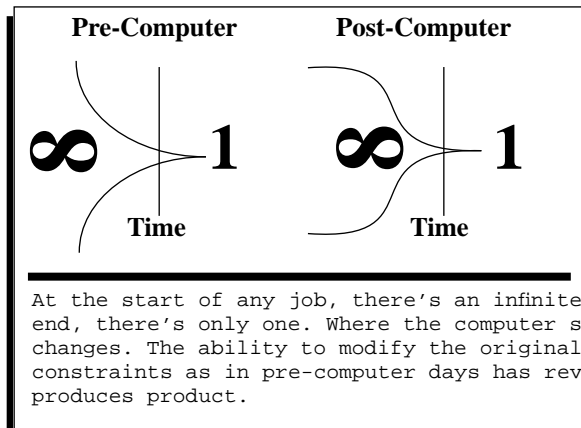




It's Miller Time

“It’s amazing what a few beers will do for you. Every woman becomes beautiful and the music becomes magic, especially if the band’s any good at all...” RM

As a chorus of *Deacon Blues* echoed forth from a **Steely Dan** wannabe, RM knew the musicianship was superb but the undefinable essence of the “first time” in creating something new was obviously lacking. He always believed that to produce anything new is always more difficult than to edit while doing repeats is even easier. This is why, to him, the computer’s role in modern civilization could be readily defined: *The time to produce anything new remains the same whether it’s done by brush, pencil or computer. Where the computer excels centers on the changes that can made to the original because digital information remains infinitely malleable without loss of data integrity.*

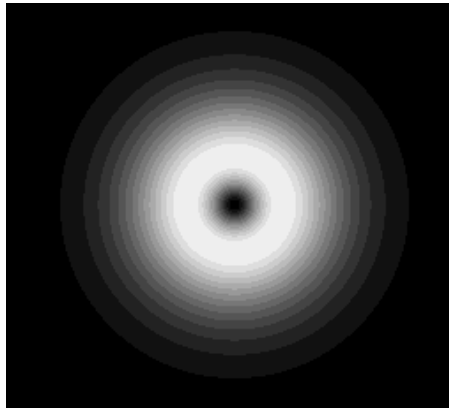




This is one of the reasons why there's little soul in most computer art. Once the first piece is done, knockoffs are too easy to do. Look at the endless parade of slick ads on video. Eye candy for all to experience then gone like "a runner in the night."

Could this "soulless feeling be the same in a bar? With Bass Ale as ballast, RM thought of love & longing, where life remains thankfully analog with slippage and softness. Where emotion and touch keep us off balance. Where love generates feelings impossible to describe yet hit us 'there', in the heart. Frustrating and all too real; impossible to dismiss as "just another thing to think about".....

But digital art? Digital life? Will all this tech become too easy? Once the hardware/software constraints are removed (ease of use, power & bandwidth), only the brain dead will be unable to work with computers and that could be interesting.





Dream Sequence One

“Hal! I can’t believe it!! You actually want to learn how to read?”

“Yes!”

“But why??” The NET gives you everything doesn’t it? All you have to do is simply ask COMPUTER what you want and there it is. Why go to the trouble of learning how to read! It will take years and you will be different from nearly everybody else. Including your mother!”

Dream Sequence Two

“Well, it’s time to link into the NET again. Need to get information to do my project on Nanotech and Solar Collector technology. Between Cyberspace and VR, I’m able to move through all of the relevant databases to get the information I need to design my own system.”

“I’m doing the same thing on architecture. I want to build a modern Victorian House to go on the property I just purchased and I couldn’t do it if we didn’t have the NET. I’m not an architect but the information’s there that will allow me to do most of the work. Artificial Intelligence and Fiber Optics certainly has changed things for the better. Too bad they couldn’t help out our weather. Global warming’s truly frightening. “



Behind Door No. 1 or 2? Only time will tell.





Passion's edge

*And I thought well as well him as another
and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again
yes and then he asked me would I yes to say yes
my mountain flower and first I put my arms
around him yes and drew him down to me
so he could feel my breasts all perfume yes
and his heart was going like mad and yes I
said yes I will Yes. - Penelope, closing words
James Joyce - Ulysses 1922*

Slowly, RM looked around the Guggenheim. Soft white walls, deeply etched by the gently descending walkway that spiraled around the inner walls of the museum, allowed the viewer a unique glimpse into the passage of life as expressed by the abstract American painter Mark Rothko. At the top of the spiral, the paintings shimmered with the intensity of a fine summer's day. Cascading yellows, oranges and touches of green revealed the soul of a man with frightening intensity. "So this is how you show reality. No words here, just unbridled emotion streaming out of someone willing to risk all in sharing his innermost thoughts with everyone. Can I ever do that? Do I have the courage. Do I have the talent? & most of all DO I HAVE THE INTEGRITY?" He still doesn't know....

