

NACC

NEW AGE COMPUTER CLUB

Bits and Bytes

Val Scarcia
Editor
mrval@rcn.com

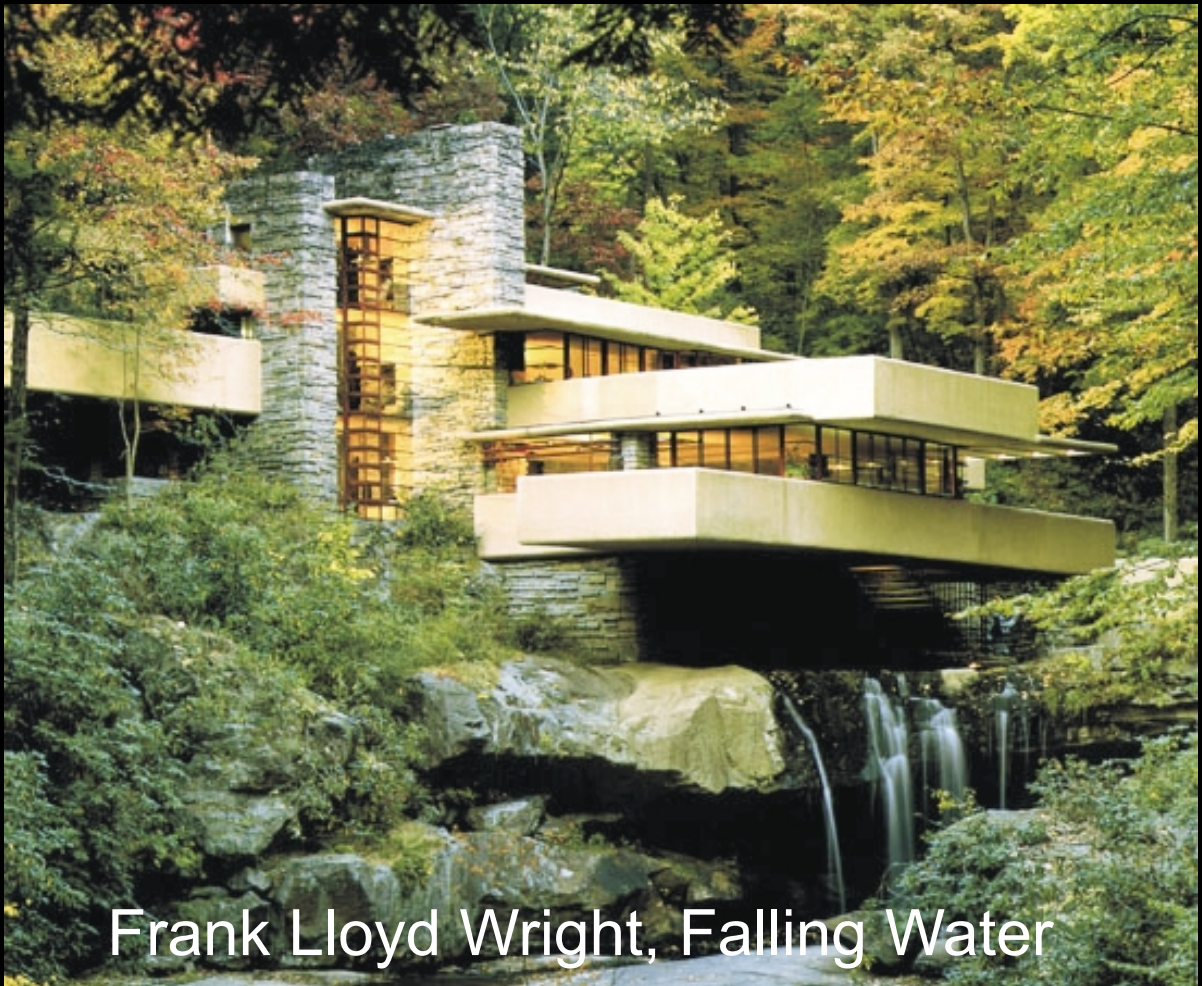
Newsletter
Online



New Age Computer Club

Bits-and-Bytes Newsletter

April 2002



Allentown, Pa., USA

Frank Lloyd Wright, Falling Water

Volume 2, Number 4, NACC 2002

NACC On The Internet :

Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit>

Newsletter (PDF) Online: <http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit/NewAge10.pdf>

Internet SIG Website: <http://come.to/lvcg>

Newsletter Totally Created In CorelDraw 9

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT at Allentown Museum

March 5, 2002-April 23, 2002

Hi

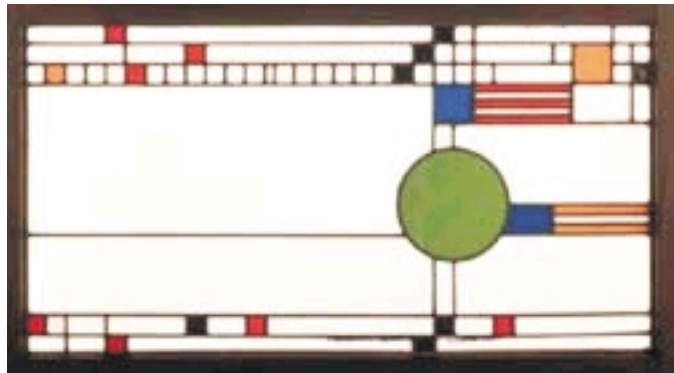
Fran and I had a great day today! We visited the Allentown Art Museum and saw the greatest exhibition there ever! When I was in my late teens at college, I used to roam around Oak Park, Ill. just finding the most amazing houses he had built there. Frank Lloyd Wright is one of the greatest architects in the USA, and probably the greatest, since he had an unbelievable imagination. Highly creative and innovative. We got a great uplift and high seeing all the beautiful windows and houses he designed that have been dismantled. There is also a great color video of his houses and windows, along with his life history on another VCR. It is this type of creativity and use we need in computing too. He is an uplift, and inspiration to all of what is possible. The Imperial Hotel he designed around the turn of the century, withstood a terrible earthquake in Tokyo, Japan, when mostly all the buildings there collapsed. He loved nature and everything natural. He thought nature was so beautiful, that our existence here had to be heaven. His Falling Water in Beaver Falls, Pa. is his most famous design with a waterfall flowing underneath the house!

