

San Francisco Bay area creatives are building a home at @tlas (<http://www.well.com/user/macrone/atlas.html#description>), an online publication that features original photography, illustration, design, and multimedia.



hURL!

Your obsession with *Melrose Place* is affecting your home life and you're wondering how to break free. Stop by 4616 *Melrose Place* (<http://www.melroseplace.com/>) and gag at the stink of death. The welcome *Note from Amanda* reads like it was written by a 14-year-old who just won a radio call-in contest. Jo's "phunky" photo gallery is a wastebasket of PR stills. Billy's page links to Planet Reebok. In fact, the entire site manages to cull the styles of the worst personal home pages. The only real bangs are in *The Basement*. No, Kimberly, it's not what you think. It's worse.

A Voice of Reason

America's leading voice of dissent is now loud and online: Noam Chomsky - language scholar, social philosopher, and leftist iconoclast - has found another home in cyberspace at New World Media's "archive, interactive service, and political commons," a site matter-of-factly titled *Noam Chomsky & the Web*. In addition to Chomsky's collected works and a Net edition of the provocative feature film *Manufacturing Consent*, the site (found at <http://www.worldmedia.com>) boasts a discussion forum as well as links to *Z Magazine*. As it continues to evolve, Noam Chomsky & the Web is also sure to become a valued steppingstone to other grass-roots organizations and an obvious haven for users concerned with Chomsky's issues. Consider this your wake-up call.

"What Are You Doing, Dave?"

Ever wondered what HAL, the silicon star of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, was like as a baby? Think you might have been able to teach him a thing or two? Lucky for you, a sojourn to <http://ciips.ee.uwa.edu.au/~hutch/Hal.html> will give you a first-hand, albeit virtual, opportunity to do just that.

Here, the nursing artificial intelligence, Mega-HAL, is available for a fun (and oftentimes nonsensical) two-way conversation. While you can choose a sparring partner from a predefined list of characters (Homer, Marge, Bart, or Lisa Simpson, for instance), the default HAL 9000 brain allows for real-time updating so that as you interact with MegaHAL, he learns from the discussion.

Why limit your fraternalization to human beings? Make your mark on the HALs of the future now. It might not be too long before you hear, "I'm afraid that's something I cannot allow to happen."



For Your Eyeteeth Only

What do Tom Cruise, Gary Oldman, and Ben Cross have in common? Give yourself partial credit if you said, "They're all actors." But if you answered, "They've all portrayed vampires," sink your teeth into *Vampyres Only* at <http://www.vampyre.wis.net/vampyre/index.html>. It doesn't take the walking undead to figure out that *Vampyres Only* has everything you've ever wanted to know about the children of darkness (check out the FAQ). Is there an American vampire myth? What are a vampire's feeding habits, powers, and limitations? You'll find all the answers here, and then some. After you have drained the site with your queries, take the test to determine whether or not you're likely to become a vampire (or already are one!). Toss out your garlic, turn out all the lights, and don't come

back till you're full; this is one website guaranteed not to leave a bad taste in your mouth.



George Washington Grew It

"Herb - the healing of a nation. Keep you healthy, mind clear.... The more people smoke herb, the more Babylon fall." These immortal words of wisdom, spoken by Bob Marley, will greet you upon entering the *Hemp Nation Headquarters* on the Web. Anyone interested in the plight of Chris "Hemp Boy" Clay - the Hemp Nation leader and Great Canadian Hemporium proprietor recently busted at his shop in London, Ontario - will find all the gory details here, complete with supporting visuals by the legendary Sonny Moone Shyne. In addition to all this, the site is a veritable one-stop shop for hemp and cannabis resources. If you haven't bookmarked this one already, you should. Hemp Boy goes to bat for doob-heads everywhere at <http://www.hempbc.com/hemp-nation/index.html>.

Quit Your Jonesin'

So why aren't humans born with blue or green hair, even though birds, insects, and baboons casually sport these colors? What causes ringing of the ears? And how do farmers grow seedless fruit?

Readers of Cecil Adams's weekly column "The Straight Dope" in *The Chicago Reader* know the answers to these and hundreds of other beckoning questions. Adams fields difficult, offbeat queries from "the teeming millions" with a sarcastic, know-it-all style. (He once calculated whether the planet would be thrown off its axis if every person in China jumped off his or her chair simultaneously. Though at the same time, he refused to even consider whether people in the US would hear the entire population of China yelling.)

Even if you don't live in one of the 25 cities with a paper carrying Adams's column, you can still read it in *TSD Archives* at <http://www.mcs.net/~krikket/html/tsd.html>. And if you're hungry for more, the latest four columns are uploaded to Usenet newsgroup *alt.fan.cecil-adams* about once a month. There, readers answer the questions that Adams ignores, churning out some straight dope of their own.



Though the hype has faded since CU-SeeMe was first introduced as freeware by Cornell University ("See Me, Hear Me," *Wired* 2.09, page 145), the program may yet prove itself to businesses and consumers as the demand for video-conferencing software continues to skyrocket. Revisit the possibilities at CU-SeeMe headquarters (<http://cu-seeme.cornell.edu/>).

Pigskin Performance

Gone are the days when Super Bowl mania meant hours spent huddling in front of the television set. Now you can get it all at <http://superbowl.com>, courtesy of Super Bowl XXX hosts Arizona State University, Sun Microsystems, Netscape, and MCI.

Dis the other team in an anonymous (and somewhat vituperative) threaded discussion, order Super merchandise, make travel arrangements, take the trivia quiz, then hop to the NFL home page, all without leaving your seat. In what may be the world's first practical application of VRML using Apple's new QuickTime VR, you can take a virtual tour of Sun Devil Stadium to see whether your seats are any good. And hell, load up on Net tools while you're at it: you'll find links to all the latest helper apps, including QuickTime VR, HotJava, and Real Audio.

If you're one of those miserable souls who'll be at your workstation during the big game, check this site for continual updates. See you at kickoff time.



Wipeout!

To *Make a Friend* ("Better Than the Welcome Wagon," *Wired* 3.08, page 159), you should in fact surf to <http://albrecht.ecn.purdue.edu/~jbradfor/homepage/homepage.html>. Our apologies.

Autsch! Egon Schiele ("Flux Fatale," *Wired* 3.07, page 171) is by no means French: he is one of the most famous *fin de siècle* Austrian painters.

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lost pkts	1757	0
	67.5 %	0.0 %

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ginger
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