

THE GROUPE

Late? who said late?

GROPE

Volume 1, Issue 9

September 1996

Price 69¢

Bulletin From N. Edgeworth

...or the Craig Mitchell story

It's been five months and I still haven't been elevated to Baileys and Stuart status by being acknowledged on the answering machine. What choice do I have? I'm outta here. (In Maryann's defense, I did tell her I was going to get my own line when I moved in.)

Actually, I've come to the realization that my nomadic traits stem from deep-seeded urges telling me there's too much testosterone coursing through my system for just one woman to handle. Believe it or not, finding females willing to play "Three's Company" turned out to be easier than expected, so here is the abridged version. My friend Stacie lives with Heidi and Melissa in Birmingham. Melissa had a serious problem with Heide's cat and left abruptly; hence an opportunity to test my hypothesis. (Not to mention improve my zip code so Neiman's and Nordstrom's think I have money.) So as of September 1, I will become a Birminghamster with a new address of ~~██████████~~ (zip 48009), just around the corner from Norman's (the old GT station at Maple and Eton). My ever-changing phone number will now be (810)-645-6217.

And just to quash the rumors I'm not moving because:

1. Maryann refuses to let me watch "COPS" on her T.V.
2. I'm forced to watch "Friends" with Ozdarski on Thursdays.
3. Maryann never refills the Brita.
4. Vegetable make me sick.
5. Maryann caught me cleaning the bathroom with her toothbrush.
6. I can't sleep with Harleys revving in the background.
7. Maryann refuses to load the toilet paper the proper way.

Brickfest 1996
details inside!

The Group Dope

by Justin Smith

A HEART-FELT RESPONSE TO RICK'S RETORT

Two months ago I wrote a tongue-in-cheek parody of an excerpt from Rick Richard's manuscript detailing a possible course toward self-actualization. Rick and I had discussed the ideas in his writings and I was genuinely moved by his vision and prophetic revelations. In no way did I ever intend to seriously challenge his wisdom.

That being said, last month Rick, on his own initiative and some urging of more than a few group members, responded to my light-hearted-parody. The response that was launched at me was replete with personal attacks of my character (or as some would say "lack of character"). It was enlightening that other group members felt it was necessary to "hit me where it hurts." Although I consider Rick a very good friend of mine and I construed his response to be as light-hearted as many of my columns, his retort has forced me to reflect upon my own inadequacies and acts of inconsideration. Excuse my please, but I'd like this column to serve as an introspective piece, a glasnost, an apology and perhaps most importantly, a notice that this will be my last column for The Grope. I do not seek to flaunt dispondence, rather I yearn for my own actualization that I've flippantly discarded as unnecessary.

Rick had described my persona as encompassing various degrees of exhibitionism and escapism (a specialized form of denial). Rick is a perceptive person and I laughed at first, but with much of so-called "light-hearted humor," there is a scintilla of truth. Here and now I admit freely that I constantly crave attention: attention from others that will ultimately distract me from my own deficiencies or inadequacies. No, I do not have enough on my ledger of accomplishments to be remotely satisfied with the empty person I've become. Beer, cigarettes, wacky hair and sexual preoccupation are diversions and means of escape from what should be a conscious quest for good and betterment of myself and my world.

Look at me, my friends. I am an example of how systematic escapism can lead to serious dysfunctionism. Indeed, I have tried to glorify my own dysfunctional exhibitions by posing as a self-absorbed, self-important eccentric. I should not have been so easily fooled that everyone would buy the ruse.

I know that I've taken some shots at some people and this column had been a vehicle. I'd like to genuinely extend my apology to everyone affected. I know that some have enjoyed my writings, albeit at the expense of others. I had fun with it, but it's about time to move on and focus on myself for a while. Perhaps this space can now be filled with something positive - or to serve a higher goal. I have used it to inflate my own dysfunctionism and create an air of festering discontent. Because others, en masse, have urged Rick to respond so strongly against me, a change is necessary and obvious. None-the-less, thank you for reading.

Justin

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Grope respectfully accepts Justin's resignation from his post of columnist. However, this editor wants Justin back - anyone else? Call Justin direct or contact Chris Ozdarski to voice your opinion.

