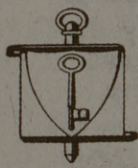
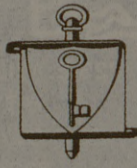


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**Internet executives see threat in state, local tax**

WASHINGTON (AP) — To hear Internet and technology executives talk, new state and local taxes rank up there with computer viruses and 14-year-old hackers as a threat to the global computer future.

"It defeats the purpose of seamless interstate commerce," argues Scott Cooper, technology director at the American Electronics Association. A proliferation of state and local taxes will "degrade and demean the technology," he adds.

The Clinton administration opposes federal taxation of the Internet, where business dealings could rise to as much as \$150 billion in the next few years by some estimates. So the battleground is shifting to the state and local level, and the industry is working hard to halt piecemeal taxation.

The emerging market for electronic commerce could be crushed, industry leaders say, if cities and counties begin approving taxes for telecommunications, data processing services or even sales.

They say Internet service providers could be driven out of business if local governments get the right to tax an electronic transaction that just happens to be routed through a local computer server en route to its final destination.

Someone in Atlanta who's buying clothes from L.L. Bean over the

Internet might have his connection routed through Maryland and Connecticut before reaching Maine. Or the connection could be routed overseas. Also, Internet service providers might use multiple computer servers in different cities so they could stay in business if one crashed — again creating confusion over when taxes should be applied.

For the estimated 30 million individual Internet users, state and local taxes would make it more expensive to use their home computers to buy clothes or check on stock prices as Internet service providers pass these taxes onto the customer's monthly bill.

"Clearly, you are talking about a potential increase in both the costs and complexity of Internet transactions," said Kenneth Glueck, a tax expert for Oracle Corp., a major database company.

"I just think it's important for everybody to take a deep breath and step back and really think through the implications of having ... (thousands of) potential tax jurisdictions rendering various charges and fees," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

He and Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., are proposing a temporary ban on new state and local Internet taxes until all parties agree on a uniform way to proceed.

**"It defeats the purpose of seamless interstate commerce."**

Scott Cooper  
Technology executive

**Rebel leader flies to South Africa for talks**

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Zairian rebel leader Laurent Kabila secretly flew to South Africa on Tuesday and met with U.S. officials trying to kick-start the Zaire peace process.

Back home, government soldiers looted an eastern town ahead of an expected advance by Kabila's fighters toward Kisangani, Zaire's third-largest city.

Aid workers said the town governor and tens of thousands of others fled Kindu, one of two remaining government-held towns in eastern Zaire with an airport. It was expected to be the next target of the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

The Kabila-led rebels took up arms in September after the government tried to expel ethnic Tutsis from eastern Zaire. Their rebellion is aimed at toppling President Mobutu Sese Seko, whose 31-year dictatorship has left mineral-rich Zaire among the world's poorest countries.

Unpaid Zairian troops have looted nearly every town in eastern Zaire in advance of the rebel front.

Rebels reportedly were just miles from Kindu, and residents panicked after soldiers stripped the town on Monday, aid workers said. The town's governor fled to the capital, Kinshasa.

The looting came as a senior army officer said he and eight other officers had joined the rebels. They defected because of dissent and chaos within the army leadership, said the former colonel, who would give his name only as Anti.

Kabila flew in a chartered South African plane on Tuesday afternoon from Kigali, Rwanda, to Lanseria, about 25 miles north of Johannesburg. A small air field serviced by charter companies, Lanseria is known as a haven for smuggling and other clandestine activity.

According to an immigration officer at Lanseria, Kabila lacked a passport and bypassed normal customs procedures.

The out-of-the-way destination and statements by his underlings



that Kabila was in the bush, his troops indicated the rebel leader wanted his trip to South Africa kept secret.

Kabila met in Pretoria, about 100 miles north of Johannesburg, with African and U.S. officials who have been trying to arrange a meeting between the rebels and Mobutu's government, according to a U.S. embassy official in Washington contacted by telephone.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the very first talks was a cease-fire in eastern Zaire.



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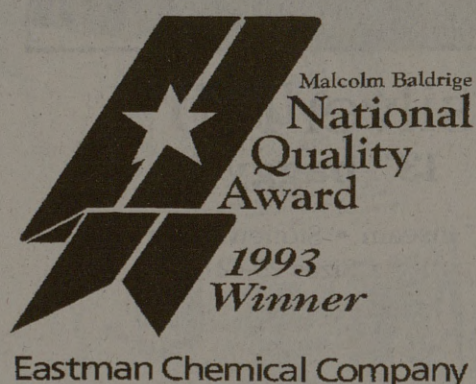
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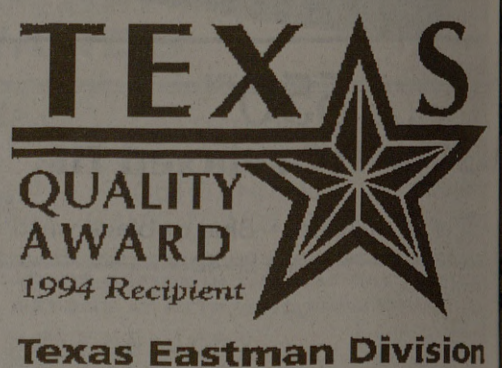
Congratulations to **James Zahler**, a junior chemical engineering major from Edinboro, Pennsylvania who has been selected as Eastman's most recent Chemical Engineering Scholar here at Texas A&M University. Although most of his time is spent with his studies, James finds time for other activities. He is involved in intramural sports; soccer, flag football and table tennis. He enjoys sports of all kinds and playing piano. James will graduate in May of 1998. James is undecided whether he will enter into industry doing research or go to graduate school, both options are open. Eastman Chemical Company welcomes James into the select group of student scholars. Congratulations again to James!



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