

THE GROUPE GROUPE

Focus On The Group Dope

Volume 1, Issue 10

October 1996

69 cents worth of fundage

Editor Whining... Again

By Christopher Ozdarski

I have been accused, by more than one reader, of using this newsletter as a vehicle for me to rant and rave in print for all to see. Whether it's jelly beans or the idea of charting something that I feel should not be charted, I don't usually hold back when I have something to say. So? Get over it. As I've noted in the past... *this is a forum for friends by friends*. I may complain a tad now and then, but at least I try to make it entertaining. Feel free to join me by putting your thoughts on paper. Whatever they may be, I would never *dream* of criticizing them.

Excuse me while I perform my Justin impersonation... *Waaaaa*.

A lot of people have asked me about Justin's resignation in last month's *Groupe*. People ask me if he was serious. My response... How the hell should I know? I found out just like most of you did... I opened my mailbox, put the bills on the table, took the newsletter into the shitter, dropped my pants and discovered that one of our best writers had quit. He never said a word to me. All I know is what I read. My interpretation... Someone finally turned the tables and picked on Justin causing him to curl up into a little dysfunctional ball in his apartment where he is crying in the corner and waiting for the attention he is bound to get and that he so desperately craves. I consider Justin to be one of my good friends. If attention is what he needs, he's gonna get it.

Justin, my dear dysfunctional friend. You have now realized that many of us were not fooled by your eccentric behavior and you have admitted to the world that you are not perfect. However, what you seem to have glossed over are the facts that 1) we love you anyway, and 2) you are not alone.

I'm no therapist, but many people in our circle of acquaintances have exhibited various degrees of dysfunctionality. I for one have been accused of needing therapy by every woman I have ever dated... and I'm sure that these accusations are not solely based on an occasional eye-rolling maneuver or the fact that I like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Many of us are dissatisfied with our "ledgers of accomplishments" and many of us have bouts of emptiness. But you, of all people, have every reason to look at the glass as half full rather than half empty because of your many talents. Writing is one of those talents. If you need help identifying some of your other talents, call me. I may not have all of the answers, but I'm willing to help where I can. It may sound trite, but I'll be there for you. No claps.

Resignation NOT Accepted

In Ellen's editorial note last month she stated that "*The Groupe* respectfully accepts Justin's resignation." Donkey dung. If Mr. Smith feels that he no longer has the time or that he is bored with having to come up with a column

(Continued on page 2)

A Tear For JS

By Rick Richard

In last month's *Groupe*, some of us read a column written by Justin Smith entitled *The Group Dope: A Heart-Felt Response to Rick's Retort*. In this column, Justin gave us his reaction to a satirical piece written in response to one of Justin's prior *Groupe* columns.

Justin took this recent satirical banter with deep distress and anguish, and yet was able to respond to all of us through his tormented psyche in last month's column. He felt like he was being treated like a red-headed stepchild, and yet, wanted to communicate to us, and be sure we understood, his protracted misery.

Indeed, he reacted with deep emotion in his most recent column, writing of despondence and deficiencies, of exhibitions and escapism, of festering discontent and a resignation. He poured his heart out to us and told us that he would no longer write a column for *The Groupe*. It seems he has a perception of recently being singled out, or *targeted*, as an example of dysfunctionality and inconsideration. Justin's column and resignation made this writer's bosom sigh with great sorrow and compassion.

Do you think we should all now take a moment and send Justin a "Cheer Up" card, or call him and leave a message saying "I'm

(Continued on page 2)



The Group Dope.
"Why is everyone
picking on me?"

Things to look for in this month's *Groupe*

- Parties, Hayrides, and Football
- The 'Justin' Contest
- Poetry
- More 'Deep Thoughts'
- Directory Updates
- Fencing Anyone?
- and MUCH, MUCH More !!!

© 1996 THE GROUP GROUPE.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Editor Not At A Loss For Words

(Continued from page 1)

every month - okay. If he wants to stop writing for our newsletter because he no longer wants his name associated with the trash we put out, that's fine too. What is not fine is a resignation based on the perception that we all want to *hit him where it hurts* or that we consider him to lack character. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Thus, until Mr. Smith tenders a resignation supported by a healthier decision making process, I consider him to be on an indefinite sabbatical. Semantics? Yes. Some might also consider this to be a ^{good} ~~move~~ point since I am resigning my position as editor and chief contact for this publication upon completion of the December issue.

Resignation.

