Thurrock Gazette

Gavin puts idea into print

CAR-fan and aspiring author Gavin Harper knows nearly everything there is to know about cars – except how to drive one.

Gavin, 18, is celebrating this week after having his first book, 50 Awesome Auto Projects for the Evil Genius, published.

The book, which is on sale on internet site Amazon.com features a wide variety of "incredible automotive projects that are compatible with any car, no matter what make, model, or year".

Motoring-obsessed Gavin who is studying for a technology degree with the Open University, has spent his teenage years learning how to modify car engines.

One thing he can't do, however, is pass his driving test.

He said: "I don't know what went wrong really, but I haven't managed to pass. "

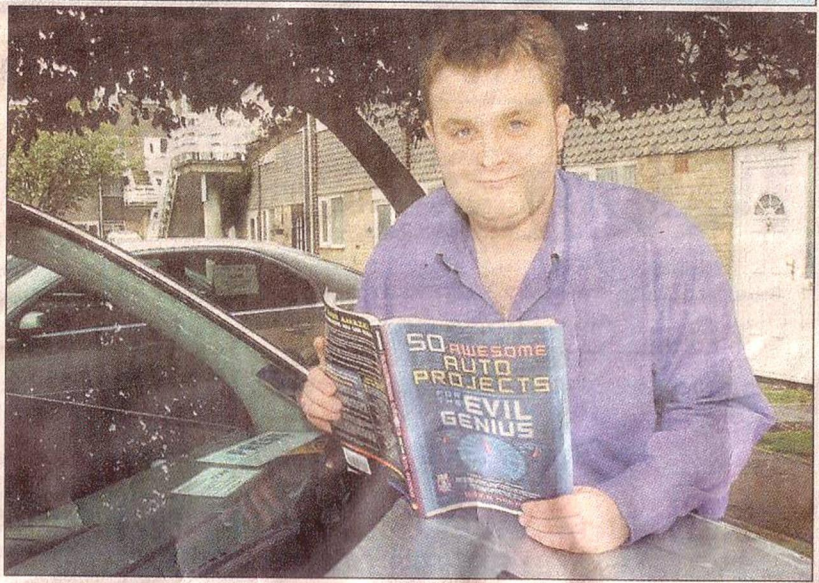
"I'll give it another go though."

The teenager, who is also studying for a diploma in design and innovation, said his studies had gone hand-in-hand with his fledgling career as an author.

He said: "It has worked out quite well, because the OU operate a means-tested bursary based on your income and not your parents', which has meant I get my tuition fees paid for me".

Having already achieved an A grade in A-level design and technology at Palmers College, Grays, Gavin has been offered a job there as a darkroom assistant and CDT technician.

While he starts his new job this month, Gavin, of Pear Tree Close, South Ockendon, has also begun studying for his OU masters degree in engineering.



EVIL GENIUS: Gavin Harper with his book on how to modify cars.

Picture: DAVE HENDERSON FTJVJ5