

# NEW AGE COMPUTER CLUB

## *Bits-and-Bytes*

*Newsletter*

*Online*

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OCTOBER 2001 EDITION



# NACC

Allentown, Pa.

New Age Computer Club

## Bits & Bytes Newsletter



THINK FRACTALS!

### NACC On The Internet :

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

Newsletter (PDF) Online: <http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit/NewAge4.pdf>



# It's A New Age

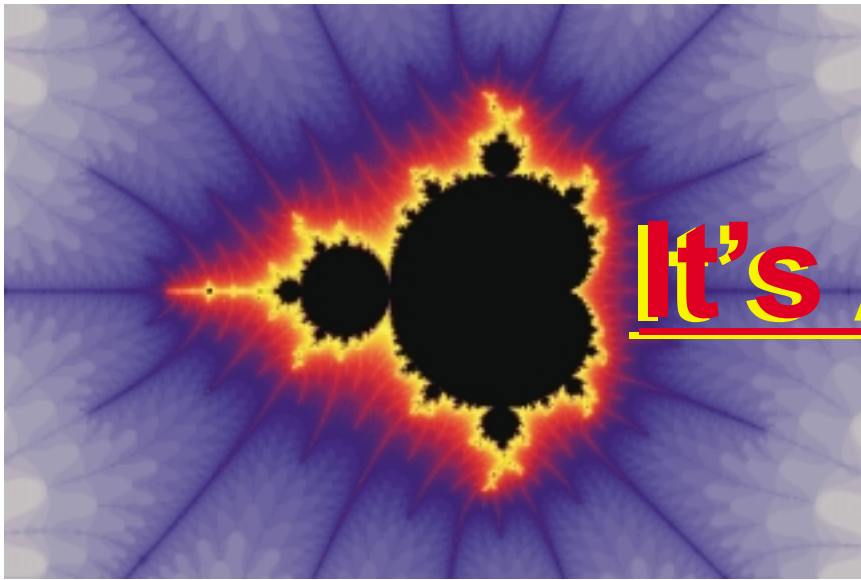
## Why The New Age Computer Club (NACC) Is Free by Val Scarcia, Editor [mrval@rcn.com](mailto:mrval@rcn.com)

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.



# It's A New Age

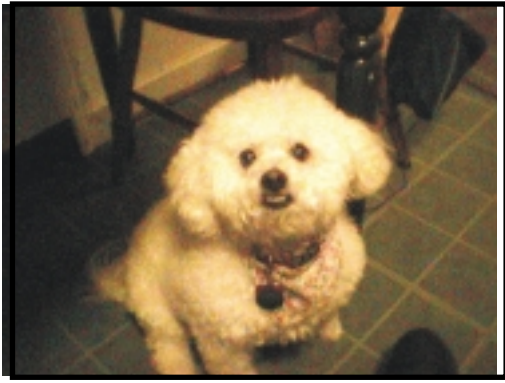
The New Age Computer Club has been a natural formation for those who have given many thousands of hours of their time to other nonprofit groups and clubs

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](mailto:bill@sos-prod.com)



## A View From The Top

Hi for those of you who don't know me, my name is Babette. Joe Secondo, my computer teacher and mentor, used to write this column all the time when he was president of different computer clubs. Now, I am taking over. Joe is too busy with cams and new high tech gadgets now.

Hey this NACC is cool. Sharing is the main ingredient. This includes all positions. This is very much the same philosophy Joe always had taught me. He was president of clubs many times, and he always worked hard to get others involved. It was hard work, but he did it, and spread involvement. Joe was pro-club. Joe liked sharing and seeing other people grow in all positions, not just himself!

For you guys who don't know it, just being in the same house with Joe is a real trip. He can't bark like me. Or think like me. He has GPS (global positioning systems), but I have better smell. I can hear better than his cams can see. Joe always goes to different computer shows. I never go in; he leaves me outside in his car to listen to music, read books, or use his GPS. I do not care, since it saves me the money for admission. I could never afford joining a computer club. It was too much money, but now I discovered the NACC and it's FREE! Hey, I love this Editor Val Scarcia, maybe I'll write a monthly column for him from now on. Bye for now!

New Age Computer Club  
NACC



## **TERRORISM ISN'T HI TECH**

by Bill Pryor

The tragic events which occurred this past week will be with all Americans for the rest of our lives.

There seems to be a general lack of understanding on what technology really is. Universities and institutions in America always believe the more technology, the better. That high tech will always win! No expert figured people would hijack four commercial aircraft, armed with box cutter knives, and attack the Pentagon and destroy the World Trade Center in a few hours. But low-tech fools them all!

Did anyone ever read a Boeing Aircraft manual on a 747, 757 or 767 stating that any of these jets could be used as a flying bomb or guided missile? Or was the average aeronautical engineer only looking at its transportation aspects? There seems to be an array of shock that an enemy could use an ordinary commercial aircraft to devastate America's financial center, our tallest building, the World Trade Center, which houses 50,000 workers. How come super enemy missiles weren't used? Star War missiles? How come the "security experts" never figured on the "low tech" kamikaze tactics of World War II featuring our own United Airlines aircraft disguised as jap-zeros?

A Boeing Aircraft when filled with 24,000 gallons of jet fuel is certainly equal to a flying bomb or guided missile! These hijacked planes were fully loaded with fuel for long range California trips, when they were demonically detoured into the World Trade Center buildings. When the planes hit the World Trade Center towers, the explosion of 24,000 gallons of fuel melted the steel in the structure, and caused eminent collapse of the entire buildings. What these terrorists achieved using our own planes as missiles was probably one of the most cost effective ways for them to accomplish this hellacious act. We supplied the missile and the bombs in the form of our own commercial aircraft!

Another associated aspect that has bothered me for many decades is the proliferation of nuclear plants in the USA, 103 plants, the highest in the world! . It should be obvious to a terrorist that if the same tactics were ever used on Peach Bottom, Three Mile Island, Berwick or Limerick, the radiation released could wipe us out. All you have to do is crash into the plants just as they did in New York City and Washington. Why genius engineers were allowed to place nuclear plants all around us is beyond my comprehension. Each nuclear plant is a potential bomb, to say nothing of the normal plutonium waste products produced that have 25,000 year half lives!

I think the lesson to be learned, which should have been learned a long time ago, is invention has many bad consequences. Low-technology can wipe us out just as fast as the most recent high-tech advances. Remember, you can not defend against low level technology; there is too much of it, it is all around us, and most times, you can't do anything about it. This is the lesson learned this week. To look at a jet plane as just means of transportation reflects the lack of insight in its designers and the way it is presented to the naive public. So the next time you are flying the friendly skies, where 4,000 commercial jets fly worldwide each day, just sit back and relax knowing that you may be really flying in a human guided missile.