This is a real fabulous exhibit. I would think you might have to go to NYC, LA or even Europe to see one like this. And if you go on Sunday, it is FREE! For kids too there are plastic blocks where you can put together Frank Lloyd Wright window designs (Cool). You can spend hours there. Our hats off to the Allentown Art Museum! It is all right here at home!

The direct URL is http://www.allentownartmuseum.org/gallery/exhibits/light_screens.html

See you all at the Internet SIG Meeting tomorrow.
Bill Pryor

Light Screens **The Leaded Glass of Frank Lloyd Wright**



This exhibition is the first to focus exclusively on the leaded glass designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) between 1885 and 1923, works that proved instrumental in moving American glass design from the Victorian into the modern age. Wright's towering achievements in architecture and furniture have overshadowed the fact that he was one of the most prolific American glass artists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. To trace the genesis and evolution of his window designs over four decades, curator Julie L. Sloan has selected nearly fifty windows, complemented by reproductions of twenty of Wright's preparatory drawings.

Frank Lloyd Wright, USA (1867-1959)
Window, Avery Coonley Playhouse, 1912
Clear glass, flashed glass, zinc comes
Lent by Thompson Publishing Group, Washington, D.C.

The Museum will offer extended hours on Tuesday evenings for the run of this exhibition. On Tuesdays from March 5 through April 23, the Museum will be open from 11 AM to 8 PM.

The Allentown Art Museum is proud to be one of only six American venues to host this exhibition. In addition, it is the only venue to feature a Wright room as part of its permanent collection, the library from the second Francis W. Little House.

Light Screens: The Leaded Glass of Frank Lloyd Wright is organized by Exhibitions International, New York, in cooperation with The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, Arizona. The exhibition and its national tour are sponsored by Steelcase Inc. Allentown venue made possible in part by major corporate sponsor Alvin H. Butz, Inc.; Adams Outdoor Advertising; the Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker Foundation; Mr. Bernard Berman; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Scheller; Roth Marz Partnership PC; and the Leon C. and June W. Holt Endowment.

A full schedule of ancillary programs is scheduled. The catalogue to the exhibition and other Wright-related merchandise are available in the Museum Store.

<http://www.flwlightscreens.com/>

| Light Screens | 28th Juried Show | The Art of India | Japanese Prints | North African Textiles |

| Special Exhibitions | Home |

Why Everything Is Computing by Val Scarcia, Editor



- ✓ **People who continually add structure** to clubs and organizations diminish creativity, free thought and original ideas. Above all, they discourage the overall membership and individual participation. Creative people are different from most people and need a minimum of rules. The use of endless rules, regulations and confinement **produces a non-productive environment**. The overall effect is a loss of interest, a disassociation of people, and boredom. Volunteer clubs have enough trouble getting people to participate actively. Creating rigid dogmatic protocol will obtain even less.
- ✓ Creative people provide their own structure. Many of us have served in the military, and are not anxious to return as senior citizens. The New Age Computer Club is a voluntary, **FREE** club, where people can relax and be themselves, and above all, express themselves. **We have no officers or people of glorified importance**. We feel if you want to be an important official, why not join financially strapped Enron, Agere, or Cisco Systems and become a member of their board; they desperately need your help.
- ✓ Creating "personal, individual standards of excellence" will result in those people continually doing the work themselves, as they have created a myopia of their own choosing and fabrication. The job of Editor takes a tremendous amount of time, as much as any officer in most clubs, and **is not generally appreciated**.
- ✓ Today with the Internet encompassing the average man in the street, everything today is barcodes, computers, and chips. From grocery.com to dominos.com to eBay.com. Just take a drive on the highway, and you run into EasyPass which barcodes your car and pays your toll. Take a walk through the checkout counter at Weis' or Giant, and you will have your groceries pass through a laser computer. Want to know the TV programming of your favorite show, just get on the Internet or WebTV and find it in an instant. **Information today is all computing and data**. The idea of "just computing only," is behind the times. DOS has died. Computing is hydromatic and at the speed of light, not stick shift, with a left reverse.
- ✓ Computing is AOL-RKO-NBC-CNBC-MGM-CBS-Intel-MCI-ATT-Microsoft and Doonsberry. People just click pictures today and move around in Windows. It does not take a genius to do this. **Each year computers are easier and easier to use**. AOL the most effective Internet provider and computing company with world dominance has realized that "everything is computing" and has made it simple and universal for the everyday man in the street to comprehend computing and the Internet with a simplified child-like proprietary format and interface. AOL had over 20 million users at last count, and had enough power to buy the mega Time-Warner Communications. **Very soon everything will be one button computing (XP is a great example)**, and when your keyboard is replaced by voice recognition software, and you speak to your computer, he will be smarter than you. **When online banking, real estate, airline tickets, hotel reservations, food shopping, cartoons, and eBay, are all on the Internet, "everything is computing."** More now than ever everything is computing. We realize everything today is a confluence of chips, lasers, and microprocessors. The analog world is quickly disappearing into the digital. And as everything becomes digital from libraries to movies to MP3 music, "everything becomes computing," including the NACC.



It's A New Age

Why The New Age Computer Club (NACC) Is Free by Val Scarcia, Editor mrval@rcn.com

I have been editor of many newsletters, and I am glad to be affiliated with the NACC and its openness. Since we can offer everyone a FREE newsletter, we do not require dues. Dues originated with most clubs to pay for the costs of newsletters. However, with the advent of the Internet, this has all changed. We offer our members a FREE color newsletter monthly that is easily downloaded from our website in standard PDF (Portable Document Format). Many senior citizens on fixed incomes who are retired today are not looking for additional annual expenses such as dues. We have not created appointed officers and treasurers to collect and justify dues. We do not try to remind our members how much we are doing for them, since we are all equal.



