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**National Bobitis
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Press Release

von Stutterheim Announces Bobitis Countdown Below 200 Days

Predicts Further Declines

Dismisses Challenges to Countdown Tabulation

New York, November 12, 2000: Klaus von Stutterheim announced today that his Bobitis Countdown had dropped below 200 days (it now stands at 193) and declared that he expects further declines in the future. In a sharply worded statement, he also dismissed challenges to the tabulation of his Bobitis Countdown as “irresponsible” and “over-the-top.”

Speaking to reporters from the perch of his 11th story apartment in Greenwich Village in New York City, von Stutterheim declared that passing the 200-day mark of his Bobitis Countdown was the most important event in his life since returning from the West. “I have anxiously awaited crossing this significant line, and I am proud to have accomplished that goal. Moreover, I am fully confident that with hard work we will be able to reduce our Bobitis Count below the 100-day mark during the next three to four months.”

He noted while that he had started his Bobitis Count at 276 days upon leaving Montana, he had consistently worked at reducing it. “It’s sort of a daily thing,” he said. “The trick is to not to slack off and stay focused.”

The “Bobitis Count” or “Countdown” is the time, measured in days, from an individual’s leaving The Bob until his returning to it. “The Bob” refers to an area of inaccessible, raw land in the West, roughly a million acres, which is devoid of all amenities, and which is, therefore, wisely shunned by sane visitors. “Bobitis” is an incurable disease, thought to be viral, which robs its sufferers of free will and, instead, creates in them a haunting obsession with The Bob.

Please turn to Page 2

Watchdog Group Claims “Deflation” and “Fuzzy Numbers”

The FASB (Federal Accounting Standards Board), a private “watchdog” organization, has called von Stutterheim’s Count “inaccurate” and “deflated.” Reached for comment, an FASB spokesman, Nit Pickings, said that von Stutterheim’s Count used the date of his departure from New York to Montana as the terminal date (“point zero” or “0 BBC”) for his Bobitis Countdown, *not* the date of his leaving on a pack trip. Pickings noted that von Stutterheim is not actually scheduled to travel into The Bob itself until June 24, 2001, or 30 days after leaving New York, and that, therefore, “He is nowhere near 200 days, let alone below it. Our staff accountants peg his real Count closer to 223 days.” He added “It’s regrettable that time and again, individuals feel compelled, for reasons known only to themselves, to deflate their Bobitis Count, and thus endanger the public’s confidence in relying on published data. To put it succinctly, von Stutterheim is using some very ‘fuzzy numbers.’”

FASB Charges Labeled “Threat to American Democracy”

von Stutterheim took sharp issue with the FASB charges and rejected the group’s claims in no uncertain terms.

“In its self-righteous crusade to catch accounting irregularities, the FASB has gone way over the top with its challenge to my Bobitis Count. There is no official regulation which requires that *point zero* has to be the morning of the pack trip.

“In leaving New York on May 24, I am clearly embarking on a journey towards The Bob, in fact, I will be 2,480 miles closer to it by the following Tuesday! All that remains then is a short drive to the Trailhead a few weeks hence. It is clear that the journey from New York to Seeley Lake is an integral, inseparable, and essential part of my next trip into The Bob, commencing from New York. That fact absolutely qualifies it as the terminal point for a Bobitis Countdown.”

He continued that “My Countdown has been verified by official bodies like the National Institute of Health and has been available for public inspection weeks before being disseminated. It is very unfortunate that these kind of irresponsible charges promulgated by the FASB in its witchhunts have a chilling effect on citizens’ ability to freely publish their own data. Challenges *after* publication only serve to undermine our democratic institutions and the American system of government.

“It should surprise no-one, given the current climate, that sensitive men and women of strong character end up just wanting to ride into the Wilderness and are very reluctant, indeed, to come out again.”