

Mundy 6 July 1981

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Greetings-----

Why can't I remember things anymore? Clyde Corson phoned from Lawndale that he wanted me to attend a computer/business show next Thursday at the Convention Center in L A and I forgot that that will be the day I get a ride to the Brand Library to return all the records and books. So I had to write a difficult letter to him explaining. The heat wave will still be going, no doubt and I wouldn't want to take busses to a place like that and walk so far inside it. I think I would get more out of going to computer stores one at a time later on when the weather isn't so scorching and when someone has told me or this or that thing to be checked up on. I just couldn't remember what was already scheduled for Thursday.

Corson is pushing himself very ar hard and risks exhaustion or some illness, as has heappened several times in the years I have known him--biting off more than one can chew or letting too many people impose on him at once. 23 years since he encouraged me to go ahead in spring 58 and construct Numaudo, then he learned it in 61 and thus proved it could be learned easily; but nothing ever ever happened in those 20 ensuing years because he always got ill just on the verge of doing something to, with, for, or about it.

He signed up for a computer correspondence course and by Fall they will send him an Apple or TRS or something, and so he proposed to test out Numaudo later by using the names-of-the-letters syllables to run a typewriter, spelling out English words--at least that is what he had in mind about a year ago. Obviously that is not what Numaudo is for! And I couldn't make him understand and so what do I do about that? I wasn't too concerned because I never thought he would actually get around to taking this elaborate course and getting this far with it.

He would only be doing it to himself in an apartment and it would not promote the system even if it worked. After some 30 years since I met him at the General Semantic meetings I should know. I can't conduct a big argument by correspondence--the Mailed Fist. I feel so helpless, watching another crq crash program of his that will crash when he takes ill or gets pre-empted by somebody else this time.

The reason I discuss this at all is that some people all during the 23 years of Numaudo's existence have misunderstood its basic motivation--that I was trying to make math easier for beginners--and think that I am some kind of Mad Scientist out of Amazing Stories going to have the Machines Rule Us Humans and providing the nefarious means for doing that to humanity.

At least, I have had to take two whole decades of abuse on account of it. Voice-recognition machines and computers are NOT the necessary and sufficient reason for having Numaudo, and do not determine its success or failure. If computers had never been invented at all, Numaudo would still have ample reason for existing

Well if that's so, my collection of instruments is worth something.

It will be worth far more if it can be circulated among those who will demonstrate and perform on the instruments in public.

The ik impossible has already happened. It's too late for new enemies to un-happen it. 140 000 copies of Guitar Player and 300 000 of OMNI and who knows how many of LIFE when that happens?

And by now several thousand INTERVAL adding all the 9 issues together. And future reprints and advertising pieces about the magazine and the foundation.

Business people call this Goodwill. And set a value on it. We are no longer Starting From Scratch.

When you talked with the wholesale music co., you were able to remember and capitalize on your former goodwill of the Making Music affair so of some years ago. You had the right idea in mind, of continuing a past success rather than having to start from a brand new Zero.

Marlin Halverson notwithstanding, I do not have to bury myself in a one-at-a-time Labors-of-Sisyphus job like piano-tuning which is also a blind-alley job because it leads to nothing new. I have no such "duty" or "obligation" as he imagines. He is going on the basis of How To Succeed in 1890.

I bring this up here as an example of someone trying to sell me a pseudo-problem. Krumholz left the Church Basement in Echo Park before the concert began because he couldn't endure the sight of my succeeding. Not after saying "Nobody will want any of those instruments because they aren't Standard".

Now, back to the Clyde Cerson affair: he told me he was taking an electronics course which includes a computer later on in the series of lessons--about September I suppose at the rate he is going--and then he would get a diagram for a modem for interfacing this computer with other things and then build it, and then he would eventually get a speech-recognition board, additional memory, and a speech-synthesizer board. So by Spring 1982 or such a matter, if he can borrow and save etc., he would start a Numaudo Experiment and if I have this correctly from what he said about a year ago and again six months ago, he would fix up an arrangement to type out the words spelled with calling out the names of the letters spelling those (English) words that happen to be syllables of Numaudo Code.

