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March 17, 1997

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Ex-Cowboy vs. Spycatcher

Computer Gurus to Slug It Out at IWU Over Internet, Computer Technology in Point-Counterpoint Debate, April 2

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Remember some of history's great teams? . . . Burns and Allen . . . Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson . . . the Lone Ranger and Tonto . . . Joe Montana to Jerry Rice . . . and now--John Perry Barlow and Clifford Stoll.

Barlow and Stoll? *Huh?*

Barlow and Stoll are crisscrossing the country debating the pros and cons of all the new-fangled computer technology--things like the Internet and the information superhighway which have spawned controversies over everything from intellectual property rights and pornography to computer security.

Illinois Wesleyan University is an itinerary stop for them, Wednesday, April 2, when they will make a point-counterpoint appearance at 7 p.m., in the Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University, Bloomington. Their presentation is open to the public, free-of-charge.

Barlow and Stoll are not your run-of-the mill computer nerds.

John Perry Barlow

Ex-cowboy. *Grateful Dead* lyricist. Computer guru. That's John Perry Barlow.

Barlow coined the now popular term "cyberspace" and is co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which promotes freedom of expression in digital media.

A one-time Wyoming rancher, who earned a bachelor's degree in comparative religion at Connecticut's Wesleyan University, he's been dubbed the "Thomas Jefferson of the Internet." *Utne Reader* described Barlow as one of the " . . . 100 visionaries who could change your life."

Barlow also is a technology advisor to Vice President Al Gore, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and businesses.

He's recognized as an authority on computer security, digitized intellectual property, and the social and legal aspects of global computing networks. Barlow is a frequent contributor to publications like *Wired* and *George*.

Barlow, an outspoken advocate of free speech in cyberspace, has written a Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace, saying, in part: "Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where we gather."

Oh, yes, in his *spare* time, beginning in 1971, he was part of the writing team that cranked out songs for the late Jerry Garcia and *The Grateful Dead*.

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Barlow-Stoll/2

Barlow, born in Wyoming in 1947, was educated there in a one-room schoolhouse. In 1971, he launched the Bar Cross Land and Livestock Co., a large cow-calf operation, in his hometown of Cora, Wyo., where he also served as the Republican Party county chairman. He sold the livestock operation in 1988.

Barlow is a member of the Wyoming Telecommunications Council. He also serves on the board of directors of the WELL, a Sausalito, Calif.-based teleconferencing system, a pioneering on-line service started in 1985 with 10,000 members.

Clifford Stoll

Stoll, an astrophysicist-turned-systems manager at the super secret Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California, became a James Bond-like cyber-sleuth in 1988, when he discovered a 75-cent accounting error, putting him on the trail of a mysterious intruder, who was rummaging through a maze of U.S. military and research computers.

Instead of expelling the thief, Stoll let him wander through the computer system--loaded with top secret information--carefully recording his every keystroke.

Stoll spent a year tracking the elusive and ingenious hacker, who was using numerous techniques--from simply guessing passwords, to exploiting software bugs, to setting up bogus "Cuckoo's Egg" programs--to access unauthorized U.S. computer files.

The trail led Stoll and a half-dozen national agencies through computer networks worldwide, ending up in Hanover, West Germany, where he discovered a hacker linked to a mysterious agent in Pittsburgh.

This led to Stoll's discovery of a spy ring in March, 1989, which was selling computer secrets to the KGB, the Soviet secret police, for cocaine and tens of thousands of dollars. In the aftermath of his spycatcher success, Stoll found himself good copy for newspapers like the *New York Times*.

He chronicled his capture of the "Hanover Hacker" in *The Cuckoo's Egg: Tracking a Spy Through the Maze of Computer Espionage*. The book has been described this way: "With all the suspense of a classic spy novel, this amazing and unprecedented book is the first true story of international computer espionage.

"Told as only Stoll could describe the events, it is the first and only book to lead readers into, through and back out of the esoteric, shadowy world of computer espionage, which is without question the single most important security issue of the 1990s."

Another description of *The Cuckoo's Egg* called it an absorbing tale of how Stoll tracked Markus Hess and the Chaos Club, cracking the ring, illustrating the difference between the "hacker" and the "cracker."

Stoll also is the author of *Silicon Snake Oil: Second Thoughts on the Information Highway*. This book blasts the Internet, the global computer network, he once helped to hype.

"You lead a much shallower life on-line," Stoll said, "than you do in the real world."

Commenting on *Silicon Snake Oil*, a San Jose (Calif.) *Mercury News* reporter wrote: "In it, Stoll questions whether computers are doing more harm than good in schools; whether on-line communities will ever be a fulfilling substitute for real face-to-face interaction and whether the Internet will ever live up to the hype and expectations that surround it."

A leading authority on computer security, Stoll has briefed the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and
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Barlow-Stoll/3

the National Security Agency (the code-breaking and electronic eavesdropping arm of the U.S. intelligence community) and has testified before the U.S. Senate. He is building computer software for the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Stoll is a skeptic, frequently posing the question, "Is the information highway the road to nowhere?" He is considered an expert on future technologies, the Internet (what it is, what it isn't), and how technology impacts people's life at work and at home.