Looking down to lower levels, colors shifted from joy to sorrow. Purples, browns and indigos replaced the days of summer as the psyche of this brilliant man shatters. Shattered by the theft of his work by the Marlborough, the gallery that made him famous.

“Funny” RM thought, “Why hasn’t there ever been an study of this kind mental deterioration as seen through the eyes of an great artist? Once you see this, you really learn what real betrayal’s all about.”

For hours, RM could not get the retrospective out of his mind. Seeing Rothko’s work in person overwhelmed him with it’s uncompromising honesty and it’s technical virtuosity. Zen and the art of “really” seeing permeated all of Rothko’s pieces with unremitting consistency.

This “art” of really seeing also applies to Edwin Hopper and his oils of seductive luminosity. “Where does the light come from? How the hell does he do it? It’s there yet not there... like a dream...mysterious and distant yet pulling me in, making me want to see what’s around the corner or behind the door. You know, the one on the left, the one that’s open just a bit...”

“See *Nighthawks* with it’s evocative 3:00AM feel.and THEN listen to “Black Cow”. Somehow it fits. How it does I don’t know but it doesn’t matter. As long as it works, that’s the thing. All the rest is details...

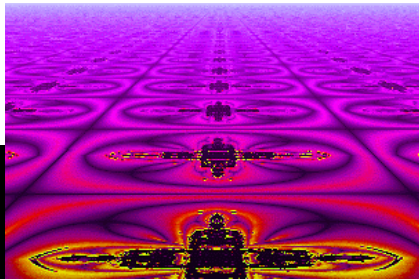



Cascade...

*What a word, **cascade**. Sound rushing forward, onomatopoeia - sounding as it is...*
CASCADE.....ZZZZZZZZ

The universe's filled with countless examples of seemingly dissimilar things combining to make unexpected and, at times, wonderful end results. In James Gleick's book, **Chaos**, Edward Lorenz discovers Chaos and the law of initial conditions while Mitchell Feigenbaum finds the magical 3.66 as the universal doorway to chaos. Out in California, JPL scientists learn that Jupiter's Red Spot is a folded universe onto itself, ever changing yet never changing, like a soliton wave moving effortlessly for hundreds of miles through an endless sea without breaking apart.

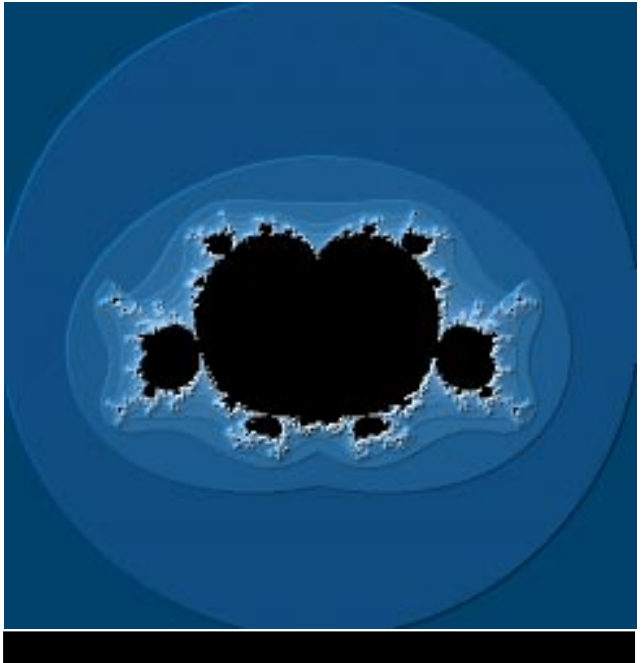
But where does it lead? If you look at anything natural, there's bound to be a fractal in it. From Azaleas to Zebras, fractals form the construct of life yet this is only the beginning. Physicists are starting to believe that our universe could be a quantum fluctuation existing as a bubble on a much larger fractal universe that's forever budding other environments...and you thought you were alone...





Chaotic processes exist at the border of two different “things”. Whether it’s heat, chemistry or oil mixing with water, this is where the action is. Is this how creativity happens? The ineffable caused by two or more initial conditions in the brain that instigate the CREATIVE ACT!!!

Maybe, maybe not but particle/wave duality and THE COLLAPSE OF THE WAVE FUNCTION!!! dictate that our universe consists of intermingling waves that only become particles when something acts upon them! This is why the universe seems to be a connected entity that constantly shifts phase states as conditions warrant...*God must be a Bogey Man...*





Ridiculous Concepts...Greatly Edited

The Orkin Man & THE SCIENCE OF KILLING ROACHES, Bob Dole speaking out against violence while trying to repeal the ban on Assault Weapons, Johnny Cochran telling the world that the LAPD has a department-wide conspiracy against the “Juice” and President Bill’s inability to inhale.