The NACC has FREE access to many professional meeting places which include libraries, churches, schools, etc. All our members have individual talents. Many are professional college graduates who are certified in scientific areas and teaching. Many have taken post graduate college courses and hold advanced degrees as well. Some are hobbyists, many are successful businessmen, many are past successful officers of other clubs and groups. We do not believe the meeting place is the most important thing for our club. The most important ingredient is the content of the material, and how it is approached and explained. We are not trying to build grandiose temples or shrines around us. Good meetings begin anywhere.

In addition to our successful diner meetings, I have obtained the Whitehall Library for us starting on September 19, 2001, which also includes the first Wednesday of the month for the rest of this year. This area lends itself to demonstrations and input. Please send us articles of interest of your choice for publication in our color electronic NACC newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

LVCG

Internet SIG

Bill Pryor, Chairman
bill@sos-prod.com

Oldies and Goodies!

Internet SIG Meeting April 8, 2002:
Creating MP3 Music Files
by Ted Breslin, tedbr@fast.net

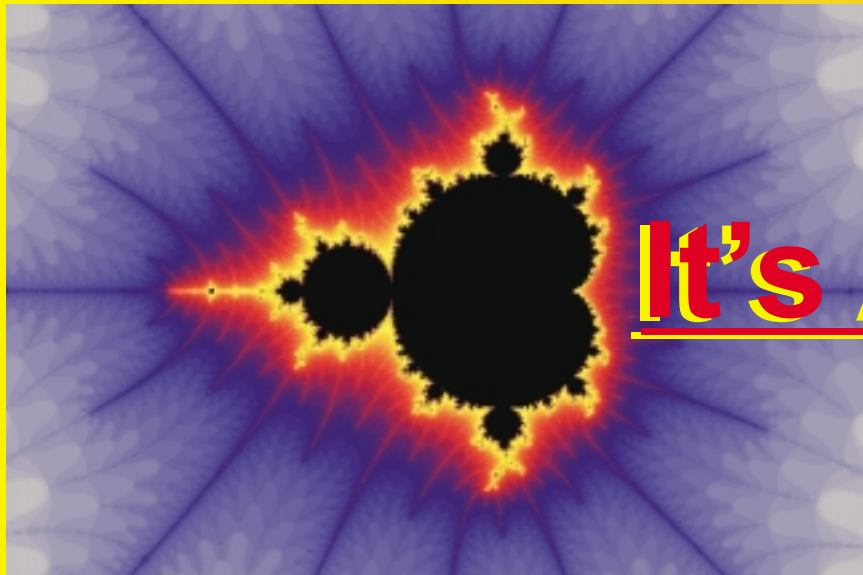
Past LVCG vice-president, and longtime Internet SIG Member, Ted Breslin, is fired-up! He has volunteered to do a presentation for the Internet SIG on creating MP3 music from his old turn table records and tapes! As most of you probably know, MP3 is the defacto standard for transferring and saving music files on the Internet which gives a final file size approximately 8 % of the standard WAV file of the original recording.



Ted has also graciously made up some of his own music CDs from his old collection to give away at the Internet Meeting!. I saw Ted and his wife the other day buying tons of blank CDs at Staples.

Don't miss this one, Ted is on fire!! He loves this great conversion software he has, along with the MP3 process!

Time permitting, other Internet topics will be covered also by Bill Pryor.



It's A New Age

The New Age Computer Club has been a natural formation for those who have given many thousands of hours of their time to other nonprofit groups and clubs

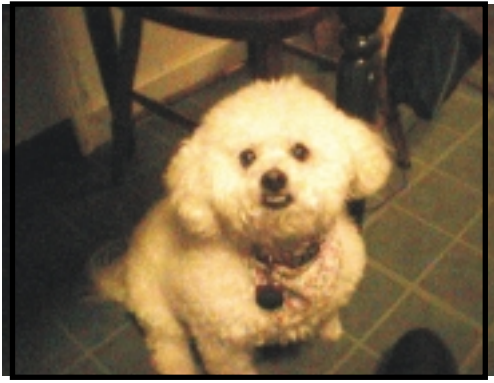
in the area, and find themselves without a place to be. Some of these people were founders of groups they are not part of today. The changing technologies and constant change in our society is producing people who believe "newer" is always better, and change for the sake of change is always the answer. It is becoming a world without history, a country without tradition, and limited insight. As computer hardware and software change by the minute, as new cars roll-off the assembly lines with new models annually, a subconscious vision is created that everything should change. The people changing everything don't even understand why they are doing it. It has become a national mantra. People keep changing everything just for the sake of change. Constant change will eventually bring a collapse, and scattering of efforts. Never forget, a nuclear bomb also works on the principle of a high rate of change!

The New Age Computer Club is a small group of friends getting together socially to have fun, and share ideas. We are not in competition with anyone else or any of the other fine clubs in the area. We do not require any dues or membership fees. We do not have any officers in our club, and hope we never will. We are not going out of our way to solicit members, and everyone is welcome. Growing to any specific number of members is not our purpose. All of us are equal, and we look to run the group as democratically as possible. This club will create the individual free-space needed for creative expression. We want different members to chair our monthly informal meetings creating an equanimity among all of us. We feel in this Information Age we can easily supply our group's needs without any monetary charges. We have our webpage up at <http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit> which is FREE.

We look forward to listening to everyone's views and interests. We will float in "free-space" for awhile before we get a full grasp of each other. We will have on-the-fly monthly meetings, and every member will get notified via e-mail. If you have interest, make sure you are on our e-mail list. We will strive to keep our outlooks high and provide the intellectual stimulation that is necessary in understanding science and computing today. But most of all, we need to understand and be respectful of each other, and realize we are all the result of all the past efforts of many others, better known as tradition and history.

