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arrangements were made...and under the knife I went...

It was a simple and relatively painless procedure...the good doctor brought along a generous sampling of stem cells from his own collection (one dare not ask for what particular purpose he had acquired them), and with his genius for surgical procedure it didn't take long for him to open up my skull, find my medulla, and

attach the cells and microscopic chips...

Once I was conscious again and he had verified that the operation was a success (and of course after he had collected his tidy fee), he left for parts unknown...but not before warning me against exposure to electromagnetic fields.

The very next day I began feeling a strangeness in my head...the cells were growing...transmutating...merging with the hundreds of chips which the doctor

had implanted...making me feel more energized than I had ever felt in my life.

Within two weeks, I became aware of new phenomena inside my brain...I started tuning in cell phone conversations between complete strangers at random...radiocasts from the other side of the globe...

After just a month, more peculiar experiences...my natural extrasensory perception seemed to be amplified...I found myself knowing the phone would ring...and who was calling...strange premonitions, such as a sudden feeling one day that Quebecor would announce the closing of several plants around the world...

And my sleeping hours turned into wild rides of euphoria and crystal clear images which at first left me confused...until I realized that I must be travelling through the open portals of time...clearly, the stem cells were "learning" new behaviour patterns and, in combination with the miniature silicon chips, creating a heightened sense of awareness that enabled me to extend my consciousness...

Then one night, while in the deepest reaches of REM sleep, I found myself in a state which seemed in my dream to be like full consciousness...I became aware that the entire Internet was at my disposal, inviting me to link my brain to any website in the world...so, out of curiosity, I decided to visit the *Graphic Exchange* website. Why I would choose such familiar territory was unclear—until I arrived there and realized that this was not the same *gxo.com* which I knew. No, this was *gxo.com* in the year 2011, ten years from now. Its stories were still graphically oriented, but with a much different focus.

As I mentally downloaded and scanned articles from the archives, I grew excited, almost agitated. For in this graphics universe of the future, print was quite evidently being supplanted by superior electronic media...the publication itself remained preoccupied with the latest technologies, but now its stories centred on things like electronic slates with "variable chrominance reflectance"—devices far superior to simple e-books or even OLED screens,



with the resolution and reflective qualities of paper. Except that these screens offered the advantage of being rewritable, combining the best features of paper and computers and allowing users to download a selection of reading material through wireless transmission.

Future GX writers reported on developments such as new glasses to extend human color vision beyond the visible spectrum, including the ability to perceive even auras around individuals—championed first by the Berlin neopunk movement.

Digital photography technology had reached the gigapixel level (with terapixels rumoured to be out soon), and 4D imaging allowed total surround virtual reality photography. Holographic volumetric particle projection would shortly allow users to create artificial environments in the privacy of their own bedrooms—although early adopters were already complaining that the sound was still too primitive.

Vendors were frantically promoting a wide array of electromagnetic helmets for enhancing artistic abilities—these being the offshoots of medical technologies for the handicapped and sight-impaired.

I digested a report on Britney Edwards, daughter of Betty Edwards (famed author of *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*), who was carrying on her mother's crusade for a better understanding of non-linear thinking and natural intuitive art.

Meanwhile, graphic designers had assumed a more significant role in creating and delivering narrowly targeted pages of promotional content: it was now almost de rigueur to have not just a degree in graphic design but also one in human psychology.

And of course prepress houses had fully converted to electronic repurposing centres, handling every description of digital asset and database generation for a multitude of commercial applications.

Curiously, there was a resurgence of “handcrafted” art as a novelty.

When I awoke, these tidbits of news had me thinking hard...

The following morning I was due to fly to the West Coast. As I passed through the

security scanners at the airport, I suddenly felt weak. On the plane my head began throbbing. I managed to get through my meeting, but the trip back was even worse.

Upon landing, I immediately contacted my regular physician, who upon hearing the symptoms, arranged for me to go at once for X-rays. Now in constant pain, and without considering the potential effects, I dutifully followed through with the doctor's advice and reported to my local clinic.

The technician did her job...and instantaneously my headache vanished.

Belatedly, I remembered Doctor Perlmutter's warning and realized that the X-rays had completely neutralized the polarity of the nanochips in my brain and left me as I was before. Yes, my headache was gone...but so were the extrasensory abilities which I had cultivated.

But the experience remains...and now I have shared it with you... 

