



January, 2001

Volume Four, Number One

The Request:

End/Beginning of Millennium Opportunity.

As last minute as it gets.

One or two sentences.

One or two paragraphs.

Will I do it?

How can I not.

The Responses:

Bob Moses:

Ten years ago I was trying to escape the physical world for a virtual world of my own imagination. Mortal humans were not interesting anymore. I wanted to be an electronic replica of something else. At the height of my cyberpubescence, I built the Astral Plane - a machine that converted people's shadows into light and allowed them to play with other light beings in a computer generated universe. This 50 square foot machine titillated people at the Bumbershoot Arts Festival, but became a burdensome contraption soon afterward.

Until I met a woman who was recruiting people and things for her fledgling community center in Seattle's Central District. There I discovered that my spiritual toaster was a great toy for kids, and the kids became my world. For ten years these kids have showed me that the real Astral Plane is right here around me. Not in the physical world, it's somewhere that no electron will ever take me. Today the Astral Plane is a room divider at the community center. 1)Once in awhile it gets turned on and people wonder what kind of wierdo would build something like that. What they don't know is that it was indeed a gateway from the physical world to a better place - but the better place is right where they are standing.

Craig Ander ton:

Are you leaving this place in better shape than when you found it?

Tom Vigal :

Here's a sentence for you: I don't know how cyber it is, but I'm sending this New Years greeting from a computer hooked up at the back of a Hill Tribe crafts shop in Pai in

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northern Thailand near the Burmese border after a day and a half dirtbiking through the mountains. From dodging elephant shit and riding through the jungle for hours to sitting and wondering if the browser on this machine is the latest version is a leap I think we almost take for granted now.

I don't think this is Starbuck's in this cup, though... Happy New Year!

Einar Ask:

Hiya Gang!

Good to see ya. Geez, how long's it been? I miss the good old days of oohs and ahhs over emerging technologies. And wrestling with ways to make better use of what's gathering dust around us already. It's New Year's Eve 2000 and "2001: A Space Odyssey" is playing on DVD in the other room. Hmmm. Last time I wrote in this Cyberartist context, I hadn't guessed we were that close to a CD-sized disc giving good quality video and audio and all the other treats like alternative sound tracks and "making of" featurettes. Now I'd be unhappy without it!

Funny how work changes. 10 years ago it was desktop publishing for print. Then web design. Then e-commerce. Some soundtrack work on the side. This week it's desktop video. I'm finally able to combine my music studio fun with promotional materials for work. And I'm still able to use new technology without throwing out my old analog equipment. Here's my cyber tool plug for the month: I love the Sony DVMC-DA2 Analog/Digital converter. And Firewire. The converter allows you to use all your analog video gear on the play back and record side of a Firewire equipped piece of digital video gear. The Buggles were wrong! "Video Killed the Radio Star?" I don't think so. It just gave him another medium to tinker with. :o)

For Christmas my son Andreas (who's now 10) got the Lego Mindstorms Robotics In-

vention Kit (<http://www.lego.com>) and he's already got a pile of routines written for several small robots. My how things change. He's doing things I couldn't figure out just a few years ago. What a fabulous toy.

Have a great new Millennium, cyber-dudes! See Ya!

Einar

Craig Rosenberg:

We have built a car and set it in motion, but this is no ordinary car. The doors in our car are open and the travelers are both constantly increasing and constantly changing. Every day the engine of our car grows, becoming exponentially more powerful.

In our car the accelerator continues to be driven further to floorboards that are nowhere in sight. Do the floorboards exist? Can we continue to accelerate continually? Can we avoid obstacles in the road? Will we surpass the speed of light in our ever accelerating car and transcend ourselves? What are the limits of limits?

Steve Turnidge:

The future is now... Here at the fulcrum of the ages it is time once again, to: Accept Reality, Choose Independence and Take Action.

We are living in a time when future shock is a thing of the past. Like breaking the sound barrier, we have escaped the friction that slowed the system. There are fewer clues as to what the future looks like. We remain in a perpetual now...

In December of 1992, a transition occurred. A local Seattle electronic musician hobby club saw the future, and activated it. NEMUS (Northwest Electronic MUSicians) was founded in 1985 as an organization of electronic musicians and enthusiasts who would meet monthly to discuss music, synthesis and digital technology.

That group evolved into Northwest Cyber-Artists. Inspired by the union of Art and Technology and a charter to deliver its members into the future better prepared for things to come. For now.