Bill Pryor,
bill@sos-prod.com





A View From The Top

Photograph Submitted by Vince Heller



New Age Computer Club
NACC



CESOP WorkShop Announcement **by Tom Burke, President of CESOP** **Computer Educational Society of Philadelphia** **tom@tjburke.com**

SubjectWORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT
Tobill@sos-prod.com

Our next workshop is scheduled for **Saturday, April 6**. It will take place at **JEM Electronics, 5401 Oxford Ave**, Philadelphia, PA. **Starting time is 10 AM.**

JEM Electronics is located east of Roosevelt Boulevard at Oxford Circle. (Directly across the street from McDonald's)

This workshop will be about

MS Excel

Before the main discussion begins, we will have an open forum on general computer related questions. We will try to answer as many questions as we can but we must limit the time allotted for this to 10 to 15 minutes so we can move on to the main topic. You are also welcome to ask questions on any topic after the workshop ends.

Check out the new prototype for our web site at www.cesop.org. You can enter your opinion about the new look in our current poll. The links to the prototype and to the poll are both on our home page.

Workshops are *FREE* and open to the public, so bring along a friend!

Watch for these future workshops

Adobe Photo Shop

Burning CD's

Corel Draw

Eudora Email

EZ-Viewer

Quick Books

Scanner Know How

Surfing & Searching the Internet

An announcement will be sent as they are scheduled.

As always, refreshments will be available.

Seating is limited and is on a first come first served basis, so come early.

All workshops are accessible to the handicapped.

Remember to keep your email address current. Addresses returned as invalid are removed from our email list.

=====
If you wish to be removed from or if you have been added in error to the CESOP ANNOUNCEMENT LIST, reply to this email
SUBJECTRemove
MESSAGERemove me from the list

What Ever Happened To Broadband?

Copyright Don Terp 2002

© Don Terp 2002

850 Words

What ever happened to broadband? That's the question that Steve Ballmer, President and CEO of Microsoft is asking right now.

Could it become the 8 track of the 21st Century? Hi Definition TV isn't going anywhere either.

Sucked in by early activity in broadband subscriptions, Microsoft made the decision to market it's new exclusive game console, XBOX, to the broadband community exclusively.

If you haven't hear about the Xbox video game console, it's because Microsoft isn't talking about it, at least not in public. Broadband went into hibernation shortly after a push in 1999 and is still asleep. Because of this dilemma, so is XBOX.

Microsoft's attempt to corner technology and standards in the video game business is resting quietly, waiting for someone to build the tracks it needs to travel.

The strategy was to design the XBOX for games with very high quality video graphics (high resolution) requiring high speed data transmission, to perform in a realistic manner. No high speed transmission (BroadBand), no XBOX.

In addition to the problems of a lack of broadband subscribers, Microsoft, in it's own inimitable style, has managed to anger the game developers with its strict regulations and limits on who they can write software for. Does that sound familiar?.

In contrast to Sony, who's Play Station can be used with either broad or narrow band connections, Microsoft has attempted to corner the market by making its XBOX exclusively broadband (it has an ethernet port built in). This permits the inclusion of such features as voice communications in football and combat games. Plus, of course, extreme sharpness and color, beyond anything available today. .

Once again, Microsoft is looking for an exclusive. A blatant attempt to take over the game industry. It's betting that its XBOX will drive the broadband market when it appears this coming October.

In other words, its banking on XBOX being so desirable that it will drive the broadband market. That's quite a stretch.

This is not the only hill Microsoft has to climb. Its very afraid that hackers can easily access the games and play havoc with programs. Viruses too, can raise serious problems. Which is why Microsoft is requiring every owner of an XBOX to register and be assigned a unique number identical to the procedure used with the XP operating system.

This, of course, permits Microsoft to examine each XBOX on line to determine whether bootleg or "foreign" software is in use. You will not even be able to share software with friends, because of Microsoft's system of registration. Father is going to keep you honest, whether you want it or not.

Since you will only be able to use Microsoft designed or approved software, Microsoft will have control over what you purchase and what you pay. Competition, what competition?

Of course, video games that run on PCs have no restrictions as to which computer they are used on. In addition, according to developers, Microsoft's restrictions are limiting developers creativity and inventiveness.

One of the lead programmers at a very prestigious development house insists that XBOX is a step backward. This facility is developing the premiere software for XBOX's debut.



What Ever Happened To Broadband? (cont.)

An additional restriction is, all programs being converted to XBOX must be examined and approved by Microsoft, with a royalty or service fee paid, of course.. This will also cause Microsoft to respond in a very uncustomary rapid manner, as new team rosters and other sports specifications (mod software) are changed, almost in a heart beat.

Microsoft is entering a field in which it has little expertise. It has made mistakes already and will continue to make them as it learns. The question is will it make it before the mistakes inundate the operation?

Recently, Microsoft has tended to bank on the back side of the curve. That is, it waits until products and systems are well advanced before it enters the market. At that late point it attempts to dominate the store and make it exclusively Microsoft's.

It's foray into the Internet is a perfect example of entering a mature market. Microsoft's management style doesn't lend itself to a host of competitors. It makes enemies very quickly with that strategy.

Microsoft relies on it's size, dominating style and aggressive business tactics to carry it through. These strategies don't work on the long haul.

It keeps gathering adversaries at a rapid rate. Current litigants are; AOL-TimeWarner, Sun Microsystems, 9 or 18 states depending on who you talk to, and the city of New York to name a few. It has also found a market that is changing more rapidly than Microsoft can grasp.

In the computer industry, throwing money at a problem is the worse thing one can do. Brains, inventiveness, creativity, and a good relationship with others in the field are paramount. Microsoft doesn't have a corner on any of these qualities..

Now, how about a version of XBOX for LINUX. I think I'll give Steve Ballmer a call, reversing the charges, of course.

Research for this article came from verious sources including "Red Herring" magazine."



30 GIG CDs Are Coming

by Bill Pryor



February 23, 2002

Toshiba has developed a new rewritable optical disc with a capacity of 30GB per-layer, per-side, and a companion read/write optical head that incorporates a blue laser. The new optical disc, which measures 12 centimeters in diameter, has a capacity of more than six times that of similar-sized DVD media, which have a single-sided capacity of 4.7GB. The new disc allows for recording 3 hours of high-definition digital video, a Toshiba statement says.

