

# Memo of the Month

*...via email*

The following message is from Don PXXXX:

It is now clear that integrating gender considerations in policies and activities accelerates and deepens economic and political reform processes. This is why the new M/OP procurement regulations state that gender must be included in all RFPs and RFAs. It is also why gender is one of the major cross-cutting themes of the new E&E Strategic Framework.

To operationalize these changes, we are requesting that each Mission have in place by December 2000 a functioning Gender Working Group which will represent all SO teams and be responsible for responding to the new M/OP guidelines and the Bureau's increased emphases.

To support you in carrying out this function, E&E will hold a Regional Gender Workshop in Budapest, July 17-18, at which a number of issues will be addressed, including the composition and efficient functioning of a Gender Working Group.

We are asking that each Mission send one representative of Senior Management (for example, the Deputy or Program Officer), plus the Mission Gender Advisor. George Ingram will be representing the Front Office. Please advise Valerie Estes, the Bureau Gender Advisor, of the names of your participants by May 22, and she will send them further workshop details.

We very much appreciate your cooperation. Don PXXXX

# The pulse of the world from the heart of the nation.

**D**on't miss a thing. Subscribe to *The Washington Post National Weekly Edition*. And be privy to astute analysis of the policies, issues, debates and developments that make the world's pulse race.

You get the inside word. Straight talk from the political pundits. In-depth coverage of the powers that be in Congress, the White House and abroad. Brilliant observations of the day's most significant political events. A roundup of rare, resourceful commentary on the Administration's every move.

This special weekly edition of *The Post* is read widely with the same high regard as our daily paper. It's full of exclusive reports and expert opinion to help uncover the big-picture implications of today's agenda. It's written by individuals who are uniquely qualified to interpret Washington affairs with remarkable insight. Investigative reporters like Bob Woodward. Observers like Jim Hoagland and Robert Samuelson. Plus guest authorities in every field.

Week in and week out, *The Washington Post National Weekly Edition* keeps you abreast of our ever-swirling political scene. You get...

**Capital Politics.** Penetrating assessments of the government's most controversial matters from the Pulitzer Prize-winning dean of American political analysts, David Broder.

**The Political Pulse.** Puts your finger on the significance of shifts and



## Save 62% off the cover price!

surges in the parties, voters, ethics, elections, campaigns, referendum, committees, lobbies and policies of America

**The Global Pulse.** Amazing stories and investigative reports from the diplomatic front. We identify and examine the ripple effects of events as far away as the Persian Gulf to Peru, the Soviet Union to South Africa.

**The Economic Pulse.** Forecasts and appraisals that probe beneath the surface of such weighty economic matters as energy, credit, the stock market, international finance, banking, labor, trade and more.

**Commentary.** Lively debate and provocative ideas from George Will, Tom Edsall, Dan Balz and other foremost political thinkers and writers.

**Editorials.** Trenchant views from our eye-opening op-ed page and the amusing visual observation of Herblock, the three time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist.

**The Government Pulse.** Stay on top of new directions in law, health care, defense and the environment. For example: AIDS prevention campaigns and federal funding. Global warming's price tag. The potential for postwar terrorism. The perils of mandatory retirement. And more.

**Book World.** The most important new books are subjected to candid, stimulating reviews by well-known scholars, opinion leaders and best-selling authors themselves.

**What Americans Think.** Enjoy fascinating poll results on timely topics: Presidential approval ratings, civil rights trends, military matters, lifestyle habits and more.

**Science Lab.** Study the outcome of revealing reports, special research experiments and bold, new discoveries in such fields as psychology, medicine and conversations.

*Indeed, The Washington Post National Weekly Edition imparts a wealth of knowledge on politics, government, the economy, international affairs, business and industry. Go ahead. Read it for information. Use it to make decisions.*

(Complete, clip and mail coupon today.)