Sure he MeansWell, but what a roundabout way of doing something when voice-controlled typewriters are now on the horizon and already working in Japanese by the way. I couldn't make him understand, back when he told me w that a year ago, that that would not promote Numaudo for teaching moppets mathematics or making algebra speakable or inducing financial institutions to use Numalittera on their peripheral keyboards and Numaudo over the phone on those multimillion dollar long-distance calls.

This is a "hacker's" obsession with machines and gadgetry, when I just got all that free publicity and am building a network of PEOPLE.

since it is for people, not for mechanisms--the possibility of communication with computers was just an extra bonus. Only a small number of the original 450 syllables were designed with machines as the determining factor. The main part of it is the interface point between arithmetic and algebra, which when I was 14 years old was encountered at that age; now it comes somewhat earlier.

- Back to the theme: If Clyde Corson hasn't succeeded in promoting Numaudo/Numalittera in 20 years he's not going to do it now. Something ALWAYS turns up to torpedo each of his attempts. He isn't the promoter type for one thing. Of course I realized this 15 years ago, not taking him all that seriously since... But he was the only actual speaker of the system for all that time--not the only one to learn it, but the only one to have command of 100 syllables or such a matter, all learned in ten days.

As of this Summer, something new has been added: the success of the OMNI article and the LIFE interview and pictures. The money was spent on me by all these persons and firms. Even if I didn't receive it personally, it still adds up to quite a sum, and was spent WILLINGLY, not RELUCTANTLY. I didn't have to BEG for it--they were begging me to go through with the publicity. While this is for the musical instruments and the music itself, and for the ultramodern-art aspect of the instruments as visual affairs, not for the Numaudo System, it still shows how Numaudo could be promoted.

If one network of people has now been formed, then a second network of people (probably very few persons in common) can come into being for Nuam Numaudo/Numalittera. Really the publicity for the Megalyra and for Non-Twelvevular Guitars was the most impossible happening I could ever imagine.

Ironically I live in the middle of the Financial Center--all these buildings for banks etc. coinciding exactly with my 5-year exile here. But I do not know any bankers or business college types who supervise training for bank clerks and insurance agents and international-high-finance-personnel who would use Numaudo over the phone. I don't have the right image or lifestyle to deal directly with them, but could doubtless deal through intermediary persons--there are lots of people who are continually calling their brokers or bank loan depts. or investment houses or have to deposit their every day's receipts, people who are in music-related businesses or whom I otherwise might meet for other reasons. If I knew the right persons, I could be teaching ten people Numaudo by simply walking three or four blocks to their offices and then it would be turned over to a Training Department or Business School and gradually come into use. Somebody could make money by preparing the teaching-materials and cassette courses and audiovisual courses. The Audiovisual Industry is right here in Los Angeles County.

Note very carefully: it is just as valuable information for you as it is for me: I did not have to raise the money; I did not have to beg for a grant or handout from some acquaintance, to get OMNI to spend all that money on me. Indeed, if I had been wealthy and tried to BUY that publicity it would not have worked. I didn't have to twist anybody's arm to get the non-12-guitar article published--they gave me MORE than I was expecting.

They even added to the article. So if I could get all that for free, why can't I get equal attention and free publicity for the Numaudo System? Especially when Numaudo is a business skill of the type of touch typing or shorthand or the new computer-related clerical skills and moreover, to start using Numaudo there is NO capital investment in equipment required at all. We do not have to wait until somebody puts the perfect voice-recognition machine on the market--we use the telephone network which is already in place for people to talk to other people. Even the training equipment is already in place for other types of training, in those businesses where Numaudo would be used or Numalittera would be used. The promoters would be making money preparing the lessons and copying them and selling the copies. Or in teaching the teachers.

This is how shorthand succeeded a century ago. I read the books about it.

I am not writing this to you to try to get you to promote Numaudo yourself--merely to alert you to the kind of people who will want to promote it, so that if you meet them you can tell them about it. And pass out the leaflets, after making sure these are that type of person.

