"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

-Arthur C. Clarke

**Q:** By far, most of last year's 75,000 Internet-related fraud complaints (46% of them) have to do with online auctions. Would you feel safe making a purchase via an online auction? Why or why not?

"There is one caveat I strictly adhere to when purchasing products from online auction sites. Unscrupulous sellers hide behind the veil of ambiguity of the Internet. I do a search of the seller's location. Should the location's proximity be close enough to mutually travel and meet, we do the transaction."

—Bruce Pechman, vice president, Atlanta PC Users Group

"I personally have had great experiences with online auctions. Based on the numbers quoted, however, I do feel a little less confident. I've been tremendously surprised at the fantastic customer service, as well. I am confident to state that customer service has been better in the virtual environment than the physical environment."

—Todd Jensen, instructional tech project manager and New Media Center coordinator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Computer Haiku** by Jenifer Edens

- Stuck key on la-to- Letter between "o" and "q" It's quite a problem

- Dial-up connection: The river runs slowly and drowns away patience.

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**Stuff You Should Know**

**Grace Hopper,** the computer scientist who ran the U.S. Navy's computer efforts (and whom some say coined the term "bug" to refer to a glitch in a computer), wrote the first compiler. (It was used to compile COBOL instructions to machine language.) She retired as a rear admiral and passed away in 1992.