Ellen

More Deep Thoughts

By Chris Hajdas

Your last Deep Thoughts left me groping for more answers:

- *Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?*
- *If a cow laughed real hard, would milk come out her nose?*
 - *Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?*
- *If you can't drink and drive, why do you need a driver's license to buy liquor, and why do bars have parking lots?*
- *Do you need a silencer if you are going to shoot a mime?*
- *Why isn't "palindrome" spelled the same way backwards?*
- *If you have your finger touching the rearview mirror that says, "objects in mirror are closer than they appear," how can that be possible?*
- *If someone invented instant water, what would they mix it with?*
 - *Why is there an expiration date on Sour Cream?*
- *If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?*

ANYONE?



For September 1996...

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)—After your recent rendezvous, do not get thee to a nunnery. Instead prepare for the next one by stocking up on the essentials: latex, lubricants, and love toys. Best Sex: When the 3 L's are involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)—Now that you have driven a car, most men use to supplement their masculinity, feminize it. Be careful putting the pedal to the metal. Best Sex: In a muscle car.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)—This will be a tough month for you. Be sure all your wounds are healed before getting back on the bike or you will reopen them. Best Sex: When your wounds are healed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)—Now that you are mobile again you wish to spread those wings. Be sure they are properly attached before attempting a long flight. Best Sex: In the back seat of your car.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)—You learned last month to be careful where you sleep. You must always review your surroundings before laying out your sleeping bag or you never know what may happen. Best Sex: In a sleeping bag.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)—As Venus and Mars line up in your mating sector, your mate demands more of your time. Make the most titillating time they have had. Best Sex: When your planets are aligned.

The Astrological Connection

By Mary Ann the Mystic

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)—You have recently discovered you love for the armed forces. Now it is time to paint on the latex and show your spirit. Best Sex: While playing Army.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)—You have been running errand after errand and it is now time to take a breather. Escape out west for a time you will never forget. Best Sex: 9/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8...30.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)—It is time for you to regenerate thus restoring all exhausted fertility. Be careful not to renew too much fertility. Best Sex: Not when you are especially fertile.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)—It seems like you are in the rerun phase of your favorite show, FRIENDS (clap, clap, clap), waiting until the season's premiere to finish what you started. Best Sex: When you finish.

CANCER (June 22-July 21)—If you are car shopping, remember mini vans are not just for mommies just as Grand Am's are not "chick" cars. Speaking of cars take a trip to visit loved ones this month. Best Sex: Nov. 3, 2001.

LEO (July 22-Aug. 22)—Words like primitive, fresh, natural and erotic come to mind. You have the license to run stark-naked through the park. Brickfest could be just the place. Best Sex: Try something new like playing Navy.

The Group West Grows

The beautiful lake, sandy beaches, and a new employer have lured two more of our friends to west Michigan. Roy Zahnleuter and Katie Mueller have relocated to a spacious abode in the Grand Rapids area. Roy has joined Ellen Binstel in collecting paychecks from Michigan Bulb Company and Katie is feverishly looking for new employment in the area. Congratulations to Roy on his new job (another Frank's prisoner has escaped) and good luck to Katie in her search. You can find the pair at 616-334-1111.

Go West Young Man!

It's better out there...

Snapshots from the Summer of '96



What a Nutt!



Our very own Barbie!



Dancing
the night
away!

Taking it
easy!



A pre-race pose!

Mmmmmm...looks yummy!



Movers & Shakers

...or news from the Big Apple about Barb & Paul

The rumors are true! The Marquis & Sierp residence has relocated from fast paced Brooklyn suburban New Jersey... or shall we say New hsehy.

The new abode is reported to have not one t TWO bedrooms! So the happy couple is ady for your visit... and while they don't accept sa, Discover or American Express, the hosts l happily receive you, a modest amount of ggage, and a warm smile.

Those wishing to schedule a weekend visit... those who just want to stay in contact will find urb and Paul at the following:

17 Riverside Court

Brickfest

(n. Brik-fest) An annual celebration of being "Brick-like," a gathering of friends : commemorate the honor of being called a "Brick," another excuse to get the group involved in an inclusive function.*

This year...held **September 14, 9:00a.m., at the Renaissance Festival** Parking Lot. (Call Paul Carolin at 810-338-6368 for discount tickets.)