**Save  
62%!**

NATIONAL WEEKLY EDITION

**The Washington Post**

### Subscription Savings Form

☐ Yes! Start my one-year subscription (52 issues) to *The Washington Post National Weekly Edition* for the introductory rate of only \$39.00. That's a savings of \$39.00 off the basic subscription rate and \$62.40 off the newsstand price.

☐ Payment Enclosed  
☐ Bill me later

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail to:  
**The Washington Post  
National Weekly  
Edition**  
P.O. Box 37167  
Boone, IA 50037-2167

Allow 4-6 weeks for  
first issue to arrive.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or your money back on all unmailed issues

Subscribe now and  
Save 62% off the  
cover price.

Complete and  
return the coupon  
today.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG  
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

JWAM24

# Sex in the Digital City

*Why it's so alluring on AOL and the Internet—and why it's so addictive*

BY NICHOLAS THOMPSON

I MET CLAY ABOUT A YEAR AGO IN THE BASEMENT of a smoky club down on 6th St. in New York City's East Village. I had brought a bizarre multi-tonal guitar to play at one of the club's weekly open-microphone sessions. After I finished, Clay asked me if he could borrow the instrument. I said sure, assuming that like everyone else before he'd give up after a few tortured moments trying to navigate around the tiny frets. But his hands moved gracefully and he immediately began to play a gorgeous blues tune on the awkward instrument.

We spent the rest of the night talking and playing music together next to a pile of beer bottles and a pool table. He looked about 21 years old and wore black. He said he had grown up in Canada, someplace near Toronto that I'd never heard of. He had sex with lots of people, men and women. He loved the blues and he didn't want to talk about his life before New York. He was keeping some stuff on the floor of a couple of friends' apartments but many nights he just looked for a sexual partner and stayed with him, her, or them.

I never figured out Clay's whole life story and I never saw him again. But it seemed that he was just following the path of thousands of men and women who have drifted to the big cities to fulfill their dreams and to escape home communities where the woman at the drugstore knows everybody's name. Some become enraptured with the shadows of the city and stay there forever. Others just go for a short trip. Still others do something in between and look back either fondly or regretfully on their "youthful experiment."

Most of us, at one point or another, long to be like Clay. We want to fulfill our primal desires, be anonymous, make up a world and a history if we have to, and wander in the bright lights and the musty corners. But of course we generally don't. The bus trip's too long; we've got a real life to live; other desires and goals are more important.

Now, however, it's easy to be like Clay. Lots of people are making up their own worlds, having sex with

dozens of people a day, shifting their identities every half an hour. How? By going online. Men and women who would never have made it to New York with Clay have found their own cities on the Internet and they're replacing their real worlds, and the authentic, complex relationships that organized their lives, with the Internet. And many are discovering that they just don't want to leave these digital cities or, more dangerously, that they can't.

## **You've got Tail!**

Sex on the Net goes far beyond the pornographic images that blanket the Web. Porn has been around for millennia and the Internet has merely increased its scope and availability. The real change brought by the Net is the innovation in sexual conversation between real people typing at different machines; this is the most potent side of the new sexual revolution, created by the crossing of our animal drives with one of the most powerful communication technologies ever invented. This interaction is at the core of what is becoming known among a growing circle of psychologists as the crack cocaine of sex addiction, and it's the foundation of the new bustling city that the Internet has brought into our homes.

If you've never been to this city or if you've never even been on the Internet, America Online makes it simple for you. They've created a system that is almost effortless to load and easy to use. According to spokeswoman Tricia Primrose, the system was set up in part to "appeal to people who remember manual typewriters." All you've got to do is press "enter" on your keyboard, listen for your modem, and look for the innocuous image of waving people labeled "Chat" that appears on your screen. Click twice and you'll be transported into the sweltering labyrinth of chat rooms on which AOL has built much of its business. As millions and millions of people have figured out, if you want erotic excitement, anonymity, and a fantasy life, this is much easier than taking a Greyhound to New York.

The public chat groups on AOL are divided into cat-