

NEWS

The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

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The first International Computer Film Festival will be held at The Evergreen State College March 7, 8 and 9, and will feature many of the major computer films and filmmakers from throughout the United States.

Richard Speer, director of the festival, said the three-day event is free and open to the public. Afternoons will feature lectures and seminars by computer filmmakers, and evenings will feature three-hour film showings, with each night devoted to a different subfield of the medium. March 7 films will be educational; March 8, artistic; and March 9, technical/scientific.

Computer films, first developed in the late 1950's, are defined as "any film which contains footage animated, generated or containing graphic material manipulated by a computer," Speer says. They are used in a variety of ways.

"Computer films serve educational purposes --- to communicate and illustrate technical concepts or to demonstrate behavior unobservable in the real world, like motion at the speed of light or other invisible phenomena," Speer explains. They are also used extensively for research, calculation and illustration in the technical sciences and by industry.

And, computer films are increasingly used as an art medium, with which Speer is quite familiar. He and Frankie Foster, an Evergreen student who is assisting with the festival, won a national film award for a five-minute artistic computer movie they made while both were attending the college last year.

The two initiated the three-day festival to "increase public awareness about the field of computer filmmaking and to dispel some of the myths surrounding computers in general," Speer says.

"We also want to provide the first comprehensive forum for many of the computer films made in the past 15 years, and to assemble and show the work of some of the major figures