

Inventions of Impact for the 21st Century

By THOMAS J. FREY AND DARBY FREY
Contributing Writers from the DaVinci Institute

At the DaVinci Institute, our goal is to forecast and predict future inventions and technology. And we believe many of these will have a profound effect on our lives.

One thing that we do not do is place a value judgement on whether or not we should be pursuing these technologies. We do not paint pictures of a doom and gloom future, nor do we predict that all the technology will create some utopian world. Our consensus is that these future technologies are inevitable.

Negative Sound

Imagine a Boeing 747 that made virtually no noise as it's hulking mass lifted off from the runway. Imagine a train quietly driving through a residential community. These are just a couple of the promises being made by the researchers working on the science of 'killing audio waves.' In theory, the generation of an audio wave that is the exact opposite of a sound, with high waves canceling out low waves and low canceling out

highs, will result in virtual silence. But think of the possibilities. An outdoor rock concert that would not disturb the whole community. Loud industrial projects such as rock crushers, saw mills, or power plants operating in near silence. Quiet a motorcycle, and even a silent military.

Viscous Air

Viscous air is a concept idea of cohesive ultra-dense air. If you think of a gas having the density and fluidity of water, you'd get the picture.

Immediate uses will be to provide a more shock resistant car tire, slower air mattresses, and denser air bags for cars. Viscous air pools will be constructed to allow people to go swimming without getting wet.

Viscous air "bullets" will be designed with the force and impact to knock a predator off his feet without drawing blood or even cause serious tissue damage.

Holographic Billboards

If an animated dragon suddenly materialized alongside the road and attacked your car as you drove by, then disintegrated into a brief

message "Don't have dragon breath - buy Scope Mouthwash." You would definitely take notice.

The whole idea of an outdoor visually animated advertisement is a very real possibility. Governmental laws and regulations will very likely determine how pervasive this type of advertising will become.

Adventure-Based Fitness Parks

Based on the idea of a themed obstacle course, participants will be sequentially routed through a variety of challenging "adventure" courses, in unique environments with their quest to "survive" their race to the finish line.

For example, an Indiana Jones trail will have the participant avoiding falling rocks, climbing steep cliffs, swinging on vines over canyons, etc. Environments for each trail will be a combination of holographs, animatronics, and recreated environments.

Historical Geography Emulators

What's it like to live in 16th century Beijing? Or how did it feel to be a

peasant during the reign of King Henry III? Simply telling you what it was like does not even come close to giving you a clear picture. You need to see, hear, and feel what that world was like during that period in history.

Virtual reality is offering us the first step into that direction. But the educators will not be satisfied until the experience is complete.

The complete Historical Geography Emulator will enable educators to dial-in the location and time period that they wish to immerse their students in. They will be able to

experience first-hand the sounds of a culture, the fears and anxiety of disease and injury, an simple resignation to the fate that guided them through their existence.

The Artificial Womb

If you think this is a wacky idea, think again. Dr. Yoshinori Kuwabar, a Japanese scientist, has successfully developed an artificial womb capable of incubating goat fetuses for three weeks until birth. The artificial womb consists of a clear plastic box filled with amniotic fluid at body temperatures

and connected to an array of devices to sustain vital body functions. The fetus lies submerged in the "womb" which replaces oxygen and cleans fetus' blood with a dialysis machine connected to the umbilical cord.

The reason this is a disturbing path is because an incubator is capable of preserving a 10 week old fetus, will also have the capability of handling an even older fetus. In fact, why bother with the mother at all? Why not place the egg in a petri dish and then place it directly into the artificial womb.

