

USA98



© Lenara and Ivana's crazy adventures, Inc. 1998

the printed journals

meet the people



Lenara



Ivana

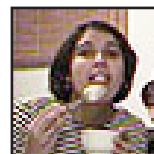


OEd



Mago

the travellers



Cibele



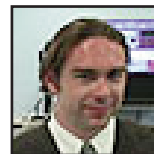
Elaine



Sunshine



Stuart Cody



Chris Johnson



Damon



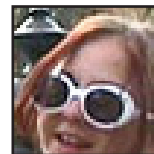
Ranjit



Jesse Reklaw



Jonathan



Annete



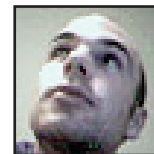
Mari



Ane



Christene



Issac



Jon Van Oast



Andy



6rady

(some of) the hosts & friends

t h e p l a n s

About

After spending wonderful 15 days last year traveling the East Coast of the USA and meeting several amazing Sitoid people (see details at: <http://www.sito.org/~ed/east97>) I'm COMING BACK!

This time, I hope to spend as much as 30 days traveling - visiting New York City (last time I stayed there for only 24 hours), Boston, Omaha, Flagstaff, the Grand Canyon and the West Coast. (Wow! A lot of places :)

During that time, the main goals of the trip will be:

1. meeting friends
2. having fun
3. visiting universities to help me choose my future place of study.

I'll be traveling with my sister Ivana and Ed will join us during the West Coast part. We welcome other travel companions.

Itinerary:

NY oct 12-18
We'll stay with Cibebe, she lives in the "latino" part of Harlem. We plan to meet Ranjit, Marymha and Sunshine. We'll also meet Elaine, a brazilian friend who's living in NY. Ale and Mari won't be able to go with us, their visas arrived too late.

Boston Oct 15
We now have two hosts in Boston, Patricia Fossati and Stuart Cody. I'll stay there for a day, visit some universities and see the gorgeous autumn scene.

Washington, DC Oct 14
We'll probably stay in Washington for only one day. Jonathan is our host there. He is a transplantee from Ohio, but I hope he can give us the standard tour, including the White House and FBI. (X-philes MUST go there, musn't we?)

Omaha Oct 20-22
We couldn't miss Ed's home town, when we'll finally get to know all the places and people we know about by reading his journal and sito ventures pages. We'll also have the opportunity to grasp some of "normal, small-town" America.

Flagstaff, Arizona Oct 23-26
We have a very good friend living there. He's been in Brazil two years ago and is very excited about us coming up. Chris Johnson says we can stay there and he would like to take us to the Grand Canyon.

If you want to meet with us somewhere during the journey, please tell. Our itinerary is very flexible, we'll probably go again for a train pass which is the cheapest way of transportation and allow unlimited traveling (it of course takes a little longer, but I have more time than money to spare... ;)

If you want to help us there are many ways to do it:

- providing food and shelter for two nice brazilian girls and an Omaha bum ;)

- if you study/work/whatever in an university that has a doctoral program in areas as arts/communication/computer science, or actually the merge of those three, I would love to visit it. I'm graduating till the end of 98 with a thesis about Sito and would like to continue my studies in a related field.

- giving travel advice, taking us to nice places you know, and whatever your creative minds come up with!

lenara@verle.com
ivana@verle.com
ed@sito.org

San Francisco Oct 27-29
Our stay in San Francisco will be split in two. We'll spend 3 days there before going to Portland. Annette will be our host during that time. Issac is expected to arrive only on November 4.

Portland Oct 30 - Nov 4
We'll spend Halloween in Portland. Ed will join us there and later come down to SF. We'll meet Jon Van Oast and maybe Jeff Scott.

San Francisco Nov 4-8
We'll go back to SF, this time carrying Ed with us. :)

Cupertino ? Bill Coderre lives there, and he and Lisa Chabot suggested lots of cool places for us to visit.

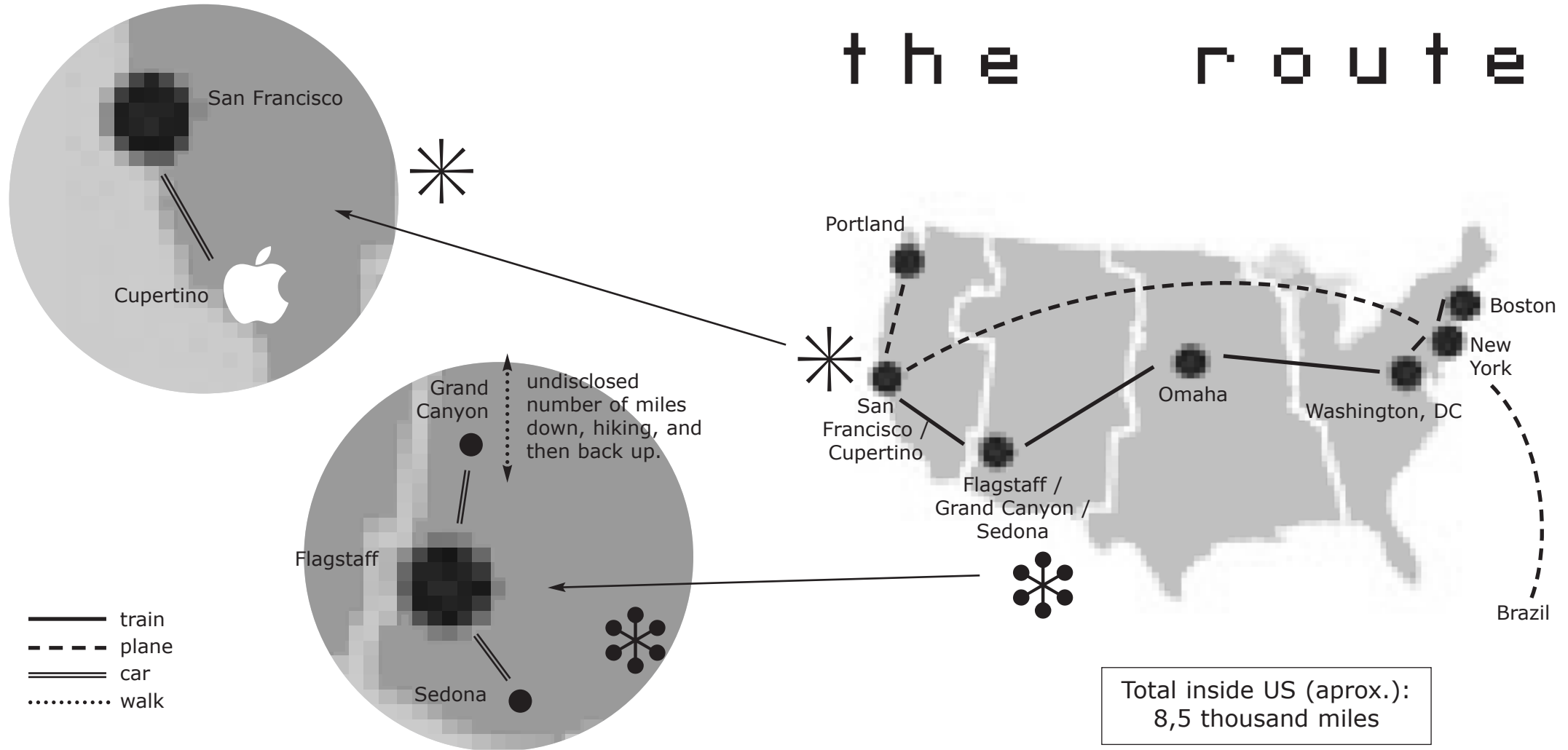
Dreamed extras:

The dreamed extras are becoming true :) At least the "geek tourism" proved to be a must! Bill works at Apple Computer and will take us there. Issac has some friends at Macromedia, Excite and Oracle. Ed knows (knew?) somebody at Wired Magazine. Annette works at Construct and according to undisclosed fonts "hangs out with all the phreaks in the 'gulch'".

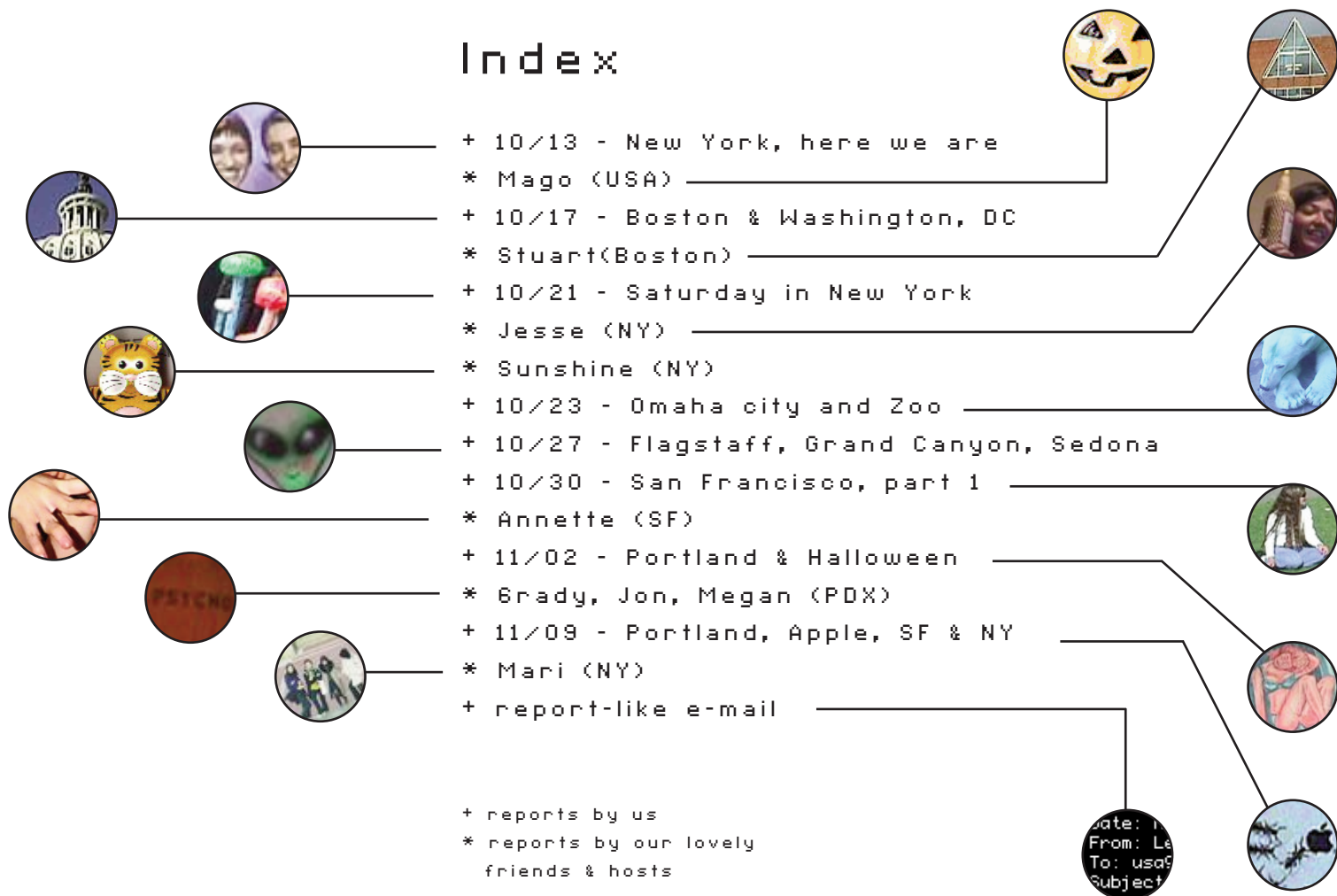
1. California easy-ride w/ educational twist - that would be like renting a car and visiting beaches and universities, hoping I can be soon studying and surfing in the USA :)

2. Silicon Valley Geek Tour - If we have some silicon valley people in the list they could show us hi tech corporations and take us to geek places. A whole new venture! Geek tourism!

the route



Re por ts



10/13

New York, here we are



e're here in the Big Apple! We met our brazilian friends Cibeles and Elaine. Yesterday we went to Gemini Lounge and discovered that the next day they would have a special Samba night (samba is a popular brazilian rythm). The place was nice but the sound was a little bit loud. Today we went shopping and also visited Media3 studios where Cibeles's friend Damon works. We got some cool "we're on TV" photos there with Damon and his friend Phil. Afterwards we went to see Ranjit at Word Magazine. We didn't stop at the lower floor to ask for Alfred E. Neuman because it was too late :) But we made some pet drawings with his new java toy. We



also managed to join #sito channel briefly. Tomorrow we'll spend the day at Washington, DC.



Cibeles photographed
us...



..while we photographed her!
(left to right: Ivana,
Lenana, Damon)



Can you see us inside
the TV monitor?