I look back to the issues I've been responsible for and I am very proud of the work that I've done. It hasn't been perfect, but it has been challenging, fun and very rewarding. It has also helped to confirm something that I already knew - I like to write. Unfortunately, it also takes more time than I ever imagined and time is something that is increasingly in short supply.

When I started this newsletter I promised our readers at least one year. You are going to get it. After December it is out of my hands. I will continue to write and I will continue to share my work with my friends who are interested. However, some of the commitments that I have made for next year preclude me from continuing my position as editor. I simply will not be able to publish timely material on a fixed schedule. Do I have other reasons? Yes, but individually they are not significant and certainly not deciding factors.

By the way, Justin should not feel obligated to accept my resignation since I did not accept his. As for the rest of you. . . I feel your pain, and, in case I forget to do it in December's issue, I want to extend a special thanks to all of you who made the job easier. Particularly those of you who contributed material. Thank you for your efforts and your honest opinions.

I May Have Made A Mistake.

For those who don't know, Justin and Rick shared with each other their articles leading up to Justin's resignation prior to having them printed in *The Grope*. I encouraged Rick to write his rebuttal to Justin's parody, but I also ran it by Justin before printing it to make sure that it was all

in fun and that two of my good friends were not creating an unhealthy rift in their relationship. In my infinite wisdom, I then proceeded to print the article. Oops?

Two products resulting from some of the close relationships we have formed are an intimate knowledge of each others flaws and increased comfort levels. Add to that our sarcastic wits and you have a recipe for hurt feelings. Our natural tendency seems to be to zing each other in a light-hearted manner, but consider this. . . As a relationship gets stronger you zing a little harder. Why? Because you are comfortable enough with the relationship to think that the recipient will know that it is all in fun and that you really do care about them. The problem is that the zings aren't just harder. They are closer to the weak spots because of the intimate knowledge.

I have no regrets about the things I have printed in *The Grope*. However, I may have made the mistake of printing some things that should have been confined to private conversations between friends with a couple of Q's and a foo foo drink. If I have made mistakes, I can't promise that I won't make them again because even in this issue I have approached the line and I have started a little dance. (*Macarena anyone?*) I only hope that those affected, Justin and others, will not consider me to have crossed it.

Final Thoughts.

Looking back to the first parts of this article, I'll admit that I may have been a little harsh on my friend Justin Smith. I'm relying on his wisdom to look beyond the words and to recognize how much we care. Not just me, but all of us who consider him to be our friend. (With or without the numerous neuroses.) If it helps any, I forgive Justin for the dis'ing he served me with regard to his resignation. A resignation did not surprise me, but how and why he did it disappointed me greatly. I'm sure that he had no idea how personally I was going to be hurt by the fact that I had to find out about it by opening my mail. Hey, I'll live.

Rick's Tear For JS

(Continued from page 1)

there for you, my disheartened buddy?" Maybe we could throw a party for him with each of us choosing one of his two positive traits and repeatedly reflecting on it throughout the evening. Or, HELL, should we, perhaps, in his honor, hold a big fund raiser with the theme "Console Justin, the Poor Downtrodden Wretch?!"

Please, if I have to read any of that kind of CRAP in the *Grope* again, we should think of calling the newsletter *The Sensitivity Group Caress*.

There are at least four reasons Justin may have written the hysterical sap that was mislabeled a column for last month's *Grope*:

1. The previous column written on Justin Smithism actually bothered him.
2. The I-75 / 11 Mile party store stopped carrying Q's of Mickey's and replaced them with Heineken.
3. Someone discovered that the photos hanging in his apartment, signed by him, were actually copied from back issues of *Boy's Life*.
4. He was engaged in a manner typical of his self-preserving, self-indulgent, and oblivious nature.

Perhaps a review of Justin's past columns would help us find the correct reason. Reflect back on the first Justinquery, and you will recall his ability to turn genuine requests for assistance from readers into faultfinding criticisms of the readers' questions followed by his blatant self-promotion. Check the *Grope* page filled with photos of Justin in various personas, each persona thinly masking an autoeroticism. Skip ahead to his idle ponderings on male water sports, fishing shows, and 'discernibly turbid states,' and you will find the crying out, no, the primal screaming, for attention from us. Hey, wait a minute. That was GREAT STUFF! I take everything back.

What do you get when you cross a neurotic attorney with an eye for photography, a flair for the pen, and a genuinely warped disposition?
Hmmm. . . Nobody I know.

