

BRAIN WAVES BY MATT GOLDBERG

ARTS & CULTURE

Literary Magazines

BEST ONLINE JOURNAL

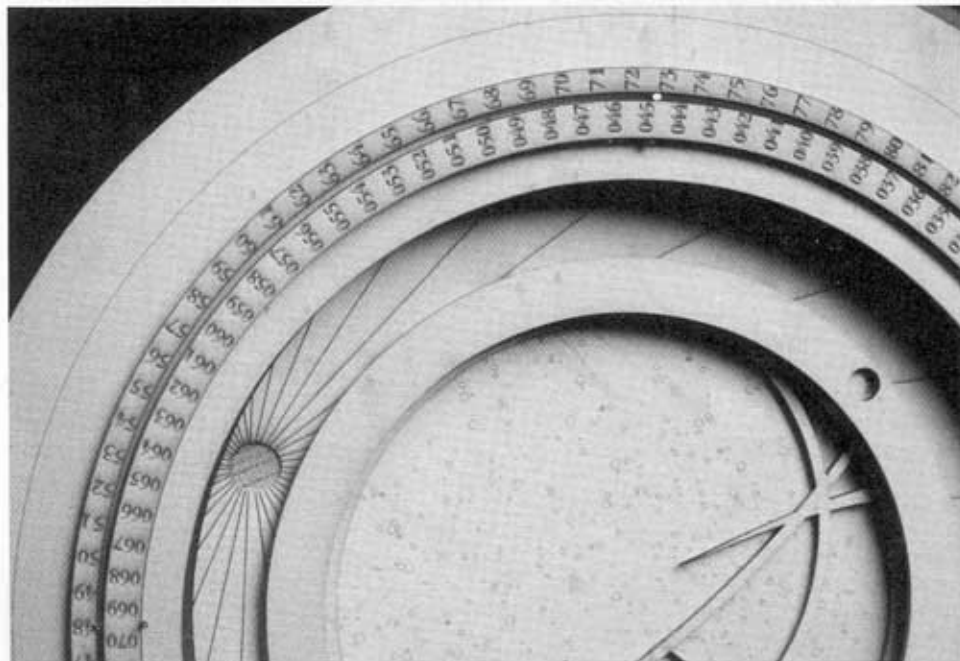
Salon.com The Web's premier daily journal of arts, literature, and the world at large boasts a slew of marquee names. Minnesota Public Radio's Garrison Keillor advises the lovelorn. Postfeminist gadfly Camille Paglia often stirs things up. Guest writers such as David Foster Wallace weigh in with book reviews. The magazine's feisty political coverage is always worth reading, as is the irreverent technology page. To join in the obiter dicta, try the Table Talk forums. [www.salon.com]

TOP DIGITAL PRINT MAG

Atlantic Unbound It's nice to get free access to fiction and poetry from the pages of *The Atlantic Monthly*, but the venerable print magazine's Web site does more than just recycle content. Each week brings a fresh batch of Web-only articles, as well as interviews with such established novelists as E. Annie Proulx and Mary Gordon. There's also a terrific searchable archive, where you can retrieve the magazine's original reviews of such classic books as *Lolita* (1958) and *The Scarlet Letter* (1886). [www.theatlantic.com]

MOST LITERATE LINKS

Web Del Sol Sol, the star, bombards the Earth with light. Web Del Sol bombards the Net with what its editors call "a literary event at once in a continuous state of birthing and crescendo." We just call it a hot place to start surfing. Links from



Clocking the Year 10000

A visionary group of futurists is ticking off the seconds until Y10K

WITH THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING possible Y2K calamities about to be resolved—for better or for worse—on January 1, some forward-looking thinkers have already latched onto a new chronological conundrum: What happens when we reach the year 10000?

The cadre of futurists in the Long Now Foundation includes cultural provocateur Stewart Brand, founder of the *Whole Earth Catalog* and **THE WELL** [well.com], along with musician Brian Eno and Danny Hillis, creator of the legendary Connection Machine supercomputer. Hillis, currently a Disney vice president, is largely responsible for dreaming up the foundation's defining mission: building a clock that will tell accurate time for the next 10,000 years.

THE LONG NOW FOUNDATION Web site [www.longnow.org] contains pictures and diagrams of the clock's prototypes, which incorporate patent-pending design innovations and such high-end materials as metallic glass and tungsten.

ABOVE: A developmental model of a clock designed to last 10,000 years. **RIGHT:** Camille Paglia.

As outlined in writings by Hillis and Brand, the clock's purpose is simple but powerful. By focusing on such a distant future, we experience what the Long Now folks call "deep time": a state of mind not unlike that of the architects who designed Europe's medieval cathedrals, monuments to eternity they knew they would never see finished in their lifetimes. The hope is that projects such as the clock, along with its proposed companion library, will help nudge contemporary society out of the constrained-time sensibility that governs today's burgeoning Internet economy.

The foundation advocates adopting a new calendaring convention in which the year 1999 would read "01999." Such a system would forestall by millennia the potential for a Y10K bug, and might also make us rethink our collective future. Contemplating that extra zero, one can't help but wonder if this whole thing called civilization isn't just getting off the ground.

