

Between brake jobs, he's a 'Cyberpaperboy'



MIKE WENDLAND

Between Brake Jobs, he's a 'Cyberpaperboy'

It's said that with the Internet, everyone has a voice. Anyone can be a publisher.

And David Akerley is living proof of that. In his own right, he's very much a sort of Internet mogul.

Akerley is the proud owner and operator of "D.J.'s Brake and Strut" in Clawson. And as such, David does his share of heavy work. Brake jobs. Car electrical work. Mechanical repairs. Eight to four, Monday through Friday.

But dozens of times throughout the day, he crawls out from beneath the rack, washes the grease off his hands and heads to a tiny corner of his cluttered shop. That's where "D.J." the

auto mechanic becomes "The Cyberpaperboy," publisher of a very popular Web site (www.cyberpaperboy.com) that just may be one of the Internet's best resource sites.

On his Web site, Akerley posts headline links and brief summaries of news stories. The links are updated constantly from hundreds of Internet-based news sources. No matter what it's about ... breaking news, stock reports, sports, politics, national and international news ... you can find it on his Web site.

Akerley has no illusions about his skills.

"I'm not making any claims about being any sort of journalist," he says in the computer corner of his auto repair shop. "I'm just a news junkie. I love the news. I have since I was a kid. And I love the Internet. So I put the two passions together. I'm just like a regular paperboy, only I distribute the news on the Internet. I'm what you'd call a Cyberpaperboy."

The 43-year-old Akerley does

'I have no illusions about being another Matt Drudge,' he says, speaking of the controversial online gossip and rumor-monger. 'I really like fixing cars. I just also happen to like the Internet and news. I'm lucky that I can do all three all day long.'

*David Akerley
—Mechanic, Internet guru*

it very well. He posts his links so fast that often major breaking stories can be found on the Cyberpaperboy Web site before you hear about them on radio or TV. So far this year, more than 150,000 people have visited the Cyberpaperboy Web site, more visitors than many newspapers have subscribers.

His Web site has links to newspapers in every state in the country, thousands of them, as well as dozens of worldwide papers. There are also plenty of resources, from computer help to TV listings, online dictionaries, chat rooms and the like.

Akerley does this all essentially for free. Though he runs some banner ads on his site, the revenue they bring does little more than pay for his cost of Internet access and web server fees.

"I have no illusions about being another Matt Drudge," he says, speaking of the controversial online gossip and rumor-monger. "I really like fixing cars. I just also happen to like the Internet and news. I'm lucky that I can do all three all day long."

The Internet, he says, contin-

ues to amaze him daily. "It's like being in the world's greatest library, only better. Everything's right there at the click of a mouse."

What he most appreciates about the Internet is the access it gives everyday people to vast amounts of information, information that used to be the exclusive property of big and established media companies.

"In terms of access, the average person is no longer dependent on big media," he says. "We can now get all sides of a story on our own, with just a few mouse clicks. I think in the long run, that makes the professional media more accountable."

Make no mistake Akerley is not a media basher. Quite the contrary.

"I have enormous respect for real journalists," he says. "I consider it to really be a noble profession. I spend a lot of time every day scanning their headlines and linking to their stories and I have to say that day in and day out, I think they're doing a

pretty good job."

The Cyberpaperboy says he feels the role of his Web site is to help people focus their information and news needs. "There's now so much out there on the Internet, I feel like I'm performing a valuable service just pointing people in the right direction."

So, purely for the love of it, Akerley says he'll keep spending 20-30 extra hours every week cyber-delivering the news links. Between brake jobs.

Free Y2K booklet

Wondering what to do to protect your PC against possible Y2K problems? I just finished writing a booklet for the Iomaga Corp. You can get a free copy by calling them toll-free at 888-238-8566.

Mike Wendland reports about computers and the Internet for NBC-television stations coast-to-coast. His radio show is heard every weekend on TalkRadio 1270, WXYT. You can reach Mike through his Web site at www.pcmike.com

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Items from the Observerland area for the Business Calendar can be sent to: Observer Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150 attention: Business Calendar.

TUE, OCT. 19

WORK AFTER 2000

The workplace and the concept of job security have changed drastically in the last quarter of the 20th century. To find out what is in store in the 21st century, come to Schoolcraft College, for a program on the world of work in the new millennium. The programs begin at 7 p.m. in the McDowell Center. The fee is \$7.50 for the general public and \$5 for any school or college student. Call Donna Nordman for information, (734) 462-4421.

WED, OCT. 20

TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The Detroit Oracle User Group

will host their year-end technology conference at 8:30 a.m. at the Laurel Manor in Livonia. The full-day conference will feature presentations and discussions on how to use Oracle tools and database technologies to turn your data into information. Visit their Web site at www.doug-ni.org or call Eric Slegemeyer at (248) 626-8800.

BUSINESS NETWORK INT'L

Meets from 7-8:30 a.m. Laurel Park Chapter, Archie's Restaurant, 30471 Plymouth Rd., Livonia and Metro Livonia, The American Table 33501 West Eight Mile, near Farmington Road. Call the BNI office (810) 323-3800.

FRI, OCT. 22

BUSINESS NETWORK INT'L

Meets from 7-8:30 a.m. Livonia Chapter, Senate Koney Island on Plymouth Road near Stark. Call BNI at (810) 323-3800.

SAT, OCT. 23

TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Learn to speak confidently one-on-one or before groups with the Toastmasters Club of Livonia. The group is having a Saturday Sunrises open house at 8:30 a.m. at Livonia Unity Church (28660 Five Mile Road). Contact (734) 525-0476 for more information.

