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November 2001
Vol. 22 No.11

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reader FeedBack

Dear Nuts & Volts:

In response to Mr. Herzmark's letter to the editor. Your semantics, misstatements, and misquotes are the best reason for my argument to not include physics 101.

There is no mention in my answer of a "Net Charge." Any present ion contains a charge, and thus removing them removes a charge. All charges [ions] are electrical in nature. If water were distilled and free of contaminants, then and only then, would it be in perfect equilibrium. No tap water can be in a perfect balance because it can't add or subtract more impurities or ions on its own to find that balance, thus it always has some "Net Charge" even if it's minuscule or just one ion extra.

"The resultant material is water with no charge" contradicts your own statement that says it starts off with no charge. All water except distilled contains contaminants which have charge, and regardless of this balance, it contains a charge nevertheless, and this charge can be utilized no matter how small or what process is used.

Long-winded scientific statements are what I tried to avoid by leaving out the 101 and inserting common language for the common folk. My analogy in its entirety is sound and explanatory for the non-chemist.

Chris
Bieber, CA

Dear Nuts & Volts:

Nuts & Volts ran a brief piece about our project back in April, and I thought you all might be interested in a brief update on the latest activities of our National Science Foundation research project — HPWREN ...

We have now connected the Palomar Observatory to our 45 Mbps network.

Information regarding this work is at http://hpwren.ucsd.edu/news/010801.html.

The PI for our project recently testified before Congress. Details can be found at http://hpwren.ucsd.edu/news/010803.html.

And, we've added a "Public Information Materials" section to our website (http://hpwren.ucsd.edu/info/index.html), which features flyers, posters, maps, etc., regarding the network.

Kimberly Mann Bruch
University of California
San Diego

Dear Nuts & Volts:

Since the time that I wrote the printed circuit board article in December and its publication in the August issue, the program PhotoPrinter I listed in my article will no longer run. I have found that to make this program run, you must reset the date on your computer to the year 2000.

After you reset the date, the program will run normally. I have written to the author, and am also attempting to get a more recent version of this program from him. The file from my website MntnWeb as listed in the article will run if you simply reset the date on your computer before running it.

I was made aware of this when a reader wrote to me. Needless to say, I had not tried running the program since December due to being so busy. DOH!

Kerry Barlow
Admin@MntnWeb.com