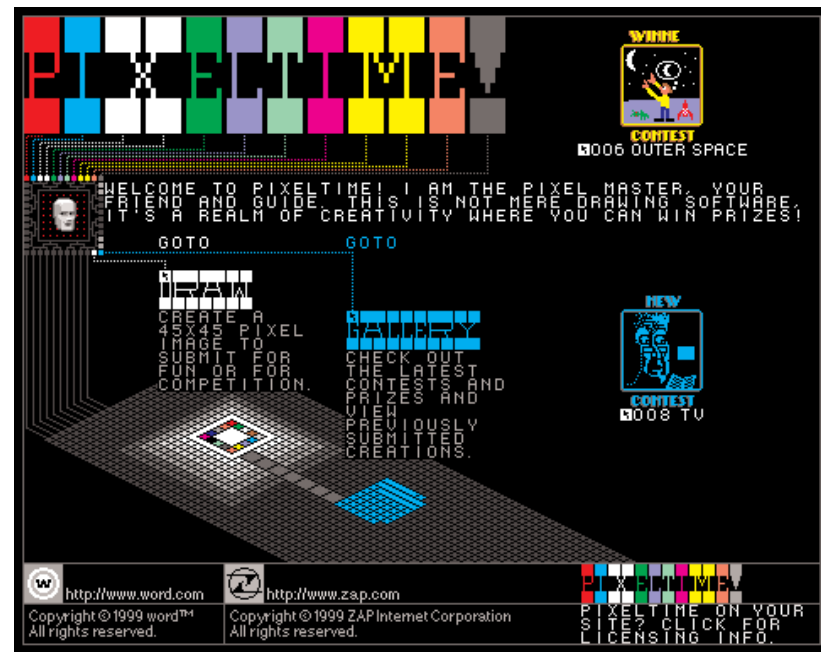
Maybe you
need a bigger
monitor? ;)



And here's the picture we all took inside the studio
(Left to right: Phil, Ivana, Lenara, Damon)



Finally, We with Ranjit at Word Magazine. Can you read our job descriptions behind us? Ranjit was supposed to be Chief Editor, but he managed to cover the sign with his head. Goodbye, promotion... :)



Pixeltime rules!
www.pixeltime.com

Try also: www.word.com & www.media3ltd.com

New 19 september

Arrival in nyc



he first important news for this pages is, that I got me a neat small digital camera. The guy here in ny at the cyber-cafe is so kind to let me install the software for it. In downtown a cabdriver measured an u-turn wrong and crossed the half of the sidewalk. A bussines-man just shouted this is the sidewalk, remember?. A second sung, as if he heard it in an opera, or musical (loud) this is the day we're gonna die. Traffic in nyc is amazing. For a behaviour like this, in germany ppl would be fined the whole day. Hve to rent a car in ny... Then I don't had to walk that much. I either take the wrong direction from time to time, because I tend to loose my bearings, or the subway stations are unfortunately a few blocks away from the expected position. My blisters could tell you. In the afternoon I was in the Metropolitan Museum Of Modern Art. My expectations where huge - considered it as a must. But it wasn't that amazing. If I had more money than I need, I would spend a lot at the affiliated Design Shop.





10/17

Boston & Washington, DC

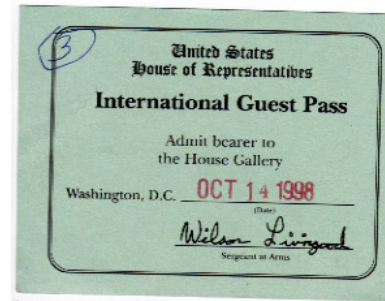


e're back in New York after spending two days "on the road", visiting Washington, DC and Boston. Althought we really wished to have more time to visit those places, the few hours we spent on each city were reeeally nice, thanks to our great hosts, Jonathan and Stuart. They were so kind and drove/walked us everywhere.

Jonathan met us at the station and then we went to the Capitol and saw some congresspeople debating. The place was quite empty. Actually, there were more people in the galleries watching than congressmen in the chairs. All Monica's guilt, we've been told. We went to the National Gallery but couldn't see the Van Goghs. No more passes were available. :(We bought some gifts at the gift shop, but I managed to left them on the



street, probably near the White House, along with some FBI badges we bought. We tried to tour the FBI but the line was tooo long. While there, we got to see some awesome videos teaching kids how to defend themselves from the Internet. The video said many times: "never met somebody you knew in the Internet before checking with your parents!". Oh, boy, I'm so glad I checked with my parents before! :) :) :) There was also a "just say no to drugs" video. Sadly, Mulder and Scully will have to wait for our next visit to DC. And have I mentioned we missed the train? That turned out to be a great thing because I and Jonathan had



time to drink some beers and chat about Sito. I reccomend this to everybody! Great time! I almost felt like missing the next train as well, but then we would have not been able to arrive in NY in time to have dinner with our friends.

Ater eating Afeghan food we manged to take a quick bath at our friend's hotel - no time to go back to Harlem - and got inside the train again. We arrived in Boston really early, and caught Stuart still sleeping. We

walked by the Freedom Trail following the red bricks and enjoying the beautiful and clean city. We entered some stores and found cool geek stuff bargains, such as Mulder & Scully dolls with aliens and accessories for 9,99 and the complete Star Trek videos collection for 1,99. We met Stuart for lunch, and he toured us through MIT. We went to the basement and got some abandoned rocks from the former Geology Department as souvenirs. The Media Lab was our next stop. As you would expect, they have lots of hi-



tech equipment, cool projects, and expensive well-designed brochures all over the place. We met Stuart's friends from the Interactive Cinema Group and saw some of their projects. Then we visited Automated Media Systems and had dinner with Stuart, Sarah, Patricia and Pericles. We almost missed the train, but we managed to catch it in its next stop.

Back in NY we slept the whole morning to recover, and then had breakfast, walked a bit, and met Taro, Cibeles and Damon's friend.



The Capitol dome



...at the gallery, with Jonathan (last sight of the gift's bag before its mysterious disappearance)



This was taped to one of the TV station vans.

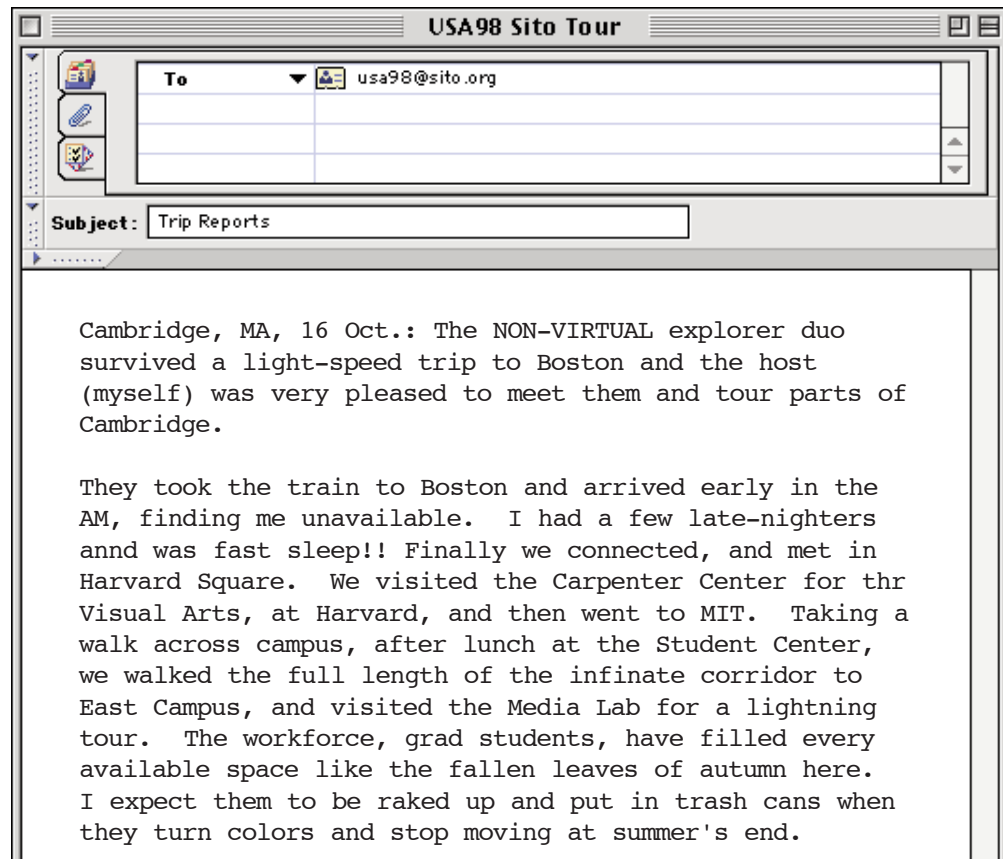


Ivana at
the FBI.



The
White House.

Stuart (Boston)



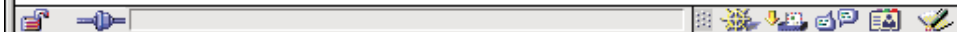
Finally, after a visit to Automated Media Systems in Allston/Brighton, we went out for Thai food and a visit with Rosemary and her husband Pericles de Freitas Druck. Rosemary confessed that her days were filled with the hard work of picking up all the information in her business school studies at Boston University in English, and she was just spinning with overdriven brain motion. Maybe she needs a cooling fan installed at the top of her head!

These travellers are so ambitious!! Their loads will grow heavier as the days go on. (the urge to shop) Try to make sure they get enough to eat. Ivana might want to sleep, she is like a cat and will just curl up anywhere and close her eyes in a moment and be off in dreamland. Lenara never sleeps, and will probably party all night with the right atmosphere and music.

They fled like a winter sunset as eight o'clock neared, back to the train, and on to more adventures. I was thrilled and hope they'll both be back soon to Boston.

---Stuart Cody---

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10/21

Saturday in New York



After waking up a little bit late and getting caught into moronic saturday subway, we finally arrived at Alt Coffee one hour late. Everybody was already there and we exchanged cute little gifts.

Pixels and candies were the most popular gift choices. The Saturday in NY Sito Crowd joined at Alt Coffee was:

Lenara, Ivana, Elaine, Ranjit, Jesse and Sunshine. We headed for lunch, with Ranjit carrying his purple-wrapped painting until we found a place to eat. We had indian food in a cozy restaurant decorated with kitsch collages. We then went to Elaine's house to prepare my favorite brazilian drink: caipirinha. It's made with cachaca, wich is the best selling liquor in the world (seconded by vodka) and is made from sugar cane. While in Brazil a bottle of



cachaca (or pinga, as it is also known) costs one dollar, Elaine told us that in the US she saw it being sold for 17 dollars! The caipirinha recipe is easy: cachaca, lemon, sugar and ice. Of course you have to mix it the right way. I just pour the ingredients and trust my "feeling" to do it. I practice since I was a kid, and I make great caipirinha. Everybody seemed to like it, and Jesse was noticeable happy drinking it ;)



After some chit-chat, tarot reading and doodling, everybody began to leave. I was going to see the baseball game with my sister and we carried Sunshine with us. I have to confess I haven't quite got the hang of it, and instead of trying to figure out the rules I went to the corner's restaurant, ate

some mexican food and then took a nap :) When I woke up everybody was happy - the Yankees have won.

We then went to the party at Chelsea st. It was some sort of rave party, they took a big warehouse, two dozen image projectors (video, film, slides...) some sound equipment and... voila'! We arrived just in time for the brazilian music performance. Elaine was already there with a bunch of friends. Sunshine stayed with us until 1:30 and then left to catch his bus back home. We left the party at 3AM when everybody began to leave. It was too early for two nocturnal brazilians accostumed to leaving parties at 10AM, so we went to the Groove Lounge in East Village. We were kicked out of there at 4AM when the place closed. The music was great there! We then went to a cafe nearby and stay there since we got kicked again at 5AM. That was enough, so we went home to have some sleep and pack our stuff for the next day.



Sunday - the missed train

I guess we haven't adjusted ourselves for the NY time yet! One more delay and this time it costed us a 24 hours wait. Ivana took the wrong subway train (East instead of West) so we left late for the Train Station. We took a taxi but the traffic was truly terrible, and we arrived at the tracks 2 minutes after the train had left! We were able to check in our bags, tough, so we left Penn Station and looked for someplace to have dinner. Our friend Mark suggested the Carmine, where they have HUGE plates. We ordered fried calamari, and we could eat only half of the portion. We tought about going to the movies but everybody was really tired. I had planned to catch up sleep in the train, but since we missed it, I went home and fell on the bed like a rock.