If you're wondering about just how Brickfest came to be, you'll have to speak with Mr. John Morand. If you're wondering why you should go this year, just ask anyone who's gone before. The annual event kicks off in the Renaissance Festival parking lot as we remove the grills from our cars and actually set up a tailgate party. From there party attenders partake of Breakfast Burritos (warm u food for drumsticks and juiced-up cider later in the day), Mimosas- hey, because we know orange juice isn't just for breakfast anymore, and other assorted foods brought along for the celebration. After the tailgate is over, we'll all wander into the festival for a day of fun.

Planning on attending? Call Dianne Lee or John Morand for other details, instructions, suggestions, the meaning of life...opps, that another column, anot er day. Hope to see you there.

**Brick (n. Brik) One who unwittingly, unknowingly or without just reason cause someone to have an adverse reaction to him or herself. i.e. "This is the worst date I've ever been on in my whole life. You're as sensitive as a 'Brick'."*



Our favorite lost-boy.

Congratulations to our newest newlyweds... Michelle and Jay!

It's not the Alps, but this Heidi
loves upper Michigan.



September 1996

Groping Opportunities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ron Dimmer Jr. B'day (1968) Dan Pinkos B'day (1961)	2 Labor Day	3 Chris Hajdas B'day (1963)	4	5	6	7
8 Bridget Dunnigan B'day (1966)	9	10	11	12	13	14 Brickfest - see details in this newsletter
15	16 Dave Messina B'day (1965)	17	18	19	20	21 Evening at Dave's - call Messina for details
22	23	24	25	26 Krys Pesta B'day (1963)	27 Paul Marquis B'day (1963)	28
29	30					

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

Published monthly (As timely as possible.)
Subscription rate
(postage paid): In the United States,
territories and possessions, \$8.28 per year.

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
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Editors: Christopher "If you can't put it in a
straight line or add it up, I don't like it"
Ozdarski and Ellen Bristol

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

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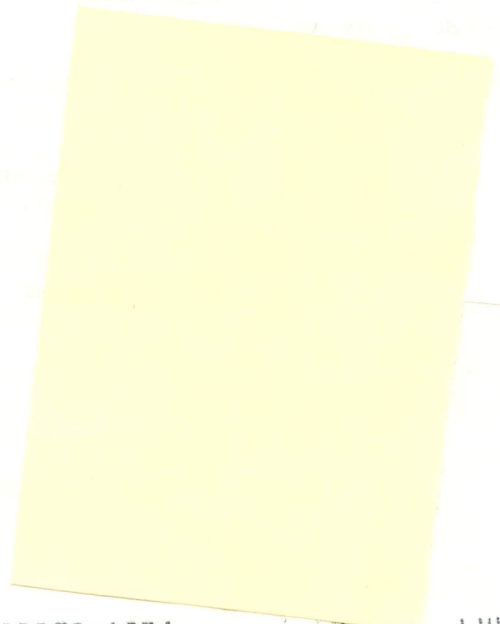
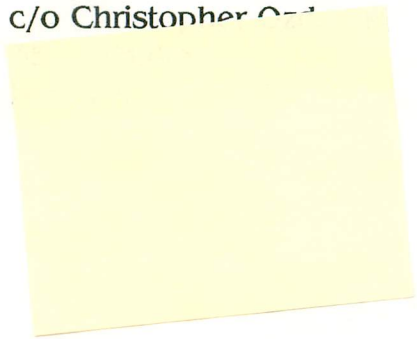
event information

information about specific events and who to contact for more information

ADVANCE NOTICE - Kate Griswold and Ellen Bristol's

11th Annual Football Game and Fall Outing
is scheduled for Saturday, October 26. As in years past, the event will be at
Halmich Park on 13 Mile Road between Dequindre and Ryan Roads. Plan to
arrive at noon to choose up teams for a fun game of two-handed touch foot-
ball and other fun activities. The hostesses will provide subs and non-alco-
holic beverages. You are welcome to bring friends and other treats you
might enjoy. Non-football players are encouraged to attend and the kids are
welcome too! If you can, let us know you're coming by October 23 so that
we can plan the right amount of sandwiches. Call Kate at (810) ██████████ or
Ellen at (616) ██████████.

The Group Grope
c/o Christopher G...



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