

RUSTY LUCAS
P.O. Box 422
SANDUSKY, OHIO 44871-0422

May 26, 2006

William H. Gates, III
Chairman of the Board
Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052

Dear Mr. Gates:

It's too bad your friend Paul Allen's football team lost the Superbowl this year to the Pittsburgh Steelers. Do you and Paul still talk regularly? If so, please send him my condolences -- that was a tough way to lose with those referee calls they made.

Almost exactly two years ago, I wrote a letter to the Microsoft Corporation about my plans to go to the South Pole. (Did you know that there was a group of Pittsburgh Steelers fans at the South Pole during the Superbowl? I remember reading something about that in February before the game. Maybe that is what the Seahawks should do next year.) Briefly, the plan I mentioned in my last letter was to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Lewis & Clark expedition west by making my own journey to the South Pole. I was concerned that the magnetic fields generated by the South Pole would wreak havoc on my lap top computer that I planned to take with me and I was looking for some advice from your company before making that journey. I just recently received that unopened letter back in the mail marked RTS (return to sender) with a sticker: "This item is being returned for insufficient addressing. Mail must contain a specific recipient individual or group name. Generically addressed items cannot be delivered."

I sent that letter to:
Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052
ATTN: Windows Explorer Marketing Department

Was this an insufficient address? I was unable to determine the proper department to send that earlier letter to, which is why I put it to the attention of the "Windows Explorer Marketing Department." I guess that department no longer exists? Mr. Gates, will you please see that this letter gets to the proper department in your large company? I do not want to wait another two years to get it back again.

It's a good thing my plans to go to the pole got scraped due to my lead sled dog's back surgery, otherwise I may have been in some serious trouble! I assumed that your lack of a response to my 2004 letter meant that my lap top would be okay in the pole's magnetic fields. If Sparky had not fallen out of that tree and broken his back, I would have gone on my expedition as planned. I probably would have wound up lost and frozen without computer access to track my way. I cannot understand why the post office is so inefficient in returning my undeliverable mail! It's not like I've already left on my trek to the South Pole and they cannot find me.

This is NO JOKE! I once mailed in a payment to renew my rental fees for my post office box and it got lost in the mail! My fee was due at the end of the month. I mailed it ten days before the due date. On the first day of the following month, my post office box was locked from the inside for failure to pay the renewal rent fees! Can you believe that? I put my payment into a pre-printed envelope already addressed to the Sandusky postmaster and I mailed it at the mailboxes right outside that post office! (I work during their open hours of business operation, so I couldn't just walk it inside to the counter). From there the thing got lost for over two weeks!

I even called the post office after I discovered my box was locked and I told them that the check was in the mail, but they couldn't do anything about it! I had to wait for the check to arrive -- which it did about a week later. They printed out a receipt and put it in my P.O. Box showing that I was paid in full. Ever since then, I've arranged to pay my rent in person at the counter.

Anyway, I was wondering if Microsoft has made any further queries into taking over the postal system and turning everything into electronic mail. Can't we just digitize everything and send it all by computer? If that were reality, I wouldn't have gotten locked out of my P.O. Box that I paid for well in advance of the renewal date and I would have received quicker (immediate) notice from you that my earlier letter was not properly addressed.

Please let me know if you can work on this and also let me know about my earlier request for information on the magnetic stress that the South Pole will put on my lap top. Even though I scrapped my plans to go to the South Pole in 2004, I may try again in another 25 years to celebrate the 225th Anniversary of Lewis and Clark. I think I may be too old in 50 years to do the 250th Anniversary. I am enclosing a copy of that earlier letter as well as the Return To Sender order.

Sincerely,



Rusty Lucas

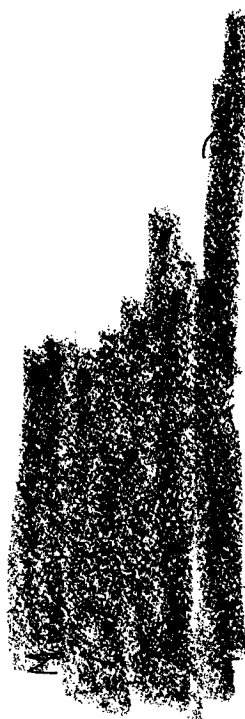
p.s. I still intend to wear a Microsoft baseball cap on my trek through Antarctica. Please check to see if you have any caps available and send me a free one if possible. I promise to wear it.

CAS
Box 422
DUSKY, OH 44871

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LETTERS FROM
THE
PAST



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