Monday - last day in NY

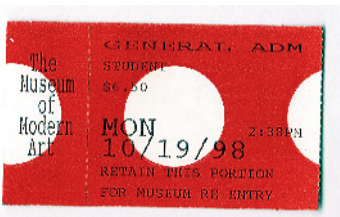
We slept in the morning and went to MoMA in the afternoon. Mago was scheduled to arrive today, but we haven't planned anything - we were supposed to be on our way to Omaha. I sent him e-mail but I didn't know at what time he would be

arriving or where he would be staying, so we'll have to wait to meet him in the West coast. This time we arrived at the station way before the train departure. We bought some food at the supermarket so we don't have to eat the greasy overpriced stuff they serve there :)

Tuesday - inside the train

We are now powered by a laptop so we can write reports on the idle hours inside the train :) The first trains we took to Boston and Washington DC had outlets near every chair, but the train to Chicago didn't seem to have any, and since we were tired we didn't bother about it. We changed trains in Chicago and after some asking and searching, I was able to find a power outlet three cars ahead of mine. They only have one outlet per car, and if you're lucky it's not

unaccessible behind a chair or a sleeping passenger. So, here I am, writing this inside the train and watching the sunset... We expect to arrive in Omaha around midnight.



Sito Gang at Alt Coffee



At the Indian
restaurant



Our adorable
waiters



Walking in the
city



A psychedelic rest



Lenara shows her
juggling skills



Elaine's stairway



Our "cachaceira" hostess



Jesse under the
effects of caipirinha



At the party. (From left to right: Ivana, Mark, Elaine, Stephan, Matt, Tatiana, Tiago)



The dancing



At the Groove Lounge: Lenara, Mark
and Mireille



Cibele photographed us for a
brazilian newspaper

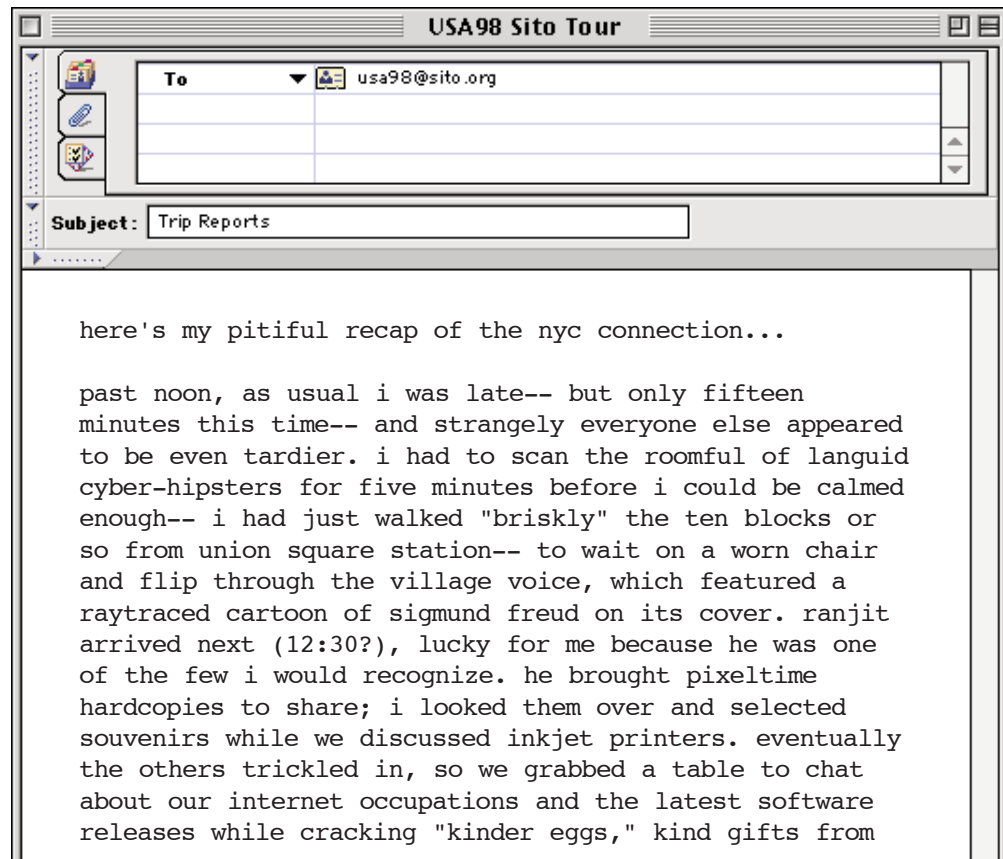


Lenora...



...and Ivana at MoMA

Jesse (NY)



the verles. we assembled the toys therein but no one wanted to eat the cheap chocolate shells. sunshine distributed color mini-comics; his printer was better than ranjit's. after clicking a few digital photos for the later website memorial, we lunched indian and retreated to gracious elaine's apartment where lenara made us sugarcane-rum and lime drinks-- that for the life of me i couldn't learn the name of. ivana did tarot readings, sunshine and i sketchbooked a bit. unfortunately i had to leave the five at around five to meet my sister for dinner. thanks folks!

--

Jesse Reklaw
weekly dream comic *** submit your dream!
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Sunshine (NY)



This very simple page will be devoted to the day in NYC - officially my first SITO in-person function - at the bottom a big collage from my sketchbook+

I was late that morning and had to get a ride to the bus stop. I had promised to bring these little books I made to commemorate the day and left them until the last minute to print out. I only had to make 10 and "BEST" printing option was ruled out. It was a lovely day, sunny and cool. I wore black and would end up sweating, having to buy another shirt later in the day.

I made the last possible bus that I could get without being hideously late (I imagined them leaving and me being in the City, not meeting them and feeling like a shtup) and arrived a bit after 12. A cab was definitely the deal. I usually don't take cabs but I had the cash and time was important here.

A sketch from the cab ride is located below; it was a regular ride, nothing special.

I arrived at Ave A and walked up to Alt.Coffee, seeing a girl shooting up in a doorway within minutes of getting out of the cab. Missing Alt.Coffee walking down to 145, I felt silly, but

when they say understated - they mean it. I walked in and recognized Ranjit from the photos that Lenara had posted prior @ the USA98 page. I walked up and introduced myself and found that the guy sitting with Ranjit was Jesse Reklaw. Immediately we traded off things (I giving them little books, Jesse tossing me a CONCAVE UP and Ranjit with these little postcards) and moved to a table.

Elaine was the next to come in, walking over telling how she had heard that Lenara and Ivana might be a bit late for some reason, having to come from uptown/Harlem. If you have not seen the photos, she was wearing a cute floral shirt and these wonderful turquoise shoes - slightly platformy. I got coffee and we all talked while waiting for the Guests.

Lenara and Ivana arrived and we all crowded around that table in the middle of the front area to the left of the door. A guy behind me looking rather " bohemian ", the guy who gave me a light for my cigarette, was sketching something. The girl from the record store, looking oh so LES, came in piercings, attitude and all.

Lenara had brought some eggs: KINDER OVO. These were very cool. Crappy chocolate egg shell with a toy in the hollow middle. Ranjit got a weird looking flesh colored Space Shuttle that looked oddly phallic, Jesse got a Caveman with some kind of unicycle motoractivity and I got a tiger (also included in the collage below). Having constructed our toys we decided to go out to lunch.

Before I had met up with everyone I had suggested Indian food and on the way in, during my bus ride, mused " Wouldn't it be funny if I ate at the same place that I ate at with my friend Craig, whom I had visited the other day. We walked down to 6th St (where all

the Indian restaurants are - plus one Guatamalan place - and walked down.... WE ATE AT THE JOINT I mentioned!!! WEIRD!!! And it was not like I was like - you know - trying to make my little thing come true we just all ...walked ...there!

NO MILK PRODUCTS FOR JESSE: Now I know why he calls his web space what he does!

After the Indian food experience, where we sat by the oddest tapestry: a man beside a group of horses in lake this scene in front of a steamship hovering in the distant mountains... we went to Elaine's to hang out for a bit. This was interesting. Lenara made this drink which I will not try to spell. It was quite tart. At the restaurant she explained things about it. " The Little Girl from the Country " I think it is called in Brasil. The Sophistos in Brazil drink this drink with Vodka - perhaps those uniform people that Lenara told about, the ones that wear all brown and tan outfits and like ritzy watches. We all drank a bit, using many limes, and played around with the tarot; we looked at the pictures we took with Lenara's GIGANTIC digicam - the thing was like a techno-brick. We listened to Brazilian music from the north - not that Samba stuff which the girls seemed to hold a disdain for the commonality of. Soon Jesse had to go eat dinner with - what was it - his sister?? And Ranjit had to go home to bed. During our walk before, we had gotten tickets to a party and agreed to meet up there later, over in the good old meat-packing district.

Lenara, Ivana and I agreed to watch the Yankee game. We went uptown to meet up with her friends Damon and Cibeles at the Media3(?) office. I think that is what the place was called. We went up there and as it was were destined to come right back downtown, to watch the Yankee game at Taro's on Thompson St. A

sidenote: I ran into my friend Jeff Wong waiting for Max Roach's autograph, he was standing out side the Blue Note and I briefly introduced our little party to him. I love running into people I know - especially good friends - while in NY. A trip just ain't a way-cool trip it seems without one of these little incidents. We sat in the apartment and I watched the game drinking some Guinness and meeting a group that were very close with each other. Taro's friends. Damon, Cibeles, Lenara and Ivana went out for some Mexican food. The Yankees won.

Lenara and Ivana lay for a while in Taro's bed and I was soon in there to petition that we go to the party. I knew that I had to be on the last bus, and being that it was closing on 11, I asked that we go off to our 20 dollar party. We did. Took a cab. The mexican food was sitting hard in Ivana's stomach - so I knew it had to be cab. After being frisked we went into this noisy rave-esque party. We met up with Elaine and her friend...what was his name...damn! He took pictures at the house with his Pentax! Showed us the difference between his old short-haired photo and his current long-haired one. Oh well - sorry man. Anyway - We walked around for a while - Elaine anticipating this Brazilian artist's playing. I thought briefly that I would hang out all night but deep down I knkew I was not into the early bus trip that I would have to make if I elected to hang out all night, coming home all haggard at 6AM/Sunrise. So Elaine and the gals shooed my off and I caught the last bus - ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS LATE!!!! Wow.

OK I gotta get to work on some stuff I hope this little account is cool for you. Enjoy the pic.



CAB - 1/2 HR. LATE.
CABBIE ASKS WHAT "DKNY"
MEANS.

HIM.



th st.



LE
N
ara



10/23

Omaha, city and Zoo

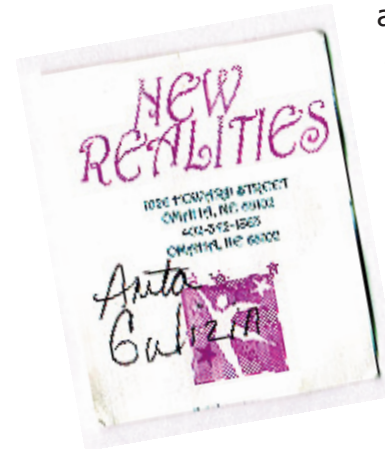


Two tired brazilians arrived at the Omaha Train station around midnight. Ed picked us up there and drove us to his house in his red sports car. We chatted a little bit but everybody was tired and we went to sleep. Jen (Ed's sister) has kindly let us stay in her bedroom - according to Ed, the best in the house. The other inhabitant, Kevin, was playing somewhere in town and arrived when we were already sleeping.

Next day we enjoyed an Omaha tour. We went to Ed's workplace, CIM, where we met his co-workers. We had lunch at a greek restaurant, and then visited a really cool mystical store I can't remember the name now. Ivana bought two tarot decks and I bought geodes with to-be-revealed crystals inside. We also went to a record store and later had ice cream. We stopped by Ed's parents'

house and met Ed's dad. Donna and Caitlyn weren't there, unfortunately. We then went to CIM to read our e-mails and Ivana found a love letter from an anonymous Omaha admirer in her mailbox. :)

Back to Ed's house, there was a little party going on, and we could meet some very nice Omahans. It was a great night, we chatted, ate snacks, listened to some brazilian music CDs I've brought, saw some Sito 96 hours footage, and had lots of fun. We were supposed to take a bus at 8:00AM and then wait for 12 hours in Kansas City. Instead, we managed to find a Greyhound bus leaving Omaha at 7:25PM, so we got to stay for another day in the city. Since Ed has to work, he designed his friends Barry, Kevin, Andy and Christene to "babysit" us. We woke up late and had lunch with the arduous workers (Ed, Scott, Jamie...) at Zio's Pizzaria. We then decided to spend the afternoon in the Zoo. The day was wonderful, a beautiful, warm sunny day. I love



sunny days, and you can see my happy face in the pictures :) :) :) We walked thru the zoo paths, and saw the giraffes, llamas, elephants and the terribly cute polar bears, among many other animals. They have a big aquarium there with those cool tunnels where you can pass under the tanks. The penguins were delightful. There's a dome in the tank where you can get into and the



penguins will come and play with you. After the aquaria we went to the "jungle". It was cleverly designed so we could sneak inside tunnels, paths, pending bridges, waterfalls and such. I enjoyed the afternoon very much, the zoo was beautiful and our companions were so nice. I hope we meet again. We then went to take our bus at the station, Ed

arrived there later and we said goodbye to everybody. Our stay in Omaha was great. Nice town and very nice people too!

