Editor's Spot

Switch Staffs

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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/switch/vol3/iss1/5

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Editor's Spot
Switch Staffs on May 1 1996
3rd Issue - Switch on Artificial Life

SWITCH-On Artificial Life

Welcome to our third issue of Switch. Several things have changed with each issue and this one is no different. We have experimented with how Switch looks on your screen and the way you navigate through the articles in short, single-screen pages. Give us your feedback and comments by emailing us at 70451.1665@compuserve.com. This is also my last issue as editor -- please welcome Loretta L. Lange as our new editor. With the question of artificial life, we faced several challenges. Since most of us work as image-based artists, we wanted to clarify what artificial life was, how it differs from artificial intelligence, and how it frames art in a different light. Rudy Rucker's article describes some of the simplest forms of artificial life: small self-modulating algorithms that leave trails of colored pixels on a computer screen (cellular automata). Using the word "life" for these graphic traces tugs at our sense of credibility, especially since they appear similar to many screen-savers which are, as we all know, just programs.

::CrossReference

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