

AOL-Time Warner

Backlash is brewing about a possible merger

PC

MIKE



MIKE WENDLAND

There's a strong backlash brewing over the proposed deal that would have America Online buy the immense media world of Time Warner.

A growing number of consumer groups and technology firms are registering formal objections with the Federal Communications Commission, saying the planned AOL merger would harm consumers by concentrating an unprecedented amount of media power in the hands of one voice.

If the deal goes through, AOL would dominate not just the

online world through America Online, CompuServe and Netscape, but also the Cable News Network, the magazine industry, the recording industry and the broadband Internet market.

A Time Warner spokesman says the deal will be good for consumers, bringing them more convenience.

The critics say AOL is already trying to crush competitors through ruthless marketing techniques, and the proposed merger will make it all but impossible for anyone to stand it up. Among the consumer groups objecting to the merger are the Consumers Union, the Media Access Project, the Consumer Federation of America and the Center for Media Education.

Marketing manners

What kind of ruthless marketing does AOL do, you ask? Consider AOL's most recent software, Version 5.0.

There's hardly a day that goes by that I don't get an e-mail or telephone call from somebody complaining about the way the upgrade takes over the network settings of Windows-based PCs.

During the installation process, one of the AOL on-screen instruction boxes asks if the user wants AOL to be the user's primary Internet connection. "No" is the default choice. Clicking "Yes," however, invites AOL to move in and re-write the settings so that the computer connects to AOL whenever the user wants to browse the Web, send or receive e-mail or do any other online activities.

At the same time, however, it disables the network configurations needed to gain access to the Internet through other service providers. Some users have told me it's all but impossible to get rid of AOL 5.0, even by uninstalling it.

For some, the only solution was to reformat, or completely erase the hard drive. A class action lawsuit has been filed over the AOL upgrade, something AOL has labeled as "without merit." Meantime, my advice is ... leave 5.0 alone.

Lawsuit

AOL is facing a class action lawsuit because of these and other problems. Then there's the most at CompuServe, also owned by America Online. CompuServe is also the object

of a class action suit (www.web-access.net/~cscact/index.html) and is under investigation by officials in New York, California, and Florida for not delivering on promised \$100 to \$400 rebates promised to people who signed up for long-term CompuServe accounts when they bought new computers.

What's most amazing to me is how the Clinton Administration's Department of Justice is so seemingly indifferent to the AOL problems and the implications of the proposed merger with Time Warner.

In view of the governmental attack on Microsoft's monopoly, you'd think that Clinton's Justice Department persecutors would be all over this.

I wonder: Do you suppose one reason why the administration

has turned its back on the AOL complaints is because one of the entities AOL will soon control will be CNN? After all, there are a lot of people who think CNN stands for Clinton News Network.

Just asking.

Until next week... 73 every-body.

Mike Wendland covers the Internet for NBC-TV NewsChannel stations across the country. He is the author of a series of Internet books. You can reach him through his website at <http://www.pcmike.com> and hear him Monday through Friday at 6:28 PM on NewsRadio 950, WWJ, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 4-6 p.m. on TalkRadio 1270, WXYT.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Ilitch Holdings

Scott Fisher of Plymouth has been promoted to vice president of Finance/Administration for Ilitch Holdings, Inc. This is a new position within the company.



Fisher

Fisher began his career with the Detroit Red Wings in 1986 and moved to the Detroit Tigers as the club's chief accountant and administrator in 1992. He joined the holding company in 1997. In his new position, Fisher will oversee all aspects of finance for all the companies under Ilitch Holdings, which includes Little Caesars, the Detroit Red Wings and Olympia Entertainment.

National City

Kimberly Goethe of Canton recently joined National City as vice president and relationship manager of treasury management. She will be responsible for managing customer municipal

activities accounts in southeast Michigan.

Goethe previously held a vice president position in treasury management at Bank One, where she was employed for 20 years. Her business office is located at the National City Center in Birmingham.

Financial rep

The financial services firm Edward Jones has hired Penny Pennington as the new investment representative for the company's Livonia branch office. Prior to joining Edward Jones, Pennington was managing director of corporate finance with



Goethe



Pennington

Comerica Bank. She is a member of Livonia Rotary and is a vice president of Livonia Jaycees.

