

# THE GROUPE GROPE

Hop On For A Gem Of A Ride!

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January 1996

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## Top Ten "Group" New Year's Resolutions

By [REDACTED]

- 10) While hot tubbing, I will ask for a chaperone to be present at all times.
- 9) I will not have pre-marital sex unless it is reeeeeaaaalllllllly good pre-marital sex.
- 8) I will complain/boast about my job to anyone who will listen.
- 7) I will not move to another state/city unless 1) Take a better job, or 2) Have a significant other living there, or 3) Am seeking self-actualization.
- 6a) I will have a group party that includes the theme "laundry chute gaiety."
- 6b) I will not inflict bodily harm to others while frolicking in the laundry chute.
- 5) I will not eat the snow after writing my name in it with urine.
- 4) When snow skiing with less skilled group members, I will not flaunt my skiing ability nor will I gloat about my marvelous ski trips out west/east.
- 3) I will not Morandize before competitive sporting matches unless I have medical charts to support my claims.
- 2) I will believe that I am a virgin if I have been celibate for more than 6 months.

### And...The #1 Group New Year's Resolution...

- 1) I will not use the term "baboon butt" in public places.

*F.Y.I. In case you haven't heard the news...Rick is visiting/living in Colorado for the next few months. As he puts it, he's "vision questing." While he's out of town, he'll still pick up messages from home--so call him and keep in touch.*

## 1995 GROPE OF THE YEAR!

Attendees of Dave Messina's December get-together got an eyeful from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and Jewel Samuels. Unconfirmed rumors have it a wild game of charades was beginning to get out of hand when this shot was snapped by party-goer Mary Ann Trapp.

Other attendees report that shortly after this incident, Dianne Lee suggested a change of rules to make the game nude charades. A sudden case of stomach flu however kept her from getting the new game underway.

Dave was a fabulous host and all in attendance will be looking forward to the next time



he cooks turkey. The number one question of the evening was, "Dave, how do you get the turkey so evenly brown?"

The party was a success with visitors from the metro Detroit area, Lansing, and Grand Rapids. Be sure to watch for the next Messina gathering...they're always "not to be missed."

## The "Gimp" Speaks

*"I think Barry Manilow is one cool dude!"*

*"Sometimes, I just want to be held."*

*"That chick on Murder She Wrote gives me a woody!"*

*"Screw Monday Night Football, let's watch Murphy Brown!"*

These, and a few others, are phrases that you just don't hear a lot of guys saying. Similarly, you don't hear a lot of women asking for a more physical relationship, that they are tired of being "just friends" (with a couple of notable exceptions), or commenting favorably on the latest gaseous emanation from Ol' Brown Eye. These are obvious stereotypes, but I think that there is some degree of accuracy in these breakdowns.

Since my life and role in the group has changed drastically since this time last year, I thought it might be interesting to have this theme of perceived differences become a

semi-regular feature for debate, discussion, defection, whatever. We all have our relationship horror stories, just as we have the ones that bring a smile to our face. I know my role as the engaged guy is a new one for me, and I'm learning more about the responsibilities included in it all the time.

So, since I won't be skiing or sweating in the racquetball pits for a couple of months, and I've already seen all the *Joanie Loves Chachi* episodes, I will be looking for your stories of dating life in the trenches. Names will be changed to protect the guilty...positions and products will be provided in potent plentitude for all to peruse.

*Peace...John "the Gimp" Morand*

*\*Editor's Note: One of us wants to know what's wrong with Murphy Brown...the other doesn't think she knows any of the women being described here.*

# Justinquery

By Justin Smith

*Of Scabs, Milford and Cyber-geeks*  
From my mailbox to yours, items hereafter will be of no interest to you nor have a remote chance of titillating what's within your cranium; submitters, please excuse my liberal use of paraphrasology.

Dear Justinquery,  
What about the possibility of The Grope going on-line?

A Ready For The World  
(RTFW) Fan

Dear RTFW Fan,

Not all people currently on-line, namely myself, are computer geeks well-equipped with the pentium-savoir-faire to address your inquiries. Indeed, you should address your concerns to well-known cyber-nerds Ozdarski and "POS" Sherman. A commentary regarding Bob's home town of Milford to follow. I am not a "c-geek," au contraire, merely the root of the term.

Dear Justinquery,

Is The Grope one of the them "Scab-rags?"

The Int'l Brotherhood of  
Teamsters

Dear Get-a-Life,

The only scabs available from the editors or yours truly is a framed litho of a leucocytic-laden body residue collage. Visa/MC and Diners Club accepted graciously.

Dear Justinquery,

It all started with a trip to Chicago, the train conductor, and a case of kielbasas. My only experience with animals until then involved staying over my parish priest's house taking care of his gerbils... should I move to Lansing and enroll in mechanical engineering school, or remain in Milford?

