世界名人

英文传记

ENGLISH BIOGRAPHIES OF WORLD'S CELEBRITIES

鲁茜娅·拉特玛/著

BILL GATES

比尔·盖茨

微软公司的缔造者有史以来影响最深远的商人

“全球首富”

中国书籍出版社

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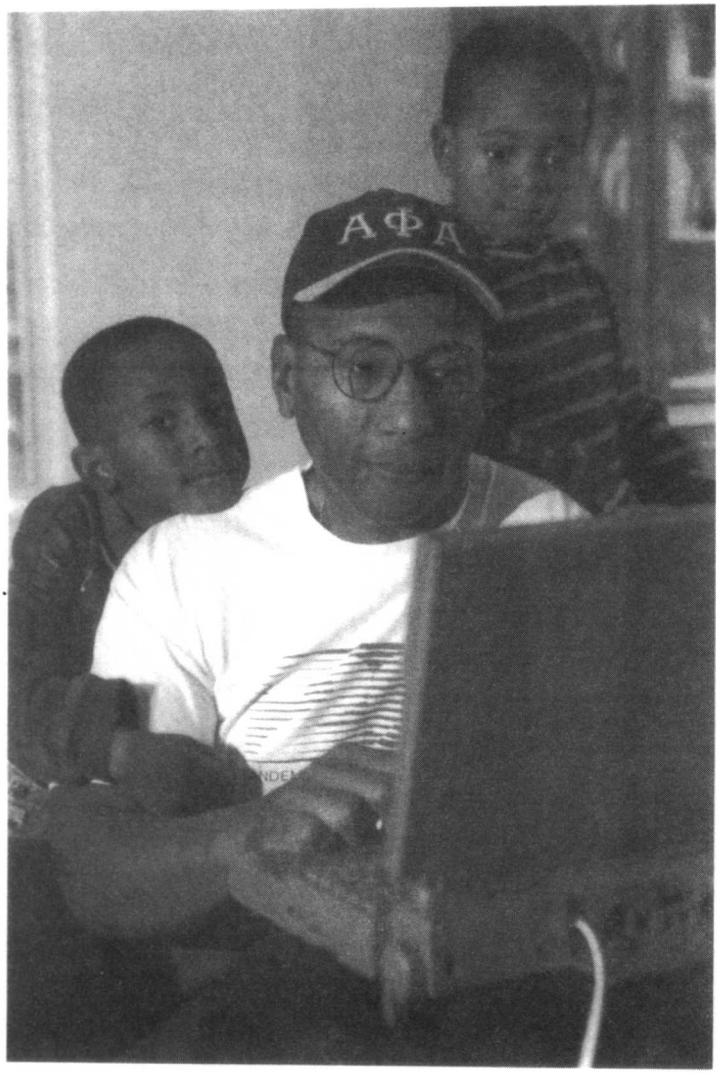

Computers affect the lives of millions of people everyday, both at home and in the office.

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1 A COMPUTER IN EVERY HOME

EVERY DAY, MILLIONS of people are affected by the work of Bill Gates. Each time a computer is turned on, each time a mouse is **clicked**①, and each time the Internet is accessed, people are using the **software**② that Gates helped develop.

Not long ago, computers were **huge**③ machines that took up **entire**④ rooms. Back in the 1960s and early 1970s, no one expected that anyone would want to use a computer at home. Only colleges,