Many people feel that games like this train people to eventually fly, and allow non-pilots to learn to steer aircraft.

It is possible to learn from a commercial simulator in 5-6 hours to steer an aircraft once it is up in the air.

The U.S. Navy has adopted the use of Microsoft Simulators in its training programs of pilots.

Today aircraft of the 757, 767 variety can take off and land on autopilot.

Microsoft says it will be removing the World Trade Center from future editions of this program.

**Media:** CD-ROM **Platform:** Windows 95, 98, NT

**Features:**

- Developed with the leaders in the aviation industry
- Fly anywhere in the world--to more than 20,000 airports from Chicago to Tokyo
- Re-creates the latest worldwide weather-- clouds, rain, thunderstorms, and wind--automatically
- True worldwide elevation data and 16-bit color graphics bring geography and famous landmarks to life
- Features 2 additional aircraft, 6 additional high-resolution cities, and 2 IFR training panels



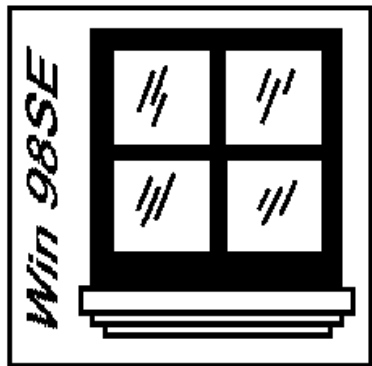
## Photoshop Special?



This picture was sent to us by Sue and Florian Janoski. This was supposedly taken on top of the World Trade Center just before the plane hit. *This picture has circulated all over the Internet, and is a hoax.* The power of digital photo alteration by programs like Photoshop makes you think twice! This picture appeared on TV FOX News too. For further information about this photograph contact Florian and Sue at: [fjanlis@ptd.net](mailto:fjanlis@ptd.net).

Hoax site at:

<http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/blphoto-wtc.htm>



# WINDOWS

## Thru the Window Pain !! by John Scott

**A good article on computer upgrades is:** Upgrades: The Senseless and the Sensible Which upgrades still pay off? Ones that add new functionality. by Stephen Manes. PC World Contributing Editor Stephen Manes was a cohost of Digital Duo, a public television series. He has been writing about PCs for nearly two decades.

**Steve's observations are similar to mine, both of us started with the PC-XT over twenty year ago.**

**Steve begins:** "MORE OFTEN THAN I EXPECT, I get mail that boils down to something like this: "I have a ten-year-old 386 PC with 16MB of RAM running Windows 3.0. How can I upgrade it to work with today's software and hardware?" The short, snotty answer: Use it as a stand for a new machine.

**You might want to check out your system at:** <http://www.pcpitstop.com>. I checked my 550 MHz P3 sytem and the results said upgrade your memory from 128 to 256 MB, reset your video down from True Color 32bit, and upgrade your video driver.

If you don't need the newest a great deal is available from Tigerdirect.com:

A 100% factory remanufactured Profile 3 from Gateway. This is a complete computer behind a 15-inch LCD screen.

Specs.: Pentium III 933 MHz, 128 MB SDRAM, 10 GB Hard Drive, DVD-ROM Drive, 56K Modem, 15-inch TFT XGA Display, 4 USB ports, 1 Parallel, Type III PCMCIA Slot, Intel 3D Graphics, Windows 98, Floppy Drive, Keyboard, Scroll Mouse, Built-In Speakers, \$899.

I'd see about getting 256 MB memory!! You may also want an external CD-recorder. If you need a network card it can be added to the PCMCIA slot.

Steve's advise and mine on upgrades: Today, in a world of dizzying deflation for every part in the box (aside from monopoly-priced software), they generally don't, except to stave off the horrible experience of reinstalling your data and programs on a new machine. **Our advice:** Avoid that, and the upgrades themselves, by buying more machine than you think you need.

The most useful things that you get on a new machine are lots of memory each new CPU usually uses a different memory type so odds are you can't use you old memory, USB and maybe even Firewire for faster peripheral data transfer and video editing, big hard drives old machines will usually need a BIOS upgrade that you usually can't find, DVD-ROM not just for watching movies, Encyclopedia Britannica is on one disk instead of 4 or 5 CDs and my Street Atlas is on 1 disk instead of 7 CDs.

So which upgrades still pay off? External peripherals often do. Monitor prices even LCDs have dropped. Printers keep improving, too, particularly for color photos. Modern dirt-cheap scanners often beat ancient expensive models. Having a lot and back and neck problems my wife and I have 7 position chiropractic office chairs!!

**The biggest news P4 motherboards without overpriced RD-Ram!**

**In the ongoing Microsoft saga: Microsoft will shortly drop all support for DOS and Windows 3x and 95. How does this relate to the registration system. When Microsoft stops support for WinXP you will be FORCED to upgrade!! Maybe this could be tolerated for an OS but not for an Office Suite!! Now is the time to download your service packs and put them on a CD.**

**Next month; PDAs They behave like a computer should!**

**JDS 10/2001** ☐

# Pocket Linux (Recover Windows File Using Linux Floppy)

## by Jeff Zartler, [jacaz@fast.net](mailto:jacaz@fast.net)

On the tomsrtbt page there are links to various other Linux's that fit on a floppy disk. Next I'm going to try Floppix <http://floppix.ccai.com/index.html> It may be better for those who wish to learn Linux. It requires 16MB of ram. Below are a couple of paragraphs from the floppix home page

\*\*\*\*\*

Floppix is a teaching tool; it is a very small subset of Debian/ GNU Linux that fits on two 3.5" 1.4Mb diskettes. The current version is derived from Debian 2.1 (slink), copyright under the GNU GPL "copyleft". It provides a platform to practice linux commands and experiment with simple system administration.

Floppix has no hard drive support; you cannot access, modify, damage or destroy anything installed on the hard drive. For this reason, Floppix works safely in the lab, at home or at work.

Floppix runs from a RAMDISK. Since the entire filesystem is stored in RAM, all changes are lost when the system is shutdown or rebooted. This makes it possible to experiment freely; if you want (or need) to start over, all you have to do is reboot. For example, if you want to know what is left after the superuser has deleted the entire filesystem, Floppix is the place to try it.

As far as tomsrtbt goes, it is intended to maintain computer systems. Here is an excerpt that I pasted from the web link

<http://www.northernjourney.com/opensource/newbies/newb023.html> below is the section from this page that pertains to tomsrtbt

\*\*\*\*\*

Here's another situation you've accidentally made a typo in /etc/fstab when you reconfigured your system. You meant to write /dev/hda4 as your boot drive but accidentally entered /dev/hda44. Your system is now unable to boot.

