IEEE
VIRTUAL REALITY
ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM

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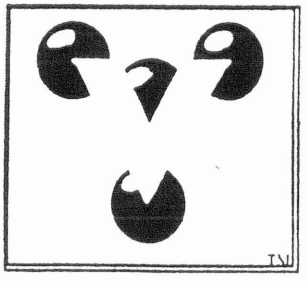
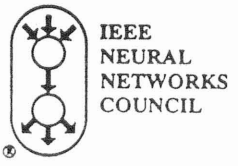
Seattle, Washington





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GREETINGS FROM THE GENERAL CHAIRMAN

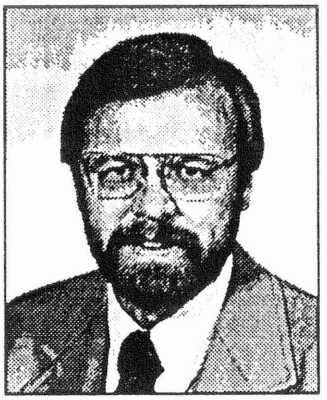
Council and the Organizing Committee of the First IEEE Virtual Reality Annual International Symposium, it is my great pleasure to welcome the participants of VRAIS'93 to Seattle. We feel this first symposium dealing with the research, development and application aspects of this new medium will be a historic event attended by true pioneers. It is my hope that the beauty and pleasance of the Seattle Area will provide a memorable backdrop for our time together.

I was truly honored when I was approached by Bob Marks and Tom Caudell in the Spring of 1992 to serve as General Chairman of a new symposium dealing with this remarkable new medium of virtual reality. I have been fortunate to be a participant in this field for 28 years, practically all of my professional career. During this time it has been thrilling to see the exciting concept of linking minds to machines emerge as a worldwide enterprise.

It is clear, however, that we have just taken fledgling steps in a field where-in the confluence of computing, telecommunications and advanced interfaces will provide an incredible new mobility for the human race. We are building transportation systems for our senses...the remarkable promise that we can be in another place or space without moving our bodies into that space. Indeed, the interest in this initial VRAIS meeting is an example of a movement which is taking place in multimedia systems.

I am grateful to my colleagues for recognizing now is the time to bring together the true pioneers of this dynamic field in a technical and scholarly setting where we can exchange ideas and findings and plot our collective agendas for the work which lies ahead. Of course, in my willingness to embark on this new venture of an international symposium, I was completely naive as to the amount of work that would be involved. Fortunately, my friend, Bob Marks, and the organizing committee did all the work while I just watched and stayed out of the way. It has truly been a honor to be associated with these great people and this enterprise. In a way, the meeting is a wonderful end to a two year journey which has been at once joyful and fulfilling along the way to its final unveiling this week.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Bob Marks and Tom Caudell for their energy and great efforts in organizing this historical event for the friendships that we developed. I also thank Blake Hannaford, Chris Esposito, Dmitry Kaplan, Mani Soma, Michitaka Hirose and Mohamed El-Sharkawi for their collective energies and intellect in putting together the program for this event. And to my dear friend Alden Jones for her willingness to help with press relations. A special thanks to our friends Masahiro Kawahata and Toshio Fukuda who served as international liaisons. Of course the great integrating and coordinating force in this effort came from Nomi Feldman, our meeting manager, to whom we are greatly indebted for her wisdom and meticulous attention to detail.

These are the people that have done all the work and held my hand while I cut the ribbons and kiss the babies. But most of all I want to thank you for coming to this historical event. I hope we will have many more in the future...around the world, or should I say, virtual worlds.

Thomas A. Furness III
General Chairman, VRAIS'93