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THE INDEPENDENT GUIDE TO PERSONAL COMPUTING

VOL. 18 NO. 1 JAN. 5, 1999



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abort, retry, fail?

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF
PERSONAL COMPUTING

By Don Willmott

Buy and Hold

What do men want? Seth Warchavsky, notorious CEO of the Internet Entertainment Group, which specializes in the marketing of "adult content," assumed that the answer was sex and money. He launched Sexquotes.com, a Web service that combined a real-time stock ticker with dirty pictures of women. Pamela Anderson Lee, whose purloined honeymoon video was marketed at Warchavsky's site, was unavailable for comment.



Our First Hoax

Teenage virgins Mike and Diane promised to deflower each other live online for all the world to see. Soon, two problems surfaced: Mike and Diane weren't who they said they were, and they weren't virgins either. Actors Ty Taylor and Michelle Parma, both fully clothed, admitted the deception at a hastily called news conference.



The Lady Is a Vamp

Proving once again that sex sells, 36-year-old CrossWorlds Software CEO Katrina Garnett launched an ad campaign for her company featuring little more than a Richard Avedon photo of herself in a little black dress. She described herself as "younger than Bill Gates, older than Michael Dell," sat back, and waited for the phone to ring. And it did.



Cute Convicts

The Tennessee Department of Correction invited kids to draw their impressions of prison life for its Web site. One charming scene, which depicted a death-row inmate receiving a lethal injection, was posted briefly but soon removed from the site.



Here's Pie in Your Eye

Now we know what they do for fun in Belgium. Noel Godin, a self-proclaimed pie-throwing anarchist, creamed Microsoft CEO Bill Gates in Brussels. Gates, left sticky but uninjured, declined to press charges. In an interview with *The Netly News*, Godin proclaimed, "Our war cry was explicit: 'Let's pie! Let's pie the polluting lolly!'"



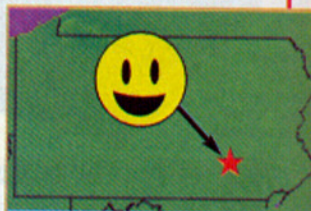
Peripheral of the Year

ABCNews.com reported: "There's a little company in Columbia, Pennsylvania, that will soon unveil a 'revolutionary' tool. It's a plastic and rubber 'peripheral' device that fits onto a man's, ahem, you-know-what. Attached is a cord that plugs into a PC's parallel port. At porn Web sites, a person can work another tool that relays 'feeling' through the Net to the guy wearing the device.

[Designer Eric] White says it works like a charm. Only problem is, as with everything else with the Web, there's a

1998 YEAR IN REVIEW

slight lag time. White says the company considered building a similar device for women, but market research showed there wasn't enough demand."



Good-Bye!

Good-Bye!

Columbia University cybersex predator Oliver Jovanovic was convicted for kidnapping and sexual abuse. Everyone, even the prosecution team, was surprised by the decision, but the *New York Post* was ready with the headline of the year.



Crash...and Burn?



At Bill Gates's Spring Comdex keynote address, a product manager showing off the merits of the USB protocol crashed a Windows 98 demo. Has this product manager been seen since? Just asking....

• Quote of the Year: "IP on everything."—MCI VP and father of the Internet Vinton Cerf •

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