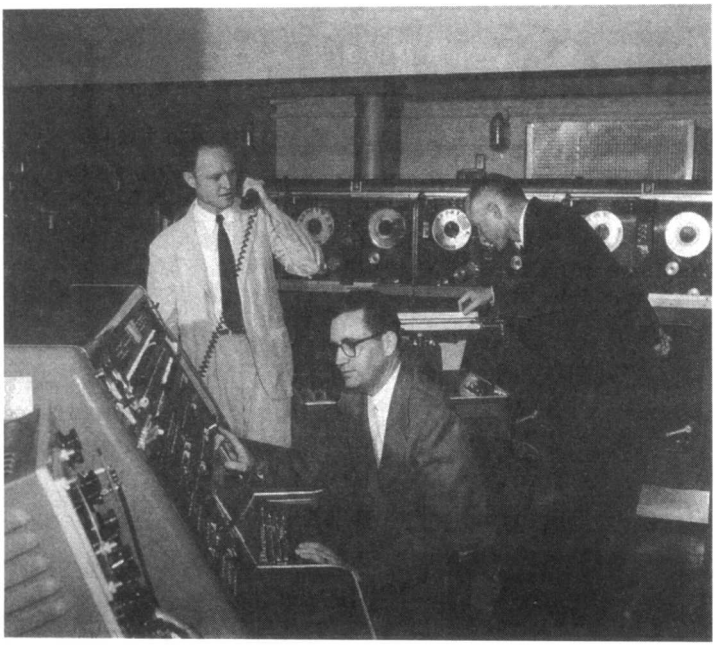
---

① click [klik] *v.* 点击

② software ['sɔftwɛə] *n.* 软件

③ huge [hju:dʒ] *adj.* 巨大的,极大的

④ entire [in'taiə] *adj.* 全部的,整个



In the early days of computers, the machines were very large and could take up whole rooms.

hospitals, government offices, and other large **organizations**[①] used these complicated machines.

But Bill Gates saw something else. He **envisioned**[②] people using computers for everyday **tasks**[③]. And he

① organization [ɔ:gənai'zeiʃən] *n.* 组织,机构,团体

② envision [in'viʒən] *vt.* 想象,预想

③ task ['tɑ:sk] *n.* 任务,作业

envisioned a computer in every home. As the years have passed, Gates's **vision**① has become a reality.Today, millions of people use personal computers, and millions more use computers in schools and offices.

Gates's work has made him famous, not to mention very **wealthy**②. Some see him as a talented businessman. Others see him as greedy and **aggressive**③. No matter how he is **perceived**④, Bill Gates has changed the world we live in.

① vision [ˈviʒən] *n.* 眼光,想象

② wealthy [ˈwelθi] *adj.* 富有的,丰裕的

③ aggressive [əˈgresiv] *adj.* 好斗的,有闯劲的

④ perceive [pəˈsiːv] *v.* 感知,认识到

2 A THING FOR COMPUTERS

BILL GATES WAS A **skinny**[①] and shy young man who was often uncomfortable around people. He preferred to read the **encyclopedia**[②] or play card games for hours with his family. Later on, he would prefer the company of the computers he liked to build.

Beginnings

William H. Gates Ⅲ was born on October 28, 1955, in Seattle, Washington, into a **respected**[③]

① skinny ['skini] *adj.* 瘦削的,皮包骨的

② encyclopedia [en,saikləu'pi:diə] *n.* 百科全书

③ respected [ris'pektid] *adj.* 受人尊敬的

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Bill Gates's father, William Gates Jr., didn't always understand his son's ambitions, but he always supported them.

family. His father, William Gates Jr., was a well-known **attorney**[①] in the community. His mother, Mary, a schoolteacher, worked on **numerous**[②] **charitable**[③] **committees**[④] and served as chairperson of the United Way.

As a boy, Bill was often called Trey, a common nickname for boys who had "Ⅲ" as part of their name. A middle child, Bill had two sisters. Kristi was a year older, and Libby was nine years younger. In school, he did well

Bill Gates and his sister, Libby

① attorney [ə'tə:ni] *n.* <美>律师

② numerous ['nju:mərəs] *adj.*众多的,许多的

③ charitable ['tʃæritəbl] *adj.* 仁慈的,(为)慈善事业的

④ committee [kə'miti] *n.* 委员会

in math and other courses requiring **logic**[①] and **analysis**[②]. But as a young boy, he never showed the leadership skills the world would later come to see.

Always Thinking

When Bill was in the sixth grade, he and his mother were often **at odds**[③]. She felt he should listen to her and do as he was told. But Bill had other ideas. One evening, after being called to dinner many times, Bill remained in his room. Finally, his mother asked over the **intercom**[④], "What are you doing?" He shouted back, "I'm thinking." "You're thinking?" she replied. "Yes, Mom, I'm thinking," he answered angrily. "Have you ever tried thinking?"

Conversations like this one **eventually**[⑤] landed Bill in a counselor's office. His parents worried that they did not understand Bill and thought he needed someone else to talk to. In fact, Bill liked the **psychologist**[⑥] they sent him to, and for a year he learned about psychology and

