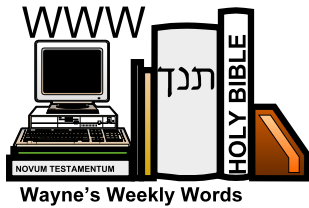


## PANDORA'S BOX



I realize that Pandora's Box comes from Greek mythology, not the Bible, but it fits today's world just fine - the ultimate Pandora's box that has

been unleashed on mankind. For those of you who are unfamiliar with it or forgotten about it, a definition. *Pandora's Box . A present which seems valuable, but which is in reality a curse;*

I am referring to the box which was pried open slightly by two men, an engineer named Eckert and a mathematician by the name of Dr. Mauchly. They invented a machine in the mid 1940's called the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator) - the first electronic computer. The lid of the box was pried off still further by three men, J. Bardeen, W.H. Brattain, and W. Shockley who, in the 1950's invented the transistor at Bell Labs. The lid of the box was blown off altogether by two additional men in the early 1970's, Ted Hoff and Federico Faggin at a small silicon memory chip company called Intel. This was the 4004, the first microprocessor and followed rather closely by the 8008 and the 8080 which made computing history.

From that point, it was only a matter of time before computers obtained the power they have today. They will continue to get more powerful, but that is not the issue here.

In what way did they open this legendary box? What is so bad about it? There is nothing "bad" about a computer. Inanimate objects are neither good nor bad. I bet you think I am leading up to the Internet which is so bad, or will get that way. I'm not.

What really concerns me is the announcement last week that scientists have completed mapping the human genetic structure - which could only have been done with the powerful technology of the computer.

What's wrong with knowing exactly which gene controls the color of your left eye? Once you have this information, it is only a matter of time before the

Genetic Engineers will figure out, using computer technology, how to assemble these genes together. You want a baby? You want to specify everything about what this child should grow up into? Just make out your list and they will be able to whip you up a fertilized egg to implant in the womb and, 9 months later, you will have the child of your dreams.

Every time man has attempted to play god and fool around with "Mother Nature," which is really God our Father and His workings, we make things worse.

Wayne

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