50% of Americans do not know where Washington DC is, 20% still believed Nixon to be innocent even after he had resigned from office while 63% believe there are angels.

Tobacco companies insisting there are no links between their products and cancer.

Anti-Abortionists against sex education

Breast and penile implants for bigger size

The Pope’s stand on birth control

The Super Bowl

American Gladiators

Infomercials

The WWF (World Wrestling Federation).

Efficient government

Benign insurance companies

Health care reform

Illiterate high school kids

The OJ Simson trial

The number of lawyers per capita in the US

Drug policy in the US

Illegal prostitution

The O.J. Simson trial

Jesse Helms

Madonna

Arnold as GOP health spokesman





Teen pregnancy
DWI
Lack of real punishment for DWI
The justice system
The size of new court buildings
Pat Robertson
Tele-evangelism
Talk shows
Microsoft as technology leader
Shopping malls
Censorship on the Net
Political integrity
Governmental efficiency
Truly reliable computers
Truly elegant software
Analog phone lines
FCC policy
The O.J. verdict
Cults
Fanaticism
Involuntary celibacy
Racial intolerance
Religious intolerance
Scientific intolerance
Sexual intolerance
Big Mac as viable food source
Kraft/General Foods as viable food source
The tax system
Frivolous lawsuits
The Religious Right
The ultra right
The ultra left
The Moral Majority



Cool Concepts...Greatly edited

Eric Clapton playing the blues
The Dead playing *Dark Star*
The Who playing *Tommy* at Woodstock
Flat Tax
Frank Zappa
Brando in *On the Waterfront, A Street Car*
Named Desire and *The Fugitive Kind*
Nanotechnology
Flat Screen displays
The Net
VRML & Hot Java
3D graphics
Sex
Chaos & Complexity
Ulysses & Molly Bloom's Soliloquy
Art in general
The NSX convertible - in black
Motorcycles - Norton 850 comes to mind
Solitude
Passion
Commitment
Vulnerability
Compassion
Curiosity
Open-mindedness
The Synclavier
Steely Dan
Sophie's Choice & *Nobody's Fool*
Bird, Dizzy, Miles & Max
Steven Hawking, Roger Penrose & Einstein
Uncertainty principle
Quantum theory



Theory of Relativity
Synchronicity & *The Police*
Democracy
The Terminator
WWW, VRML & Hot Java
Kids, if they are together
SIGGRAPH
The Original Woodstock
Horses - because they look cool
Hendrix
Arcadian Dridftwood by the Band
Microcosm
Lila
Tao
Morality
Close encounters of the 3rd kind
Black holes
DNA
Being Digital
Ecstasy
The Blind Watchmaker
The NeXT cube
Grass & LSD (in moderation if possible)
Jung
The beach
The dunes
The West
Women
biking
laughter
Good dirty jokes
Bach as played by Glenn Gould
The Art of War



Alvin Toffler & George Gilder
Max Headroom
Harry Truman
Thomas Jefferson
The Constitution
The Declaration of Independence
Errol Flynn as Robin Hood
Live baseball
Science Fiction
Outrageous architecture - see Gaudi
Gothic Churches
Schoenberg/Mozart/Beethoven etc.
Joni Mitchell & Laura Nyro
Beer - especially on a hot day or in a good bar
The Rite of Spring
Godel's Theorem
Escher & the Mobius Strip
Minkowski & the Space Time Continuum
Open Systems
OOPS
AI, Fuzzy Logic & *Linda*
Thinking Machines
Lincoln
Michael Jordan
Jimmy Brown
Thomas Wolfe & Hedrick Smith
It's a Wonderful Life
The St. Louis Arch
The original Allman Brothers playing *Jessica*
Jazz, fusion
Monk, Mingus & Evans
Writing & Reading, in either order
Chinese medicine



The Digital Equation - Part One

“What do you mean, the Net will change everything? We’re already digital aren’t we?”

“We are but with restriction’s”

“What do you mean?”

“Copper, it all comes down to copper...This is the rubberband that ties down Gulliver. 14.4K analog modems doesn’t cut it when you involve video, audio, VR, VRML and true distributed computing. The tools are here, the connect isn’t”

“When will fiber come in?”

“After Congress deregulates the local telephone companies. Real competition’s the only thing that will get the SNET’s of the world off their asses to make the commit to do fiber and at least high speed coax to the house”

“What about cable?”