---

① logic ['lɔdʒik] *n.* 逻辑,逻辑学

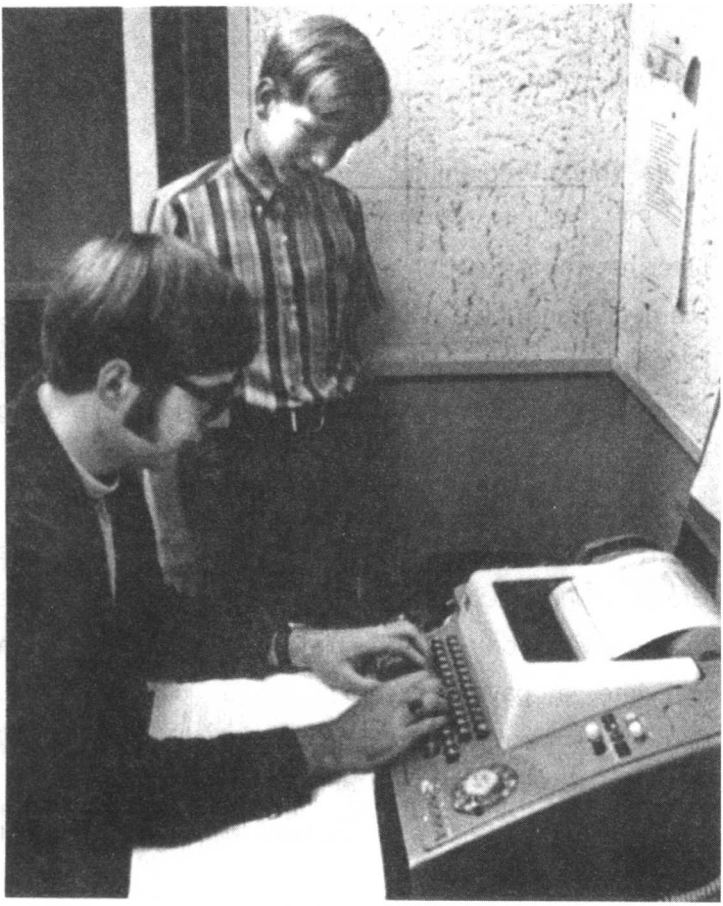
② analysis [ə'nælisis] *n.* 分析,分解

③ at odds [ɔdz] *adv.* 争执,不一致

④ intercom ['intəkɔm] *n.* 室内电话,内部通信联络系统

⑤ eventually [i'ventjuəli] *adv.* 最后,终于

⑥ psychologist [psai'kɔlədʒist] *n.* 心理学者



Paul Allen (left) and Bill Gates at Lakeside in 1973

various[①] theories[②]. However, at the end of that year, Mary Gates got this advice from the counselor: "You're going to lose. You had better adjust because there's no use trying to beat him." She began to accept that she had a strong-willed son.

A Young Programmer

Bill's education began in a public elementary school. Later he was enrolled in a private school called Lakeside. His best friend there was Kent Evans, a young man as intrigued[③] by computers as Bill was. At one point, Bill remembered, "We read Fortune together; we were going to conquer the world."

Bill and Kent, along with their fellow schoolmate Paul Allen, formed a group called the Lakeside Programmers Group. Though they were very young, businessmen came to them with work. For example, one job required them to write a payroll[④] system for a local company. Sometimes these friends would argue over their work. Bill always insisted on being the one in charge.

Today, parents and teachers alike would almost

---

① various ['vɛəriəs] *adj.* 各种各样的,多方面的

② theory ['θiəri] *n.* 理论,学说

③ intrigue [in'tri:g] *vt.* 激起…的兴趣

④ payroll ['peiroul] *n.* 薪水册

certainly praise Bill's interest in computers. At that time, however, computers did not play such a great part in people's lives because their uses were limited. The computer language of that day was called BASIC. Bill found one **particularly**① **mischievous**② use for his computer skills. He spent hours **analyzing**③ lines of code — program instructions — not only learning how a program worked, but also looking for its weaknesses. When he found a **vulnerable**④ spot in the computer code, he would alter it and **disrupt**⑤ the computer. To Gates, it was a kind of game. Gates found that he could also bypass security systems and thus get access to information that he wasn't supposed to have. This is called "hacking." Back then, there were no laws against hacking. Today, it is a serious **crime**⑥.

Gates's high-school teachers did not find the young hacker's activities as amusing as Gates did, and he got into trouble at school. For some reason, though, the computer company that owned the systems he had

① particularly [pə'tikjuləli] *adv.* 独特地，显著地

② mischievous ['mistʃivəs] *adj.* 有害的

③ analyze ['ænəlaiz] *vt.* 分析，分解

④ vulnerable ['vʌlnərəbl] *adj.* 易受攻击的

⑤ disrupt [dis'rʌpt] *v.* 使中断，使陷于混乱，破坏

⑥ crime [kraim] *n.* 犯罪，罪行

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