Those of you who have attended my Internet Meetings have encountered my presentation of wave theory and how it applies to science and computing. The current CD lasers being used are red. The secret in developing these higher capacity CDs lie in the ability of the new solid state blue lasers to produce a shorter wavelength than the current red lasers being sold today on new PCs.

Blue lasers have a wavelength of 405 nanometers, shorter than that of red lasers, which have a wavelength of around 650 nanometers and are used for reading and writing DVD and CD discs. The shorter wavelength means the laser can register smaller dots on a disc and more data can be stored. As a result, blue laser technology has been adopted for the development of next-generation optical discs.

Developers have been working to create a blue laser for CD applications for over 25 years; they have realized the shorter wavelength of the blue laser will result in higher capacity storage CDs. I feel it is important to include and teach some basic physics and wave theory when using computers to familiarize users as to what is going on underneath the hood.

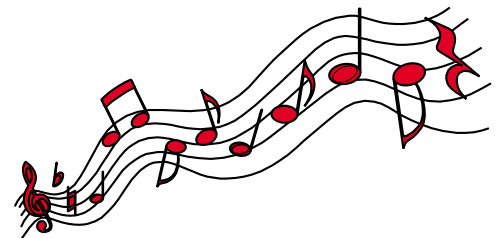
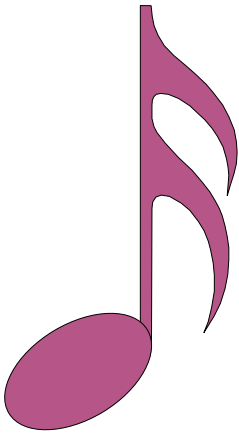
MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC

VAL SCARCIA

Hey Guys you wanna to hear Free Music like you never heard before on the Internet
I have found it.

Music

Alt. & Hard Rock
Classic Rock & Oldies
Classical
Country & Folk
Dance & Electronica
Inspirational
Jazz & Blues
Latin
Lite Sounds
Pop
R&B & Soul
Rap & Hip-Hop
Soundtracks & More
Top of the Charts
World



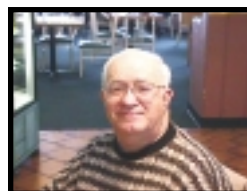
Spinner.com is the first and largest Internet music service, broadcasting over 22 million songs each week to listeners all over the world. With over 375,000+ songs in rotation on 150+ music channels, Spinner spans an extraordinarily diverse range of musical styles.

The free [Spinner Plus](http://Spinner.com) downloadable music player offers reliable, high-quality audio while providing dynamic links to comprehensive artist information and music purchase options. High-profile music downloads and promotional features with marquee artists are also available from the Spinner.com web site.

Based in San Francisco, CA, [Spinner](http://Spinner.com) is dedicated to providing an exciting, interactive alternative to traditional broadcasting, effectively revolutionizing the Internet music listening experience with its breadth and depth of quality content. Spinner.com was acquired by America



Val Scarcia
Spinner.com Music Partner



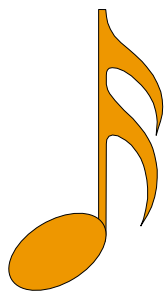
More About the Program

Spinner Networks, Inc. is dedicated to making the most of the unique capabilities offered by the Internet with respect to music broadcasting. In doing so, they are ensuring an unparalleled listening experience through both the **convenience of uninterrupted music and the quality, breadth and depth of musical content.**

Over 65% of consumers purchasing music cite radio play as the motivating factor in making a purchase. Since radio stations live and die by their listener base, however, they are forced to limit their music selection to recognizable or "safe" genres/titles, ensuring listener identification and therefore a reasonable degree of loyalty.

Spinner.com is moving beyond this model, however, with the confidence that Internet music listeners will continue to respond to the breadth and depth of our content. **The content they offer familiarizes listeners with albums and artists they might not normally be privy to, offering an extraordinary opportunity for artists and labels who fall outside the realm of the "safe" genres/titles supported by radio.**

Spinner.com recognizes that musical content is its lifeblood. Music on Spinner.com **must be high in quality and diverse in nature**, thereby assuring a high level of listener satisfaction and the ability for users to broaden and deepen their musical tastes.



In lieu of that, they created **The Spinner.com Music Partner Program** as a way to expand content on both our music channels, simultaneously providing a more effective distribution mechanism for record labels. Currently, **their site represents over 350 labels** (Indie and otherwise), including *Rykodisc, High Tone, Matador, Bloodshot, Rounder, Ubiquity, Touch and Go, Arhoolie, and 4AD*. Additionally, if you are an unsigned artist, you are more than welcome to submit your music (CDs only please) to Spinner.com.

Bank Letter

by Joanna Broder <bcjoanna@qwest.net>



Below is an actual letter sent to a bank in the United States. The Bank thought it amusing enough to publish in the New York Times.

Dear Sir

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations some three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the check, and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire salary, an arrangement, which, I admit, has only been in place for eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account with \$50 by way of penalty for the inconvenience I caused to your bank. My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has 1 caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. You have set me on the path of fiscal righteousness. No more will our relationship be blighted by these unpleasant incidents, for I am restructuring my affairs in 2002, taking as my model the procedures, attitudes and conduct of your very bank. I can think of no greater compliment, and I know you will be excited and proud to hear it.

To this end, please be advised about the following changes I have noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you I am confronted by the impersonal, ever-changing, prerecorded, faceless entity which your bank has become. From now on I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh and blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will, therefore and hereafter, no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your branch whom you must nominate.

You will be aware that it is an offense under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact Status, which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that a Notary Public must countersign all copies of his or her medical history, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and abilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modeled it on the number of button presses required to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Let me level the playing field even further by introducing you to my new telephone system, which you will notice, is very much like yours. My Authorized Contact at your bank, the only person with whom I will have any dealings, may call me at any time and will be answered by an automated voice.

