

GOLD STAR SITES GETTING EXPERT ADVICEBy Alan Cohen

Where to pose your most puzzling questions to online know-it-alls

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL REPORT **HOW AMERICA USES THE NET**

Y-Life's annual look at the state of our wired nation

THE INTERNET'S SECOND GENERATION

By Jon Katz

Do we let the Net evolve on its own, or should we intervene to shape its destiny? n.com

THE BIG PICTURE By Ron Bel Bruno and Megan Gerrity Slicing and dicing America's Web habits with a set of detailed stats

96 HOW AMERICA USES THE NET Compiled by Rob Bernstein and Jeremy Caplan

> A cross section of Americans talk about the Web and their wired lives

WIRE & ICE By Erik Davis

> Surprise: The land of Viking sagas and herring factories is the most wired place on the planet

LORDS OF THE RINGS By Eric Adelson

This year the Summer Olympics are very, very far away. Dozens of Web sites are bringing the games home. Plus: A special tear-out guide

THE E-MAIL CHRONICLES Ben Stein likes dirty messages, Susan Cheever misses the old days, and George Plimpton gets infected. Plus: Five more odes to electronic mail

ON THE COVER

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