



Verrückte Ideen, abgedrehte Mega-Parties:
noch 100 Tage bis zum Jahr 2000

COUNTDOWN TO 2000

On 23 September there will be only 100 days until the year 2000. Some people worry that the Y2K bug will bite. What is the Y2K bug? "Y" means "year" and "2K" means "2000". ("K" is the symbol for "thousand".) Here "bug" means a computer problem (see "Look Closer" on page 14). There might be a lot of problems with the year 2000, but there are also a lot of wild and wonderful things going on.

● A company in Silicon Valley in **California** has made their own bug!
The Y2K bug is a small chocolate ladybird with Y2K written on its back:
www.svc2.com



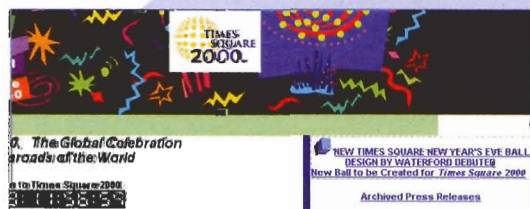
● One woman in **Tennessee** who is afraid that the US will be in chaos because of the Y2K computer problems has filled her house with furniture made out of tins of sweetcorn, beans and soup. Winnie Elrod of Johnson City says she wanted to store food, but her flat was too small. If she starts eating her bed and other furniture, Winnie says, she will have enough food for a year.

● Some young designers in **Florida** believe that you should prepare for new dangers in the new millennium. They think that futuristic and military-looking clothes will be the trend for the year 2000. Recently, a millennium Fashion Exhibit presented...

- ... a skirt that can also be used as a water raft.
- ... a coat that turns into a tent.
- ... a long-sleeved shirt with a metal collar. The collar can be used as a weapon.
- ... pants with a knife hidden in the belt buckle.

There are also a lot of great parties going on.

● On 31 December the Egyptian government will have a 12-hour millennium party at the Great Pyramid in **Cairo**. There will also be a laser show with music by Jean-Michel Jarre. www.millenniumsociety.org/countdown_2000.html



● Times Square, in **New York**, is one of the most famous places to spend New Year's Eve. This year the celebration begins at 7 a.m. on 31 December 1999 when the millennium arrives in the South Pacific. Giant television screens in Times Square will show people from around the world the dawn of the year 2000 as it travels across the world. The celebration will continue until the New Year has come to all 24 time zones. http://83.67.194.190/new_year

● In **Hong Kong** there will be a spectacular millennium party. It will have 50 giant lanterns, a dragon parade, top pop artists, and a Millennium Cup Horse Race shortly after midnight.

● Six months ago some people in **Ireland** sank a large digital clock into the River Liffey. On new Year's Eve it will burst into fireworks. www.millennium-ireland.com



● There's also the Millennium World Tour. From 9 December 1999 to 1 January 2000 racers will travel around the world to seventeen car-racing events. Races will go through Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, France, South Africa, China and Macau and finish in **Las Vegas, USA**, on New Year's Day 2000.

www.millenniumworldtour.com

● A group in **Paris** is planning to let millions of balloons fly up into the sky

from every country, town and village in the world on New Year's Eve. They want the biodegradable balloons to bring people together. People can write their hopes, messages and wishes on small pieces of paper. Names and addresses will fly with the messages, too, so people can get in touch with each other. www.balloons-par-millions.com

And if you're still nervous about what the year 2000 will bring, just remember this fact. The new millennium doesn't really start on 1 January 2000. It starts on 1 January 2001, so you still have a whole year to celebrate – or to worry. ■



Y2K [waɪtəˈkeɪ]	Kürzel für „year 2000“
bug	Krabbeltier, Insekt, Wanze, Bazillus; hier: Software-, Programmfehler
ladybird	Marienkäfer
furniture [ˈfɜːnɪtʃə]	Möbel
sweetcorn	Mais
to store	lagern
millennium	Jahrtausend
fashion exhibit	Modenschau
raft	Floß
tent	Zelt
long-sleeved	langärmelig
collar	Kragen
weapon [ˈweɪpən]	Waffe
belt buckle	Gürtelschnalle
Egyptian [ɪˈdʒɪpɪən]	ägyptisch
New Year's Eve (eve)	Silvester (Vorabend)
a.m. (ante meridiem)	morgens, vormittags
dawn	(Morgen-)Dämmerung
lantern	Lampion, Laterne
dragon [ˈdræɡən]	Drachen (feuerspeiendes Fabeltier)
to sink (sank, sunk)	sinken, versenken
to burst	ausbrechen, explodieren
biodegradable [ˈbaɪəʊdɪˈɡreɪdəbəl]	biologisch abbaubar