

“Has anybody noticed lately that Google seems to be becoming the new Big Brother?”

S Gill

worse to use if you had to work on someone else's designs.

I've settled (at the moment) on Adobe Fireworks CS3, as it offers all the layout tools you need and there's the added possibility of extending the program with other extensions that are out there on the net. It can also optimise images far better than Photoshop and now it can import Illustrator and Photoshop files too (and export them).

Don't get me wrong: I think Photoshop is great and still use it all the time, but only for what it was designed for: editing photos.

Subject: **Blasphemy!**

From: Salvation

I write to detail how deeply shocked I was when reading the latest edition of .net magazine. This is a magazine that I buy every month and read it with great interest. However, having an article on the redesign of a homosexual site was deeply offensive and enough to make me consider not buying your magazine any more. Whilst some might argue that it was a 'valid' article in a web design magazine, there was no warning of this on the cover and I purchased the magazine without being aware that there was such a deeply offensive article inside it.

Like myself, a great number of web developers are Born-Again Christians and will have found this so very upsetting. As you, hopefully, know, we are now living under the New Testament, under which homosexuality is strictly forbidden (the ten commandments are Old Testament laws and now we only have just three to abide by – love the Lord your God and love your enemy as a friend being the other two).

As I am not a lawyer, I cannot be certain of the law in this matter. Yet logic dictates that there should have been a strict warning on the outside of the magazine and it should have been placed on the top shelf – it is very worrying that children might read, or even buy, a copy of .net.

I feel that I am fully correct in asking for a full refund of the cost of this magazine. I feel that I should point out that although the article may not have been directly blasphemous (I haven't read it and never will, as I was almost sick when I discovered it), it is, to my mind, blasphemous in its context alone.

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# Mr Gay Bournemouth

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**The brief**

The organizers of the Mr Gay Bournemouth competition are looking to refresh their website. An article by Lorenzo Verzeni from interactive design studio Sempay for a .net

**Use of Flash**

The obvious shortfall of the current site is there isn't an option to vote for your Mr Gay Bournemouth online.

**Online voting**

The obvious shortfall of the current site is there isn't an option to vote for your Mr Gay Bournemouth online.

**Key features**

- 1. Home
- 2. About
- 3. News
- 4. Contact
- 5. Sponsors

.net/technique/makeover



Deeply offensive? Our makeover of the 'Mr Gay Bournemouth' competition site made one reader "almost sick"

I'm sure that you have had many hundred [sic] of complaints about this – I know of a number of people who will not purchase the magazine again as a direct result. And this is a shame, as the magazine is normally excellent.

As far as I can recall, we have no features that mention homosexuality in this issue of the magazine. However, you might want to steer clear of pages 46-51 if you want to keep your dinner down.

As for your views regarding the legal implications of covering Mr Gay Bournemouth, we operate under the laws of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where merely mentioning a homosexual event does not require a warning on the cover – despite the obvious offence you feel.

Lastly, I'm afraid we will not be able to offer a refund and if you no longer choose to buy the magazine then this is a choice for you and your friends/colleagues.

By the way, we only had one complaint about this feature – yours.

Subject: **Web startups**

From: Darren

I am a subscriber to your great mag and I was particularly interested in an email written to you by Tom Mason on page 11 of .net issue 170, entitled 'Start your own business'.

Neither .net nor Tom mentioned which issue this subject was covered in. I was wondering if you would be so kind as to let me know which issue of .net I can find this article in – and/or point me to an online version of 'Start your own business'?

The article you're after was called 'Start your own agency' and was the cover story in issue 169. As a subscriber, you may have a copy tucked away somewhere – if not, you can easily order back issues of .net by



Be your own boss In November we looked at how to go about working for yourself and what pitfalls to avoid

calling 0870 837 4773. Have a look at page 130 for more details.

Subject: **Council build-off?**

From: Paul

Our web team feverishly read your magazine every month, but have never seen a public sector website in the build-off.

Public sector sites are traditionally boring and stuck in the 90s design-wise. At Aberdeenshire Council we have always tried to do a bit more. However, our site has now used the same design for around three years and will soon be looking to refresh.

We are a very forward-thinking council webwise and would love to see how three top designers would approach trying to make a council website interesting!

That's a cracking idea! Watch this space.

Join the debate

As well as writing to us, you can also join your fellow readers and the .net team at [forum.netmag.co.uk](http://forum.netmag.co.uk)

in association with **heart internet** [www.heartinternet.co.uk](http://www.heartinternet.co.uk)