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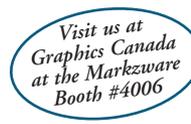
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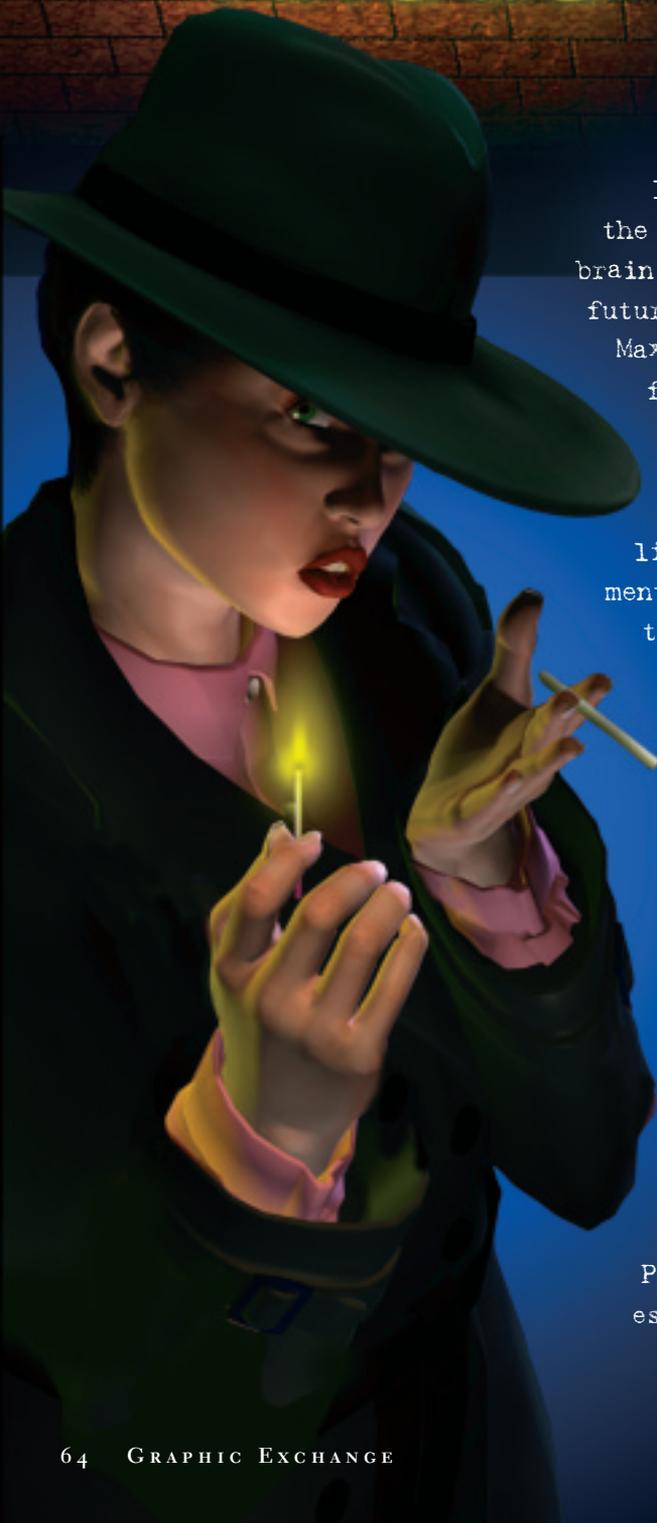
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The Shadow Knows



Well, well...this is quite a change...it seems that in honour of the 10th anniversary of this rag I've been given some kind of special dispensation to occupy the back page... hmmmph...this is no place for The Shadow...I feel far too exposed...and now I'm expected to ramble on longer than usual on subjects weird and unknown...Well, so I will...

I want you to take a close look at the picture at the right...this is your brain, sometime in the future...Scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Germany have linked up multiple brain cells with silicon chips, successfully creating a living-mechanical electronic circuit. Their experiments were conducted using snail neurons affixed with tiny transistors, and they demonstrated that the cells communicated both with each other and with these chips. Ultimately this may lead to truly intelligent robots and computers with the inventiveness and adaptability of human beings...or more...much more...For you see, The Shadow is always curious about technology...too curious, some might say...curious enough that when this news broke, I took a quick trip to Germany to visit the Max Planck Institute...and of course, being The Shadow, it wasn't too difficult to slip unnoticed into the complex late one night and locate the laboratory where Dr. Fromherz works...and "borrow" a few of these cultures. Back they went to The Shadow's secret lair, and with one quick call to the ever-available Doctor Perlmutter (he who was blacklisted by the medical establishment so many years ago), the necessary



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