

THE GROUP GROPE

Stroke One, Paddle Two!

Volume 1, Issue 5

May 1996

Price 69¢

Ramblings, Amblings, & a Great Bike Trip

by Craig Mitchell

Yes, I'm alive and well—and residing with yet another female I'm not involved with. For those way out of the "Group Loop" (or those spending sleepless nights distraught about my location), Mary Ann has invited me to share her household (for a fee, of course) to recover from the anguish of having two women leave me within the span of six months. I don't have my own phone yet, so I can be reached at Ms. Trapps' number (even though she refuses to mention our cohabitation on the answering machine.)

Anyway, with warm weather fast approaching it's time to start thinking about bike trips, the first of which is the infamous "Zoo-de-Mac" on May 18. Sherman, Flynn, and myself did this 51-miler from Boyne Highlands along the northwestern shoreline on paved two-lane to Mackinac City last year and thought it was great. Flynn, Ellen, Heidi, and myself have all committed this year but Sherman has graduated to bigger and better bike events...this year it's racing around Michigan...next year it will be the Tour de France.

Easy-to-moderate hills, plus the view of the lake on the last half make it a memorable trip. This is an annual organized party weekend of about 1,200 people with the ride being secondary. The \$35 entry fee includes admission to Friday and Saturday night parties, lunch at the halfway point of the Saturday ride, and round-trip ferry transportation. Anyone interested should contact Greg of Doug Drawbaugh at (810) [REDACTED]

Anyone interested in an "Outlaw" ride should read on. Yes, it is only a \$35 entry fee, but that's \$35 less for a Ryba's fudge binge. Last year we had
See **BIKE TRIP** on page 2

Get Cultured... Reservations Required

So you think you want to do something different for a change? Jeanne Braman has a great idea...Dinner/Theater!

Jeanne is the organizer for an evening at the Heidelberg Theater on May 11. And, the event sounds like a lot of fun... and way more affordable than the theater district downtown.

The evening begins on Saturday, May 11 at 6:00pm. The group will gather at the Heidelberg and will quickly be seated for a 6:30 dinner (And hey, you've got a play to see...so you need to be at the theater between 6:00 and 6:15 in order to eat dinner in time for the show.)

At 8:00, the group will be entertained with *Love in the Flat*, a romantic comedy about a medical student and school teacher who have apartments in the same building.

The cost for this evening of food, cultural entertainment, and good friends? A mere \$22.50 per person covers your dinner and play ticket. It does not include your beverage, dessert, tax, or gratuity. (See it really is a lot cheaper than downtown.)

If you plan on going...call the theater for reservations and MENTION YOU ARE IN THE BRAMAN PARTY. (phone 810- [REDACTED]) Make your reservations as quickly as possible...the theater has limited seating and is already about half full for May 11.

The Heidelberg is located at 43785 Gratiot Avenue. From M-59, go south on Gratiot about one mile. It is a castle-like building on the right/west side of the road.

Hope to see you there.

What do John, Mary Beth and the Unabomber Have in Common?

Let's see, cheesy facial hair?...no, MB misses on that one. Is it a basic distrust of Big Governments?...only half right again. Could it be a desire to write, be published and idolized by right wing extremists who appear to be the spokes models for Soldier of Fortune Magazine? Yes, Yes, Yes! Well no, actually it's that we are all going to be moving to some spacious new digs real soon and must liquidate some assets before the move. So we have decided to have the first annual Group Garage Grope Sale, or Grope Garage Group Sales, what ever, you know what I mean. Laughably Low Prices! Amazing Bargains! Must See Opportunities! Here's your chance to dig through our stuff! Rare Kiss, John Denver and ELO albums for sale! Hats, clothes, lamps, magazines, you name it and if we're not sellin' it, you don't need it! Bring your own stuff to sell and we'll include it with ours. (See John for details.) So mosey, amble, motor walk, crawl, Hobble, bike or sky dive over to the Kingston Estate on May 18th and see the treasures you never knew you needed.

**See Inside...for Information on the 1996 Canoe Trip
and the final chapter in the Pink Jelly Bean Saga.
Plus, Justin needs our help...keep reading!**

BIKE TRIP continued from page 1...

no interest in a Friday night party with the prospect of riding the next day; Saturday lunch consisted of a soggy turkey sandwich and watered-down lemonade; Saturday night's party on the island was so crowded it took about 20 minutes to get a drink or hit the head; female facilities factor ("F3") would be an additional 15 minutes. It was also extremely chilly on the island and even with the tent set up outside the bar, it was freaking cold. We ended up having a much more enjoyable time bar-hopping after blowing-off the party.

