after hearing of the labor intensive processes he went through to achieve the special effects you see in *Underglove*, I was left in awe. If we're lucky, a copy of this animation will be included on the next ASIFA/Central reel...

Following Romulo's presentation was first of two Open Screening sessions. I started us off with an animaj that was produced by the Media Production class I teach in Holland, Michigan. Most of the students, myself, and the other instructor in the program all contributed at least 5 seconds of animation to the piece. Since the conference, I entered the piece in the Grand Rapids' Festival where it was accepted for screening, and an award...Yay. Next, Jim Middleton (the most prolific animator and most amusing man I've ever met), presented us with some of his most recent work. One of the animations he showed was a piece called *Sfumato #1*. *Sfumato #1* is a delightful animation done in the style of Jim's hero, Oskar Fischinger. The audio for the piece is called "Flute Solo" and is taken originally from a Wax Cylinder recording from Jim's collection. Deanna Morse (my hero) rounded out the evening with a screening of some of her student work from Grand Valley...we helped her do a little grading...

Some of us "dic hards" ended the evening by attempting a first run of the annual bonfire. I say "attempted" because we had a hard time finding material to start the fire with...it was a damp, chilly night. A few of us tried to consume some

libation to keep us warm, but eventually the chill won the fight. It was still a worthwhile venture...at least we knew what we needed to make the following evening's bonfire a success!

The annual members/board meeting was the first item on the schedule for Saturday morning. Whooe, I've never seen so many enthusiastic attendees at a meeting! If only we could get that kind of commitment and enthusiasm at meetings where I work, we'd accomplish a lot more! When Jennifer Eldred gave her report on the newsletter, she had at least 5 people volunteering to write articles. When Randy discussed the Web site, Rita Dobias volunteered to help out with it. When Dave and Mary Lou said they'd like a year off of conference coordinating, yours truly volunteered to pick it up for next year. Not only did I volunteer to coordinate the conference, but a number of people including Tom Brierton, Jen Eldred, and Jim Schaub all said they would help out! When Jim discussed the status of the next ASIFA Central reel as a "no go" so far because of "lack of response," six attendees volunteered work to submit to the reel. Last but certainly not least, Mike Allore said he'd bring wood for next years Animator's Bonfire! (right Mike...)

The next newsworthy item at the meeting was the election of new officers. This year we were to elect a new President! Deanna Morse, our esteemed president of many years, had decided to step down from the presidency. She will remain the treasurer of ASIFA Central. Randy Rockafellow stepped up to the challenge of presidency, and was thereby appointed the new Pres. Jennifer will maintain her position as Vice President and Newsletter Editor and Tom Brierton volunteered to be the new Membership Coordinator. Three Cheers to the new Regime!

Retreat 2000 (Bouwman) continued on 4

Retreat 2000 (Bouwman) continued from 3

Around noon we stampered to the pool patio for the Animator's BBQ. It was an absolutely gorgeous day for it, too: 70 degrees and sunny. The sunscreen was flowing freely that afternoon...we pasty animators burn real easily. Most of the attendees dined on a repast of hamburgers and hot dogs, accompanied with a fine selection of salads, chips, and BROWNIES. I, being a vegetarian, was served a lovely plate of vegetable kabobs in lieu of the meatier options.

We had 5 hours of free time following the BBQ, so the majority of the group decided to hit the trails. Somehow, I was deemed as the trail expert, so I acted as tour guide. We decided we would try to make it out to the 2 most dramatic water falls in the park which is about a 5 mile hike round trip. I thought I would try to keep us away from too many hellish stairways, but apparently I forgot where some of them were... So, much to the chagrin of folks following my lead, we hiked up a fair amount of stairs. The way I see it, we walked off at least a few brownies on those stairs! We experienced spring in grand style as we walked through fields of flowers, green trees, and canyons. Since there had been a lot of rainfall the week before the conference, the waterfalls were flowing the strongest I'd ever seen ...other years they've been more of a trickle.

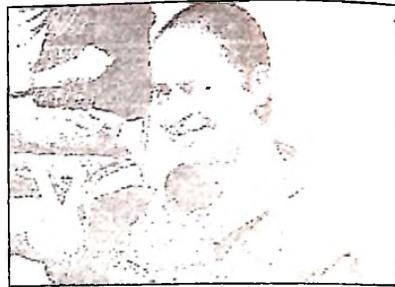
Conference events resumed at 7:00 with the announcement of the winner of the "Helena Victoria Haynes World Peace Animation Scholarship." Tim Keefe of Columbia University was the winner of this years scholarship award. Winners of this scholarship get a cash award to assist them with the creation of an animation on the topic of World Peace. Winners will also be able to stay free at the conference the following year to present their work. Tim couldn't make it this year to formally accept his award...we look forward to meeting him next year! We screened the animation of the previous person to win the award, Rita Dobias. I've seen her animation a number of times, and I never get tired of viewing it. It's a beautiful animation with a vital message...this piece will also be on the next ASIFA/Central reel. (get your checkbooks ready!).

