

Digital Debris

By Staff Writer, Bill Fogarty

I Didn't Believe It

About three years ago I began to read that our government bodies held trillions of dollars in stocks, bonds and salable assets that the public didn't know about. Being an experienced engineering/financial type, I knew this had to be a fairy tale. Our "open" government couldn't hide that from us. I was wrong.

Two Reports

Every year each government body, be it the local school board, city, county, state and federal, issues what amounts to an income statement (the "Budget"). It details what dollars came in and what went out. This report gets a lot of publicity in the newspapers and on TV. Here we learn about surpluses and deficits - after they cook the books.

There is another report required by law. It is called the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This details what the government owns versus what it owes. It's like a balance sheet. The CAFR gets no publicity. It's thick, formidable and confusing. Here's where we learn the truth

Exposed

Back in 1998, Walter J. Burien Jr., a guy with 15 years as a Wall Street Commodity Trading Advisor (CTA), first began writing about the hidden truths in CAFRs. He proved that our government bodies are filthy rich, sitting on \$60 trillion in stocks, bonds and other assets paid for by YOU and your parents.

To the best of my knowledge, only The Spotlight, a small weekly newspaper,

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Digital Lifestyles

DSL - The Big Lie

By Staff Writer, London Wilde

We hear all the talk, the advertisements bombarding radio, TV and print. Statistics thrown around on how many households will be connected over the coming years, to high speed Internet access. The way it's made to sound, **DSL is HERE NOW**. That is a lie. Sure, we know DSL is not available everywhere.

I am thinking, perhaps not available near some remote farm in Iowa, or a small town in the Appellation mountains. However, Fortunately (or Unfortunately), for me, **I live SOMA, a district of San Francisco** where the majority of Dotcoms conduct their business; A tech Mecca for computer geeks and dorks who began a slow but hostile takeover of this part of the city, and turned it into slick urban lofts, trendy furniture stores, and chic cafes with lattes available on every street corner. I live in one of those slick trendy lofts only 30 miles away from Silicon Valley, the epicenter of technology for the entire world; And as it turns out-

Even I can't get DSL.

Feb, 2000

I receive a special promotional offer from Earthlink through my e-mail account for DSL. I'm already a customer, it seems convenient and easy. I sign up through their online system.

April 2000

No response from Earthlink regarding my DSL order.

[Click Here For Rest of DSL Story](#)

Game Developers Conference

Part 2

Keynote speaker Will Wright, creator of the Sims, went over some high level concepts of

design, such as influences from rock gardens, and how designing chairs can be very helpful for designers.

The PowerPoint presentation accompanying him was very humorous and really did help us visualize some of the more abstract ideas he was talking about.

He did talk about The Sims and it's design process, which led to how much people have gotten into creating stories to show online with it. In the end, he gave us all something to think about, which was what he seemed to be leading up to halfway through the keynote: instead of focusing on interactive storytelling, maybe the computer should instead help with the story the player creates. This was probably the best single hour at the conference.

Tom and I left with lots of new ideas, new knowledge... and new T-shirts among the rest of our large collection of promotional toys. We also left with a large desire to have attended the previous 3 conferences and to attend next year's. Now we can go through all the flyers we picked up, as well as some cool demos.

[Jeff Lindsay is the founder of Progium Software](#)

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Writers seek Residual Models for Internet Distribution

The word from Hollywood is that writers want to be compensated for their work, even if the studios do not charge users to watch a program. Makes sense, doesn't it? I'd say it's a matter of perception. After all, when I discovered the Internet [and for a few years after that] **EVERYTHING ON THE INTERNET WAS FREE.**

According to the Unionized writers, they have accepted low residuals for years to enable Internet markets.

The CEO of Threshold Entertainment said "This is not the time to say that what we need are higher costs of getting content. My plea is wait a few more years until the business has matured. This is not the time to be unionizing the Internet."

Source: *Interactive Week*

The information contained in Digital Times is a combination of original editorial content and information pulled from wire services, research and various online resources.

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would print his articles (spotlight.org). It's still that way. We wouldn't want to wake up the peasants, would we? Thank God for the internet.

Prescott

In Prescott Arizona, where Buriem now lives, the city owns a golf course which could be sold to private interests for \$45 million. That would pay the city operating expense for three years. No taxes for THREE years!

In addition, the city is sitting on \$48 million in idle investment funds; that would cover taxes for another THREE years.

If that were to happen, can you imagine the resurgence in economic activity? Private spending would zoom, new businesses would be attracted and employment would go through the roof. Source: http://www.rumormillnews.com/WALTER_BURIEM.htm

San Francisco

San Francisco, the home of **Digital Times** and digitaltimes.com, is another prime example of politician's greed and thirst for power.

In 2000, The city had a surplus of \$4.11 billion - a \$5,135 per capita refund and a \$12,465 refund for a family of four. With increased economic activity, it is calculated that the total benefits for a family four would equal \$49,861 in the first year. Hard to believe. These figures do not include potential surpluses from the city school system.

Source: <http://cafrman.com>.

Minnesota

Governor Jesse "The Mind" Ventura gave back \$1.3 billion or \$700-800 per family during his first 6 months as governor.

Source: <http://cafrman.com>.

What You Can Do

- 1) Read "Report on CAFR Research by: Walter J. Buriem, Jr. 4/2000" at <http://rarebird.net/goldbond/cafr001.htm>.
- 2) Go to cafr.com and select the "Text Version". It will direct you to others in your state/community who are working to freeup the surplus funds belonging to you. email: bill@digitaltimes.com

Stamps.com

The other day I thought it was about time I tried digital stamps, rather than bother with going to the Post Office every time I need a stamp. With my VISA handy, I went to Stamps.com who is in partnership with the U.S. Post Office. The first thing I had to agree to was the End User License Agreement for the software that I was required to download to my PC.

PROCESS: I completed a standard form-fill process at Stamps.com. The next click took me to the USPS Postage Evidencing System User Registration and apply for a postal license from the USPS Central Registration System. From there, I had to fill out what is called a USPS PES User Application, including an estimate of my annual stamp needs, classes of mail, etc. The application is approved within 3-6 hours. My emailed notification of approval included a link to access and download the postage software to my computer. I haven't tried it yet, but the instructions indicate that I can print the postage on labels or envelopes from Microsoft Word.

PRICING: I am paying a monthly fee of \$4.95. My monthly service fee was calculated based on the chosen service plan. I selected the plan with the lowest monetary commitment. Promotions? Yep--Some businesses get a free scale! In my case, I am to receive \$10.00 worth of stamps for **FREE.**

-editor

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