The game plan would be to check-in at the Huron Street Ramada Friday afternoon (there are two, so make sure you get the right one) with enough time left in the day to ride on the island. Room rates are \$59/night for a double/queen and there is an indoor pool, hot tub, and Jacuzzi. Everyone is responsible for their reservations and transportation, rooms are going quickly so contact the hotel (616) 436-5055 or Ramada reservations (800) 228-2828 ASAP. The biggest logistical problem will be getting bikes to Boyne; vehicles used would have to be left overnight and picked-up on the way home Sunday or retrieved Saturday night (Mackinac is about 40 minutes from Boyne). Anyone interested should contact me so I have a general idea of a headcount. If enough people are interested, we could all contribute to the price of a rental van to alleviate bike transportation problems. It promises to be a great weekend, so even if the ride doesn't appeal to you, remember, Sea Shell City is just down the road from the motel.

Editor's notes: 1) If 51 miles sounds like too much, you can ride the 2nd half of the trail and meet the others. 2) Hey, he could've come with me to G.R.—for a fee of course.

You Know You're in the Group When...

- you smell your food before you eat it.
- a small get together with your best friends could include 30 people.
- you've been in the same bed with 3-4 people at the same time and nothing happened.
- you realize you'll never have to be dateless for a wedding again (FYI—Bob, Dave M. & John F. will actually dance)
- your friends totally support your decision to move to another part of the country for a few months, find yourself, and find your way back sometime later.
- at around 30 years old, you're still willing to crash on the floor with a bunch of friends in order to all be at the same place at the same time.
- your friends actually read your poetry and some of them actually like it.
- a weekend canoe trip actually means a wild weekend in the woods with up to 200 people.



For January 1996...

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)—This month was made for you. You are now feeling comfortable with those you work with. This month try new things and explore. You never know what you might find. Best Sex: Enjoy just being you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)—You learned last month that you had "game" and loved it. Continue on this path. Although the journey may have certain risks, let your guard down. Remember the greatest rewards come from the greatest risk. Best Sex: When it is uninhibited.

CANCER (June 22-July 21)—Your "Spring" has definitely sprung. There is nothing like the Spring air to increase your sexual appetite. Especially when the wind is blowing. So spend as much of it as you can outside. Just don't walk on the beach in Miami when the wind is blowing. That could be illegal. Best Sex: Nov. 3, 2001.

LEO (July 22-Aug. 22)—You would do it in a plane. You would do it on a train. You would do it in the air, hell you would do it anywhere. This month you have the license to be outrageously passionate. A new adventure begins for you this month. Best Sex: When you are adventurous.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)—Wheeling from your bout with wearing women's undergarments, you seek professional help. When you see how much it costs, you pack your bags for a wild destination. This time you leave the panties at home. Wow! You're cured and can get on track. Best Sex: When no one in the room is wearing underwear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)—Lately you have been feeling like you are lost in a hazy fog. This month the fog will begin to dissipate. You will find something you lost, and Chi-Chi's will have a stocked nacho bar. Best Sex: 5/5, 5/18 & 5/24.

The Astrological Connection

By Mary Ann the Mystic

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)—Your psyche has been battling the subconscious intestinal flu. With one conscious bowel movement your psyche will be cleansed Eat Spam and "Sliders;" they will help with the cleansing. Best Sex: With a clean psyche.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)—You are feeling extraordinarily sagacious this month. Break away from what you know and are used to. Get your own phone line and find a toy that drives your imagination into a fizzy of fecund agitation. Best Sex: With new toys.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)—Of a mind to share your joy, you round up a bevy of pals, neighbors, colleagues, even that cranky relative for a festive rite of Spring. Be artistic and delve all options. You receive a surprise at the end of the month. Best Sex: When you are surprised.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)—You are known for you uniqueness and let it shine this month. It will be a WD-40 kind of month, a time when Vaseline and olive oil and all their psychic equivalents should be nearby where every you go. Best Sex: With all the psychic equivalents.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)—You have been working hard at the office and have won the war of the jelly beans. This month disconnect all your technological "advances" in communication. Now get away for a while and relax. Don't worry, the office and your friends will survive. Best Sex: When you get away.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)—Well last month you let your friends know that you were still alive and well. This month invite your friends to your place for a wild time. But remember to keep the doors to the mini-van locked. You never know what your friends will do in it. Best Sex: In a mini-van...after all it has all those seats to fill.

