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**Theodor Holm Nelson** Founder of Interactive Media Founder of Network Publishing

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**To: Bill Gates, Microsoft**

**30 June 1995**

**Dear Bill:**

We haven't talked in years. I am sending this by airmail as well as email just to make sure it gets to you.

Two matters.

1. I talked to your assistant-- is his name Brian? I lost his card-- at Digital World in LA. Nice kid.

He said that you had recently mentioned me in an internal memo to upper staff at Microsoft, saying "It seems that Ted Nelson's research was basically correct," or words to that effect.

I would be awfully pleased if you could make a public statement along those lines, or perhaps send me a letter to that effect with permission to quote. Such a thing would be extremely helpful around now; particularly after WIRED magazine published such a nasty piece about me this month.

2. I understand that Microsoft Press has not published *Computer Lib* for quite some time. I believe that rights are to revert to me if it has gone out of print for over six months.

I need to verify this. I am sorry to bother you with such a trivial request, but Microsoft Press seems to be just a big bank of answering machines that don't get attended to, and we've been calling and calling, trying to find this out, for some time now.

This year is the twentieth anniversary of *Computer Lib*, and I would very much like to publish it myself again. Although everyone on the *Computer Lib* project at Microsoft was extremely nice about it, publishing the book myself was an experience I cherished and want to return to.

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Best wishes for your continuing hegemony--

*Ted* 

PS. You may be interested in my new doctrine of "transcopyright," which I hope clears up the copyright and royalty issue for networked hypermedia. It was always implicitly part of the Xanadu project, but now I've defined it as a clear separate legal doctrine, and intend to be publishing it soon in some law journal.

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