

### The E-Cline of Civilization as We Know It

La-Z-Boy and Microsoft's WebTV have formed an unholy alliance to produce a recliner chair—henceforth known as an e-cliner. The Explorer, as it's called, comes with a tray table and Sony infrared keyboard to interact with WebTV, plus a surge protector and high-speed modem jack built into the chair's arm.

Source The Intelligence Factory, Brand Futures Group, yrbrfg@aol.com

### Not to mention...

That Barbie may become intelligent, online-wise. Nicholas Negroponte of the Media Lab at M.I.T., predicts that the largest community of Internet users will be nonhumans—toys and appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers. They will connect to download the information and software updates they need to reprogram themselves. Toys will be able to gather intelligence from the Net and pass it along to humans. For example, kids might learn French from Barbie rather than a real-life teacher.

(We don't understand it either.)

### Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Most people don't tell co-workers when they have something stuck in their teeth.

*Self* magazine did a survey, sending 10 testers to lunch with colleagues. The testers displayed roast beef, spinach, poppy seeds, and raisins in their toothy grins—and 60 percent were never told by their lunch companions. Not only that, but 30 percent of the testers said they wouldn't tell either.

### It May Be a Job Seekers' Market, But This Is Ridiculous

Here are some real-life interview bloopers from OfficeTeam, Menlo Park, California; [www.officeteam.com](http://www.officeteam.com):

- One job candidate asked to use the interviewer's phone and called in sick to her boss, faking a cough.
- A candidate who was asked to bring his résumé and three references called to reschedule the interview because his

"references weren't available to come in" with him.

- When an interviewer asked a job seeker to describe his ideal job, he said, "I don't know. I haven't found it yet."
- One job hopeful interrupted the conversation about work hours and office environment to say that she didn't like being confined to a building but would consider taking the job if she could move her desk to the courtyard outside.
- When asked about her greatest skill, a candidate replied confidently, "My computer illiteracy."
- A thinking-ahead job seeker asked, "What happens if I wake up in the morning and don't feel like coming in to work?"
- "What motivates you?" asked the interviewer. Answer: "I've got a big house, a big car, and a big credit card balance. Pay me, and I'll be happy."
- When asked what he'd like to be doing in his next position, a man replied, "I can tell you what I *don't* want to be doing—sitting in boring meetings, doing grunt work, and being nice to people all day long."

### Jargon Watch

Here are some corporate buzzwords for 2000, cadged off the Internet and sent to us by one of our FOWLS (friends of Working Life), Dusty Miller; [dustymiller@computerserve.com](mailto:dustymiller@computerserve.com).

- *Xerox subsidy*. Euphemism for making free photocopies at work.
- *Percussive maintenance*. Whacking the heck out of an electronic device to get it working again.

- *Uninstalled*. Means fired, as in you call the vice president of a downsized firm and get this voicemail message: "You have reached the number of so-and-so. Please call our main number and ask the operator for assistance."
- *Assmosis*. The process by which some people seem to absorb success and advancement by kissing up to the boss rather than working hard.