Deep Thoughts Persist

Chris Hajdas ponders the following:

- Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the VOLUME on the radio?
- Why is it so hard to remember how to spell MNEMONIC?
- Why is it called a "building" when it is already built?
- Why do they call them "apartments" when they are all stuck together?
- If you keep trying to prove Murphy's Law, will something keep going wrong?
- How can someone "draw a blank?"
- Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllabic?"
- Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?
- Why is it when two planes almost hit each other it is called a "near miss?" Shouldn't it be called a "near hit?"
- Why is brassiere singular and panties plural?

Ellen Bristol adds...

- Why is it that only one company makes the Monopoly Game?

... and from some

Anonymous source...

- Why is it that so many people were quick to believe the drivel in column two on page one of September's *Grope* when the author has a history of yanking our chains and doing things for effect?

Life Long Relationships Thoughts From The Grand Canyon

By Mary Ann Trapp

Since reading the September issue of *The Grope* I have been troubled. This month has been a month full of turbulence and change for me and this vacation was much needed. Although I am leaving Phoenix tomorrow, I have been giving a lot of thought to what I am about to write.

As I mentioned above, I was troubled by reading last month's *Grope*. Especially after reading Justin's article. I must admit that I did find the "Rick-Justin" written debate entertaining. I truly believe that, their intentions were to entertain and were not mean-spirited by any means. However, upon reflection, I think there was an underlying meaning to what they both have written.

Both Rick and Justin talk about their search for self-actualization. Is this attainable? What is it that we are all really seeking? And why has it changed in the last few years? This is what has been on my mind. Now sitting here in the Grand Canyon I let my mind ponder these self-imposed questions.

I can't help but wonder how life is different from when our parents were our age. My parents were married with three kids at my age. Is the difference the "Donna Reed" ideology? Our parents were raised to grow up, get married and have a family. We were not raised this way, or at least I wasn't. There was no Donna Reed for our generation. We were raised to graduate high school, go to college, find a good job and told if you do this you will be more

successful than your parents. Our upbringing centered on these goals, and for the most part, we focused on achieving them in our 20's. Now that we have obtained these goals, we are questioning our "successfulness" and we are left with the question of what's next? Our parents were raised focusing on relationships and family which in its essence is a continuing saga.

Are Justin, Rick and I searching for the meaning of life or are we searching for the meaning of our own existence? This is the question I have been contemplating. I feel that it is the later. For in discovering the significance in our own existence aren't we really answering the first question? I also have the feeling that the answer to this question centers around relationships. Finding the life long relationship. Does this mean that Jay, Michelle, John and Mary Beth know the meaning to life? Probably not, but I do think they have a better understanding of their own existence. Rick for that matter, has been searching for something for at least the last year. I know I have said to him that I hope he finds what he is looking for a couple of times. He didn't find it in Durango, but since he meet Bridget he seems more centered and focused. Does this mean he is becoming self-actualized? Or does it come back to finding the relationship? I am not sure, but I hope that in our 30's we will find what it is we are searching for and discover the meaning of our existence.

Is The Group Grope Dead???

With the impending departure of Christopher as one of the editors, many are wondering where the future of this newsletter lies. Well, you got me hanging.

Ellen has expressed an interest in continuing this publication, but concedes that putting together a monthly publication by herself is a bit more than she's willing to handle. Are there any volunteers willing to pick up the slack? If not, she may be willing to put something out every other month, or quarterly, if there is enough interest.

Contact Ellen if you have any suggestions, general comments, or if you want to volunteer to help with a 1997 series of *The Grope*. Speak up if you have something to say. (Christopher would.) Otherwise, the end could be near and you will have one less publication for wrapping your fish or lining your bird cage.

The Astrological Connection

by Mary Ann the Mystic

For October 1996

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

You are really in love with Fall. The vibrant colors inspire you. Don't rush out and paint the kitchen shades of pumpkin or butternut yellow. However, body paints of these colors are recommended. Best sex:

When body paints are involved.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

This month you are encouraged to join Thumb suckers Anonymous. A 12 step program which celebrates this habit among adults as a means of do-it-yourself therapy. This will be good therapy this month because you are going to encounter many roadblocks. Best Sex: After a good thumb sucking.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)

Leaven your message with humor and see if you don't get faster results. Those fabled persuasive powers of yours pay big dividends but only if you finish what you started in the beginning of the year. Best Sex: After writing an article for the Group Grope.