OCT. 25-26

CUSTOM-SUPPLIER RELATIONSHIPS

The American Society for Quality will meet at the Union State-Wyndham Grand Heritage Hotel, 1001 Broadway, Nashville. The topic will be relationships: Good relationships are essential to business, without them we will surely sink. How do we build lasting relationships and mend damaged ones with our customers and suppliers. To register and obtain payment

information call (734) 522-0587, Tom Schoenfeldt; or (414) 723-5470, Jim Owen.

WED, OCT. 27

BUSINESS NETWORK INT'L

Meets from 7-8:30 a.m. Laurel Park Chapter, Archie's Restaurant, 30471 Plymouth Rd., Livonia and Metro Livonia, The American Table 33501 West Eight Mile, near Farmington Road. Call the BNI office (810) 323-3800.

TUE, OCT. 28

BUSINESS EXPO

The Detroit Regional Chamber and National Association of Purchasing Management-Metro Detroit are presenting Business MarketPlace '99 -- "Unparalleled Opportunities for Buyers and Suppliers." Thursday, Oct. 28 at the Livonia Manor in Livonia. This full-day expo helps area suppliers meet corporate

purchasing executives through the Procurement Pavilion, purchasing department introductions, electronic commerce demonstrations, Supplier Showcase and more. Cost for the event, which is open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., is \$25 for Chamber members, \$35 for nonmembers. For more information, contact

Rosemary Tokatlian at (313) 696-0392.

FRI, OCT. 29

BUSINESS NETWORK INT'L

Meets from 7-8:30 a.m. Livonia Chapter, Senate Koney Island on Plymouth Road near Stark. Call BNI at (810) 323-3800.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Orthodontics

by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.


SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Today's teenagers regard braces as something of a status symbol. This is reflected in the fact that more than 3 million teenagers in the U.S. and Canada wear orthodontic appliances. This number represents a 30 percent increase over the past decade, according to the American Association of Orthodontists. Why the sudden popularity? Teeth are no more crooked today than they have been in the past; however, increasing numbers of adolescents want the near-perfect smiles that braces can bring. And

while most people get braces for aesthetic reasons, they also derive the functional benefit of having better bites and fewer jaw problems. Who says that today's teenagers do not know what is good for them?

At THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP, 19850 Middlebelt, we feature computer imaging to help patients visualize what the end result of treatment may look like. For further information or to schedule a free initial consultation, call 442-8885.

THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP
19850 Middlebelt • Livonia • (248) 442-8885



BUSINESS MARKETPLACE

Advertising award

Western Creative, Inc. (formerly Western Communications), a multimedia and advertising agency located in Redford, is a bronze winner in the 1999 Telly Awards competition for its outstanding creative work for Temo, Inc., a national sunroom manufacturer. Western is also a 1998 bronze Telly Award winner for a Saatchi & Saatchi Jeep Eagle

commercial, *The Wonder of Steve*.

Area merger

Advanced Assembly Group (AAG), which operates two facilities in metropolitan Detroit, will merge its systems assembly capabilities with the manufacturing functions of its sister company Air Gage in Livonia. AAG

and Air Gage are among four Michigan-based divisions of Advanced Industrial Technologies, formerly known as GSE, Inc.



Expert Bathtub Liners
Serving S.E. Mich. Since 1974

CALL NOW!
FULL SALE!
Toll 1-877-241-6377

Acupuncturist
Qian Wang O.M.D.
Traditional Chinese Acupuncture
Herbal and Acupressure
Certified by NCCA (1987)
(National board for acupuncture)
Seven years of demonstrations in acupuncture in Madonna University
Disposable Needles
By appointment: (313) 331-2563
17702 Fox, Redford, MI



Alston
Limousine
Special Rates for All Occasions!

Casino, lunch packages available (pick-up, drop-off also)
Reduced Rates for Weekdays
Call Us Today!
(313) 587-5468

26th Ann Arbor Winter Art Fair
Oct. 23 & 24, 1999
Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.
Saturday, October 23 - 10am to 6pm
Sunday, October 24 - 11am to 5pm

Audrey Levy presents 180 of the finest artists and craftspeople in the country.
Take I-94 to Exit 177 (State St.). Turn South "3 miles" to Tackle Rd. Turn right (West) "3 miles" to Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Turn right (North) "1 mile" to entrance of the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds.
www.levyartfair.com
e-mail: audrey@levyartfair.com

Admission \$5.00 • Under 10 FREE
2500 Free Parking Spaces • Indoor Heated Facility






We're OK

Michigan Heritage Bank

Rates Above The Rest.

5.75% APY* 12 Mo. CD Minimum \$1,000	6.00% APY* 24 Mo. CD Minimum \$1,000	4.50% APY* Heritage Classic Minimum \$2,500
--	--	---

Visit our web site: www.MIHeritage.com or call for a CD by mail application.

NOVI: Next to the Novi Hilton
21211 Haggerty Road at 8 Mile
1-800-814-3524

TROY: Troy Sports Center
1917 East Big Beaver at John R.
1-248-619-0264

*Annual Percentage Yield is effective as of October 17, 1999.
Penalty for early withdrawal. Business or brokered accounts not eligible.

Cancer Answer Night

Cancer Vaccines: A New Weapon in the War on Cancer

Presented by:

Bruce G. Redman, D.O.
Director, Clinical Trials Program

Vicki V. Baker, M.D.
Director, Gynecologic Oncology Research

Tuesday, October 19, from 7-8:30 pm
Livonia West Holiday Inn
(on 6 Mile Road just east of I-275, near Laurel Park Shopping Mall)
This event is free of charge.

Join us for Cancer AnswerNight and learn life-saving answers to commonly asked questions, including:

- How are new cancer treatments discovered?
- Will killing off tumors someday be as simple as a shot in the arm?
- What are clinical trials and why should patients participate?

Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling 1-800-742-2300 and enter category 7874.