Once in the bus, we could comprove all the stories we heard about buses :) There are indeed weird people inside them, and the attendant said things like: "no alchool or drugs inside the bus. If you disobey my rules I'll drop you at the road in the dark, it's cold and you'll get sick, I hope it rains on you. If you have any questions, don't bother to ask". Despite that, wemanged to arrive safe in Kansas and took our train to Flagstaff. It's called the "SouthWest Chief". The other train was the "California Zaphyr". All trains have cool names like those. I remember taking the "Silver Meteor" last year from NY to Miami. So, here I am, at the sightseeing car writing this and looking to the mountain scenery. The laptop is working again (see the parenthesys for full explanation). Arrival in Flagstaff is expected at 9:13PM.

(parenthesys - the laptop daeth and resurrection)
Just a quick note: after writing the last report, I was playing with the PC's control panels and tought it would be good to set up a password for the laptop. When i shut it down and started it up later, it wouldn't recognize the damn password!! Ivana couldn't write her reports :(and we hoped there was a way to disable the BIOS password. After some research we



tought we would have to open it up and remove the circuit battery - definitely not something I was willing to do myself. I can open and disassemble Macs but I don't know anything about PeeCeas. And it was my dad's computer after all... Ed asked his friends Andy and Barret to help us. After some fiddling around, Andy managed to break an useless little piece of the laptop. :) After this first unsuccesfull try, we tought it would be better to bring it to an authorised repair shop. But, to my surprise, Barret was able

to resurrect it the next morning in an amazing way. He said that sometimes the password control panel would not recognize the last letter of the password, so he tried it and IT WORKED! I couldn't believe, it would never have occurred to me, I'm accostumed to trust my Mac :) PC hell apart, it is now working again and I hope it stays like this until the end of the trip. Nossa Senhora do Postscript, ajudai-me! :)



Arriving at the train station



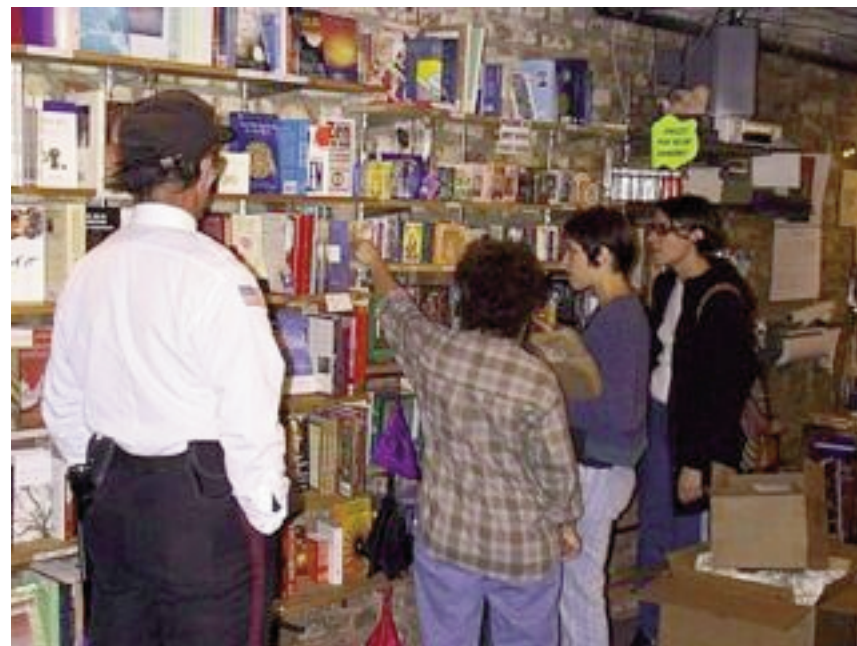
Ed's car. (can you see the
three of us?)



Funny stuff arrives
by e-mail



Eating greek
food



The mystical
store



Ice cream
stop



At
Ed's house



2



3



Zio's pizzeria. Don't ask me what I was showing, I don't remember.



At the Zoo. Christene, Lenara, Andy and Barret



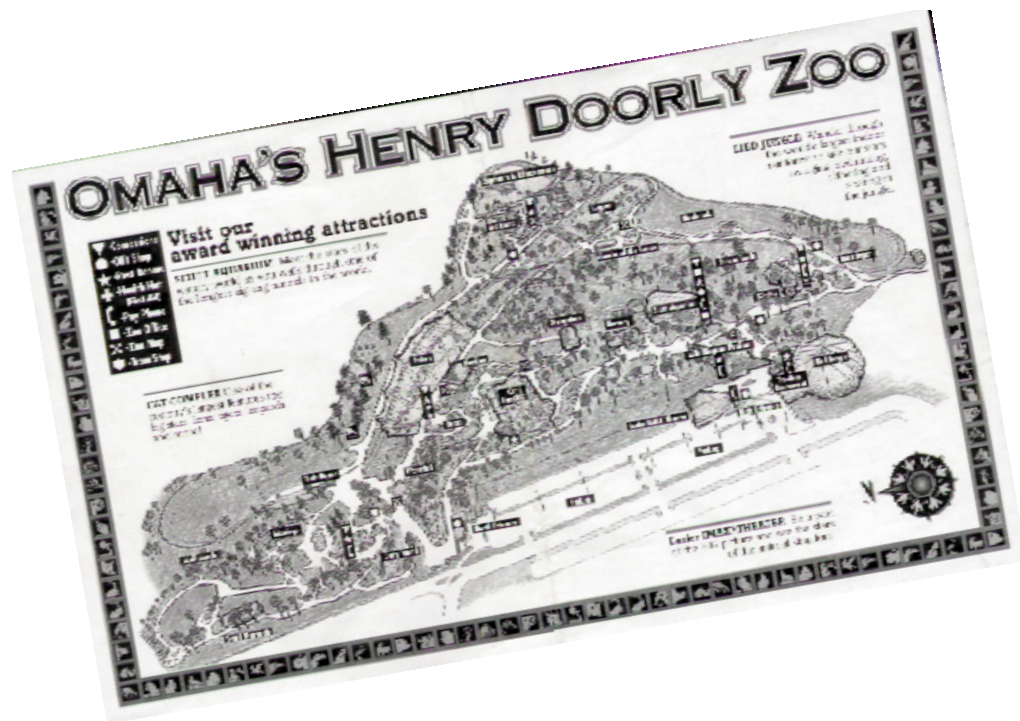
Help! The alligator wants to have me for lunch! :)



We fed the fishes.



T-adaa! The
polar bear.
He was
sleeping.



10/ 27

Flagstaff,

Grand Canyon, Sedona



we arrived in Flagstaff on Friday, in the nice local train station. Our friend Chris was there waiting for us with his girlfriend, Laura. He drove the two dirty and hungry brazilians to his house (soon to be ex-house, he's moving to another condo at the end of the month) and cooked a delicious dinner for us (noodles & vegetables - we were craving for non-junk food, we forgot to buy food for the last train trip and had survived on snacks and chocolate for almost a whole day :) After filling our stomachs and taking a good bath, we chatted for a little bit and then went to sleep.

Saturday was Grand Canyon day. After a quick stop at the Northern Arizona University for e-mail check, report upload and battery charging, we headed north to the Canyon's

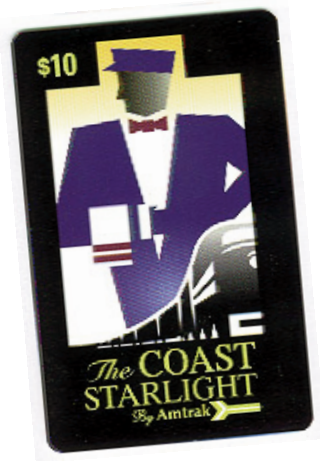


south rim. We arrived there at noon, and after some sighthseeing at the Yavapai point, we began to hike down the canyon. I have to tell you, those huge rocks are certainly an amazing view. I've been warned that the canyon was big, but it is hard to imagine _how_ big it is! Chris told us that he'd been there many times and each time he discovered it was bigger than what he expected. Actually entering the canyon makes it feel more real, if you look at it from above it is so beautiful that you can think it's a painting or a Hollywood special effect. We hiked for one hour until we began to feel tired. Also, all the people passing by us on their way up seemed soooo tired that I began to be afraid... :) I would lie to you if I told you that coming back up was easy, but we managed to complete the journey back in only five minutes more than what took us to go down. It was a great experience! I wish I was in better shape so

we could go to the Colorado river and pass the bridge to Phantom Ranch. Maybe next time.. :)

Back in Flagstaff, we has some delicious burritos downtown and then went to the movies. We saw Pi. It's a black and white movie about a mathematician trying to hack the stock market. I liked it very much. We tought about going to the Observatory, but the sky was clouded and we wouldn't be able to see much. Chris had told us that the planet Pluto was discovered in the Flagstaff Observatory.

Sunday we woke up to a rainy weather. We were supposed to do some hiking in Sedona (maybe visit one of the energy vortexes that are said to be there) but it is no fun to hike in the mud, so we just drove there and saw the city from inside our car. It is a really beatiful city, and the road from Flagstaff to Sedona is considered one of the 10 more beautiful roads in America. You go down the mountains and see the beautiful little



rivers, forests, all the trees changing colors, the magnificent rock formations that turn more red as you approach Sedona... wow! We stopped by the road to do some sightseeing and also to visit the famous talking deer

(see picture below - if you are interested about what the deer said, e-mail us ;) We had lunch at the Red Planet Diner. All the decoration is around the UFO theme. The waiters' t-shirts said "Welcome earthlings". You can read at the back of the bar's chairs things like: "aliens love milkshake". It's a very funny place. They have an UFO fountain and a cool template in the yard where you can stick your head into and take "I was abducted at Red Planet Diner" photographs. The sandwiches have names as "Vulcan Veggier Burger". I loved the place :) After lunch, we stopped at a mystical store (Sedona is one of the USA new age centers) and bought some gems stones. Ivana and I took photographs of our auras. The woman who took the



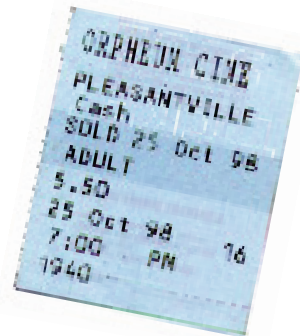


photographs and interpreted our auras could tell what was going to appear in the pictures _before_ they were developed. Amazing!

We went to yet another movie in Flagstaff: Pleasantville. It is a cute comedy about a "perfect", pleasant city from a TV show which is changed when two teenagers are transported to inside the show. After that we had sushi for dinner.

On Monday we woke up and found a big surprise: it was snowing outside! Almost the first snow of the year. We saw on the news the day before that the first snow had been on Sunday. We don't have pictures of the snow, tough, because the camera battery was with Chris, being charged at NAU. At noon the snow had already melted and the weather turned to a sunny day. We had lunch at a natural food store: great, nutritious food. We bought some natural food to eat during the train trip too.

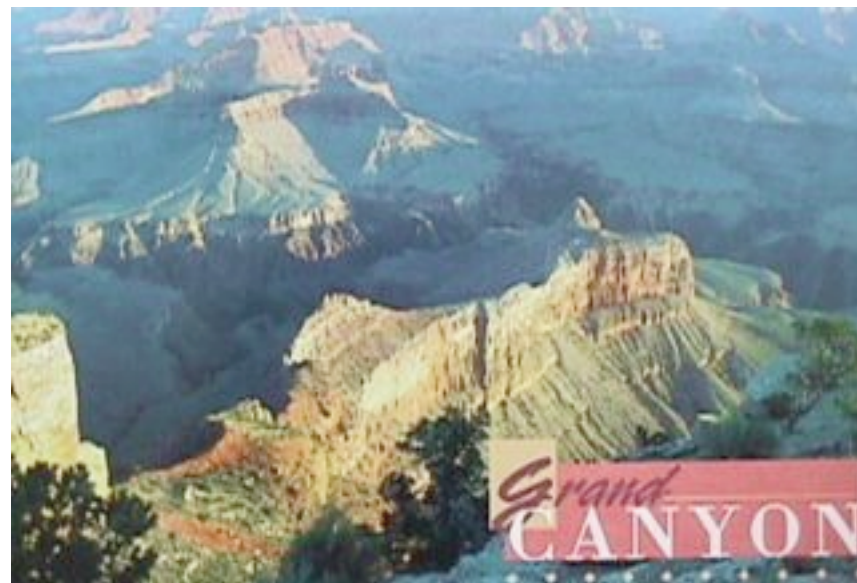
We then walked downtown, saw some stores, and met a really kind woman at the candy store. Our friend Chris was moving his stuff out of the apartment, and we helped him a little bit. We then had some pizza for dinner and left for the train station. When we arrived there we were told that the train was 5 hours late! The guy at the station showed us a telegram explaining the delay, with more than 7 different motives listed along with the amount of delay each one implied. I don't remember a single one, but I was truly amazed. We had no option but to come back and stay at Laura's house (Chris's home was furniturless) and wait for another 5 hours. We phoned the station and the train was another 2 hours late! We finally managed to get into the train at 6:00AM. Chris couldn't sleep properly and had to teach a class later in the morning. That was bad :(



To compensate for some of the delay, we were put into a bus in the middle of the journey to go straight to the north to Bakersfield. We then took the next train to San Francisco and are currently 3 hours and a half behind our schedule.