CANCER (June 22 - July 21)

Now that you have received a solid repetition for a creative Halloween

costume, everyone will be expecting a great one this year. Start planning early in the month for it because work will be busier than you think. Best Sex: Nov. 3, 2001.

LEO (July 22 - Aug. 22)

Last month can be described in one word - "change." This month you will come to terms with the recent changes. Choose a sexy and sultry costume for Halloween. Best Sex: When costumes are involved.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

It is a good thing that the cool weather is upon us as you can now see the affects of going topless. You should also be aware that Spam is not an aphrodisiac. Best Sex: Rolling in the hay.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Fulfill a promise to a friend this month. Start saving for a trip you have scheduled early. By doing this you will polish your fortune for November. Best Sex: When wax is involved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)

Your love life seems to parallel a white water rafting trip. Although it has its ups and downs, at the end you know it was all

worth it. Best Sex: When there are a lot of ups and downs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will firmly mark your territory and begin to feel settled into a new environment. You may even get your name on the answering machine. Best Sex: While marking your territory.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Your living space recently obtained a mysterious odor and you need to purchase air freshener out of your recent windfall. This will also work on pixie poofs. Best Sex: After aroma therapy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Your environment has recently changed. Take some time and seclude yourself in your new surroundings to truly understand the aurora it omits. Best Sex: After solitary confinement.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)

As an aquatic being you should learn to go with the flow instead of trying to swim up stream. By doing so you will not waste energy on the things you can't control. Best Sex: When you relinquish control and go with the flow.

A Contest !!!

- ◆ Count up the number of times that the name *Justin*' appears in this month's *Grope* and you could win some cash! Here's how it works. . .
- ⇒ Put your name and phone number on an envelope with the number of times Mr. Smith's first name appears in this newsletter in the lower left hand corner.
- ⇒ Put a one dollar bill in the envelope.
- ⇒ Get the envelope to Christopher by October 25th.
- ⇒ All entries will be put in a bucket and will be drawn out randomly until an envelope with the right number on it is chosen.
- ⇒ Winner gets half of all the money from the entry envelopes. The other half will go to a fund for someone's therapy. (Guess who.)
- ⇒ Feel free to enter more than once.
- ⇒ This contest is VOID where prohibited by law. (Which could put a damper on things.)

Good Luck!

The Group Grope

Editorial and publication headquarters:
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Berkley, MI 48072



Published monthly @ 69¢ per copy for 1996.
 (Who knows about 1997.)

Republication of news dispatches originated by *The Group Grope* is encouraged. (So is picking on Justin if you consider yourself to be one of his friends and he has picked on YOU in the past.)
All other republication rights are reserved.

Editors: Christopher Ozdarski
 and Ellen Bristol

Contact Christopher @ 810-~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
 if you have any questions, comments, complaints, or contributions for future editions of this publication. (But be prepared to listen to him bitch about something.)

October 1996 Groping Opportunities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Gone Fishin' 
6 Birthday (1964) Cheryl Bordo	7	8	9	10	11 	12 Dan Pinkos' Bashola
13 Birthday (1964) Jeff Norred	14	15	16	17 Birthday (1966) Paul Andres	18	19 Birthday (1966) Todd Dressell
20	21	22	23	24	25 Group Hayride at Mayberry State Park	26  11th Annual Football Game
27	28 Birthday (1969) Jewel Samuals	29	30	31 		Saturday November 2 Dosmann Halloween Party

Event Information

Saturday, October 12th: Dan Pinkos and a couple of his non-group friends are joining forces to put together a blow-out of a bash. Attendance is expected to be very high. This may be particularly enticing for those group members who are interested in meeting new people. Come join the fun. Everyone is invited, with the possible exception of Justin, so don't be shy. BYOB. Contact Dan at 810-~~528-1234~~ for more details.

Friday, October 25th, 7:00 p.m.: Group Hayride at Mayberry State Park in Northville. Dyan Oliver is organizing this event, so be sure to give her a call at her new digs (810-~~528-1234~~) if you are going so that she can have a good head count. Look for details on page 6.

Saturday, October 26th, noon: 11th annual football game and fall outing is currently scheduled to be held at Halmich Park on 13 Mile Road between Dequindre and Ryan Roads. Bring friends, snacks, and, what the heck, the kids too. The hostesses will provide subs and non-alcoholic beverages. Please contact them by October 23rd so that they can plan on the right amounts of consumables. Call Ellen at 616-~~528-1234~~ or Kate at 810-~~528-1234~~.