Accountants Connection

L. Travis Furrow has been named senior personnel consultant for Accountants Connection Inc., a Livonia-based staffing service that provides temporary and permanent placement of accounting and financial professionals. He can be reached at (734) 513-7800.

Grace & Wild

Chris Bickell has joined Grace & Wild Digital Studios in Farmington Hills as Avid editor. He previously worked as an associate editor at Griot Editor-

al. "Since joining us, Chris has handled rough cuts for several national and regional commercials and our clients have been very pleased with his work," said Paul DeMars, commercial post-production manager.

Bickell is a graduate of the Space Howard School of Broadcast Arts and a former freelance photographer.

MORPACE International, Inc.

Charles Haffey has been promoted to vice president of finance at MORPACE International, Inc. in Farmington Hills. He has been with the company for three years and is a member of the Executive Committee. Formerly, he was president of T.P.S.

Inc., a chain of retail stores based in Livonia.

Louise Kier Zirretta has been named the company's group vice president. She previously worked in the behavioral health-care industry. She recently was named to the "Who's Who of International Business Professionals" and was the keynote speaker at the Chicago Health

Care Disease Management Congress.

Real Estate president

Henry C. Moses is the new president of Barry M. Klein Real Estate, Inc. in Farmington Hills. A 15-year veteran of the commercial real estate brokerage and development company, Moses previously served as executive vice president.

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OAKLAND AND WAYNE COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the annual election of the School District will be held in the School District on Monday, June 12, 2000.

TAKE NOTICE THAT any qualified elector of the School District who is not already a registered elector of the School District may register at the following places on the days indicated:

PLACE: For those persons living within the City of Livonia:

Livonia City Hall
33001 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152

For those persons living within the Township of Bedford:

Bedford Township Hall
15145 Beech Road
Bedford Township, MI 48239

For those persons living within the City of Farmington Hills:

Farmington Hills City Hall
31555 Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

DAYS AND HOURS:

Each day during the office hours until Monday, May 15, 2000, at the close of business. Persons planning to register to vote while applying for a renewal operator's or chauffeur's license by mail under Section 307 of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code.

A person may also register to vote at a branch office of the Secretary of State or by completing an application to register to vote while applying for a renewal operator's or chauffeur's license by mail under Section 307 of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code.

LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION:

THE LAST DAY ON WHICH PERSONS MAY REGISTER WITH THE APPROPRIATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERK, IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE ANNUAL ELECTION ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2000, IS MONDAY MAY 15, 2000. PERSONS REGISTERING AFTER THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON MONDAY, MAY 15, 2000, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION.

Those persons who are duly registered to vote in this School District at said Annual Election need not re-register.

TAKE NOTICE that there will be elected two (2) members of the Board of Education for full terms of four (4) years ending June 30, 2004.

This Notice is given by Order of the Board of Education.

Dated: April 19, 2000

BRYAN BRODY
Secretary, Board of Education,
Clarenceville School District of
Oakland and Wayne Counties,
Michigan

Published: April 30 and May 11, 2000

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN ZONING AMENDATORY ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. C-5-2000

An Ordinance to amend the City Code, Chapter 34, Zoning Chapter, of the City of Farmington Hills, to amend Section 34.32 to reclassify certain property as hereinafter mentioned:

The City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, hereby ordains:

Section 1. That the City Code of the City of Farmington Hills, Chapter 34, Zoning Chapter, is hereby amended in part to amend Section 34.32 to reclassify certain property in the City as follows: to show RA-3, Single-Family Residential District classification where OS-1, Office Service District classification is now shown in the area described as follows:

• Sidwell 423-361-001 & 002
A portion of the Southwest ¼ of Section 36, T1N, R9E, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan. The property concerned is located on the southeast corner of Middlebelt Road and Dresden Blvd., lots 82 & 83 of Meadowbrook Heights Subdivision.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 3. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby ordered to take effect twenty-one days after their enactment.

Section 4. This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Council Members of the City of Farmington Hills, at a duly called meeting held on the 24th day of April, 2000, and ordered to be given publication in the manner prescribed by law.

AYES: DATES, BARNETT, ELLIS, OLIVERIO, BRICKNER, MCRAE

NAYES: NONE
ABSENT: GRANT
ABSTAINED: NONE
ADOPTED: 4/24/00
EFFECTIVE: 5/15/00
ZR 2-1-2000

KATHRYN A. DORNAN
City Clerk

Published: April 30, 2000

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