At 7:30, "Animating Apothecary," Jim Middleton, burst on the scene after a few humorous introductory comments by Dave Daruszk - I'd share, but you had to be there. Jim's presentation was called "Germanic Cross Influences in Abstract animation." I know, it sound's like it could have been a somewhat stuffy presentation, but then you've never met Jim Middleton! In fact, if you haven't met Jim Middleton, then you need to come to next year's conference just to meet him... Jim's presentation was highly educational and incredibly amusing all at the same time! I can't accurately portray in words, how awesome his presentation was or do it justice by summarizing it in just a few sentences. I scribbled notes ferociously for an hour...

Jim showed a variety of abstract films clips from 1900-1999, including works from his heros Oskar, Lotte Reiniger, and Viking Eggeling just to name a few. Jim's comments during these clips were the most amusing aspect of his



Randy (left) and Ezra during conference



Romulo sends "Peace" greetings

presentation...again, you had to be there. Jim finished his presentation by showing us his own Abstract piece (introducing it as the work of the "Ultimate Copy Cat") *Sfumato #1*. We had seen the piece the night before, but it took on a whole new perspective in the context of 100 years of abstract animation. Jim encouraged everyone to experiment with abstract imagery, "you get to play with sound, and you're not tied to a story line, so you're very free." Jim's recent work will also be appearing on the next ASIFA/Central Reel...now you'll have to purchase a copy.

Ezra Schwartz, an award winning animator and Instructor at Columbia College, was our final presenter at the conference. His presentation was called "Searching for the Concept in Concept Development" or "Issues in Teaching Critical Thinking to Animators." One of the classes he is currently teaching is Animation 2 - Concept and Storyboard Development. During this course, students are required to focus entirely on concept development, and not worry about completing a film by the end of the semester. Then, when they enter into Animation 3, they will have a concept and storyboard ready to begin production. Ezra discussed how he has developed the class over time. As a teacher, I found it amusing that his syllabus went from a multi-page document to 1 page with bold text on the most important points. He discussed the frustrations that he's experienced with teaching original concept development to students who want to

Retreat 2000 (Bouwman) continued on 5

An Insider's Advice (Allore) continued from 1

Sky in New York and Foundation Imaging in Los Angeles. It covers a wide range of topics from choosing a school, teaching yourself, getting a job, setting up your own shop, buying computer hardware and software, and explaining client myths to name a few. Dale took the time to write out the unwritten rules within the business to help guide future animators (to which the book is dedicated) into the business.

Interviews, demo reels, and phone etiquette are extremely important factors that aren't taught in school and not normally thought of until you're already in the middle of it. It's a pretty scary feeling to get handed this piece of paper at graduation that says you know everything about animation, when inside you feel like you've barely scratched the surface of it. "It's constantly a learning experience," describes Myers.

"School doesn't end when you're out of school. If you ask me it's just the beginning. The diploma is just the ticket to really start to learn because I think the real learning is in the real world."

Writing "Computer Animation" was a matter of incorporating his twenty-plus years in the visual arts into 160 pages of useful information for people working on their first year in computer animation. That was a very daunting task, but his reason for writing the book was very simple.

Retreat 2000 (Bouwman) continued from 4

mimic what exists already. One of my favorite quotes from this presentation was "There can only be one Southpark, and it's been done." Ezra discussed the importance of getting students to change the perspective and point of view of the camera as well as the view of the narrator, "who is the narrator, and who (or what) would make it more interesting?" Ezra also solicited comments from the audience to see how other teachers are dealing with teaching concept development.