Joining The New Age Of Technology

By LOU MYERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

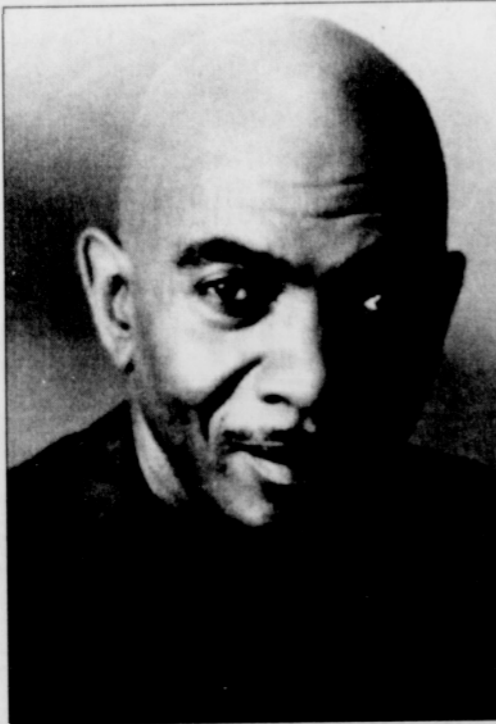
African Americans have not always been able to fully participate in America's technological and economic advances.

During the Agricultural Age, cotton and farming was the height of the marketplace. Economically, we missed out on that because our labor went to support another society.

Then came the Age of Manufacturing. Even though many Black inventors devised new technologies, we could not get them patented easily. Also, we could not work in the factories. We were allowed to sweep the floor after the workers were gone. So again, African Americans missed out during that period.

When we came out of slavery during the 1880's, the question for us was to know "What is our vision?" Our grand vision was to play a part

in America to build cities and towns like Rosewood or Black Wall Street. We meant to do all those things. We did not mean to be segregated. The Black codes of the 1890's denied us the possibility of new expression. If we wanted to move West, we were not allowed. If we wanted to open up



Lou Myers, actor from the television show, "A Different World" and the movie, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back."

a factory to manufacture our new discovery, we were not allowed.

All of the inventions that Blacks have made in this country are too numerous to mention. Not one Black person got wealthy from it.

African Americans are now moving into the Information Age and what's so glorious about it is that no one knows how tall you are, whether you're male or female or what your skin color is. We, African Americans have an opportunity to correct all the things that happened to us in those two ages by design we missed out on.

Cyberspace is an opportunity for the Black society to catch up. In cyberspace, we can go forward in time through virtual reality and no one has been there yet. We can go there and build our better future. We can build a Black society to how we would want it. There is no limit to where we can go with this technology.

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John Wolf
Owner

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Seaside, OR 97138

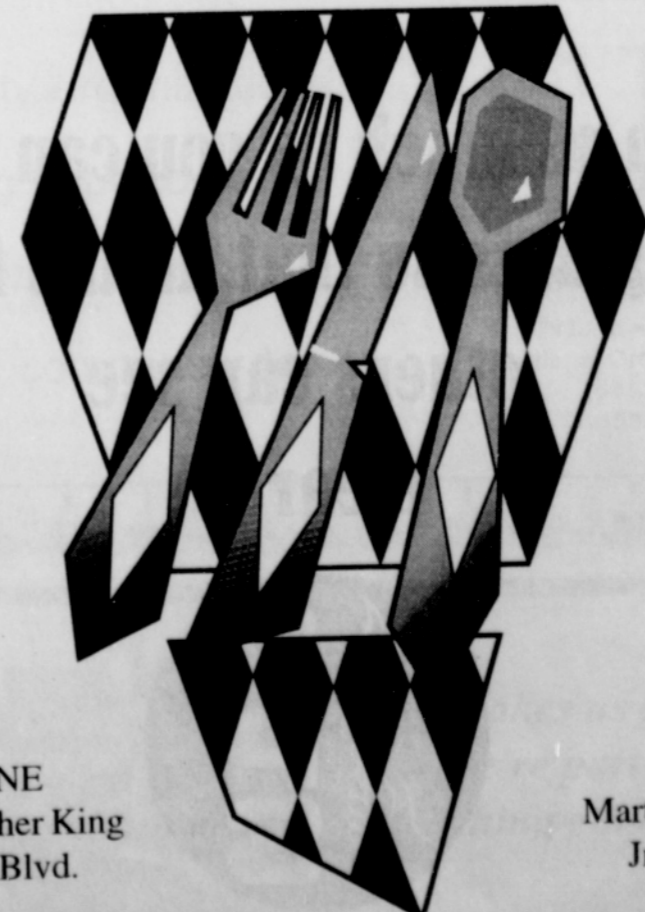
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CHASE & WEIL

Attorneys at Law
722 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Suite 240
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 294-1414

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