Flagstaff train
station



Grand
Canyon



We hiking the
Canyon



Our
host,
Chris



Our own Grand Canyon Photo (of course,
the postcards are prettier :



The mountains and the clouds in the way to
Sedona. Can you see the road below?



The famous talking deer. Can you hear it?



Red Planet Diner. It was very amusing to eat in such a "cosmic" place!



Red Planet Diner.

2



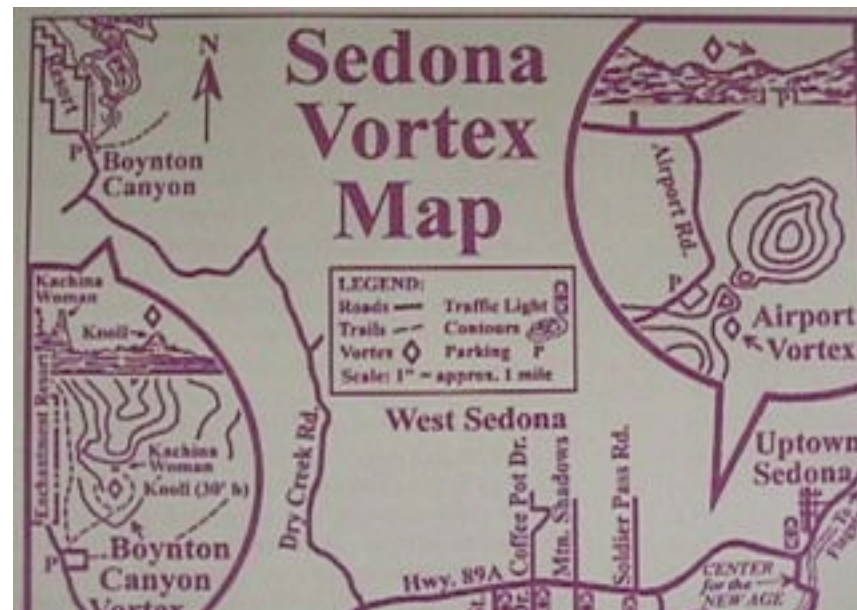
Red Planet Diner.

3



The attendants at the Center For The New Age.
Aya (on the left) makes beautiful mandalas.

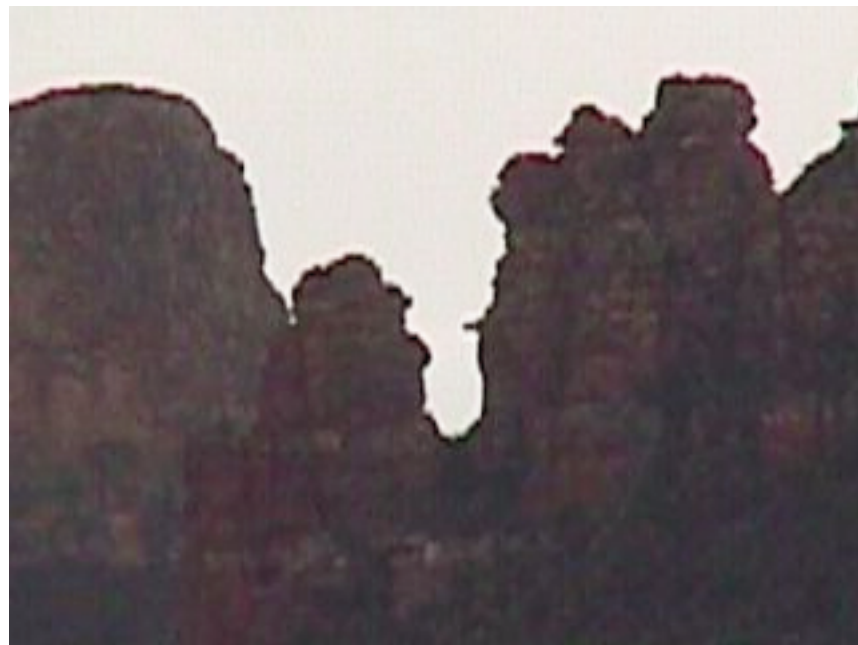
<http://www.starwheels.com>



Sedona
Vortexes.



The incredible blowjob
rock.



close-up.
If you are under 18 years old, don't
look! :)

10/30

San Francisco, part 1



We arrived in San Francisco at the expected delayed time. Two dirty, homeless-looking Brazilians took a cab in from of a fancy hotel were going-to-opera dressed people awaited on the line. Whe arrived at Annette's apartment and chatted for a while. Next day we began our San Francisco exploration at Market Street. We bought maps and cute tourist advice in the form of a card deck with "52 adventures in San Francisco". We first walked to the "wrong" direction, and found ourselves in the "xxx video" neighborhood. :) We walked and shopped for a bit, and then had coffee in a nice cafe. The owner was friendly and



talked about a trip he made to Rio some time ago. Nexts day we woke up to a beautiful sunny day. We went to Golden Gate Park and visited the Botanical Garden and the Science Academy Museum. There were two Special Exhibits there. One

about earthquakes, where we could experience a very dull "fake" earthquake in a special auditorium. I was expecting something more "shaky" but it was interesting anyway. You could build lego buildings there and press the "earthquake" button to see how well they'll behave. Afterwards, we went to the unbearably sponsored exhibit about microbes. After we passed by hundreds of posters explained why a pharmaceutical company I won't name (so they won't get publicity from me :) is sooooooo good to you, and makes sooooo many things to improve your life, and is sooooooo concerned about your health, we found the "gaming" part of the exhibit. The racing bacteria game was pretty dull, but the "catch-a-germ" was a must! I

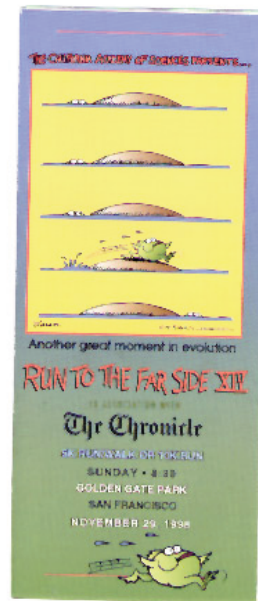
tried to catch bad germs for hours but all I got was a handful of good germs :(. You had to put your arms inside a dome and the "germs" - little pieces of paper - would be blown in the air for you to catch them. The bad germs were yellow and there were only three left when I played. (We would later catch a big germ in Portland - from Germany :) - that was Ed's joke of course. I laughed my guts out when he told it :)

When we then visited Construct where Annette tried to show us their new project, but it was in "broken" status at that time :(We were supposed to go to a Macromedia party, but when we arrived there we discovered it was too mainstream, sponsored by a big radio station and such, so we went to a bar instead and had some drinks. You can see the pictures at Annette's report page. After that we went dancing at the Cats club. The music was great and Annette's friends began to arrive slowly. We were supposed to return home earlier, but we couldn't help but



staying late. The music was reeeally good. I would try go to the bathroom and then I would hear the first tunes of a music and think: - Oh, no I can't miss this one! :)

Next day we had lunch with Annette and Issac at South Park. (Somebody made the joke: - it's a geek place, but the geeks here look good because they're into design.) The sun was shining and we sat on the grass eating our sandwiches. I'm always happy in beautiful days like that, and we had great company too! After lunch, Issac drove us to the airport, where we had to wait a little bit for the plane - it was coming from LA.



At the airplane, there were phones with fax/modem jacks in each row. I guess we must send some e-mail from the plane when we fly back, just for coolness sake :)



The Botanical
Garden



At the Natural History
Museum



Oh, no! We're
on TV again



The good germ



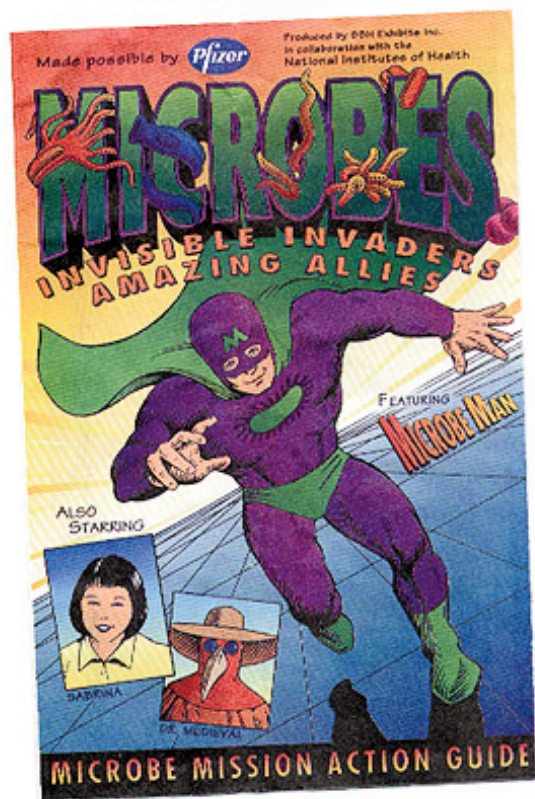
Dancing at the
Cats club



At Construct



Lunch at South
Park



Annette (SF)

...and my god can they dance?!?

Everything they told me about the geek girls from Brazil was true. Lenara is hyper, and Ivana is a great appreciator of sleep.

What I wasn't warned about was that their fingers can do things that fingers shouldn't be able to do. And the Ivana has the stamina to keep up with our Tech Director, James Waldrop, on the dance floor. To put things in perspective, James is notorious for going to raves and dancing till sunrise with absolutely no chemical assistance.

Sadly I ran out of shots by the time we got to Cat's Alley grill for an epic night of dancing. Lenara's tweety-bird shirt was seriously messing with the Goth vibe. Plenty of evil goth stares were thrown her way to let her know that bright yellow is not a very spooky color. It was quite a treat.

It wasn't long before my usual dancing partners turned up to water down the goth element. Randy sporting cane and jesters hat. And Terrance, my butoh teacher, dressed in a bright red cowboy shirt complete with embroidered roses.

We danced until we could barely move.



Lenara slurping her
drink at Kate O'Brian's.



Lenara demonstrates
interesting family quirk.



The sisters audition for the
local freakshow.



James makes a pathetic attempt to do something clever with his fingers



Transvestite decides Lenara & Ivana are Irish and won't stop talking.

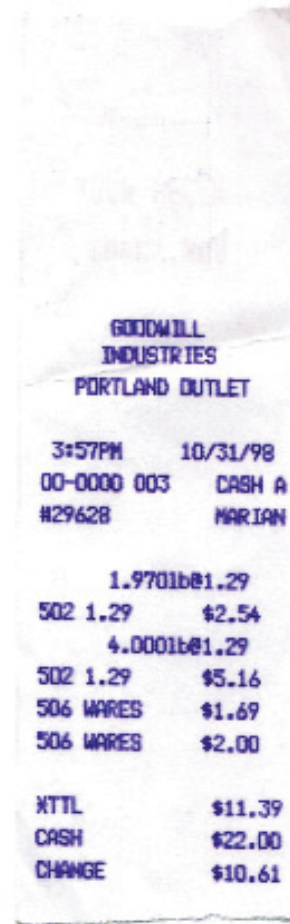
11/02

Portland & Halloween



We arrived at the airport to find Jon waiting for us with a Sito greeting sign. Megan was with him and we had dinner at the Blind Onion Pizza. We saved some pizza for Ed, he was going to arrive a few hours later. We rode to the airport again in the Little Pony (Megan's car) and had to rush thru corridors to meet Ed. He arrived with his new haircut and his Russian doll Nintendo backpacks. We went to the warehouse where Jon

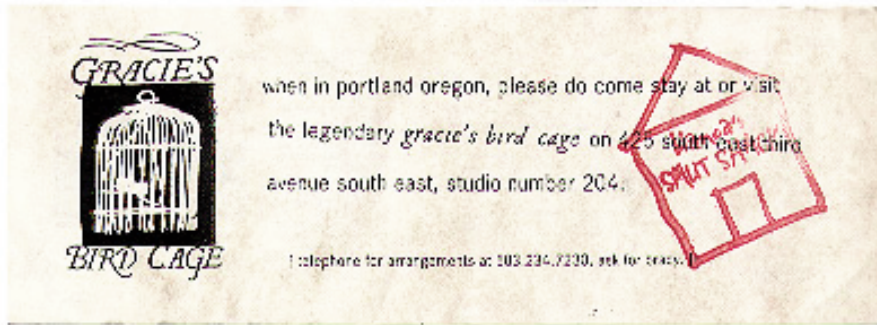
lives. They were expecting fire inspection fascists to arrive on monday, but the good news is that they will arrive only next week, so we won't meet them :) We also visited Gracie's Bird Cage, where Brady lives. Both places were furnished



with stuff from the "bins". We soon learned that the "bins" were wonderful places where you can buy anything you want for less than a dollar. That includes clothes, computers, couches, fridges, toasters, name anything and you'll find it at the bins. Of course that's mostly used, old stuff but that's where creativity should be added to transform them into useful masterpieces.