Open screenings on Saturday night featured the works of Jim Schaub, Tom Brierton, Randy Rockafellow, and Deanna Morse. Jim debuted his master thesis project, which was a 30 second commercial for the Film/Video department at Grand Valley. The commercial was edited on the Media 100, and featured a number of special effects done in Adobe After Effects. Tom Brierton screened the piece he debuted last year, *No Exit*, to a very enthusiastic audience. *No Exit* is an eight minute stop motion animation that features a recently revived skeleton trying to escape from a torture chamber...it's incredible! *No Exit* will also be featured on the ASIFA Central reel. (I just keep plugging it!) Randy Rockafellow screened some work that he and a group of CCS (Center for Creative Studies) students produced during a workshop with animator Doug Duga. He screened two anjams, one in which students names morphed from one to the next, and one where students morphed walk cycles. Deanna Morse screened her new live action piece called *A Mother's Advice*. *A Mother's Advice* is a piece about the "choice" girls (and women) make about shaving their legs. It's a very personal, hypnotic,

"When somebody's a mentor to you and you make it, you owe that back and that's a pretty strong philosophy of mine. So when it's your turn, you need to reach back and help somebody else. That's what the book is."

Reading "Computer Animation: Expert Advice on Breaking into the Business" will not only explain key concepts to you, it will also motivate you to do it. Myers describes technology as "moving like a continual train. There's no engine and no caboose, it's just one long stream of cars and there's a lot of people, as you're standing there, that are already on. So the only thing you can do is get on because the longer you wait, the more people there are ahead of you. That simple. You can't say enough for experience."

This book is your boarding pass so don't wait any longer.

You can reach Dale Myers at www.dalemyersanimation.com. For a copy of the book, check with your local bookstore or order it through Oak Cliff Press at www.oakcliffpress.com.

- Mike Allore

short film...

The conference events concluded with the aforementioned annual Animator's Bonfire. It didn't actually appear on the schedule this year, but it's a recently developed tradition. I'd have to say that the bonfire is one of my favorite parts of the retreat. It's a time for attendees to kick back and relax around a cozy fire. Generally, people bring a beverage of choice, and there are always plenty of snacks to go around. It's a time when things have been known to get a little crazy. Last year, we were up until 4:00 A.M., making it very difficult to get to the Sunday morning events. This year we all decided to keep a closer watch on the time to avoid a snoozy drive home. One year, show tunes were sang around the fire. Last year someone started up a square dance. This year, Deanna revived the square dancing round the fire, with amusing sounds and knee slapping provided by Jim Middleton. Mike Allore also taught us a new song about beer, sang to the tune of Do Re Mi...but again, you had to be there...and, hopefully, next year you will be!

The 2001 Animator's retreat will be held April 27 - 29. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend! Contact me via e-mail at "jezobell@hotmail.com" if you have any questions or ideas for next years conference!

- Melissa Bouwman

ASIFA/Central Board Meeting 2000

by Deanna Morse

The Midwest chapter of l'Association Internationale du Film d'Animation, an all- volunteer non-profit organization.

"The Purpose of ASIFA/Central is to promote the art of animation locally and internationally and promote the communication among animators and between animators and devotees"

The annual board meeting was held on Saturday April 29, 2000 during our yearly members retreat at Starved Rock Lodge, Utica, Illinois. Here is a summary of the board meeting.

ASIFA/Central Volunteer Project Leaders gave reports on their activities as follows:

Jennifer Eldred, Newsletter Editor, reported on her work in compiling and editing "Frame by Frame," our quarterly newsletter. She requested that members send her more content for the newsletter. Several members present volunteered to write articles for future editions.

Randy Rockafellow gave an overview of the activity and changes with our Web page, and announced that we are still winning awards. He asked for volunteers to work on updating the webpage. Rita Dobias volunteered to offer some graphic assistance.

Mary Lou Haynes and David Daruszka previewed the winning entry from this year, and gave an update on the Helen Victoria Haynes Storyboard Competition. Next year there will be two \$500 prizes, and the entry deadline is April 1st, 2001.

David Daruszka and Mary Lou Haynes gave a report on the annual Midwest Animator's Conference/Retreat. They asked for volunteers to coordinate 2001, which will be held at Starved Rock. Melissa Bouwman and Jennifer Eldred volunteered to coordinate. There was some discussion of moving future conferences to the Chicago area.

Deanna Morse presented membership updates and a report on the treasury. We have about the same number of members, and we lost a little bit of money last year. However, we still have a bank balance that will support our activities. She asked for a volunteer to coordinate

membership. Tom Brierton stepped forward and volunteered to be the new membership coordinator.

There was some discussion of our fees, and general consensus that we could raise the student membership fee to \$15, which would be closer to the printing and mailing expenses for the newsletter.

Deanna Morse gave a brief report on ASIFA/International, and offered a proposal to convert all our members to international members, at a slightly reduced rate. There was some discussion, but we decided we could not afford it.