Press buttons as follows

1. To make an appointment to see me.
2. To query a missing payment.
3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone in case I am not at home.
7. To leave a message on my computer a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated at a later date to the contact.
8. To return to the main menu, to listen to options 1 through 7.
9. To make a general complaint or inquiry.

The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may on occasion involve a lengthy

Bank Letter (continued)

by Joanna Broder <bcjoanna@qwest.net>

wait, uplifting music will play for the duration. This month I've chosen a refrain from "The Best of Woodie Guthrie

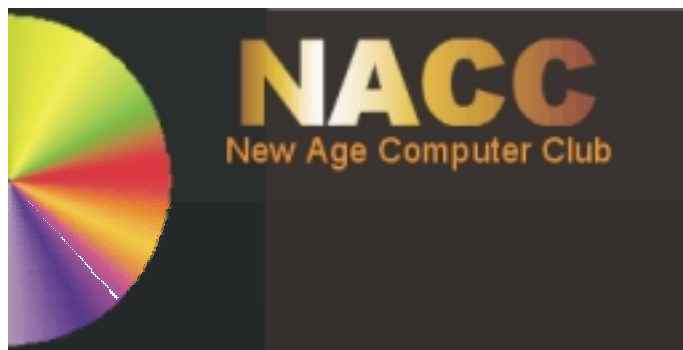
Oh, the banks are made of marble,
with a guard at every door,
and the vaults are filled with silver,
That the miners sweated for."

After twenty minutes of that, our mutual contact will probably know it by heart. On a more serious note, we come to the matter of cost. As your bank has often pointed out, the ongoing drive for greater efficiency comes at a cost, which you have always been quick to pass on me. Let me repay your kindness by passing some costs back.

First, there is a matter of advertising material you send me. This I will read for a fee of \$20 per page. Inquiries from your nominated contact will be billed at \$5 per minute of my time spent in response. Any debits to my account, as, for example, in the matter of the penalty for the dishonored check, will be passed back to you. My new phone service runs at 75 cents a minute. You will be well advised to keep your inquiries brief and to the point.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever-so-slightly less prosperous, New Year?

Your Humble Client,
Carole



Fake Microsoft Security Patch

by Tom Burke, President of CESOP

Computer Educational Society of Philadelphia

tom@tjburke.com



Subject Fake Microsoft Security Patch

Tobill@sos-prod.com

I found the following information in the latest edition of "The Langa List" newsletter. I thought it important enough to send to all our members and friends.

If you want more information on the Langa List newsletter, you can visit www.langa.com

ttn,
Tom Burke

Avoid This Fake Microsoft Security Patch

Microsoft doesn't send out security patches by email. To my knowledge, it never has. Still, a number of people have been fooled by an email purporting to be from the "Microsoft Corporation Security Center" and carrying the subject line "I n t e r n e t S e c u r i t y U p d a t e" (I've spaced out the letters here to try to get past stupid email filters that may assume that this newsletter is the fake security patch).

The fake email mostly uses the format and language of real security bulletins to offer an attachment (Q 2 1 6 3 0 9 . e x e) that's supposed to be a cumulative patch that eliminates "all known vulnerabilities" in Internet Explorer.

Of course, it's not a security patch at all; it's the W 3 2 . G i b e worm, which uses Outlook and its own internal SMTP engine to propagate. You can get all the gory details--- and removal instructions--- by searching your favorite security site. For example, go to <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/> and search for w 3 2 . g i b e.

Remember Microsoft doesn't mail out patches. You have to get them via Windows Update or by going to <http://www.microsoft.com/security/> and manually downloading them. That latter site is also a good place to check to see if any supposed patch from Microsoft is real or not.

DON'T DO AS I DO, DO AS I SAY!

By Don Terp, <dmterp@enter.net>



Ó Don Terp 2002

818 Words

I have always preached to my students to read, study and commit to memory, the instruction manual for your cameras (a good argument for not owning 10 or even 5). When you're in a pinch and need to work fast, or for that matter, at any time, it pays to know which button to push, and which not to.

All of the above brings me to a situation I found myself in recently. I went to a conference and decided to take some digital pictures. I had brought two cameras with me (both Olympus), a C-2000 which I had purchased in early 2000 and a C2100 which I purchased after the price was reduced from \$1200 to \$599 in 2001.

For some reason, I never liked the C2100. It had too many buttons and did too many things I didn't need or want. It even takes bursts of frames and records audio as you take the pictures or immediately after, as you're viewing the frame.

So it sort of stayed in the camera bag, with the C-2000 carrying the load. I took it along as a spare and on the possibility that I just might use it.

I had a 32meg memory card in the C-2100, so I had an excellent reserve of frames if I needed them, I did!

There were so many pictures that I went through the card in the C2000 on the first day, so I picked up the C2100, with it's freshly charged batteries and went to work.

Now for those who don't know or are not familiar with the Olympus line of cameras, the C2000 is a conventional digital, with a 35 to 70 zoom (35mm scale). The C2100 has a 10X zoom with a digital zoom on top of that, and can go out to over 1000mm (35mm scale). It also features a puzzling device, a way of stabilizing the long lens so that you always get sharp pictures, even hand held at 1000 mm.

So I ventured forth with this somewhat larger camera, with all



DON'T DO AS I DO, DO AS I SAY (cont.)!

the buttons on it. I had the manual with me, but didn't take the time to read it (mistake number one)/ .

Since I could check each shot on the video display, I thought I was smart enough to catch any shots that didn't pass muster. Well, at some point, I got the mistaken impression that I had a 35 mm camera in my hands and all I had to do was blaze away. Blaze away I did, because the opportunities were coming thick and fast.

Suddenly, I discovered that the flash wasn't operating, but the rest of the system was. OK, the batteries had to be good, what was the problem. After getting adventuresome and desperate, I finally found a small button on top of the flash unit, so I pressed it. Lo and behold, it worked. the flash was restored to operation after almost 10 shot with no flash.

