Sharpening a Subject…Blurring the Background
(Blur to Sharpen)

Using the Sharpening & Blurring Filters:

1. Load a slightly blurry portrait you want to sharpen into Paint Shop pro. "St.Louis.Pat.Dad.Gorilla", "PatClimbPark", and "WeatherGroup4Crop."

2. Select the Freehand Tool and set it to Smart Edge. Set the Feather value to about 5… that way the transition from subject to background won't be abrupt.

3. Trace the outline of the subject's face or body, being careful to stay along the edge.

4. When you have completely selected the subject, choose Effects→ Sharpen→ Unsharp Mask to sharpen the subject but **NOT** affect the background.

5. Next, choose Selections→ Invert from the menu. This "flips" the selection so the **Subject** isn't selected, but everything else is.

6. Choose Effects→ Blur→ Blur More. You should see the background blur slightly. Repeat this step until you are happy with the amount of blurring the background has.

7. Finally, when you are finished, choose Selections→ Select None. Save your image file.

Getting Rid of Power lines and Other Unwanted Things…Using the Clone Tool:

The Clone Tool works best in small areas. You can start to tell that something is wrong with an area you're cloning if you paint over too large a region.

1. Click on the Clone Tool in the tool palette. It looks like a pair of paintbrushes.

2. You need to find a region in your photo that is similar to the area you want to cover. I would suggest that you go just above/below a horizontal object (wires), or just side to side of a vertical subject (pole.)

3. You must set the source for your cloning operation. Position the mouse pointer over the area you're going to "steal" color from and either **RIGHT-CLICK** or hold the **SHIFT** key and click.

4. Move your mouse over to the area you want to airbrush and start painting. Don't try to cover the object all at once; paint a little, pick up the mouse, and paint some more. By doing this you will reduce the chances that a recognizable pattern will appear.