“They have fiber but not the switches while the phone companies lack fiber. The other problem about these service providers is that they just don’t get it. People want broad bandwidth two-way communications. 500 channels don’t mean squat. I want one channel with my configs, not 500 channels of OJ 2000 and Cher’s Infomercial 666 on hair transplants for the nether region. Remember, digital means the market of one.”

“and I’m the only one....”

“ARGHHH”



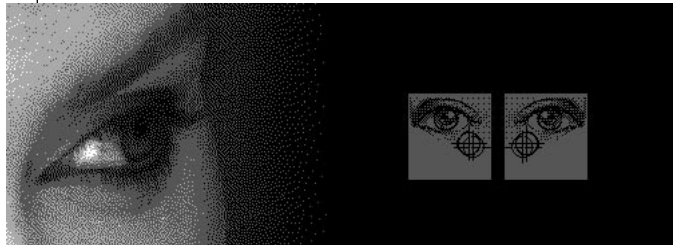


40 years from now, this conversation will be moot as will any discussion about rush hour blues, couch potato TV and bull shit government al la Bill, Newt and Bob. Systems will look and act far differently from the twitchy, underpowered artifacts of today and society will be a wired entity with allegiances given to neighborhoods and to the world. Censorship will be a farce and nation states a joke and that's just for starters.

“You're riding down the freeway. You're doing 110 MPH while the car behind and the car in front are just inches away from your bumpers. Your concentration's on the question asked by your friend in the back seat concerning the latest news on Nanotech. You turn around to answer and...WHAT ARE YOU??? #1& CRAZY???!!!”

Not to worry, the electric car and freeway's computerised. Just plug in your exit number and the car's onboard system will place your vehicle in the appropriate lane to get you to your destination with much greater safety than if you did it yourself.

“It's a Sunday afternoon. You sit back to enjoy Super Bowl XXXCVII on TV. You zoom in on the action to highlight and replay an 80 yard touchdown pass to analyze how it was done. At the same time, you tune into two other channels on your wall screen high resolution digital display to check out what's happening. You choose to record the latest 3D holo Sci-Fi thriller *Godzilla Meets Rocky 24 on Planet X* and send it to your son stationed on Mars.”



“Your computer implant notifies you that the information on Jefferson’s ready for your perusal. You jack into Mirror Worlds to roam into a simulation of TJ writing the Declaration of Independence. The images are so real that one soon forgets it’s a digital display that’s been sent directly into your optic and auditory neural pathway digital connects. **Total Recall** anyone?”

By 2040, the world has now become an interconnected set of mirror worlds that commingle cyberspace and real space into an amalgam that defies description. Computers have become quantum ballistic devices integrated into virtually every aspect of life. “Oh, you don’t believe this can happen within 50 years. Consider the past 24 months.”

1. In 1993, the Internet was a bastion of researchers using arcane tools like Gopher, WAIS, Tymnet, E-mail and News. It was an environment dominated by those who had educational, governmental or military contacts. Business use was frowned upon and there was no advertising.
2. At the end of 1993, the net changed. A group of grad students from the University of Illinois invented *Mosaic*, the first graphical



browser that used hyperlinks to search a new part of the net called the World Wide Web.

3. In 1994, the net exploded. With a projected 600%/year growth rate predicted until 2015, the road to Cyberspace is already here.
4. Jan, 1995, **Netscape** appeared. A brash start-up founded by Jim Clark, the man behind SGI, and Mark Andeersson, the Mosaic man, developed a free browser and put it on the net. Within three months, had 70% of the market. Today, their web site gets over 1.2M“hits” a day.
5. Six months ago, VRML did not exist (Virtual Reality Markup Language). Now, it will change how we use computers forever.



6. Six months ago, Sun's *Hot Java* did not exist. It will harness the 3D space of VRML by transforming it into a distributed environment capable of growing and driving mini applets configured to do everything from smart agent work to the full integration of multi media operations that will allow people to do the kind of truly interactive computing that was only dreamed about just one year ago.
6. Adobe Systems, Inc., with the introduction of *Acrobat*, launched the age of document-oriented computing by creating a platform-



independent display mechanism that permits the seamless integration of animation into high res still imagery, thus decoupling digital operations from the tyranny of hardware and operating system computing (Intel & Microsoft). This is beginning to transform the monolithic apps of today into the intelligent objects of tomorrow.

7. With SGML and HTML as start points, (Standardized Markup Language/Hypertext Markup Language), the cyberspace age has already arrived.
8. In *Earth*, David Brin describes the wired world of 2040 with great detail. The only problem is that the tools described are not as powerful as the ones that have been introduced over the Internet in the last nine months. - *Earth* publication - 1990.



Apple Computer - 1995 L Kahn QuickTime VR