So next day we woke up, filled our stomachs with french toast and potatoes, and headed for the bins to find halloween costumes for the night. Ed got some tire snow protectors, mesh yellow underwear, goggles and other cyborg-like stuff. Ivana and Martin chose cute dresses, and I grabbed brilliant-colored

clothes. That would turn me later into a "Crayon Elf", as Ed named it. Ed found a silver fire-resistant outfit to complement his robot character. We added the Sito logo to his jacket, and the "Ed-bot" was born. Martin decided to wear a "my husband beats me" make up, and Jon painted his face in a "Burning Man" fashion. Brady arrived later with his psicho costume. We went to dinner at Mykle's house, where we found wonderful food awaiting us. Megan arrived later dressed as a fortune teller princess. We chatted and drank wine after the dinner. It was a great "Sitoid" gathering!. After dinner we went to a halloween party from the Portland Burning Man list. Plenty of scary creatures were there. It was very funny for two brazilians



unnacostumed with halloween. People kept saying that it was their favorite holiday, and I'm forced to agree. It's the funniest for sure! We didn't threatened for chocolate, tough.

Next day we went to the Forest Park, it was really nice, it was kind of raining and we hiked in the mud at night. I know this doesn't sound very nice, but it was! :) The forest was quiet, the smell was absolutely wonderful, and we felt like we were inside an x-files episode (unfortunately, we didn't run into any mutant alien forest creature :) The trail ended in the street, so we walked to the grocery store where we were supposed to meet Megan and Ivana to buy food for our dinner at Megan's house.

Megan lives in a beatiful house dedicated to art. Many artists live there and they have rooms for band rehearsal, performing arts, painting, photography and such. We all gathered together by the fire after the dinner, it was a great night.





At Jon's house



Gracie's Bird
Cage



Inside the
van,
...



...in our way to the
bins



Dinner at
Mykle



Gesine's creations



Mykle cooking (and Brady peeking behind him)



Halloween

Ed-bot



The pink
doll



"My husband beats
me"



The Crayon
Elf



Pshico-Brady &
the burning
Jon



At the halloween
party



Guess where the elf
and the doll are?



Entering the
Forest Park



Testing the camera effects at the dinner
at Megan's

negative



pastel



sepia



Megan, Ivana, Brady, Jon and
Martin by the fire



Bigger than a bread box.

(PDX)

Brady
Jon
Megan

sito.pdx.1998





on halloween, megan (critter) puts
the finishing touches on her lips.



Ivana my love and two other people
whose names I forgot :)



Senor Lagumba's sidekick gets a friendly handshake from ed. martin notifies the officials.



megan (critter) smacks her lips at hygrid unplugged. (Grady, chris, mrrranda, megan)



the crayon elf and her pink crayon
sister. (lenara, ivana)



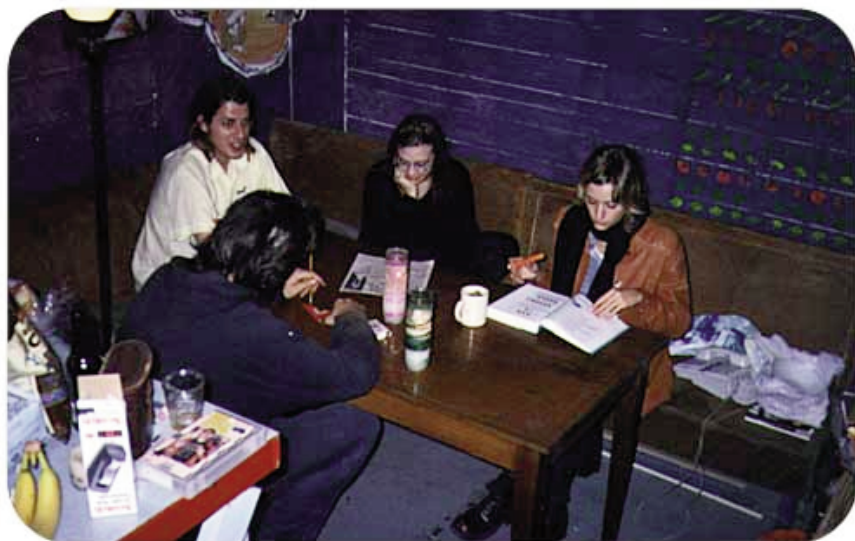
critter and lenara narrowly escape
the psycho of halloween. (Grady)



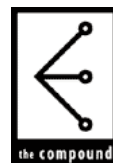
megan and jon.



these are actually from after the
portland visit, but we like 'em a lot.



this is pretty much the same photo you saw before.



www.scribble.com

www.ultrablue.com/brady



11/09

Portland, Apple, SF



We honored The Breakfast Tradition at Gracie's. Everybody chatted, enjoyed the colorful couches and filled their stomach. I did some report-writing, and Ed brought some calculator paper to begin the Sito Unplugged Hygrid Collab After some failed attempts to turn Ed into the Burning Man, we headed for the city looking for zines and records. The backpack I found at the bins made great success (It's a cartoon character and I'm trying to find his name. Some people already told me what it was but I forgot. If you recognize it, e-mail me!). After a horrible coffee at the book store, we dined at a Greek Restaurant (only they call it "mediterranean"). Back at Underworld Industries, Ed,

Martin, Chris and Miranda went to a show, while me and Ivana chatted with Brady at Gracie's. We spent hours trying to download astrology software to make Brady's natal chart. Then we gave up and Ivana proceeded to Tarot readings. By that time, Ed has returned from the show and joined us in our fate-quest journey. I don't remember what time we finally went to bed, but it was definitely late. I remember though that the cards were very kind to us :)

The collab calculator paper continued to grow during the next day. After breakfast, we went to see the movie "Cube". The dialogues were arguably a bit poor sometimes, but the cube concept was great. I liked it very much anyways :) In our way back we took some nice kind of free train to get to our bridge. It was "Experimental Dinner Night" at Megan's house, so we bravely ventured ourselves there to see what surprises were waiting for us. The food was actually very good, there was pumpkin soup, weird "american" sushi (with





salsa & beans and apple w/ peanut butter fillings), salmon, and the Caribbean Island jello. The "Sito" topic was mentioned during the night and Jon gave an informal lecture on the subject, followed by a demonstration of Hygrid, after everybody had twisted their brains trying to understand the hyperdimensionality of the thing. Ed arrived with Rachel some time after, both completely soaked from the rain outside. She followed us home when we chatted a lot - not as long as we wanted tough, because Rachel had to work early in the morning.

Next day we had breakfast at a nice place where the next Sito collab project was conceived. Apparently, the Cube movie had seeded Ed's brain with many new 3-dimensional

ideas. After a joyfull debate at the Cafe's table, cryptic drawings on Ed's notebook marked the birth of "cubu" (this is the project's code name for now, who knows what will be the final name :) Happy with our new child, we went back to Jon's place to pack our last stuff and wait for Brady's Airoport shuttle. We said goodbye to our friends in Portland with a strong will to come back soon.

San Francisco

Our first day in San Francisco greeted us with a sunny face! We met Annette at Construct and had lunch again at the South Park. Last night, Ed lured Annette into IRC and she spent the whole morning talking to ebug. We saw again the



Dating Game demonstrations, and Ed contacted his friends at Hotwired. We went there to visit them and know the Mecca of webdesign ;) At the evening we went to the Indie Film Festival, where we met Steev Hise and followed him to his insanely-connected house. There he prepared some great drink I can't remember the name and showed us photos of his last show. After that, we went dancing at the special 80's thursday at Cat's Alley. What a day!

Apple Computer



where we were told highly classified rumours we then wowed not to reveal :) Then we toured the big building. Most signs pictograms there are from Apple's font Cairo

Next day was our long-awaited visit to Apple Computer. We rented a white Dodge Neon and followed Bill Coderre's nicely detailed instructions until we got to Infinite Loop, Cupertino. There we printed visitor badges and proceeded to the cafeteria,

and are terribly cute. We made quick stops at InstallerLand and QuickTimeLand, and also visited the Apple Store where we bought our uniformized jackets. At the little museum we saw a wood prototype of Apple III, a Mac with serial number 00001, and an Apple I motherboard that is rumoured to have belonged to Woz. We couldn't resist printing some fake badges for our friends stating they were there visiting Steve Jobs. Apparently, everybody does the same :) We had dinner at a nearby restaurant, said goodbye to our hosts and rushed to the airport to deliver Martin in time. (sadly, we later learned that he missed his flight). Our next adventure would be "parking in San Francisco". We must had spent at least 50 minutes driving in circles until we could find a spot. Ed faced a near-death experience when the floor suddenly disappeared under our wheels at Jones Street. We liked the little rollercoast so much that we went thru it over and over again :)

Ed woke up early worried if our car had been towed away. Those parking instructions in SF are damn complicated! They're more like puzzles than rules. Our little withe car was still intact, so we went out for breakfast. At that time, I've

had all the omelets and pancakes I could afford for a whole year, so I just had some soup and salad. After that we drove Ed to the airport (I'd better say that Ed drove us to the airport :), where we stayed for a lot of time because his flight was late (Murphy rules!). It was hard to say goodbye to such a great friend!

Next day we mostly stayed at home resting and enjoying the Sunday. It was our last day in San Francisco and Ivana was surprised by a flowers&ice cream delivery in the middle of the day. We took our shuttle to the airport and faced a big jet lag, arriving in NY the following morning without sleep. It was our last day in NY and our friend Rodrigo was there for the week, so we met him for brunch at Astor's place. By that time, I had decided to



stay a little bit more in New York. Ivana couldn't stay because she was already missing classes and had to graduate next year. We managed to carry our huge luggage to the Newark Airport, and felt less guilty when we saw all the brazilians in the check-in line with even bigger bags :) You'll be amazed if I told you how much money we saved in hi-tech equipment bought in the US for less than half the price it have cost in Brazil. We have a stupid law to "protect the national computer industry" that actually gave us the worst computer per people ratio in South America. I waved "au revoir" to my dear sister and went back to Cibeles house in Harlem, just to arrive at the subway station and find my friend Rodrigo there by chance! We then went to a blues bar with some of his friends. It was a nice night :)

Now, if I'm not too lazy, I may write reports on my "bonus" time in the US. Stay tuned!

And have I said yet: I loved to meet all this great people! Sito people are the nicest in the world! Thanks soooo much for everything! Come to Brazil and visit me!



Breakfast at
Gracie's



Ivana types
surrounded by
colors



Fortunately, Ed is
fireproof!



This is not Photoshop! We actually dyed the
Sito logo on Ed and Jon's heads!