V. Aj.

Dear Poor-attempt-at-non-sequitur-humor, As to the sausages, my doctor recommends Phasyme. As to your animal experience, were you referring to the gerbil or the priest? As to your home-town, and this is from a guy living in a basement, Milford is the equivalent of Jackson, except Milford has twice the charm, one less stop-light and a virgin under the age of sixteen. Put Milford on your itinerary.

Cheers Y'all and happy Christm-wanzaa-ka.

# The Astrological Connection

By Mary Ann the Mystic

For January 1996

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)—This month tell all your friends your favorite "Momisms." You know, "If you don't stop, you will go blind." Oh, by the way it is time to get a new pair of glasses. Best Sex: When you don't listen to your mother.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)—This is not the month to pray to the porcelain god. That was last month. This month invite all your friends over to play charades in the nude. Wait, I know your friends. Keep the clothes on. Best Sex: 1/30.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21)—The great outdoors is there for all your needs, and enjoying it at night will relieve undeniable pressures. People often ask you for advice, be sure to charge by the quarter of the hour but not if you are using the bathroom at the same time. Best Bowl Movement: While you are giving advice.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 21)—You just felt like you had a watermelon come through an incredibly small orifice. Either you gave birth or had a great B.M. I warned you to bring good underwear on your trip. Your friends' mother will never be the same after the flap of your pj's fell open exposing your tidy-whities with racing strips. Be charitable and start a collection for her therapy sessions. On second thought, use the money for new underwear and the world will be a better place. Best Sex: Nov. 3, 2001.

**LEO** (July 22-Aug. 22)—Remember when your mother used to say "when your nipples get hard, you're done and it's time to come out of the cold." Always remember, when you get down on your hands and knees you never know who will jump on for the ride. Just be sure to keep quiet. Best Sex: When your nipples are hard. (Gotta love those party hats!)

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)—Close your eyes and look deep within yourself and you will find what you are seeking, either that or look at co-workers butt. Remember every once in a while a blind squirrel finds a nut and if you

keep up the Ms. Michigan/Mr. Idaho thing you'll see if it's true. Best Sex: When a blind squirrel finds a nut.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)—Saying get-tie up to your partner will not help their concentration. Neither will ride 'em cowboy, unless of course that is what you are doing. Beware if someone tells you to break a leg and you are about to hit the slopes. I would say that is a bad omen. Best Sex: On top.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)—You missed your opportunity last month to be disgustingly creative. Well now is your chance, John and Mary Beth are planning on having a tacky and tasteless Bridal/Bachelor Party. So put those creative juices to work. Best Sex: When you are being creative.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)—Sometimes you feel like you have just been castrated, but then you say wait I work in retail isn't that the same thing. Close. It just seems like they have you by the balls. I say fuck 'em and call in sick every Saturday this month. Best Sex: When you call in sick.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)—I know you are just thrilled over Tampax tampon's new look, sleek and aerodynamic, and when used properly it can add a spring to your step. Beware of friends named Shakes, they smoke too mush and have ignominious thoughts about your brother and sheep. Best Sex: With someone named Shakes.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)—I see a life-long commitment in your life. Eventually, there will be 10 children in your loving household. After all, at least one of you is Catholic. Of course you could use birth control. I recommend ribbed, for her pleasure. Best Sex: Sorry, you have to wait for marriage.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)—Well you made it through another holiday season seemingly unscathed. At least there are no visible marks. This month you will continue to feel guilty about not feeling guilty. Give yourself a break, I mean come on, even OJ isn't feeling guilty. Best Sex: When there are marks.

## Congratulations to the Griswolds!

Kate, John and Emily welcomed Annalise Noelle into the world at 4:43am, Thursday, December 14. Annie weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 20-1/2 in. long. Mom and daughter are doing great!

# JANUARY 1996

## Groping Opportunities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Susan Edgeworth B'day (1958)	5	6
7	8	9	10 Spike/Chris Dressell B'day (1966)	11 Shelia Nutt B'day (1964)	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday Obsv'd	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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Contact Christopher @ 810-██████████ with news items, possible articles, advertising question, or to subscribe.

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## event information

*information about specific events and who to contact for more information*

This month's group birthdays:  
 • all women  
 • first name all start with "S"  
 • all born in an even numbered year.  
 Coincidence? You decide...

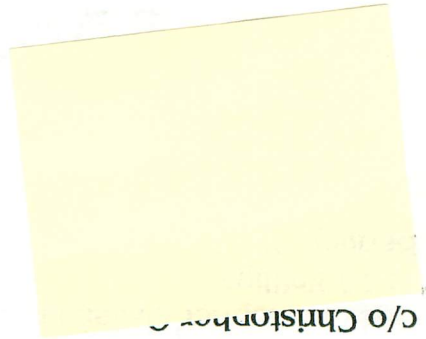
Be listening for birthday celebrations and other groping opportunities.

Planning an event? Let us know and we'll pass the word!

**Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Ron & Linda Dimmer!**  
 Married December 30, 1995!

**Upper Flat For Rent!**  
 2 bedrooms. Includes all utilities except phone. \$655/month. Located in Berkley...one great house with cool housemates!  
 Call Dan Pinkos @ 810/██████████

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The Group Grope  
c/o Christopher

## A Drinking Song

by W. B. Yeats

Wine comes in at the mouth  
And love comes in at the eye;  
That's all we know for truth  
Before we grow old and die.  
I lift the glass to my mouth,  
I look at you, and I sigh.



## ♥ Valentine's Day...It's Coming ♥ and We Want To Hear From You!

Send us your favorite Valentine's poem or a message to another group member. We'll publish your poetry and messages for the whole group. Original works encouraged!

**And don't forget...send us information for the calendar!** Birthdays, parties, outings, out-of-town visits or visits from out-of-towners, etc. You name it and if the group is invited, we'll help you get the word out to everyone.

**Send submissions, articles, questions, snapshots, anything except your old toothbrush to Chris using the return address on this newsletter. Submissions for the February edition are due by January 15, 1996!**

Hope to hear from you!

## LETTER TO READERS:

Ellen and I have been asked several questions about the management of THE GROPE. My initial reaction to some of the questions was "HEY, if you think you can do a better job . . . go for it." But then I realized that some of the questions had merit and that, even if they didn't, this is not the time to alienate those whom I am privileged to call my friends. Thus, I hope the following will enlighten all current and potential subscribers.

Several of the questions have to do with the cost. Before I illustrate how Ellen and I are losing money on every issue, let me just say that some of you are missing the point. We are not out to profit by gouging our friends. We wanted to provide a service to the members of THE GROUP. By publishing certain information on a regular basis, we hope to save our subscribers some of the time and effort needed to stay on top of GROUP activities. If you are planning an event . . . now you don't have to make 50 phone calls and worry about missing someone. If you were interested in attending a function . . . we will try to provide as much information as possible, including whom to contact for more information. Some people will actually pay for their subscription by reducing their phone bill.

While increasing participation in GROUP events is not our only goal, it has already proven to be the case. Several people who attended Heidi's party in December would not have known about it without THE GROPE. Furthermore, I'm sure that many of our readers would like to know when out-of-town members are going to be around. If out-of-towners let us know when they are going to be in the Detroit area, we can plan ahead for 'catch-up' opportunities. Is it not worth the price of a cup of coffee to find out what's going on each month? Not to mention the value of an occasional chuckle.

All this aside, I do feel that it would be appropriate to address some of the more common questions. So . . .

Q: *How much are you making on this rag?*

A: We tried to price our newsletter to break-even. But in reality we are losing money on every issue unless we find a way to offset some of our costs beyond the subscription price. Consider the following direct costs associated with each copy of THE GROPE:

Postage	32¢	(U.S. Post Office)
2 sided 11 x 17	26¢	(Kinko's)
2 sided 8½ x 11	13¢	(Kinko's)
<b>Total</b>	<b>71¢</b>	

And this is if we keep the newsletter to six pages! (We plan to publish 6-8 pages per month.) The subscription price doesn't even start to cover some of our other costs.

Q: *What 'Other costs?'*

A: For liability reasons, THE GROUP GROPE is published by an incorporated entity. Incorporation and annual filing fees cost money. We also need to buy labels for the addresses. I'm not hand writing 50 addresses a month. If you want to get nit picky, I could come up with other costs, but let's not go there. The point is that these costs add up. A couple dollars here . . . a couple dollars there . . .

Q: *Why don't you just use the photo copier at work?*

A: Because that would be embezzlement and we don't want to lose our jobs over \$20 or \$30 in photocopying.

Q: *Doesn't Chris work for himself?*

A: OK, you got me. I probably wouldn't lose my job. But it still comes out of MY POCKET. I'm already giving my time. What else do you people want? My blood?

Q: *Why don't you pay for more of the costs by selling advertising?*

A: While we plan to recoup some of our costs by selling some cheap advertising, I would prefer not to over-commercialize a forum for friends by friends.

Q: *Why don't you publish on-line using the internet?*

A: A possibility for the future, which is why we are accumulating e-mail addresses for our GROUP DIRECTORY. But not enough members have "jumped into the 90's" as one subscriber put it. Give it time.

Q: *I want to have a monthly column. How do I get a gig like 'Justinquery?'*

A: I have to admit . . . I never thought so many people would want to have a monthly column. Occasional articles are great, but monthly columns take up a lot of space. This is a little glitch that we are trying to work out. I have a feeling that some of you may end up taking turns. One person can have a regular column in even months, the other in odd months. Or something like that.

Let me just close by adding that we need your help. Let us know (ASAP) when something needs to be put on the calendar, write a short article (or even a poem), write a letter to one of our columnists . . . whatever. Most importantly - **SUBSCRIBE** and encourage others to do the same. The more people participate, the better this will get.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,  
*Christopher*