

DANIEL AKST

SUMMARY

I'm a writer of novels, screenplays, essays, reviews and journalism. My main current project is a book for Penguin Press entitled *We Have Met the Enemy: Self Control in an Age of Excess*, which will appear in 2010.

WRITING

- **The New York Times:** For eight years I wrote a monthly column called *On the Contrary* in the Sunday business section. I've also written for the paper's Arts & Leisure section, Mutual Funds Quarterly and Sunday Magazine.
- **The Wall Street Journal:** I contribute roughly monthly to the culture pages.
- **The Wilson Quarterly:** I am a contributing editor.
- **Other journalism:** My articles have appeared in American Heritage, the Boston Globe, the Christian Science Monitor, Civilization, Forbes, Fortune, Fortune Small Business, Inc., the Internet Industry Standard, the LA Weekly, the Los Angeles Times, Metropolis, MIT's Technology Review, Money, Newsday, the New York Sun, Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine, the San Francisco Chronicle, the San Jose Mercury, Slate, Smithsonian, This Old House, Travel Holiday, the Village Voice and many other places.
- **Carnegie Corporation of New York:** I've written on ethnic media, nonprofit journalism, the future of libraries and other topics.
- **Broadcast:** My commentaries have been heard on **Marketplace** (NPR), **On Point** (WBUR radio) and **Nightly Business Report** (public TV).
- **Short fiction:** My stories have appeared in **the Missouri Review** and **the Los Angeles Times Magazine**.

BOOKS

- **We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess**, planned for 2010 from Penguin Press
- **The Webster Chronicle**, 2001: a novel from Penguin's Blue Hen imprint.
- **St. Burl's Obituary**, 1996: a novel, Harvest Books (Harcourt Brace). PEN/Faulkner Award finalist. L.A. Times Seidenbaum Award finalist.
- **Wonder Boy**, 1990: Nonfiction, Scribners. Chronicled the rise and fall of teenage entrepreneur Barry Minkow and his bizarre ZZZZ Best empire. Named among the year's 10 best by **Business Week**. Excerpted in **Forbes**.

TEACHING, FELLOWSHIPS AND CONSULTING

- Woodrow Wilson Intl Center for Scholars** Washington, DC
- **Public Policy Scholar**, Spring 2007: For my book on self-regulation, I studied the question of how much government can save us from ourselves.
- University of California** Berkeley, CA
- **Koret Fellow**, Spring 2000: Taught a seminar called "Follow the Money" at the Graduate School of Journalism. My teaching was praised by students and colleagues. I was twice invited to return but declined due to my wife's career.

Microsoft

Redmond, WA

- **Editor**, 1997: I created the editorial dimension of Microsoft Investor (now folded into <http://moneycentral.msn.com>), a Web site offering investors news, features, data, portfolio tracking, etc. I developed features, drew up a budget, wrote the ethics guide, recruited staff and edited early "editions."

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles, CA

- **Assistant Business Editor** 1993-94: directed coverage of technology including computers, telecommunications, cable TV, etc. Expanded coverage by creating successful weekly technology section.
- **Staff Columnist** 1991-93: Wrote a provocative weekly column about California issues. Shared in **Hancock Award** for Excellence in Financial Journalism.
- **Special Sections Editor** 1992 and 1993: turned a neglected series of twice-yearly sections on personal finance, careers, etc. into first-class journalism.
- **Senior Editor, Sunday Magazine** 1992: Brought in such writers as James Fallows, Verlyn Klinkenborg, Nicholas von Hoffman and Perri Klaas.
- **Copy Editor**, 1990: business section, part-time, while writing novel.
- **Reporter** 1985-87: covered business, including trend and investigative stories. Also wrote essays and obituaries.

The Wall Street Journal

Los Angeles, CA

- **Reporter** 1987 and 1988; Covered entertainment industry from Los Angeles bureau. Won **Hancock Award** for Excellence in Financial Journalism.

The Record

Bergen County, NJ

- **Reporter** 1981-1984. Covered environment, including toxics, regulatory issues, and political and financial skullduggery. Emphasis on in-depth features and investigations. Also covered small-town politics and crime.

The New York Times

New Jersey

- **Stringer** 1980-1981; wrote 50 stories for daily paper and New Jersey Section. Appeared on A-1, B-1, Style page, etc.

Paterson News

- **General assignment reporter** 1978-79: Paterson, NJ. Statehouse reporter 1979-80: Trenton, NJ.

Hudson Dispatch, Passaic Herald News

New Jersey

- **Reporter** 1978: Covering cops, local government etc.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA

- 1978: B.A., English. Managing Editor, Daily Pennsylvanian.

New York University

New York, NY

- 1983-84: Graduate courses in economics and finance.

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