Well, I can save the bad shots with Adobe Photoshop, but I shouldn't have had to do the extra work, IF I had known what that button on top of the flash was for. To this day, it doesn't make sense, because all of the other operating adjustments, color balance, shutter speed and focus remained in operation, only the flash was shut off.

This means I got ten shots that were balanced for daylight (flash) but were exposed in incandescent light. They are very warm, to say the least.

It must have happened at some point when I handled the camera and pressed the offending button accidentally. Now I know to keep my hands off of that button. I can't dream of a reason why I would ever use it. I would tape over it, except that would keep it permanently in the off position.

So, read and understand your manual, even though most of them are poorly organized and even more poorly written. A little practice before you hit the main event would be a help too.

I did get some sensational shots. That long (really long) lens let me sit in the audience and pick my shots like I was in the speaker's face. And, yet, I could go back to the W/A (35mm) position and get great over all audience shots. A very flexible and versatile camera to be sure.

Now I will practice with it until I can use it properly. I have to find out why the stabilizer doesn't work every time. Some shots were absolutely blurred, and some were just soft. However the majority were crystal sharp, even to the point of making an 8 X 10 from less than 25% of the image. I figure that was about the equivalent of a 4000mm lens. Not quite a NASA space camera, but we're getting there.

Why I Like Andy Rooney

Clarence Snyder, W3PYF@aol.com

S that it costs forty-thousand dollars a year to house each prisoner? Jeez, for forty-thousand bucks a piece I'll take a few prisoners into my house. I live in Los Angeles. I already have bars on the windows. I don't think we should give free room and board to criminals. I think they should have to run twelve hours a day on a treadmill and generate electricity. And if they don't want to run, they can rest in the chair that's hooked up to the generator.

Andy Rooney On Ads In Bills

Have you ever noticed that they put advertisements in with your bills now? Like bills aren't distasteful enough, they have to stuff junk mail in there with them. I get back at them. I put garbage in with my check when I mail it in. Coffee grinds, banana peels...I write, "Could you throw this away for me? Thank You."

Andy Rooney On Fabric Softener

My wife uses fabric softener. I never knew what that stuff was for. Then I noticed women coming up to me (sniff) 'Married'(walk off). That's how they mark their territory. You can take off the ring, but it's hard to get that April fresh scent out of your clothes.

Andy Rooney On Morning Differences

Men and women are different in the morning. The men wake up aroused in the morning. We can't help it. We just wake up and we want you. And the women are thinking, 'How can he want me the way I look in the morning?' It's because we can't see you. We have no blood anywhere near our optic nerve.

Andy Rooney On Phone-In-Polls

You know those shows where people call in and vote on different issues? Did you ever notice there's always like 18% that say "I don't know." It costs 90 cents to call up and vote and they're voting "I don't know." "Honey, I feel very strongly about this. Give me the phone." (Says Into Phone) "I DON'T KNOW!" (Hangs up looking proud.) Sometimes you have to stand up for what you believe you're not sure about." This guy probably calls up phone sex girls for \$2.95 to say "I'm not in the mood".

Andy Rooney On Cripes

My wife's from the Midwest. Very nice people there. Very wholesome. They use words like 'Cripes'. 'For Cripe's sake.' Who would that be, Jesus Cripe's? The son of 'Gosh' of the church of 'Holy Moly'? I'm not making fun of it. You think I wanna burn in 'Heck'?

Andy Rooney On Grandma

My grandmother has a bumper sticker on her car that says, 'Sexy Senior Citizen.' You don't want to think of your grandmother that way, do you? Out entering wet shawl contests. Makes you wonder where she got that dollar she gave you for your birthday.

Have a nice day...



Internet SIG: Producing Professional 3D Images

by Bill Pryor



March 11, 2002

3-D Program (Xara 3D)

by Bill Pryor

Once in awhile an amazing program is written unlike any other you have ever seen; this is exactly what this program is: A graphical 3-D word creation program that can be used to make Webpages or 3-D slides for business presentations, or just for your own use. The whole program fits on one floppy, and is about 888k in size, uncompressed; all ready to go; you do NOT even have to install it on the hard drive to run it! The program is written for Win 95 and up. Where so many programs are written with undue complexity, and steep learning curves, this one is so simple, any beginner can use it within minutes. And the results, are sensational and really miraculous! You can create animated graphics for your webpages that look totally professional! The program has built-in anti-aliased features that eliminate jagged lines when you create your animated GIFs, JPGs or BMPs. Xara3D can also create simple, high quality animated GIFs or AVI movie sequences in seconds. The file sizes of these created 3-D files are very small too, considering what they are, and what the do!

This program is Xara 3-D, and is available on the WWW at: <http://xara.com/products/xara3d/>. It comes with a FREE trial at: <http://xara.com/downloads/xara3d/>, and if you like, you can purchase it. [Xara Ltd. is a British Company, and has also licensed rights to Corel to produce CorelXara (\$200). CorelXara is the basic work of Xara, Ltd].

The program is written and learned through examples. You can then modify the library of examples to suit your own purposes. The program is written, "learn by doing, learn by example." The files are presented, manipulated and saved in .X3D format for future use and modification; however, to make GIFs, JPGs, BMPs, etc., you just use the "Export" feature of the program! The lighting of the 3-D images are controlled by three simple arrows in which their positions and colors can be easily changed. The final angle of the 3-D image is controlled by the mouse, and the WYSIWYG final image on your screen.

The whole program is much like using the CorelDraw Extrude feature, presented and contained in versions 2.0 and higher, but is much simpler to use, and is much more powerful as a finished product. This program opens up the whole 3-D market, where most 3-D programs are esoteric, abstruse, and expensive to purchase.