Old Business:

The ASIFA/Central Member's Reel has been distributed to all the participating animators. We were the first new donation for the ASIFA archive, when it moved to Switzerland. It was donated to ASIFA Japan, and to Rochester Institute of Technology. Several members took reels to donate to other schools, or to offer for broadcast on local cable access channels. Jim Schaub volunteered to coordinate and edit next year's reel.

New Business:

Previously, we printed the Candidacy statements for new ASIFA/Central officers.

By acclamation, we elected our new board: President Randy Rockafellow, Vice-President and Newsletter Editor Jennifer Eldred, and Treasurer Deanna Morse.

Congratulations to our new board officers! We welcome other volunteers to serve on the new board! Please contact Randy to volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned, and we continued our discussions in the beautiful sunny afternoon over our fabulous barbecue! After lunch, the group went in search of the elusive Tonti canyon and waterfall. We found it, and got everyone back alive!

Our next retreat is scheduled for Friday April 27 - Sunday April 29th, at Starved Rock Lodge, Utica, Illinois. Mark this date on your calendar. Book your housing now at 1-800-the-rock, since rooms fill up fast. See you there!

-Deanna Morse

Experimental Film by ASIFA/Central Animator Chosen for Animation Celebration

The World Animation Celebration has announced its competition finalists, and a Battle Creek, Michigan animator will be among those whose works will be screened during its week-long festival in Hollywood, beginning May 30.

Jim Middleton, local filmmaker, animator, closet historian, and occasional pharmacist, received notice that his experimental short, "Sfumato #1," will join other independent animation, as well as work from Turner Movie Classics and Warner Brothers, in the Celebration's 15th festival.

"We received many more entries than we had anticipated, even by our most ambitious estimates," noted Dannielle Robertson, director of the festival. "We are witnessing an explosion of new talent, technology, and creative opportunity." From the thousands of entries, the three judges chose just over 140 films for festival screening. This May's festival will also host guest speakers from the animation industry, including Brad Bird, director of "The Iron Giant," and Matt Groening from "The Simpsons."

"Sfumato #1," running all of 150 seconds, incorporates abstract imagery tightly synchronized to a flute solo recorded by Thomas Edison in 1905. Middleton was influenced by German artists from the 1920s, Art Deco designs from the 1930s, and a budget of \$43.17 from the 1990s. The title, "Sfumato," means a willingness to embrace ambiguity, paradox, and uncertainty and is being used to describe a series of experimental films evolving from storyboards collecting in Middleton's animation studio. The film is also set to show at another animation festival this fall in Ottawa.

"In the meantime," says Middleton, "I'll just keep drawing."

Congratulations Jim! - ASIFA/Central

CALL FOR ENTRIES HOLLYWOOD SHORTS Filmfest 2nd Annual ANIMATION FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 10th, 2000

HOLLYWOOD SHORTS is seeking animation submissions for its annual SPOTLIGHT ON ANIMATION festival to be held in Los Angeles on September 10th, 2000.

HOLLYWOOD SHORTS is a monthly short film festival that features the year's top shorts from the film festival circuit for the established Los Angeles film and television community.

DEADLINE: July 15, 2000

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Submissions must be no longer than 20 minutes and sent in VHS/NTSC format for review.
2. Animation can be any format and both traditional and computer generated projects are welcome. Shorts will be screened via large screen Beta projection, so BETA-SP tapes must be available for the selected animation.
3. Tapes will not be returned and all submissions are always eligible for future screenings.
4. Include the following information with each film:
 - One page outline of the short
 - Bios of director/producer/writer(s)
 - Cast list and pertinent bios
 - Production stills and marketing materials (if available)
 - \$10.00 processing fee.

Checks should be made out to:
"Kimberley Browning (HS)"

CONTACT HOLLYWOOD SHORTS AND SUBMIT PACKAGES TO:

HOLLYWOOD SHORTS
765 N. Ridgewood Place, Suite 4
Los Angeles, CA 90038
Attn: Kimberley Browning
Email: hollywoodshorts@yahoo.com

Call (323) 960-3385 if you're in the Southern California area and would like information to attend any of the monthly live screenings.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2000

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

PLEASE PRINT MY NAME AND ADDRESS IN:

- _____ STUDENT (\$12)
- _____ GENERAL (\$20)
- _____ INTERNATIONAL (\$40)
(INCLUDES GENERAL)
- _____ CORPORATE (\$300)

- _____ MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
- _____ WEBSITE LISTINGS

Make checks payable (US dollars) to
ASIFA/Central and send to:
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JOIN TODAY !



1.73160

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