Pop in a tomsrtbt floppy, reboot, log in as root, remove the floppy, and proceed as follows

```
# mount -t ext2 /dev/hda4 /mnt
# vi /mnt/etc/fstab
# umount /mnt
```

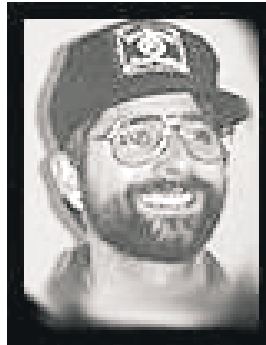
Another common mishap that affects computers is being shutdown incorrectly, say when the lights go out during a power outage and your hard disk suffers some corruption as a consequence.

You can use tomsrtbt to try to fix a corrupted partition (e.g. /dev/hda2). Boot with the tomsrtbt floppy and work on the affected partition using e2fsk# e2fsk -f /dev/hda2

For a badly damaged partition, this command may need to be repeated several times.

If a partition can't be fully repaired, you can sometimes grab off an important file or two anyway, writing them to floppy. When tomsrtbt boots it loads itself completely into memory, freeing up the floppy drive for other uses. Here's an example session showing how you can use a tomsrtbt instance to format a floppy in Linux EXT2 format, mount the newly formatted floppy, mount a HD partition, then copy some important files to the floppy

```
# fdformat /dev/fd0H1440
# mke2fs /dev/fd0
# mkdir /mnt/image
# mkdir /mnt/floppy
# mount -t ext2 /dev/hda4 /mnt/image
# mount -t ext2 /dev/fd0 /mnt/floppy
# cd /mnt/floppy
# cp /mnt/image/etc/*.conf .
# cp /mnt/image/etc/conf.modules .
# cp /mnt/image/var/named/* .
# cp /mnt/image/home/gwilburn/docs/myrecipes.txt .
# cd /mnt
# umount floppy
# umount image
```



**Jeff Zartler**  
**Linux Instructor**

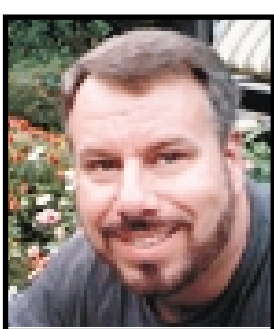
The preceding session used the fdformat, mke2fs, mount, cd and cp commands, all of which are included on tomsrtbt. In this session we rescued our configuration files from /etc, our DNS files from /var/named and an important user-created file.

Odd as it may seem, tomsrtbt can be used a rescue/salvage disk for Windows. Here's a sample session to rescue some files from a Windows system that no longer boots (assuming you've got some spare DOS-formatted diskettes on hand). You can also edit the autoexec.bat file while you're there#  
mkdir /mnt/win# mkdir /mnt/floppy# mount -t vfat /dev/hda1 /mnt/win # mount -t vfat /dev/fd0 /mnt/floppy # vi /mnt/win/autoexec.bat # cd /mnt/floppy # cp /mnt/win/autoexec.bat . # cp /mnt/win/config.sys .  
# cp "/mnt/win/program files/netscape/bookmarks.htm" . # cd /mnt # umount floppy # umount win

By now you should be getting the message about tomsrtbt. Tuck one into your riefcase, knapsack or shirt pocket and carry it around as faithfully as your cell phone. You never know when you might need it. And imagine your friends' astonishment when you help them recover a Windows file using "pocket Linux".

\*\*\*\*\*

Jeff



## **Internet SIG Meeting Columbus Day, Oct 8, 2001, 7:30PM, Lasers and Holograms with Frank DeFrietas**

### **Bill Pryor**

Once in a great while we are able to have a person ahead of his time visit with us to give a presentation. This luminary, Frank DeFrietas, has been doing lasers, holograms, and photography for nearly 20 years now, right here in Allentown, Pa. Holograms are 3-D rendered pictures, and is a fascinating art and science. Frank had been curator at the Lehigh

University Discovery Center in Bethlehem, Pa., and had many great holograms and lasers there. One I especially remember is an old Russian necklace in amber 3-D that popped right out at you, that looked so real, you knew it was there, however, it was really a 3-D hologram.



Frank is proud to have written the current top-selling laser and holography book in the country. He has developed a completely new laser system for holography, and just finished being interviewed for a segment on A&E television that will air in 2002. He will be bringing lasers and a number of holograms -- including computer generated holograms, and holograms made from graphic programs such as Adobe Photoshop

(I can't wait to see this). He will be speaking on how holography got started, where it is now, and where it will be in the future. Since his last visit, lasers have dropped drastically in cost, and now are more solid state driven. For decades, holographers have relied on the expensive Helium-Neon LASER to create holograms. Currently there is a new shift in this technology with the advent of inexpensive semiconductor (diode) LASERS. While a new, 5-milliwatt HeNe LASER will cost around \$800-900, the same power diode laser will run around \$14-15. This is an incredible break-through for holography and those interested in creating your own holograms. Frank will show you how!

Frank is an excellent teacher, and teaches young children at the Franklin Institute, Smithsonian, etc. He was just made an honorary member of Sigma-Pi-Sigma -- the National Physics Honor Society of the American Institute of Physics in Washington, DC for work in his field.

Frank has an excellent working webpage which is known worldwide. <http://www.holoworld.com>. He has received commendations and awards from USA Today, Wired, Popular Science, Blockbuster Home Interactive, etc.

Holography will even be used in creating 3-D memory and 3-D holographic storage. One day TV and home video movies will be shown right-before-your eyes in holographic three dimension. Lasers are used in medicine, CD players, in fiber optics to transmit digital signals on the Internet as well as telephones.

It is great to have a technically versed holography expert who also has a great sense of artistic talent. Let no one kid anybody, art makes the difference. Don't miss this presentation, it will be one of the best for 2001!

We looking forward to seeing everyone. Bring your friends and family!



These holograms do not appear 3D on computer screens

## **Inner Strength**

**Clarence Snyder, W3PYF@aol.com**

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills,  
If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining and boring people with  
your troubles,  
If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful  
for it,  
If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to  
give you time,  
If you can overlook when people take things out on  
you when, through no fault of yours, something goes  
wrong,  
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,  
If you can face the world without lies and deceit,  
If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
If you can relax without liquor,  
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,  
Then ... you are probably a cat or a dog.

## **SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

**Monica Pease, mpease@enter.net**

Living on Earth is expensive,  
but it does include a free trip  
around the sun every year.

Birthdays are good for you;  
the more you have, the longer  
you live.

How long a minute is depends  
on what side of the bathroom  
door you're on.

Ever notice that the people who  
are late are often much jollier  
than the people who have to  
wait for them?