The financial institutions that might use Numaudo are in effect being asked to spend some of their money on THEMSELVES, not on me. Probably this would be done through spending some on their existing Training Departments, already in place, and very likely, in the case of many of these businesses, they don't do the training themselves but contract with a business college or similar firm to teach their employees various skills--which gets this whole subject, of How To Promote Numaudo/Numalittera, pretty close to the Educational Politics you were talking about a while back.

This is NOT the kind of organization or the kind of people that would run UCSD or CME! If I went to academic people and tried to promote things that way, it would end up in the preparation of Preliminary Reports and suggestions that someone beg for a grant from some Government Bureau for a series of Studies on the Feasibility of using Numaudo, and even if it got granted, would end up gathering an inch of dust on archival shelves. It would cost MORE than it would cost for some financial institution or some other math-involved firm such as an engineering outfit or international corporation that had to phone figures back and forth, to teach ten people some Numaudo and put it to use at once. I think you see the danger--that throwing money at a problem can be wasteful and futile. Two years ago or was it three, Chalmers sent me the text of the Loglan Institute's proposals and pleas for grants, and they didn't get anything. He thought I needed it badly for getting grants for promoting non-12, but as it happens, I got the publicity without any such begging and without having to tie you up and ten other persons hammering out proposals and redrafting documents eight times and using up thousands of hours and dollars in fruitless committee meetings etc.

Since we are so close to success with Interval and the Foundation activities and since I now have a chance to get further publicity for the instruments and compositions, and you can see the temptations:

the temptation is to for me to take some of the profits from whichever of the musical projects succeeds first, and spend it on promoting Numaudo. I have heard of and read about many famous people past and present who made this very mistake.

They often lost the gamble. Some of them got poor again this way. If I can get as far as I have with the musical affairs which seemed so impossible, and which stagnated for so many years, then I shouldn't have to put up the money for the Numaudo affair either. And I shouldn't have to beg for it, or apply for grants which wouldn't come through during my life-span anyway. The reason I say this is that the people who will profit most from the Numaudo System are already so wealthy they don't know what to do with all that beautiful money, running out of their ears and flooding the streets. (See the recent issue of TIME where such people are throwing it away on cocaine!)

That is, it would be crazy for me to beg money and then try to give it to some banker to buy his interest in using Numaudo! And equally crazy to divert any money from my musical affairs when they succeed. I have observed the dire consequences when some inventors did this very thing. One fellow ruined his life patenting an invention for measuring time spent on phone calls and trying to get Ma Bell to use it. Well, they had more money than they knew what to do with, so no matter how much of his money and time ~~they~~ he spent it could never equal theirs. And there are other, sadder, cases.

Far too many people wanted me to beg IBM to promote Numaudo. It is the USERS of mathematics who need Numaudo, not the MANUFACTURERS of equipment for calculating. It was obvious to me from the very beginning that that was a pure waste of time. Indeed, it took IBM years to realize that software was valuable. Materialists all, they valued machines far above the people who buy and use them. I can't seem to get anybody to understand this: they still tell me the same old futile thing, 23 years later.

I am hereby trying to take some pressure and load off your mind. To tell you what I do NOT expect you to do or even think about. You have too much to do already. Also, to encourage you about your compositions and improvising and instruments and accomplishments, since if I can get all this free publicity and increase the population and activity of the non-12 movement in my poor circumstances with no capital and no income, you can do far far better with your resources. Also, remember that I am out of relatives and no longer part of a family and nobody loves me. Despite all that it worked.

Corson was waiting for the MACHINES, and didn't realize that Numaudo could have been promoted way back in 1960. Without even any co-operation from computer people at all. He's still waiting till he has his own machine, and when he gets it, will expect the world to come rushing to his door without any contacting of PEOPLE. He's trying to do everything all alone by himself. With no more resources than I have. And expecting he can be in the fabulously wealthy computer business and ride the busses, which is hardly the Image for it. While the Baha'is drain him dry. And use him up. Buzz Kimball and Ervin Wilson are also too timid. McLuhan faded from fame because he was too timid to adopt the new lifestyle. Even

through he wrote about it! Did the Catholics intimidate him? Yours,