Ask The Mystic... *Anyone who would like a more complete and accurate reading can mail specific questions to Mary Ann the Mystic, c/o the Grope. Submissions may be anonymous; however, she must know your sex (gender, not preference) and your astrological sign.*

Power of the Pen

Brach's to Change Pink Back to Original Flavor

by Christopher Ozdarski

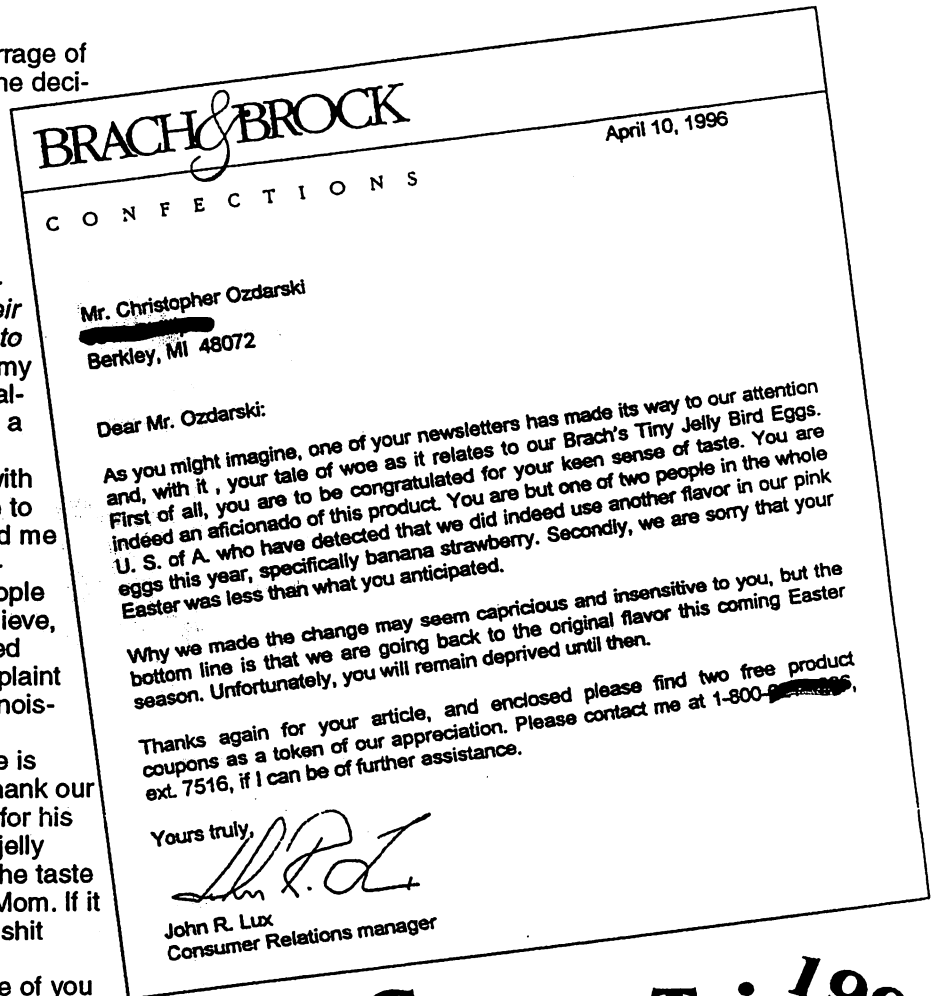
Whether or not my letter or the subsequent barrage of faxes from our readers was the catalyst behind the decision at *Brach's* is irrelevant. What matters it this—They are changing the flavor of pink *Tiny Jelly Bird Eggs* back to the original flavor.

It began with a letter. Then, on March 21, *Brach's* responded with what appeared to be a stale form letter which said "this matter will be brought to the attention of the appropriate manufacturing and quality assurance managers for their review and action, and every effort will be made to prevent such a recurrence." Had they even read my letter? I think not. If they had they would have realized that a recurrence is what I wanted. I wanted a change. I wanted them to change back.

Undaunted, I decided to share my frustration with you, our loyal readers. Many of you took the time to fax complaints to *Brach's* causing Mr. Lux to send me a second, more appropriate letter which is reproduced here. In it, Mr. Lux states that only two people detected the change. While I find that hard to believe, it does not surprise me that only two people cared enough to get off their sorry butts and file a complaint with the confectioners at *Brach's*. Jelly bean connoisseurs are a rare breed.

