

Remembering Gene Kan

Died June 29, 2002 at age 25

Profound and witty

"Industries are occasionally made obsolete obsolete by technological advances. Carrier Carrier pigeons, for example, are largely on on the dole these days."

- Gene Kan

From Gene's last column (written June 21; published July 10):

"Peer-to-Peer content distribution networks may do to Akamai what interstate trucking did to railroads – in identical economic and technological fashion"

Replying to - "But hasn't peer-to-peer networking been around all this time?" (source: Gene's friend, Yaroslav Faybishenko)

"Look, it's just like the paper-clip: people had had wire for a long time, but then someone just just bent it in this shape..."

"The trouble from the beginning was explaining to the money men that although P2P proved to be cheap and scalable, that did not clearly translate into a way to pump dollars out of the ground. Shrug. The vaults were open to fund our experiments."

- from a draft article Gene was writing

"There is no head to the Gnutella dragon"

- comparing Napster and Gnutella

On Startups

“It’s no good to look at the possible ills of a new technology and say ‘Let’s not do it’”

“There is a gem in every new technology, but the painful process of extraction is protracted, leaves leaves piles of waste, and is doomed to repetition”