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't  
more people happy.

Most of us go to our grave with  
our music still inside of us.

> >

If Walmart is lowering prices  
every day, how come nothing  
is free yet?

You may be only one person  
in the world, but you may also  
be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much  
fun to only make once.

Don't cry because it's over;  
smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from  
crayons some are sharp,  
some are pretty, some are dull,  
some have weird names, and  
all are different colors.... but  
they all have to learn to live in  
the same box.

Everything should be made as  
simple as possible, but no  
simpler.

A truly happy person is one  
who can enjoy the scenery  
on a detour.

Happiness comes through  
doors you didn't even know  
you left open.

Have an awesome day, and know that someone  
has thought about you today.

## **Einstein**

**Clarence Snyder, W3PYF@aol.com**

When Albert Einstein was making the rounds of the  
speaker's circuit, he usually found himself eagerly  
longing to get back to his laboratory work. One night  
as they were driving to yet another rubber-chicken  
dinner, Einstein mentioned to his chauffeur (a man  
who somewhat resembled Einstein in looks & manner)  
that he was tired of speech making.

"I have an idea, boss," his chauffeur said. "I've  
heard you give this speech so many times. I'll bet I  
could give it for you."

Einstein laughed loudly and said, "Why not? Let's  
do it!"

When they arrive at the dinner, Einstein donned the  
chauffeur's cap and jacket and sat in the back of the  
room. The chauffeur gave a beautiful rendition of  
Einstein's speech and even answered a few questions  
expertly.

Then a supremely pompous professor asked an  
extremely esoteric question about antimatter  
formation, digressing here and there to let everyone in  
the audience know that he was nobody's fool.

Without missing a beat, the chauffeur fixed the  
professor with a steely stare and said, "Sir, the  
answer to that question is so simple that I will let my  
chauffeur, who is sitting in the back, answer it for me."

# Message from Harvard Institute for International Development

## "Harry Traugott" bvgk45a@mail.com



Message From from a guy at  
HIID....(Harvard Institute for International Development -?)

Dear Colleagues,

As we reflect upon the tragic events of this week and an appropriate "response," I thought you might like to see this letter from my college roommate, Tamim Ansary, who grew up in Afghanistan. I think he offers an interesting perspective on Bin Laden, the Taliban, and Afghanistan.

Dear Friends,

Yesterday I heard a lot of talk about "bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age." Ronn Owens, on KGO Talk Radio allowed that this would mean killing innocent people, people who had nothing to do with this atrocity, but "we're at war, we have to accept collateral damage," and he asked, "What else can we do? What is your suggestion?"

Minutes later I heard a TV pundit discussing whether we "have the belly to do what must be done." And I thought about these issues especially hard because I am from Afghanistan, and even though I've lived here for 35 years I've never lost track of what's been going on over there. So I want to share a few thoughts with anyone who will listen.

I speak as one who hates the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden. There is no doubt in my mind that these people were responsible for the atrocity in New York.

I fervently wish to see those monsters punished. But the Taliban and Ben Laden are not Afghanistan. They're not even the government of Afghanistan. The Taliban are a cult of ignorant psychotics who captured Afghanistan in 1997 and have been holding the country in bondage ever since. Bin Laden is a political criminal with a master plan. When you think Taliban, think Nazis.

When you think Bin Laden, think Hitler. And when you think "the people of Afghanistan," think "the Jews in the concentration camps." It's not only that the Afghan people had nothing to do with this atrocity. They were the first victims of the perpetrators. They would love for someone to eliminate the Taliban and clear out the rat's nest of international thugs holed up in their country. I guarantee it.

Some say, if that's the case, why don't the Afghans rise up and overthrow the Taliban themselves? The answer is, they're starved, exhausted, damaged, and incapacitated. A few years ago, the United Nations estimated that there are 500,000 disabled orphans in Afghanistan a country with no economy, no food. Millions of Afghans are widows of the approximately two million men killed during the war with the Soviets. And the Taliban has been executing these women for being women and has buried some of their opponents alive in mass graves. The soil of Afghanistan is littered with land mines and almost all the farms have been destroyed. The Afghan people have tried to overthrow the Taliban. They haven't been able to.

We come now to the question of bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age. The trouble with that scheme is, it's already been done. The Soviets took care of it. Make the Afghans suffer? They're already suffering. Level their houses? Done. Turn their schools into piles of rubble? Done. Eradicate their hospitals? Done. Destroy their infrastructure? There is no infrastructure. Cut them off from medicine and health care? Too late. Someone already did all that. New bombs would only land in the rubble of earlier bombs. Would they at least get the Taliban? Not likely. In today's Afghanistan, only the Taliban eat; only they have the means to move around. They'd slip away and hide. (They have already, I hear.) Maybe the bombs would get some of those disabled orphans they don't move too fast, they don't even have wheelchairs. But flying over Kabul and dropping bombs wouldn't really be a strike against the criminals who did this horrific thing. Actually it would be making common cause with the Taliban by raping once again the people they've been raping all this time.

So what else can be done, then? Let me now speak with true fear and trembling. The only way to get Bin Laden is to go in there with ground troops. I think that when people speak of "having the belly to do what needs to be done" many of them are thinking in terms of having the belly to kill as many as needed. They are thinking about overcoming moral qualms about killing innocent people. But it's the belly to die not kill that's actually on the table. Americans will die in a land war to get Bin Laden. And not just because some Americans would die fighting their way through Afghanistan to Bin Laden's hideout. It's much bigger than that, folks. To get any troops to Afghanistan, we'd have to go through Pakistan. Would they let us? Not likely. The conquest of Pakistan would have to be first. Will other Muslim nations just stand by? You see where I'm going. The invasion approach is a flirtation with global war between Islam and the West. And that is Bin Laden's program. That's exactly what he wants and why he did this thing. Read his speeches and statements. It's all right there. At the moment, of course, "Islam" as such does not exist. There are Muslims and there are Muslim countries, but no such political entity as Islam. Bin Laden believes that if he can get a war started, he can constitute this entity and he'd be running it. He really believes Islam would beat the west. It might seem ridiculous, but he figures if he can polarize the world into Islam and the West, he's got a billion soldiers. If the West wreaks a holocaust in Muslim lands, that's a billion people with nothing left to lose, even better from Bin Laden's point of view. He's probably wrong about winning, in the end the west would probably overcome whatever that would mean in such a war; but the war would last for years and millions would die, not just theirs but ours. Who has the belly for that? Bin Laden yes, but anyone else?

I don't have a solution. But I do believe that suffering and poverty are the soil in which terrorism grows. Bin Laden and his cohorts want to bait us into creating more such soil, so they and their kind can flourish. We can't let him do that.

