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Private and Confidential – Microsoft Idea

Dear Matthew,

I trust you are well.

I am sure you remember me, I lived in Hawker at 67 Erldunda Circuit and we attended Hawker College and Canberra High School together.

I apologise to write this letter to your business and I hope it remains private and confidential.

If my memory serves me correctly in 1989 I had a good 'Idea' for your University Assignment.

The Microsoft Word program and the Word Table was used to create a calculator type of computer program.

This was discussed in the Computer Science Lab at the University of Canberra in February or March in 1989 when I was looking for computers that had AutoCAD on them.

I quit University at that time because there were no AutoCAD programs on the computers.

I decided to go to Watson Tafe one year later where they had AutoCAD.

The scenario in the Lab Room went as follows:

"Hey Andrew, your good at ideas, I need and idea for a Uni assignment".

I said *"You should do a calculator type of program, I don't think one exists, I was wanting one for a year 12 assignment I did using Basic Language".* (Or something to that effect).

When prompted by yourself *"What do you mean?"*

I said *"For example put $5 \times 7 = 35$ ".*

You replied *"But how"*.

I said *"Do it in word with a table with the calculation in the top and the answer in the box below"*.

You went to a student already at a computer sitting by our side to my left and your right and said *"Quickly do this...."*

You had him draw a table in Microsoft Word, with number in the top left box, and an = in the lower box.

The word table looked something like the table below:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 5 x 7 (or something similar) | |
| = | |
| | |

In the University Refectory Bar Night weeks later you and your classmate approached me and said "The program works great and we are going to try and sell it".

You were also looking for a name for the program.

I believe I confirmed with you both the abbreviated short version of the name was best.

Excel

Perhaps the longer version was 'Excellent Cell Idea' of something similar?

We were drinking beer at the time and I believe you and your classmate offered me money for my contribution to this idea.

I believe I said if it makes a lot of money I would like some money for this Idea.

Correct if I am wrong however I believe I have been involved in creating the Microsoft Excel computer program?

I am wondering did you or your fellow classmate ever approach Bill Gates or Microsoft with this Idea and make money from this Idea?

If so is there any chance I can receive money for this Idea?

Please feel free to respond to me by post and note I don't want any legal implications.

Payment details are also on my website and I am also able to meet in person if you prefer.

My business details are as follows:

3D Archpix

This business name is a small business trading name only as I am a sole trader:

Andrew Bates Trading As 3D Archpix.

www.3darchpix.com.au

Note. I also have an Ideas and Inspiration area on this website.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Bates