Walking in the
morning



At the airport



San Francisco

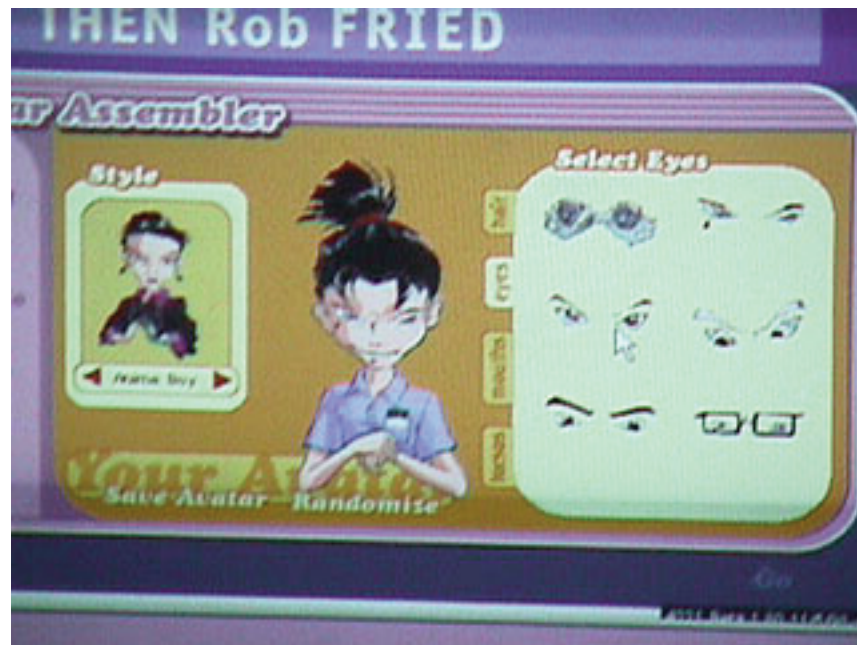
Our favorite lunch
spot at South Park



Ed and Annete gaze
with amazement



Martin and Ed look at
the VRML projects



Building our avatars in
the Dating Game



At hotwired



Apple Computers

Apple has a really cool
address ;)



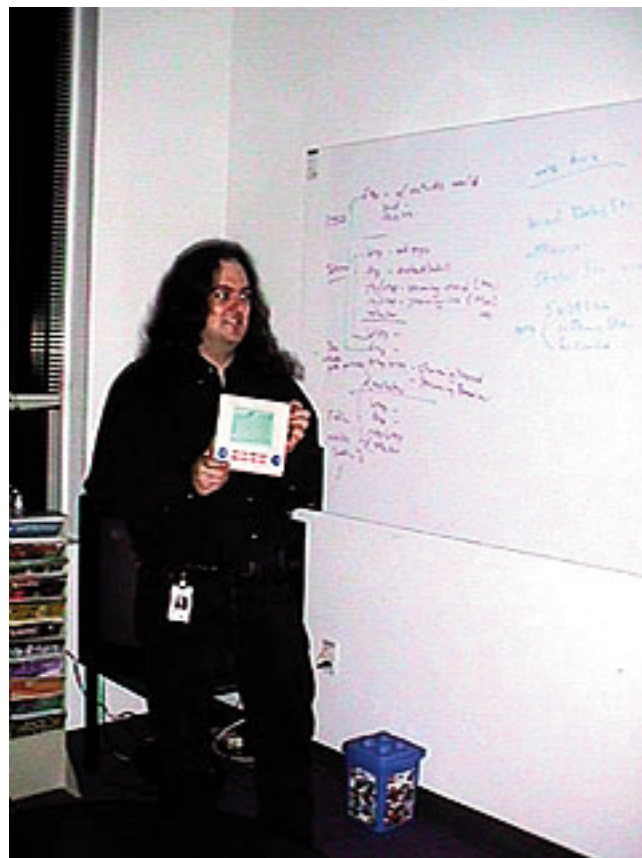
At the cafeteria: Bill Coderre,
Martin, Ed, Lenana and Ivana



Now you know where all Apple
software's bugs come from..
;-)



It's amazing how they make people work in near-slave conditions!



This is the top-secret project for Apple's new portable computer. It connects wirelessly to the lego box.



Our matching
Apple jackets



Jones St.

The cute backpack
at Jones Street



Going up...



...and then
down!!!



Now I faced a near-death experience when Ed ran down the street with me in his shoulders.



Mean chicks with jackets.



Last day in New York: our
friend Rodrigo...



...and Ivana at the
Cafe.

Mari (NY)









report-like e-mail

oed



len



mar



Date: Mon, 12 Oct 1998 19:31:58 -0400
From: Lenara Verle <lenara@verle.com>
To: usa98@sito.org
Subject: We're here!

Hi everybody!

We arrived in the USA today. We're staying with our friend Cibeles. Tonight we'll go to the Gemini Lounge, in East Village. Show up if you can. And don't forget, our big cyber-meeting is scheduled to saturday!!

Expect pictures soon!
Lenara



Date: Fri, 16 Oct 1998 15:31:11 -0400
From: Lenara Verle <lenara@verle.com>
To: usa98@sito.org
Subject: Quick update

Hi everybody!!

We're back in NY after two wonderful days in Washington DC and Boston. Wait for tonight for more reports and Ivana's cool and way-more-better-designed-than-mine ;) report page to be launched later today!

I don't have much time right now but I thought I would stop and say a quick "hi" :)

Later,
Lenara



Date: Sun, 18 Oct 1998 14:16:28 -0400
From: Lenara Verle <lenara@verle.com>
To: usa98@sito.org
Subject: Saturday in NY

Hi everybody!

We had such a great day yesterday! We'll use our idle train hours in our way to Omaha to write the long, illustrated report for the Sito Saturday in NY.

Lenara



From: Martin Goebel <mago@bonbon.isb.net>
Subject: mago in nyc
To: usa98@localhost.de
Date: Tue, 20 Oct 1998 03:49:15 +0200 (CEST)

Hi world!

I arrived and everything is fine :-)

At first I tried to sendmail at alt.coffee,
but they have just 2 terminals, wich where in use
with a long list of waiting ppl.

I found a good alternative at the lafayette St.
but they're closing in ten minutes. So I have to hurry.

How about lunch tuesday, ranjit? I will call you....
sunshine, please resend your phone-nr?
The one I've written down seems to be wrong - typo?

I plan to leave nyc thursday, heading to omaha.
tomorrow more.

bye, mago



Date: Wed, 21 Oct 1998 20:34:56 -0200 (EDT)
From: Lenara Verle <lenara@ilea.ufrgs.br>
To: usa98@sito.org
Subject: We're in Omaha

Hi Folks!

We're in Omaha right now, at Ed's office at Cox Interactive.
I wrote lots of new reports on the train but then I manged
to screw up the laptop :(I have no luck with PCs.
Hopefully we'll get it fixed tonight and with some extra
luck I'll even get my files back.
Ed has invited some friends to his house tonight. We are
leaving for Flagstaff tomorrow.

More news soon,
Lenara



Date: Sat, 24 Oct 1998 14:26:21 -0200 (EDT)
From: Lenara Verle <lenara@ilea.ufrgs.br>
To: usa98@sito.org
Subject: We're in Arizona + MORE REPORTS!

Hi folks!

We're in Flagstaff, and are leaving now to go hiking at the Grand Canyon. The laptop is alive again (thanks, Barret) so we have more reports on the web page! Check them out.
<http://www.sito.org/~lenara/usa98/21.html>
<http://www.sito.org/~lenara/usa98/23.html>

Later,
Lenara



Date: Sat, 24 Oct 1998 22:44:59 +0200 (CEST)
From: Martin Goebel <mago@isb.net>
To: usa98@localhost.de
Subject: on the path of lenara & ivana..

... I am now in Omaha at CIM.

Later this weekend I will update my page with a bunch of pictures and related storys...

bye, mago



Date: Sat, 24 Oct 1998 14:45:20 -0500 (CDT)
From: Ed Stastny <ed@novia.net>
To: usa98@sito.org
Subject: pics from omaha

pics of lenara, ivana and omaha folk are up at:
<http://www.sito.org/~ed/usa98>

unsorted, uncropped, untouched.
compressed a little

...e



From: "Lenara Verle" <lenara@verle.com>
To: <usa98@sito.org>
Subject: San Francisco
Date: Wed, 28 Oct 1998 14:47:33 -0800

Hi!

We just arrived in San Francisco. We'll be here for more two days and then we'll go to Portland on Halloween. Our stay in Flagstaff was great, we hiked the Grand Canyon (far more than from the car door to the guard rail :) and even got to see some snow on Monday.

Reports soon!
Lenara



From: "Lenara Verle" <lenara@verle.com>
To: <usa98@sito.org>
Subject: Close encounters of third grade
Date: Thu, 29 Oct 1998 03:53:28 -0800

Guess what? More reports and updates at the homepage!
<http://www.sito.org/~lenara/usa98>

See exclusive photographs showing us being abducted by aliens.
Read other people's reports now linked to the trip page.
Look at our tired but happy faces while hiking the Grand Canyon.
....and more!!

Having lots of fun,
Lenara



Date: Sat, 31 Oct 1998 01:37:30 -0600 (CST)
From: Ed Stastny <ed@novia.net>
To: usa98@sito.org
Subject: blue tongued in portland

dusk fell as i hurtled minneapolisward. i sat snugly between two homebound conventionists. i was squished so much i had to fold my magazine into thirds to read comfy. the sparkly lights of the city were warm and entrancing. i was ignored at the airport by a crowd of normals and one girl wearing a froggy alien mask. i had nearly a three hour layover during which i wandered and dined and wandered and read. i was reading "the train" by raymond carver when a quick and sneaky shadow fell upon me. scott! he'd just got off shift at jeffy's pizza nexus (that's not the real name, but it should be). we talked briefly. i was ubergleeful to lay eyes upon him.

liftoff toward portland had me in a window seat next to some inebriated teacherly types. i finished "cathedral" and dozed. my protosleep dreams were full of good and fun.

after a bumpy and beautiful electrolit descent into portland i was met at the gate by pizza-toting jon, dum-dum wielding lenara



and smiling ivana. a dream come true. oh, and megan was there too. she drove!

point is, i'm safe and happy here in portland. i've got a blue tongue from the bubblebath tasting dum-dum sucker. i'm going to go eat some of that pizza they brought.

...e



Date: Sun, 1 Nov 98 17:33:30 EDT
From: "Lenara Verle" <lenara@verle.com>
To: <usa98@sito.org>
Subject: Portland

Hello,

We're in Portland, as you must have noticed by Ed's messages. Since he wrote first, I felt I could delay my own reports. :)

Portland is a nice city and although the weather is not as gorgeous as it was in SF the people is so nice we feel warm and happy all the time. We're going to grow fat with all the delicious food everybody cooks to us! :)

Yesterday was halloween and we went to the fabulous bins where you can find anything you need for less than a dollar. You should be able to see your Halloween costume outfits soon in the web page. Oh, god I can't wait to put them up on the web! Ed was dressed at Sito e-bot, we had dolls, fairies, elves, and psychos in our crowd. Very funny!

Later,
Lenara



Date: Sun, 1 Nov 1998 12:54:07 -0600 (CST)
From: Ed Stastny <ed@novia.net>
To: usa98@sito.org
Subject: melloween

twas the day of all saints
and all through the compound
not a creature was stirring
except for something furry and round
(that's me)

halloween was fun. after breakfasting at brady's on french toast and potatoes, we hit the bins in an attempt to create alternate identities for ourselves. lenara came away with the "crayon elf" outfit, ivana made herself up as a cute little dolly.... so did martin, actually. i managed to scrounge some tire-chains, goggles and meshwork shirts in an effort to make myself look post-apocalyptical. i'm sure lenny will have some images up on the web in the next 48 hours.

we attended a dinner party at mykle's lovely home. pumpkin soup, salmon, asparagus, salad, some kind of spinach bruschetta... mykle made it all himself. wine was guzzled and



some spilt on the floor. gezzine showed me halloween photos from years past. i grilled her about her animation projects and discovered she's working happily on a stop-motion pro-cheese commercial.

after dinner, we gussied up and went to a guy named keith's house. i guess he was a "portland burning man person". there were burning sculptures and blinking costumes.

somewhere in all of that, we ran into megan, sarah, scarlet, chris hanis, mrranda & chris, fiona and chian. we punned, shopped, sang songs and just generally hung out.

now it's november. it feels like it.