Now, with desired change on the horizon, there is only one thing left to do. Give thanks. I want to thank our readers who took the time to fax a note. Mr. Lux for his letters and the enclosed coupons, and the "pink jelly bean flavor guy" for deciding to change back to the taste I know and love. Most of all, I want to thank my Mom. If it weren't for her, I probably wouldn't have given a shit about the taste of pink *Tiny Jelly Bird Eggs*.

Let me just close with this special note to those of you who grew tired of my *incessant whining about stupid pink candies*. Far be it from me to wish any ill will on another human being, but it would serve you right to find yourself with a *Brach's Tiny Jelly Bird Egg* struck up one of your nostrils.



Canoe Trip¹⁹⁹⁶ Sign Up NOW!!!

This year's canoe trip is scheduled for Friday, July 26th through Sunday, July 28th and NOW is the time to register. \$99 is the cost for those who sign up and pay in full by June 1st. After June 1, the price goes to \$109 and, if you're one of those non-committal or procrastinating types, you better ante up by July 10th or it will cost you a cool \$129. Do yourself a favor. Pay early so you can save the good people at Club Suburban some grief and yourself a little green.

This year's trip is once again on the Pere Marquette River and, as always, includes lots of goodies. Contact a veteran like Cheryl Bordo for full details is you are a virgin Club Suburban Canoeer, but be assured that you won't regret attending this well organized trip.

SPECIAL NOTE: Photo ID will be required at check-in this year because a bunch of under-aged weenies showed up last year. And remember—NO PETS!

Editor's Note: To those of you who have never gone on this trip—it is a not-to-be-missed event. Last year was my first time and it was a riot! As a bonus for all of you who are "afraid" of tent camping or "roughing it"—GET OVER IT!... there are showers at the campground....El

1996 Canoe Trip Registration

Make your check payable to Club Suburban and mail to:
**Club Suburban, c/o Ted C██████████, ██████████
Milton, Warren, MI 48092**

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Bus. Phone _____

Res. Phone _____

Must be 21 – Photo ID now required at check-in!!!

JUSTINQUERY

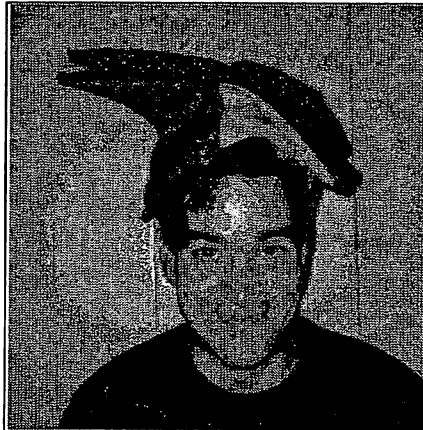
From erotic poetry to the stages of a relationship to men's bathroom habits...he's been there for us. After advising us on a plethora of topics, now Justin needs the Group's help.

Justin is going to the DSO and doesn't know what hat to wear...you decide and let him know!

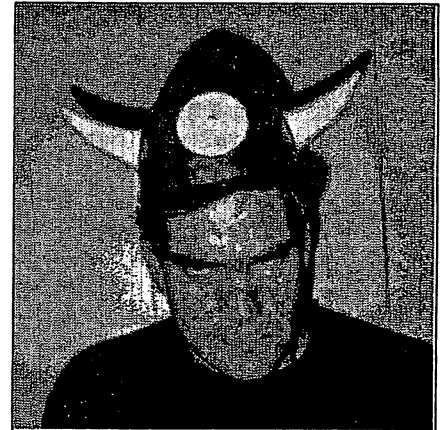
JUSTIN, friend, pal-o-mine—Go to the DSO and have fun. I think you should wear the hat with the _____ look because



Indiana Jones



Shakeperian Cosby



Water Buffalo



Dieon



Mahktar



Beastie

Bike Safety Tips

Ok, so this totally violates copyright law, but these tips appeared in the Grand Rapids Press and with our active group, they just might come in handy for someone. So keep reading, stay on your bike, and, most importantly, wear the dorky looking helmet!

