

# Times-Standard

Good morning!

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## BUSINESS

# Computer tie-in service in works

### Eureka office to offer toll-free access to world-wide network

By Mary Lane  
The Times-Standard

EUREKA — Hitting the open road on the information superhighway just got a little bit easier in Humboldt County.

A Eureka firm is now offering toll-free access to the Internet, an expansive, international computer network connecting thousands of users world wide.

Sequoia Technical Services is offering 20 hours of Internet access for \$20 a month. The company is offering the only toll-free Internet access on the North Coast to those not affiliated with the California State University system, said company president Larry Goldberg.

The one-time setup fee is \$25 or \$35, depending on the type of connection.

The company will also offer serial line Internet protocol (SLIP) and point-to-point protocol (PPP), which would allow users to connect their computers directly to the Internet without going through host computer. These types of connections use graphic interfaces similar to Windows or Macintosh programs to navigate the Internet.

The North Coast Internet is in the experimental stages now, Goldberg said. Thirty users signed up at a private unveiling held Tuesday

night, and he expects to sign up 200 users by the end of the summer.

Goldberg said the company's high-speed, high band-width setup will accommodate many users at a time. "We don't expect any busy signals," he said.

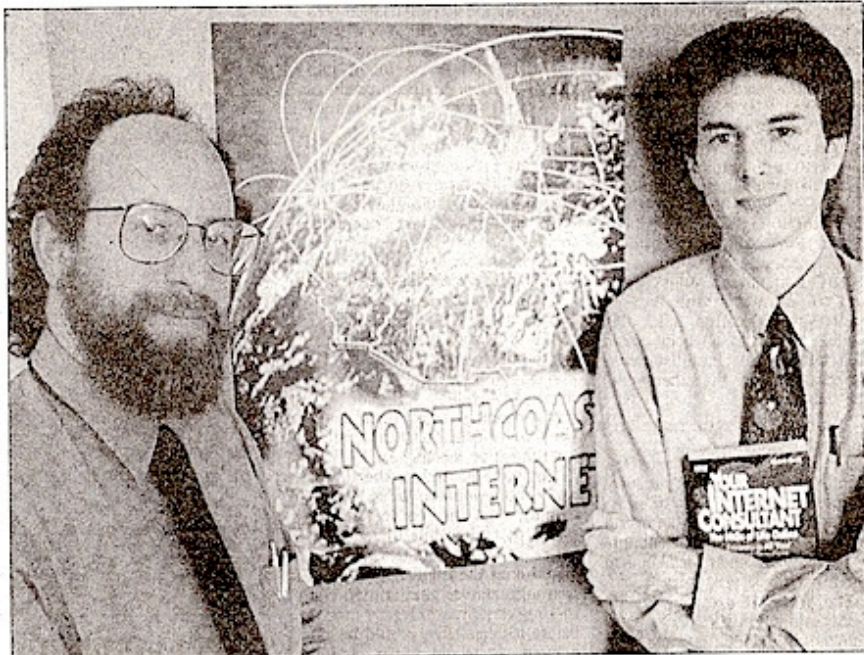
When the service is fully operational in September, local companies will be able to sell their products on the network in a "cyber-mall," Goldberg said. For a fee, local retailers could show their products to millions of users worldwide, he said.

The company also will offer classes to show people how to find information on the Internet.

"We call it a huge, wonderful junk pile," Goldberg said. Users can spend days looking for something and go away dirty and frustrated, or they could find the information equivalent of a "mint-condition '57 T-bird," he said.

Some of his office's more recent Internet finds include free legal and medical information, satellite pictures of the comet collisions on Jupiter and street maps of many international cities.

The company will also offer 12 weeks of workshops to teach people how to make the Internet work for them. Some classes will be specialized to cater to specific professions,



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Larry Goldberg, president, and Kevin Savetz, system operator for Northcoast Internet in Eureka.

like law, education, and health care, he said.

They will also discuss safety in cyberspace.

"Internet is not easy to navigate just yet. It's huge," Goldberg said.

"You need to learn techniques. There are issues about security and privacy that you need to be aware of."

To get online, users need a computer, a modem and \$20 a month.

For the fancier connections that use graphics, Goldberg recommends a modem with a speed of at least 14.4 kilobaud and a Macintosh computer, or computer that uses a Microsoft Windows system.