That's my humble opinion.  
Tamim Ansary

## 100 Reasons To Celebrate The Dot Com Bust by Joanna Broder, [bcjoanna@qwest.net](mailto:bcjoanna@qwest.net)

1. Real-estate ads will stop saying, "Charming 900-square-foot fixer-upper is real bargain at \$750,000."
2. No more pretending you actually thought Business 2.0 was something you wanted to read.
3. Your boss is older than you again.
4. Streets are no longer blocked for weekly presidential visits.
5. We never knew what to say at launch parties anyway. "Yeah, eYada.com sounds real viable to me."
6. Capitalists need no longer be referred to as "angels."
7. Your neighborhood dry cleaner and shoe repair shop are less likely to go out of business.
8. The arugula shortage is over.
9. College grads can be enthusiastic again about making \$29k a year at a worthwhile nonprofit.
10. We no longer have to see William Shatner reminding us, "You know what to do, dawg! Bust a moooooove."
11. Elvis Costello should never have had to play parties where people were younger than the song "Alison."
12. Super Bowl ads can go back to being frogs and Wassup? again.
13. Children shouldn't own cell phones.
14. The smug prick who fired us six months ago is scanning name tags and handing out his résumé at pink-slip parties.
15. Day traders can return to their original careers--Amway salesmen.
16. We no longer have to abide by absurd company titles like "Chief Goatee Boy," "Chief Ponytail Guy" or the chipper/condescending "Office Mom."
17. Dogs probably weren't really ever meant to come to work.
18. Twenty-eight is too early for a midlife crisis.
19. Independent bookstores will remain more than just places to browse for titles before buying online and will stop going out of business.
20. Fewer coke-and-stripper binges means more time to work on tell-all memoir.
21. Paying for one's own \$7 beers functionally limits incipient alcoholism.
22. Rats accustomed to foie gras leftovers are now dying out.
23. A Foosball table is no longer considered office equipment.
24. Now that portfolio's gone, no more annoying frantic margin calls from broker.
25. We can say goodbye to a simplicity movement that confused cleaner closets with cleansing the soul.
26. Lunch hour was meant for lunch, not yoga.
27. We can find receptionists who speak in complete sentences, and



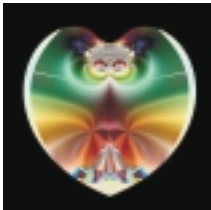
use words like "Please" and "Yes."

28. Dorky, geek eyewear has returned to its preboom statusdorky and geek.
29. We no longer have to listen to "You live on less than \$90,000 a year? How do you do it?"
30. The crash hit before "click-n-sniff" was perfected.
31. With stocks as a bad conversational gambit, party chatter can return to its proper content--gossip, backbiting and rumor-mongering.
32. Silicon Valley's aspiring trophy wives can now get a life. Or at least a job at the auto show.
33. There are fewer clueless yuppies with purebred puppies pretending to be animal lovers in the park.
34. No more stupid logos that resemble children's toys, animals, flying electrons or the Nike swoosh.
35. We can look forward to dramatic TV programs about laid-off dotcomers looking for something emotional and human, with titles like My So-Called Stock Options, Offline and Burnt Beyond Recognition.
36. Fewer people from New York are moving here.
37. Dumb ideas can die with the dignity of never being funded, instead of being pitched to pension funds as lucrative investments.
38. We no longer have to dance under a cloud of the Clinique fragrance "Happy" in local clubs.
39. Those of us who never bought in (and thought we missed out) can once again raise our heads with dignity.
40. Starbucks can return to its status as the coffee belt for soccer moms, cops and professors, not aspiring entrepreneurs who can't afford office space.
41. We've seen the last of incomprehensible dotcom advertisements for incomprehensible clients during the Super Bowl.
42. Elegant restaurants can return to being a place for intimate gatherings between friends and lovers, not corporate hangouts for swarms of polo shirts trying to bond.
43. Accepting all that customer-appreciation graft--the free dog food, the maps, \$10-off certificates--made us feel kind of sordid anyway.
44. Hello grad school!
45. No more dotcom nonsense on freeway billboards. They made even The Gap ads seem clever.
46. We can book a room and a massage in the wine country without a yearlong wait.
47. Lines at the coffeehouse no longer snake out the door because of people ordering 12-packs of double caramel macchiato, with whip.
48. No more rants about "shallow Californians" from people who moved to California because they thought they could get rich quick.
49. Experience and talent can once again mean something.
50. All that shouting over cubicles, using excessive profanity and gorging on junk food didn't really reflect the company's mission statement.
51. Webvan won't have to change its logo again and PacBell Park, thankfully, will have to replace its Webvan cupholders.

**100 Reasons To Celebrate The Dot Com Bust**

- 52. Evening visits to supermarkets will replace chat rooms as the pickup spots of choice.
- 53. Maybe San Francisco will get some of its soul back.
- 54. Launch parties were becoming love-ins for former sorority sisters and frat boys.
- 55. Teens with pink hair who listen to MP3s for a living no longer get paid more than the national median wage.
- 56. Because an REI outfit doesn't go with an ROI discussion.
- 57. We no longer have to see Whoopi Goldberg stumping for Flooz.com.
- 58. The dotcom generation will have to retire at 60 after all--not 30.
- 59. Grandparents will stop asking us about this "Internut mumbo jumbo."
- 60. We might not have to wait a century or two for DSL installation.
- 61. Job attention span for twentysomethings can pass four months.
- 62. We don't have to put up with unsolicited career advice from recent high school grads who think that the Ray of Light album is old-school Madonna.
- 63. Too many intellectual property lawyers were being spawned.
- 64. All of that free pizza and soft drink consumption was going to end up as a whopping Medicare bill around 2050 or so.
- 65. There are fewer people in skin-tight Spandex on \$7,000 bikes that they don't know how to ride.
- 66. No more Solutions Architects.
- 67. Smarmy landlords have to go groveling for tenants again and engage in the humiliating process of upgrading their property before charging exorbitant rents.
- 68. Al Gore has stopped boasting that he invented the Internet.
- 69. We can return to more aesthetic ballpark names like Candlestick and Fenway--and fewer like 3Com, PacBell, Network Associates and Compaq.
- 70. There will be enough yellow beets and old vine zinfandel to go around at restaurants.
- 71. People finally have been forced to trade their gas-guzzling, highway-hogging, rollover-happy SUVs for cars you can see past of when riding behind them.
- 72. Money didn't buy refinement.
- 73. Civil service employees can go back to surfing for porn on their work computers, instead of constantly checking their stocks on the Internet.
- 74. Extraterrestrials will revert to visiting rural Midwesterners for attention, rather than wealthy young web CEOs.
- 75. People finally agree that dropping out of college after reading HTML for Dummies wasn't such a good idea after all.
- 76. Coming to a bookstore near youPoverty for Dummies and Down and Out in Palo Alto.