...e



Subject: fate at four am

Date: Tue, 3 Nov 1998 13:50:28 -0600 (CST)

From: Ed Stastny <ed@novia.net>

To: usa98@sito.org

hey, it looks like lenara has put up many more trip reports on her page: <http://www.sito.org/~lenara/usa98>

let's see. yesterday was spent in a slow-moving carouse. we dined late morning at the bird cage (brady's space downstairs). the multi-headed dragon we be ingested eggs (scrambled), pancakes (blueberry), sausage (veggie) and bagels (crunchy) as it scribbled on calculator paper in a spontaneous simultaneous clutch at HyGrid grace. lenara furrowed her brow in ranslingual fret as she threw her all into the trip reports. our breakfast crew topped out at jon, brady, megan, cian, lenara, ivana, martin and me.

it's hard to conceive of now, but i think we spent the better part of the afternoon (any part of the day spent at brady's is the better part!) down there scribbling and talking and listening to carmen miranda.



group dynamics could not stop us from getting a move on, though. soon we were on an exodus across the burnside bridge and on our way to reading frenzy, powells and ozone. we ran into sean and chloe outside of (and the owners of?) reading frenzy. apparently there's some voodoo dolly of a local non-celebrity that brady had made and was selling at rf. agents for said non-celeb were on a rampage of buying them up for undisclosed (but probably malevolent) reasons. that was the topic of our idewalk discussion. midway through, lenara tugged on jon's lapel and urged, "you will tell me about this later."

it was warm as all get out in that little zine store. our little group buzzed in circles around the center rack until some of us could take the heat no longer. i grabbed issues 1-4 of some creepy looking comic and joined the "cool" people out on the sidewalk.

dusk was falling quickly and we wanted to get some food in us before we went to see "cube" (a movie playing at the koin theatre). we made hurried stops at powells and ozone. heard a geek-humour parody of the "pulp fiction" soundtrack at ozone... the songs were all techno remakes and the dialogue snips were all about telnet and unix. martin and i shared a moment there at the listening booth, snickering guiltlessly. i ended up



buying (show and tell time!) two *the ex* cds (i've been unable to find them in omaha), coil's "unnatural history 2" and my first current93 cd.

a mediterranean/mid-east smorgasbord was devoured at a place called nicholas'. unfortunately, we totally overshot our movie start time. we did discover, quite serendipitously, that coca-cola is a meat substitute. our little table demographic had the only vegetarians (brady and i) with cokes in our pinko fists. plug!

back at the compound, i napped until it was time to head to ej's for the firewater musical concert. this time, our entourage (awn-toor-RAYG!) was small. mrranda, chris, martin, me. the music was adequate to inspiring (i liked the rousing eastern european traditional ritual dance music with sax and organ and violin). hey and you know what? portland has separate liquor licenses for beer and "hard" liquor. ej's only served beers and wine. oh, and when the bouncer was checking my identification, he noted a fake nebraska driver's license on the wall that he'd just recently confiscated.

ej's reminded me of seattle for some reason. mrranda also deftly noted that most of the people there were our age and not



way younger, as we were used to at alternative rock and roll music events.

due to my nap, i was in no mood for sleep when we returned. ivana was soon to rescue me. we hung out at brady's until the wee hours. she did tarot readings for us all (brady, lenara, myself) and we talked a bit about their travels so far. my readings were intensely focussed on the fact that i would indeed be moving and that everything would be quite rewarding for me. ivana really shines when she's reading the cards, it was so great to watch her. those verle sisters never cease to amaze me.

this morning i woke up to mykle caterwauling on the answering machine...

"are yoooOoOooooOOOu guUUUuYs stillLLll asleeEEeEEEEp...?"

...e



Subject: apple lipped in san francisco

Date: Thu, 5 Nov 1998 12:42:57 -0600 (CST)

From: Ed Stastny <ed@novia.net>

To: usa98@sito.org

we're here!

the sun is shining and our bellies are full of num num bagels. the music is funky and the city awaits the dainty footfalls of our happy feet. we arrived late last night on a plane that was only half full. after a few transportation mishaps, we showed up on annette's doorstep on pine street.

there's no time for a detailed report of our last days in portland, but it must be said that we were all sad to leave. i dined with rachel, saw the movie "cube", conceived a new collab art project around a table at junior's with martin, jon, lenara and mrranda. i miss everyone already.

tonight we'll be going to an indy film showcase and dancing. hopefully we'll make the most of this gorgeous sun this afternoon.

talk to you soon.
...e



Subject: jones street drop zone

Date: Sat, 7 Nov 1998 02:27:24 -0600 (CST)

From: Ed Stastny <ed@novia.net>

To: usa98@sito.org

"...we turned the corner and FWWWWOMPF! we were plummeting headfirst in a dodge neon at at least 22.3mph toward pine street. screams erupted from the back seat as ivana fought to buckle her seatbelt..."

-- excerpt from "That Boy Can Park", by Yoba Fofas

wow, what a dense coupla days it's been my friends. as i type, ive is passed out on the bed and lenara is scribbling some kind of cryptic notes in her all-purpose infobook. we dropped martin at the airport a few hours ago. the goodbyes were too brief to be sad. we arrived at the terminal scant minutes before his flight was due to head new yorkward.

today we toured apple computers' main campus at 1 infinite loop (yes, that's the address) in cupertino. bill coderre was our host to what was the culmination of a childhood dream... to see the headquarters of apple. we saw dozens of offices, hundreds of square feet of whiteboard, scores of real live apple employees



and even a small collection of apples of yor. lenara, ivana and i bought matching apple jackets at the company store. i think we'll go out on the town in them tonight.

yesterday seemed way longer than twenty-four contiguous hours. we toured construct, ate lunch in south park, toured hotwired and met kate and wendy, looked a smut at the tower records outlet, ate pizza at a neighborhood place, caught the second half of the mr.lady film fest down in the mission district, met up with steev there, went back to his place for drinks and geeking (oh what a wonderous abode) and then on to the cat's alley for 80's night boogeying until after 2:30am. woof.

steev lives on ramona street in what used to be the cyborganic offices. as a result there exists a cluster of internet connection equipment in his apartment. from there lead wires to other houses on the street that each pay a nominal fee per month to keep the t1 connection up. the ethernet cabling is hidden amongst the "natural" electrical, telephone and cable wiring on the street. it is a beautiful thing. there are also a number of webcams available in his place. i think you can find them from: <http://cam2.detritus.net> (a bunch of cams at once can be seen at: <http://cam3.detritus.net/security.html>)



mr.lady can be found at:
<http://www.mrlady.com>

apple computers can be found at:
<http://www.apple.com>

the steep intersection can be located thusly:
<http://www.photossecrets.com/gl-SF09.html>

adios!
...e



Subject: si-toy

Date: Sun, 8 Nov 1998 08:49:03 -0800
From: "Lenara Verle" <lenara@verle.com>
To: <usa98@sito.org>

Now that Ed's back to Omaha, the report writing is in my hands again... I can't believe I met so many wonderful people in so few days! But as Jon says, "there's something about Sito people" :) :)

Watch out for a big new addition to Hygrid - it's amazing what you can do with calculator paper strips. And as soon as I get time, I'll put the last reports online, with photos of the experimental food dinner, our wanderings thru San Francisco, the visit to Apple computers, the amazingly steep Jones street rollercoast and much more. When I arrive home I'll put online the "weird QTVRs" of Underworld Industries, Gracie's Bird Cage and Detritus' Bathroom (Jon's, Brady's, and Seev's places)

Lenara



Subject: home free

Date: Mon, 9 Nov 1998 00:50:20 -0600 (CST)
From: Ed Stastny <ed@novia.net>
To: usa98@sito.org

well, this place LOOKS like home, but it's somehow different. smaller, wider, richer, lacking. the worst part about is travelling is that you always end up missing people. their smilies, their grumbles, their idiomatic charms. you leave them behind when you go. you leave them behind when you return.

i'm back in omaha, i guess is what i'm trying to say. safe and sound.

i've got traction now. feet on the ground. time to rev up for more. who's with me?

...e

PS: lenny's going to keep up on the trip reports, i hope:
<http://www.sito.org/~lenara/usa98>



Subject: Re: home free

Date: Tue, 10 Nov 1998 19:17:39 +0100 (CET)

From: Martin Goebel <mago@isb.net>

To: usa98@sito.org

On Mon, 9 Nov 1998, Ed Stastny wrote:

Yesterday I also returned - to small old germany.

The last two days in nyc where a whole struggle. missed a flight in SF, arrived not at the expected airport, had not enough cash left. In Newark I had to rent a car to get to Manhattan. and so on...

I got trough it, but NY sucked the last bucks out of my creditcard.

Now I am back in my office, tired and full with impressions of good people and nice places.

reports and pictures within the next days...

bye, mago



Subject: Re: home free

Date: Wed, 11 Nov 1998 22:05:01 -0400

From: Lenara Verle <lenara@verle.com>

To: usa98@sito.org

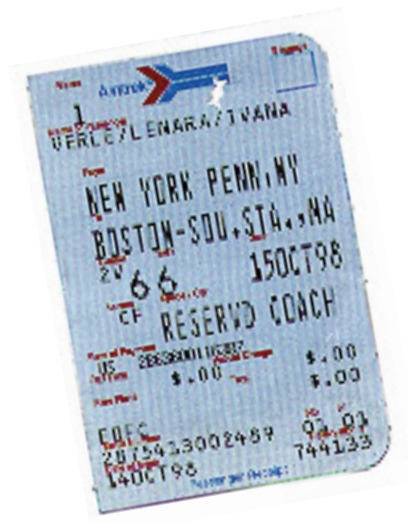
Hi!!

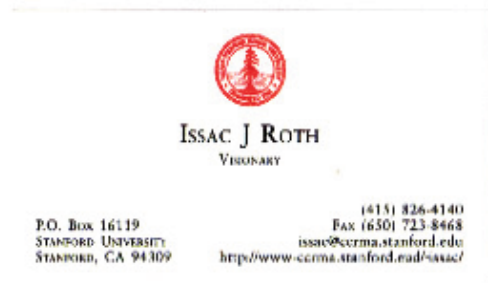
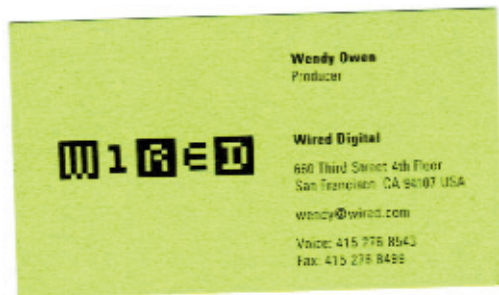
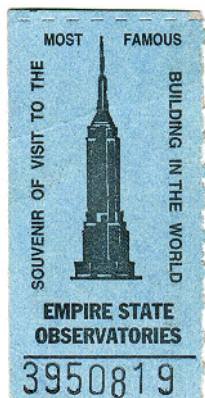
I'm still not home free :) I'm going to stay for one more week here in New York. I loved to cross the country and meet so many wonderful people. I'd like to thank all my fabulous hosts and all the people I met for the great time!!

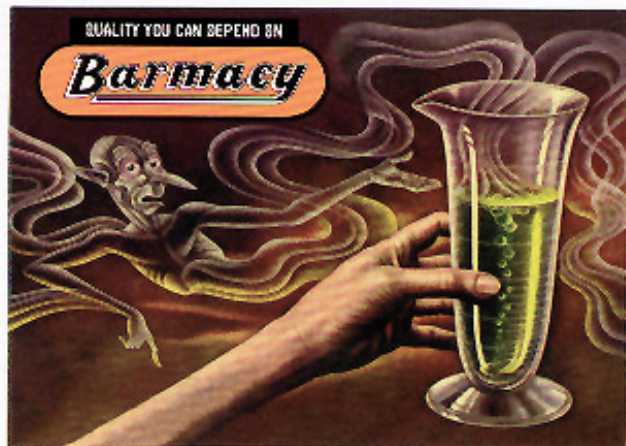
The last reports should be up soon.

Later,
Lenara









ADULT One 4
LIFEISBELLE
 07:30P FRI 112098
 11.20.98 07:15P
 D27695 \$8.75

*** None
CELEBRATION
 LP 11 6
 ADULT1 \$8.75
 FRI 10:30P 11/27/
 10 - 11:00PM 11/27/98
 ** Lincoln Plaza

come celebrate
 dumbo's birthday.

DUMBO4
 68 JAY STREET
 (IF TRAIN TO YORK)
 10 - LATE
 \$8 admission

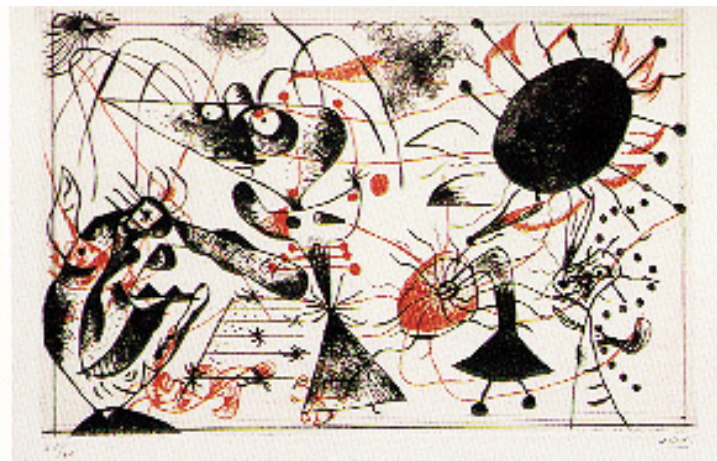
DJS -
 Chuck Core
 Stefanos
 Jim Foe
 Holman
 Neil Aline
 Alexis
 A. Gram

Spring 1998

knitting factory
knotes projects pass
 nov/dec 1998

HENRY
 DECEMBER
 THREAGDILL
 2 NAKED
 P.M. SMOKE
 A MOVE





MoMA The Museum of Modern Art



USA98



follow Lenara & Ivana
in their trip to the US