In the USA, where massive software companies employ tens of thousands of people in a monopolized market, it is refreshing to see software writers write something like this that is not an office suite in size to make a 3-D image. Xara is a powerful program, and pretty much unknown; I have never seen it written-up in any of the "major" USA publications, or given any kudos in any "major" magazine. This is an excellent piece of software; it takes keen minds to write software like this; you have to really understand the basics to write powerful and simple code. Don't you think the guys writing and selling complicated windows "bloatware" could learn a lot from the simplicity of this program?



Val Scarcia, Editor
mrval@rcn.com



March 30, 2002

Son Offers Mom's Wisdom on eBay

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 2:59 p.m. ET

BUCHANAN, Mich. (AP) -- Dan Baber is so proud of his mother he offered bidders on eBay ([news/quote](#)) a chance to buy one day of her attention, to ``make you feel like you are the most special person on the Earth."

The Internet auction site didn't go for the idea, so Baber decided to put Sue Hamilton's wisdom up for sale instead.

As of Saturday afternoon, 40 bids on eBay item No. 1527369622 had pushed the price up to \$165. The auction page was headed: ``Best Mother in the World -- Her Thoughts."

``All I know is I have the best mother in the world. ... All proceeds will go to her so she can spoil her grandchildren and teach me how to be as good of a father as she was a mother," the new listing reads.

Hamilton said she thought it was just another item to bid on when she ran across the auction. Instead she found a tribute.

``The more I read, the more my heart just melted," Hamilton told the Detroit Free Press.

It was especially touching, she said, because she was recently laid off from her job and because Sunday is her 54th birthday.

Baber, 32, a businessman in this southwest Michigan community, initially put his mother up for sale, rather than just her thoughts.

``She will e-mail you for one full day. She will make you feel like you are the most special person on the Earth. She will love you no matter what you do," that auction read.

eBay officials removed the offering on Thursday, telling Baber that auctioning his mother could ``leave open the possibility of misrepresentation and liability issues, as well as potential safety concerns for your mother," the Free Press reported.

^_____

On the Net:

eBay, <http://www.ebay.com>



FromMarbles4di@aol.com

DateSat, 2 Feb 2002 000632 EST

SubjectCheck out New Age Computer Group

Tobill.pryor@verizon.net

X-MailerAOL 7.0 for Windows US sub 118

[Click here](#)New Age Computer Group

**AWESOME..CAN'T GET ANY BETTER...MUSIC, COLOR YOU ARE INCREDIBLE...
IT TRULY SHOWS ALL YOUR EFFORT PUT INTO THE NEW AGE COMPUTER GROUP LETTER
AND SITE.
CONGRADULATIONS.....IT IS A WINNER..HANDS DOWN/////**
DIANE

SubjectReInternet SIG Meeting February 11, 2002, 730PM LANTA Bus Terminal

Tobill@sos-prod.com



marbles...

☺kant get any better!!!

SubjectReMarch 2002 NACC Bits and Bytes Newsletter Is Online

Tobill@sos-prod.com

**HI BILL,
LET EM HAVE IT...WHAT IS LIFE WITH OUT ART, EXPRESSION OF ONE'S THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, INTERPRETATIONS
OF SITUATIONS NOT ABLE TO EXPRESS ORALLY OR OTHERWISE....YOUR NACC BITS AND BYTES ARE
HOLLYWOOD QUALITY. '
HIGH 5 TO YOU AND FRAN TOO...
DIANE...**

SubjectReGreat Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibition at Allentown Art Museum!

Tobill@sos-prod.com

Hi Bill and Fran

Just incredible...who would ever believe we here in ALLENTOWN have all this in our back yard.

Buss is building, or has just completed a humonguous type Frank Lloyd Wright house on two lots in allentown, on Trexler Blvd., accross from the Allentown Golf Club. He bought Harris Weinstein's house that was up for sale, and the house next to it, that WAS NOT FOR SALE...probably paid a handsome price, and combined both lots to build his ONE house...a Frank L.W. type, that is one you cant miss to drive by and see....just a small unpretentsious house...I would have loved to have him buy my house...whew....it is a must see.....HIS HOUSE...not mine..lol...check it out and bring your camera...a must see...

Love,

Diane... <http://calskp.50megs.com/images/57Chevy.gif> just drive by...here is my car...for the ride...in style....=+_)

July 1, 1989

Sunflower

by Bill Pryor

When the swirling chaos

Moving like nebula

Slows down enough

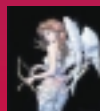
To become bluebirds

In Spring,

All mist must mystify all creation,

Until giant sunflowers grow

From the falling seeds of the sun





EZ-PASS

Bill Pryor, Unplugged

March 3, 2002



Anyone driving on the Pennsylvania Turnpike from the NE Extension near Allentown has run into the special EZ-PASS toll booths that read a barcode on your automobile's windshield, and charges your account automatically for the toll. You pass through the toll booths just like groceries pass through the checkout counter at the supermarket. Just this week, I reached ATT 800 information to have a voice robot inform me that "live humans" will be on from 6AM to 9PM, and after that, only voice recognition software will be answering 800 information calls. ATT is currently laying off 6,000 operators because of this new system. I spoke to an information operator who has been at ATT for 7 years, and with a click of a mouse, she's gone!

Soon we will see no people at the checkout counters, just barcode readers and robots. Everyday we see less and less people at the toll booths taking coins from travelers, being easily replaced by EZ-PASS computerized systems.

Soon we will not have to worry about flight crews on airlines either, when all the pilots will be replaced by robotic guidance systems. Will flights be less costly when there are no pilots aboard? Will we feel as secure? What about air-marshals? Will the pilot's union become a union of robots after awhile?

The banks with online banking have cut the number of tellers and employees drastically, always encouraging electronic transfers and websites. When you call the electric company, gas company, telephone company, we all hear a litany of menu choices with elevator music that leads everyone in circles.

Is this the new capitalism, get rid of people, and replace them with robots? I am afraid it is. When all the young people have nothing to do, and no where to work, will they all be watching MTV, listening to Mp3, and popping pills out of boredom?

We hope you have enjoyed our Newsletter



Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit>

Newsletter Archive:
<http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit/Newsletters.htm>