Saturday, November 2nd: Matt Dosmann is once again hosting a costumed extravaganza. Halloween day was out of the question because it was on a school night for most of us. Thus, in his infinite wisdom, he scheduled it for the following Saturday. Bring your Alka Seltzer and don't forget the COSTUME part. Contact Matthew for more information at 810-~~528-1234~~, but beware. He may hit you up for a membership to his new fencing club.

Hay, Hay, Hay

Group Grope news dispatch

Hay is for horses. . . and for rolling around in. Dyan Oliver is organizing a group hayride at Mayberry State Park in Northville. Details are as follows:

- \$7.00 per person, with a 20 person minimum, gets us a private hayride! (*Just our group.*)
- Ride lasts for about 40-45 minutes and is followed by a bon fire that is also just for us.
- We can bring snacks and alcohol for the fire part, but NO GLASS. (We understand that the *better* Q's only come in glass, but sometimes we all have to suffer.)
- Let Dyan know you're coming and be there by 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25th.

Mayberry State Park is located at 20303 Beck Road, near 8 Mile. Contact Dyan at 810-6-3333. Let's all share the fall colors together.

The following poem for Dave Messina was written for September's *Grope*. Unfortunately, Ellen had some computer problems and it was apparently a victim of "the crash." Since I don't want to deprive any of our readers of this heart-felt prose, it is printed now for your reading pleasure. Enjoy.

Dave

by Christopher

Master of subtlety -
nay.
 Hairy all over,
 but could use a toupee.
 Loves double cappuccinos -
where's the cafe?
 Little red devil on his ass,
 there to stay.
 Favorite topic is sex -
you don't say?
 A very good friend -
 Happy Birthday.

SEX:

The one pleasure in life for which there is no fair price; it is either free or far too costly.

- *The Devil's New Dictionary*
By Richard Iannelli

Group Updates:

- B
pl
cc
sc
H
b
7
P
 - K
S
1
P
 - J
h
C
3
M
 - I
r
l
 - l
l
- H
unity
e &
5.
s.
ets

Congratulations to all of our friends who got new jobs.

Now we've gone and done it!

By the time you read this we will have signed the lease for the building and the

RENAISSANCE FENCING CLUB

Live the legend!



~~31171~~ Stephenson Highway
Madison Heights

west side of the road, just north of 13 Mile

will be in business.

This is going to be a great place for beginners, national level competitors and recreational fencers. Fencing is fun and effective way to get an aerobic and lower body workout. It beats the hell out of 20 tedious minutes on a stairmaster.

So here's the deal, I now have no money, as it's all going into the building. In order to save yourselves the constant harassment of my showing up at your door at dinner time, eating your food and drinking your beer, you can come to learn how to fence! And you can tell everyone you know about this great place where they can learn how to fence!

And if fencing isn't your thing (though I don't know how that could be, it is a hellavu lot of fun and a fantastic aerobic and lower body workout), we are teamed up with Chris Malgeri, who is a very good martial arts instructor. He studies Jeet Kune Do (sp?), Bruce Lee's system, so he knows a bunch of different styles. He even does kickboxing, so Rick doesn't have to follow his instructor all of the way to Monroe. I've done a little work with Chris and I highly recommend him (though I, of course, recommend fencing higher). He has a very good teaching style and he's a good guy.

So please, *please, please*, help us get our business off the ground. If not, cook Italian and keep some Pete's Wicked Ale in the fridge, I'll be stopping by for dinner.

Matthew Dosmann
Todd Dressell
Renaissance Fencing

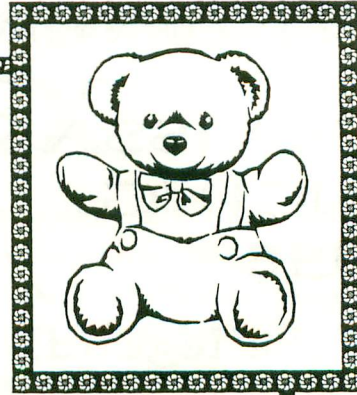
This number isn't guaranteed
until they hook it up.

Miss B.

by Christopher

Penchant for odd colored vehicles.
Oozes charm and likes to ride bicycles.
One of a kind in every way.
Knowing her often makes my day.
I'm fortunate enough to have her as my friend.
Even though she occasionally wants to
slap me by days end.

** Cheryl, I hope your birthday is SUPER DUPER!*



THE GROUP GROPE

c/o Christopher Ozdarski