- Pack a first aid kit with some of the following items: Q-Tips for cleaning eyes, bandages, 4x4" gauze pads, tweezers for removing thorns and ticks, duct tape for splinting, a pocket knife, safety pins, latex gloves (for first aid in the 90s).
- Try to bike with someone. Three or four people are even better—someone stays with the injured person, others bike out.
- If someone takes a bad fall, check to see if he or she is unconscious, then check for bleeding, broken bones, and mental disability. Stay calm and think—is it better to treat the injury or evacuate?
- Turn unconscious persons on their sides to keep air passages clear of vomit. ("Be prepared for gross stuff," says an expert.) Treat all bone and joint injuries as if they are fractures—immobilize, elevate, apply ice or a cold compress. Keep injured persons warm and dry.
- Always carry water! You can use it to wash off a dirty injury. Just be sure to remove the top of the bottle where you have been drinking from to keep the water as clean as possible.
- Improvise a sling with an inner tube or by pinning a shirt sleeve to a shirt.

MAY 1996

Groping Opportunities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Jay Hansen B'day (19??)	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Dinner Theater- see related article
12 Mother's Day	13	14 Dianne Lee B'day (1965)	15	16	17	18 Morand Garage Sale-see related article
19	20 Victoria Day (Canada)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29 Chandana Ashe B'day (19??)	30	31 Whitney Vanoost B'day (1964)	

The Group Grope
Editorial and publication
headquarters: ██████████s,
Berkley, MI 48072

Published monthly. Subscription rate
(postage paid): In the United States,
territories and possessions, \$8.28 per year.
(Such a baagain.)

Republication of news dispatches
originated by the Group Grope is encour-
aged. (Except of course for your mother,
who will probably not approve of Group
Groping.) All other republication rights
are reserved.

Editors: Christopher Ozdarski
and Ellen Bristol

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

©1996, The Group Grope.
All rights reserved.

event information

information about specific events and who to contact for more information

BONUS—For all you Barb watchers,
she is scheduled to be in town for
Memorial Day weekend. Be on the
watch for an event so that we can
all see her.

Also—for Rick watchers...May
means Rick is back with us!

Hey...and remember MOM this month—
after all, she brought you into this world
and she could probably take you back out!

Be listening for birthday celebra-
tions and other groping opportuni-
ties.

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

"In my sex fantasy, nobody ever loves
me for my mind."

Neva Ephron, b. 1941
American Journalist

Don't miss out!
Now is the time
to mail your
1996
Canoe Trip
Registration!

When had there been snow in April before? When was winter going to end and spring finally begin? Francine, sat on her couch wrapped in a heavy afgan reading her mail after work. It seemed that this had become a routine...one that Francine couldn't wait to break out of as soon as the evenings were even somewhat warm. Well, the phone bill was first...since her move away from home it seemed like every phone bill was more like a stock purchase from MaBell. At this rate, Francine thought these people ought to be sending thank you notes with the bills. Next was the weekly letter from AAA. Francine knew why those rates kept climbing...it was to finance all the promotional mailings! As she sat reading, a chill swept through over Francine. Oh, how she longed for a warm summer day. Well, at least the next two pieces of mail would warm her up. The first was from a friend who had moved across the country to "seek his fortune." He was scheduled to come home soon and Francine was anxious to hear his tales and to update him on all her latest stories. The last piece of mail was always a treat...*The Group Grope*. Really just a small newsletter, it always had some good info about what was going on in her friends' lives. Finally beginning to warm up (letters from her friend always seemed to heat her up), Francine opened the newsletter. What? What was that? **Time to sign up for the 1996 Canoe Trip!** Francine couldn't wait! Just the thought of a sunny, summer day on the river followed by a 200 person bar-beque and an outdoor party was enough to make it feel like summer might actually come again. Francine's mind began to wander...ahhh, the memories of the previous year. From the thought of friends toppling their canoes, to water gun fights, to a city of tents in the wilderness—Francine could practically smell the summer air right in her own apartment. She started thinking of who would be there this year and then it hit her. For months now Ned had been casually seeing Nancy. And who could blame either of them? After all, Ned was tall, blond, and drove a convertible. Nancy was a private investigator who *always* solved her mysteries and caught the crook. The two of them seemed like such a nice pair. None the less, Francine couldn't help but feel the unmistakable chemistry between herself and Ned. At first she thought she'd been imaging things. But lately, it seemed that she couldn't be imaging. After all, it was Ned who asked her to escort him to an upcoming wedding. And it was Ned who always had to comment on her long blond hair. Francine thought of the canoe trip again...Ned would surely be there. Nancy would not. Nancy couldn't stand the thought of sleeping in a tent, on the ground, and 100 yards from the nearest shower. This would be Francine's chance. This was it. During the canoe trip she would win Ned once and for all. She knew how to do it. Ned was always rescuing Nancy. Now he would rescue Francine. Now what would he rescue her from? She'd have to think about that one...

The Group Grope

c/o Christopher G