- 77. The .com TLD isn't tacked onto every company's name, regardless of its product or service.
- 78. Slacker II.
- 79. Humvee limos aren't parked in front of every nice restaurant on Friday night.
- 80. Price/earnings ratios can orbit back from their parallel universe to the old textbook reality we know and love.
- 81. Service workers under the age of 30 will actually show up for work again.
- 82. Working at Lockheed has regained a measure of cachet.
- 83. All those "Silicon" place names were monotonous and unimaginative. Silicon Alley? Silicon Forest? What was next? Silicon Bowery? Silicon Rockies?
- 84. Kids will stop mistaking Bill Gates for the President of the United States.
- 85. After two years of trying to hail a cab in San Francisco, you can actually get one.
- 86. Silly topiary projects, untrimmed since the 2000 Q2 financials came out, are regaining their natural shape.
- 87. Stupid people are no longer "visionary," now just plain stupid.
- 88. You are finally able to determine who your real friends are (Sorry, friend).
- 89. Wearing Armani to pick up your unemployment check makes welfare fashionable again.
- 90. We're finally able to reach the eighth level of CoolBoarders.
- 91. Unemployed guys + unemployed gals = great sympathy sex.
- 92. A new last-hope websiteSparechange.com.
- 93. Excessive, tasteless spending can go back to its proper domainsaging English rock stars and one-hit-wonder hip-hop artists.
- 94. No more stock tips from the newspaper boy.
- 95. Liquidation auctions feature excellent prices on Aeron chairs.
- 96. We can wake up to alarm clock music again, not nail guns from a neighbor's monster home addition.
- 97. Walking someone to the door will once again be considered a courteous gesture.
- 98. An American Studies degree will no longer qualify one for employment at a high technology company.
- 99. Just like they said about the '60sIt had to end sometime. Thank God.
- 100. Psychiatrists are no longer suicidal from treating cases of "Sudden Wealth Syndrome."





**Val Scarcia, Editor**  
**mrval@rcn.com**



A perceptive outlook on the new war

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From Dr. Tony Kern, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Recently, I was asked to look at the recent events through the lens of military history. I have joined the cast of thousands who have written an "open letter to Americans."

Dear friends and fellow Americans

14 September, 2001

Like everyone else in this great country, I am reeling from last week's attack on our sovereignty. But unlike some, I am not reeling from surprise. As a career soldier and a student and teacher of military history, I have a different perspective and I think you should hear it. This war will be won or lost by the American citizens, not diplomats, politicians or soldiers. Let me briefly explain.

In spite of what the media, and even our own government is telling us, this act was not committed by a group of mentally deranged fanatics. To dismiss them as such would be among the gravest of mistakes. This attack was committed by a ferocious, intelligent and dedicated adversary. Don't take this the wrong way. I don't admire these men and I deplore their tactics, but I respect their capabilities. The many parallels that have been made with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are apropos. Not only because it was a brilliant sneak attack against a complacent America, but also because we may well be pulling our new adversaries out of caves 30 years after we think this war is over, just like my father's generation had to do with the formidable Japanese in the years following WW II.

These men hate the United States with all of their being, and we must not underestimate the power of their moral commitment. Napoleon, perhaps the world's greatest combination of soldier and statesman, stated "the moral is to the physical as three is to one." Patton thought the Frenchman underestimated its importance and said moral conviction was five times more important in battle than physical strength. Our enemies are willing - better said anxious -- to give their lives for their cause. How committed are we America? And for how long? In addition to demonstrating great moral conviction, the recent attack demonstrated a mastery of some of the basic fundamentals of warfare taught to most military officers worldwide, namely simplicity, security and surprise. When I first heard rumors that some of these men may have been trained at our own Air War College, it made perfect sense to me. This was not a random act of violence, and we can expect the same sort of military competence to be displayed in the battle to come.

This war will escalate, with a good portion of it happening right here in the good ol' U.S. of A. These men will not go easily into the night. They do not fear us. We must not fear them. In spite of our overwhelming conventional strength as the world's only "superpower" (a truly silly term), we are the underdog in this fight. As you listen to the carefully scripted rhetoric designed to prepare us for the march for war, please realize that America is not equipped or seriously trained for the battle ahead. To be certain, our soldiers are much better than the enemy, and we have some excellent "counter-terrorist" organizations, but they are mostly trained for hostage rescues, airfield seizures, or the occasional "body snatch," (which may come in handy). We will be fighting a war of annihilation, because if their early efforts are any indication, our enemy is ready and willing to die to the last man. Eradicating the enemy will be costly and time consuming. They have already deployed their forces in as many as 20 countries, and are likely living the lives of everyday citizens.

Simply put, our soldiers will be tasked with a search and destroy mission on multiple foreign landscapes, and the public must be patient and supportive until the strategy and tactics can be worked out.

For the most part, our military is still in the process of redefining itself and presided over by men and women who grew up with - and were promoted because they excelled in - Cold War doctrine, strategy and tactics. This will not be linear warfare, there will be no clear "centers of gravity" to strike with high technology weapons. Our vast technological edge will certainly be helpful, but it will not be decisive. Perhaps the perfect metaphor for the coming battle was introduced by the terrorists themselves aboard the hijacked aircraft -- this will be a knife fight, and it will be won or lost by the ingenuity and will of citizens and soldiers, not by software or smart bombs. We must also be patient with our military leaders.

Unlike Americans who are eager to put this messy time behind us, our adversaries have time on their side, and they will use it. They plan to fight a battle of attrition, hoping to drag the battle out until the American public loses its will to fight. This might be difficult to believe in this euphoric time of flag waving and patriotism, but it is generally acknowledged that America lacks the stomach for a long fight. We need only look as far back as Vietnam, when North Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap (also a military history teacher) defeated the United States of America without ever winning a major tactical battle. American soldiers who marched to war cheered on by flag waving Americans in 1965 were reviled and spat upon less than three years later when they returned. Although we hope that Usama Bin Laden is no Giap, he is certain to understand and employ the concept. We

can expect not only large doses of pain like the recent attacks, but also less audacious "sand in the gears" tactics, ranging from livestock infestations to attacks at water supplies and power distribution facilities.

These attacks are designed to hit us in our "comfort zone" forcing the average American to "pay more and play less" and eventually eroding our resolve. But it can only work if we let it. It is clear to me that the will of the American citizenry - you and I - is the center of gravity the enemy has targeted. It will be the fulcrum upon which victory or defeat will turn. He believes us to be soft, impatient, and self-centered. He may be right, but if so, we must change. The Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz, (the most often quoted and least read military theorist in history), says that there is a "remarkable trinity of war" that is composed of the (1) will of the people, (2) the political leadership of the government, and (3) the chance and probability that plays out on the field of battle, in that order.

