Bitz and Bytz

These news items are excerpts

of what happened in the

world of Virtual Reality

during the past 12 months.

■ Paul Allen's Vulcan Ventures investment group becomes the second largest investor in VR start-up "Virtual Vision, Inc." in Seattle, Wa.

■ Kubota Pacific and Visions of Reality (VOR) announce an $11,000,000 deal effectively replacing Silicon Graphic's Reality Engine as the image generator used by VOR.

■ Thomas Dolby, Jenny Holzer and Carl Loeffler introduce Intel backed VR artistic and musical exhibits at New York's Guggenheim Museum--SOHO.

■ Bill Gates' Microsoft Corporation buys Montreal based Softimage, a leading 3-D graphics/animation firm and hires Playmation software guru Martin Hash.

■ VR shows up in TV shows: SeaQuest DSV, Murder She Wrote, Conan O'Brien, William Shatner's "Tekwar", Mad About You comedy series and rash of TV commercials.

■ "Moxy" a virtual cartoon host developed by Brad deGraf of Colossal Pictures in San Francisco debuts on the Cartoon Network. "Ratz" another real-time virtual character or "VActor" by SimGraphics Engineering debuts in the UK on the BBC network.

■ Motorola invests in Utah database developer/marketing company Viewpoint Data Labs.

■ StrayLight Corp. ships 2 CyberTron game systems to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.

■ 2.5 million dollar VR museum attraction begins 3 year museum tour in U.S. and Canada.

■ Vista Controls, Virtual I/O, CyberSense, and Optics 1 introduce low-cost HMD systems. VictorMaxx shows new HMD with 2 DOF sensors at Winter C.E.S. show in Vegas.

■ Lawnmower Man director, Brett Leonard, begins his next major motion picture "Hideaway" starring Jeff Goldblum at SONY Pictures filming in Vancouver B.C.

■ "Ghost in the Machine" motion picture horror film using VR techniques debuts in U.S.

■ Former VPL Research employees form "New Leaf" in Palo Alto, Calif. to continue with VR.

■ IAAPA trade show features numerous VR related attractions, ride films and games in L.A.

■ Ono Sendai goes out of business. Steve Tice resigns as President of SimGraphics. Pete Tinker leaves Rockwell and joins Xtensory. Jerry Isdale joins Illusion Engineering.

■ Iwerks Entertainment debuts "Virtual Adventures" using Evans and Sutherland IG system at IAAPA and creates "Cinetropolis" center at Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut.

■ Cybermind opens first VR entertainment center at Embarcadero in San Francisco, Calif.

■ Casey Larijani, Dave Stampe-Bernie Rohle-John Eagan, Ron Wodaski, Alan Wexelblat all release books on VR.

■ RPI Technology Group announces under $1,000 stereo graphic board for PC platform, VR furniture, "Cyberchair", and DIVE Dismounted Infantry Virtual Environment project with VR-Trade developers Avatar Partners.

■ VR-1 Television network announced by Colorado based investment partners.

■ Atari announces VR attachments coming for their IBM developed "Jaguar" game system.

Virtual Reality Systems Associate Editor Gregory P. Panos reported this edition of "Bitz and Bytz." Mr. Panos is President of SophisTech Research, Lakewood, Calif., which publishes the Virtual Reality Sourcebook and operates the Virtual Reality Information Line [1-(900)-VIRTUAL]