Stoll is a commentator on MSNBC's "The Site," a daily program on technology.

Point-Counterpoint

Here is a sample of Barlow and Stoll's points of view, some of which are taken from a transcription of a joint appearance at the University of California-Santa Cruz in August, 1995, and their writings:

- **Barlow on intellectual property rights in the computer age:** "The riddle is this: If our property can be infinitely reproduced and instantaneously distributed all over the planet without cost, without our knowledge, without its even leaving our possession, how can we protect it? How are we going to get paid for the work we do with our minds? And, if we can't get paid, what will assure the continued creation and distribution of such work?"

- **Stoll commenting on the Internet and Windows 95:** "The Internet is being promised to deliver a wonderful warm welcoming community. Windows is supposed to provide this wonderful terrific operating system that is supposed to do everything and solve all of our problems universally for a long time. And, of course, we techies realize that this is pretty much bogus."

- **Barlow on the nature of information in the computer age:** "Information is a verb, not a noun."

"Freed of its containers, information is obviously not a thing, something which happens in the field of interaction between minds or objects or their pieces of information."

- **Stoll commenting on levels of technology:** "It seems to me that some of the things we miss out on in computing is [that sometimes] really low-tech systems work terrifically well . . . A pencil and paper, a magic marker and a display, a chalkboard work quite fine. One of my worries in computing is that we so promote and so sell this idea that we've got to have a high-tech solution that we fail to recognize a lot of things that we've been accustomed to for a millenium work darn good."

- **Barlow on control of the Internet in the aftermath of a ruling by a Munich judge involving CompuServe, the world's second largest on-line-service provider, that dealt with access to sexually-oriented materials by Germans:** "But the issue at stake here is larger than whether the good people of Munich can prevent others half a world away from looking at pictures of sexually misused hamsters . . . The real issue is control. The Internet is too widespread to be easily dominated by any single government. By creating a seamless global-economic zone, borderless and unregulatable, the Internet calls into question the very idea of a nation-state. No wonder nation-states are rushing to get their levers of control into cyberspace while less than 1% of the world's population is on-line."

- **Stoll on computers and social skills:** "Why come to Santa Cruz when you could just log in and send e-mail to each other? The answer, of course, is that you get a lot more face-to-face than you could possibly get on-line. And we all know this intuitively, yet every place you look you see how terrific and wonderful the Internet

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is because it provides a new way of communication . . . Well, I start saying, boy you know the best kind of communication I've ever had tends to be when you can see somebody, or it tends to be in the dark when you can't see somebody, but you can just touch them."

- **Barlow on the nature of contemporary technology:** "As a species, we are beginning to feel technology as a threat not so much to our literal survival--though certainly it's that at times--but to our identity . . . Just as bushmen fear soul-stealing cameras, we suspect that technology is sucking the humanity out of us."

- **Stoll on computer cults:** "I love computers. I've got a half dozen in my house. I've got a local area network . . . Computers don't bother me at all. It's this cult of computing that gives me the heebie-jeebies. It's this idea that if you're not on-line, if you don't have an e-mail address, if you don't have your own home page, if you're not writing your own HTML code and having the really coolest thing on-line, then you're out in the backwaters. Your being left behind."

"It's this idea that progress happens if you are on-line. If you are off-line, then you are like a Neanderthal. I don't believe it because I see and meet lots of genuinely cool people who are doing neat things that never sit behind a keyboard. It starts to make me wonder, what is it that we are promoting in computing?"

- **Barlow on the nature of information:** "I believe that information is a life form. I believe that information is alive, and in fact that carbon-based life is a very thin film that forms on the surface on the real thing . . ."

- **Stoll on the affect of computers on people:** "Well, this is a bizarre tool that changes the way we interact, changes the way we think, changes the way we work. I've never come across a screwdriver users group. I've never seen a school district that wants to put a radial-arm saw on every student's desk. It strikes me that when you call something a tool, you give it characteristics that make it feel like, 'Oh, we're crafts people.'

"By calling a computer a tool, we're carpenters, we're shaping something."

- **Barlow on the Internet:** ". . . the Internet is not so much an organism as an ecosystem, for all the creatures of mind. And what we are doing is taking the mind field that we inherited through language, which was somewhat decertified by the compression factor of language alone, and turning it into a rain forest. . ."

- **Stoll on the Internet:** "The Internet is a telephone system that's gotten uppity. The Internet is a life form? Do we call the telephone system a life form? Certainly, anything you can do on the Internet, you can do on the telephone system, and more. I can have a conversation over a telephone. I can't do it over the Internet . . . More than that, I don't see information as life. Go see a movie called, 'The Net,' and over and over again you'll hear the magic mantra, 'Information is power.' Information ain't power. We're taught that trite cliché in high school, 'Knowledge is power.'"

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next fall, as well as a \$6.8 million residence hall, accommodating about 118 students. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Baron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.

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Editor's Note: John Perry Barlow and Clifford Stoll will be available to meet with the news media at 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, in the conference room, Office of University Development, 2nd floor, Holmes Hall, 1312 N. Park Street, Bloomington. To attend the news media availability, please call IWU Public Relations-News Services, 309/556-3181.