Every American citizen was in the crosshairs of last Tuesday's attack, not just those that were unfortunate enough to be in the World Trade Center or Pentagon. The will of the American people will decide this war. If we are to win, it will be because we have what it takes to persevere through a few more hits, learn from our mistakes, improvise, and adapt. If we can do that, we will eventually prevail.

Everyone I've talked to in the past few days has shared a common frustration, saying in one form or another "I just wish I could do something!" You are already doing it. Just keep faith in America, and continue to support your President and military, and the outcome is certain. If we fail to do so, the outcome is equally certain.

God Bless America, Dr. Tony Kern, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Former Director of Military History, USAF Academy

Please forward this to everyone you know. I hope you agree that the message is very clear and must be understood by every citizen of this country. ----- End of forwarded message -----

**Order Sequel to Versailles, 1685 from Dreamcatcher Games**  
**Sue and Florian Janoski, fjanlis@ptd.net**

A couple of weeks ago Michael was looking for information on the possible North American release of a new game, a sequel to Versailles 1685. I contacted Dreamcatcher's Customer Support Mgr. When she, Lorraine Lue, arrived back in the country, she let me know that Versailles II will NOT be released in North America. The English version, however, is scheduled for release in the U.K. during November of this year. There is no actual ship date available yet.

Here's the good part. Dreamcatcher would like to know how many of us are interested in buying a copy of Versailles 2. If enough people are interested Dreamcatcher will attempt to get copies for us directly.....

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi Gang.....

Thanks to your rousing response and our special arrangements , Boomers are now able to order Versailles 2 directly through Dreamcatcher. Just forward an email to lorraine@dreamcatchergames.com as follows all fields with \* require input  
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Put VERSAILLES 2 in the SUBJECT line

\*First Name

\*Last Name

\*Billing Address

Shipping Address(if different)

\*Email Address

\*Daytime Phone Number

\*Evening Phone Number

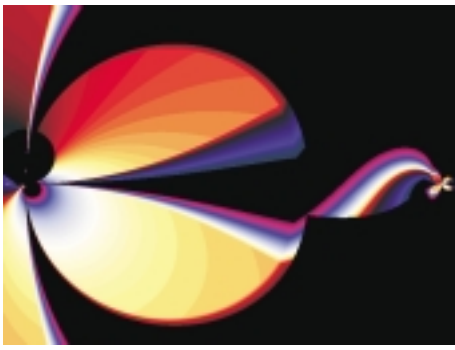
\*Number of copies

Its important that Dreamcatcher has your telephone number, as they will call you to collect credit card information. The game is \$19.95 US dollars. The shipping cost is done on a case by case basis as it will be shipped directly from Canada. They accept VISA, MasterCard and American Express.

Love, Witchen =O)

P.S. Our Boomers across the pond can purchase the game come November through their usual outlets.<http://www.gameboomers.com/cgi-bin/forumdisplay.cgi?action=topics&forum=ADVENTURE+GAMES+DISCUSSION&number=2&DaysPrune=20&LastLogin=>

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# FRACTALS

Fractals  
by Bill Pryor

August 18, 2001

One of the most interesting concepts resulting from the development of computers and PCs is the concept of fractals. A fractal is a unit of self-similarity, where the smaller or microscopic part resembles the whole. The mathematics to this idea is simple. Fractals work by a property called incursion or iteration, where the results of a simple equation is fed back into the same basic equation with a new value continuously. Before computers, this idea existed in the minds of mathematicians, but had no practical purpose, since one would have to sit there and plug in numbers millions of times to produce continuous answers of graphical points in a "loop." The most famous fractal equations are the Mandelbrot and Julia sets. Before computers, these sets really had no meaning and were more theoretical than anything, and would appear in a mathematics textbook as a blob on a page. **Computers have defined and created fractals.**

There is no question in my mind that in 1961 the **first simple computers changed mathematics** when the emphasis on fractal sets used the iterative power of a computer. Although mathematicians at this point would like to say they knew what was going to happen, and they are the basic reason fractals exist, is nonsense. Fractals really exist from the technological development of CPUs, RAM, pixels, etc., and the everyday programming everyone takes for granted now in a PC.

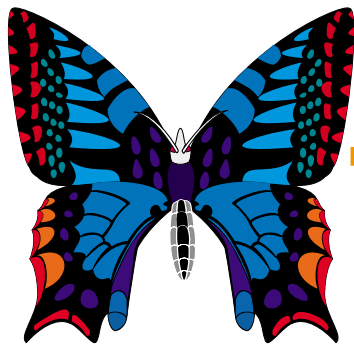
The reason I have been so interested in fractals is really the amazing beauty, shapes and colors they produce. Once I see beauty like this, I am going to understand it in my own way, in my own terms. I have used fractals in my design work for years. Fractals are excellent for producing graphics and effects in layout and design work for brochures, magazines, webpages, etc.

From this iteration principle Chaos Theory was born when people like Lorentz in 1961 rounded off six-place decimal fractions to three, and saw their output results change drastically. Chaos Theory is the idea of trying to take disorder and create some basic pattern of understanding or order; since fractals have self-similarity in their structure and composition, they are used to measure shore lines, coastal regions, clouds, etc. Long range weather forecasting would include Chaos Theory. Some dreamers even think they can use Chaos Theory to predict the outcome of the stock market.

Even the idea of fractal compression is a logical outgrowth, since a fractal is an iteration of self-similarity, you can create an algorithm or recipe to compress a picture much like JPG or GIF. Some people and companies have patents on this iterative idea.

I will cover and discuss fractals, Mandelbrot and Julia sets, Chaos Theory, iteration and incursion, graphing of simple functions, imaginary numbers, how colors are assigned to fractal shapes. How to use fractal generators to produce your own fractals, colors, and designs. How different mathematical equations produce different fractals. Why fractals as we know them never existed before PCs. How computers have changed mathematics. How to use fractals in design and layout work. How Mandelbrot now known as the "Father of Fractals" really borrowed his ideas from the Julia set written in 1890. How Julia and Mandelbrot sets are related. What is a complex number? What is a real number? Why do mathematicians use imaginary numbers? What is a graph? What are the x and y components in fractal equations?

Fractals are cool!



# THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

The Butterfly Effect  
by Bill Pryor

August 14, 2001

Can the flapping of a butterfly's wing in India cause a hurricane in Texas? The answer to this question is known as the butterfly effect. The "butterfly effect" named and discovered by Dr. Edwin Lorenz, a meteorologist at MIT, is an example of **how computers have changed the field of mathematics.**

The butterfly effect is the idea that in a chaotic system, a very small change to the system applied at a certain point in time makes the future change in a very dramatic fashion. Something as small as a butterfly flapping its wings now might affect the weather system on a global scale six months in the future.

In 1960 Lorenz tried to model the weather. He wrote simplified equations and solved them on a primitive computer. Believe it or not, his output did behave a lot like real weather.

One day, Lorenz tried to continue a run he'd done the day before. He restarted it halfway through. He put in a number from the first run. The output started out just the way it had the day before. Then it began to diverge, drastically.

The equations were the same. The starting point was the same. But the results were different. Lorenz checked his computer, first he thought a vacuum tube was bad, but it wasn't. He checked his arithmetic. Nothing had changed. Same equations, but on subsequent days the results diverged.

There was one difference, however, but how could it matter? Lorenz rounded off the fourth decimal place of the starting number on the second day. Instead of using .501147 he used .501. So he stopped and reflected. All weather predictions do what his program just did. You can predict the weather for the day after tomorrow. Stretch that to a week, and your prediction always departs from reality.

The implication was staggering. We've always presumed that if you barely change a cause, you'll barely change the effect. Suddenly, Lorenz saw that the weather would utterly change if you started things out just a little differently.

No wonder real weather is so unpredictable! Weather obeys physical laws. But if you change one breath of air, those laws will become a wholly different story.

Meteorologists began talking about the Butterfly Effect. The idea was that if a butterfly flaps his wings in Beijing in March, then, by August, hurricane patterns in the Atlantic will be completely different.

Not long after that day in 1960, the scientific world began changing. Perhaps all kinds of problems we can't solve are strange just because we can never state them accurately enough. This was the beginning of chaos theory.

*Lorenz had taken the first step on the road to showing that our world is far more chaotic than we dreamed. For generations engineers and scientists have been predicting things. But we've only predicted those things that are predictable -- the breaking load on beams -- the thrust of a rocket. This is known because these equations were linear mathematical equations and obeyed cause and effect relationships. The equations that represent long term weather are basically chaotic and are sensitive to very minute changes.*

And weather, of course, is just one face of the larger things we all want to know, but which we never shall predict. Somewhere in the world, a butterfly will always flap its wings and alter our age old craving to predict our own future.



## ANTHRAX

### *Bill Pryor, Unplugged*

Some of the younger people might think of anthrax as a rock group. Some computer users might have their machines infected by anthrax virus written in computer code. The main worry is germ warfare, using virulent strains of viruses such as anthrax to infect populations, especially in a terrorist environment.

#### **Information Paper (U.S. Dept of Defense) Anthrax as a Biological Warfare Agent**

- Anthrax is the preferred biological warfare agent because:
  - It is highly lethal.
  - 100 million lethal doses per gram of anthrax material (100,000 times deadlier than the deadliest chemical warfare agent).
  - Silent, invisible killer.
  - Inhalational anthrax is virtually always fatal.
  - There are low barriers to production.
  - Low cost of producing the anthrax material.
  - Not high-technology. Knowledge is widely available.
  - Easy to produce in large quantities.
- It is easy to weaponize.
  - It is extremely stable. It can be stored almost indefinitely as a dry powder.
  - It can be loaded, in a freeze-dried condition, in munitions or disseminated as an aerosol with crude sprayers.
- Currently, we have a limited detection capability.
- What is Anthrax?
  - Anthrax is a naturally occurring disease of plant eating animals (goats, sheep, cattle, wine, etc.) caused by the bacterium Bacillus anthracis.
  - It is an illness which has been recognized since antiquity. Anthrax was common in essentially all areas where livestock are raised. Intensive livestock immunization programs have greatly reduced the occurrence of the disease among both animals and humans in much of the world, an most outbreaks occur in areas where immunization programs have not been implemented or have become compromised (primarily Africa and Asia; however, outbreaks occurred during the mid- 1 990's in Haiti and the former Soviet Union).
- Anthrax spores can remain viable for several decades under suitable environmental conditions; thus, absence of cases does not equate to absence of risk.
- Humans can contract anthrax in three ways:
  - Through cuts or breaks in the skin resulting from contact with an infected animal (cutaneous anthrax), resulting in local and possibly systemic (bloodstream) infection.
  - From breathing anthrax spores (termed "woolsorters" disease) resulting in an infection of the lungs

# ANTHRAX (continued)

(inhalational anthrax).

- From eating infected meat, resulting in gastrointestinal infection (gastrointestinal anthrax).  
Gastrointestinal anthrax is generally not considered a threat to U.S. forces.
- What are the symptoms?
- Symptoms of anthrax begin after a 1 to 6 day incubation period following exposure.
- For contact or cutaneous anthrax, itching will occur at the site of exposure followed by the formation of a lesion. Untreated contact anthrax has a fatality rate of 5-20 percent, but with effective antibiotic treatment, few deaths occur.
- Initial symptoms for inhalational anthrax are generally non-specific: low grade fever, a dry hacking cough, and weakness. The person may briefly improve after 2 to 4 days; however within 24 hours after this brief improvement, respiratory distress occurs with shock and death following shortly thereafter.
- Almost all cases of inhalational anthrax, in which treatment was begun after patients have exhibited symptoms, have resulted in death, regardless of post-exposure treatment.
- What is the medical countermeasure?
- Prior to exposure, prevention through vaccination, using the FDA-licensed vaccine.
- Otherwise, antibiotics such as penicillin, ciprofloxacin, and doxycycline are the drugs of choice for treatment of anthrax.
- Treatment with antibiotics must begin prior to the onset of symptoms and must include vaccination prior to discontinuing their use.
- The use of antibiotics keep the patient alive until their body can build an immunity to anthrax via vaccination. After symptoms appear however, inhalational anthrax is almost always fatal, regardless of treatment.

[http://www.defenselink.mil/other\\_info/agent.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/other_info/agent.html)

## SMALLPOX

A copycat scenario to the World Trade Center is a terrorist who intentionally gets smallpox, knowing he is going to die, visits a doomed city, and coughs and sneezes over everyone, spreading this deadly disease in public places like restaurants, subways, airports, colleges, schools, stadiums, supermarkets, shopping centers, churches, apartments, etc.. This is the human version of a kamikaze attack. According to CNN in an emergency, there is only currently enough production capacity to protect 7% of the population by vaccine.

A little reading of history one realizes plagues in the Dark Ages almost wiped out entire populations. Even tuberculosis wiped out millions. Germ warfare is not far fetched and could easily be accomplished.. This is not nearly as far fetched as an attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

We hope you have enjoyed our Newsletter

