

*The*  
C.O.T.A.  
**Sooner Belle**  
*Serving the transgendered of Central Oklahoma*

**COTA News**



Happy summer everyone. Yes, summer is finally here officially, although you'd think we were in the monsoon season. Jeez, I've lost count of the times I've emptied my rain gauge since we've been back from our trip to Egypt in mid June. Would you believe

in some places that we visited like Aswan and Luxor it never ever rains, at least that's what they told us. I suppose that's why those temples and tombs are so well preserved. Last month's picnic was a success, the rain finally quit just after midday, although it was still too humid and wet to spend much time outdoors. We had a great meal with hamburgers, hot dogs, fruit and cookies and wonderful hosts, thank you Danielle and Jean.

The pool party scheduled for July 10th will be at Donna and Linda's home in Shawnee. Details on how to get there can be found elsewhere in this news letter. Once again we'll have a pot luck meal, so we will need; some cold cut meat, bread, baked beans, tomatoes and lettuce and soft drinks. If you feel like coming out there, call me at 789-3742 to find out what to bring. The party starts at 5:00pm until 8:00pm.

Wendy

Activities in Oklahoma City

COTA Meeting

Pool party: July 10th at Donna and Linda's in Shawnee. Details on how to get there can be found on Page 2.

Red Rock facilitated Open Door Meeting  
Every Monday Night 7:00 PM at the Red Rock building  
2305 NW 39 (39th & Youngs, across from The Habanna)

DBSA Oklahoma  
(Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Depression Bipolar Support Group)  
Every Monday, 7pm to about 8:30  
3131 N. Penn

Call: Heather; 634-4646 or toll free 877-253-9522  
email: dbsaok@coxinet.net

The Sooner Belle, published monthly, is the official publication of The Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, (COTA).

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Web Sites:

COTA: [http://www.ren.org/rafil/cota/c\\_o\\_t\\_a.htm](http://www.ren.org/rafil/cota/c_o_t_a.htm)

Renaissance: <http://www.ren.org/>

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or to Wendi or Georgia before the 20th day of the month.

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## The Razor's Edge

Being close is the goal, but closer is not always better. If someone wanted the closest shave, the answer is a straight razor. Realistically speaking this is not ideal. The straight razor sacrifices time, requires skill, razor maintenance, and raises the probability of nicks or cuts. Practicality brings people to the safety razor. On today's market there are almost a ridiculous number of choices on safety razors. Disposable vs. interchangeable cartridge heads. Answer: it is personal preference. The same type of head and handle design are available either way. The author's choice is replaceable cartridges for economic and environmental reasons.

1, 2, 3, or 4 blade(s)? Answer: it makes little difference. The quality of steel and evenness of the blades is what makes the difference. Unfortunately, these are difficult properties to detect with the naked eye. I have experienced 2 blades that shave better than some 3 blade models and vice versa. Most high quality blade safety razors are 2 or more blade because they are constantly trying to be the best. The reason is to justify a more expensive product with a better profit margin. The author recommends trying different high quality appearing razors and finding the best one for you. If you do not have the time, money, or initiative to do this here are some findings on various razor cartridge systems on the market.

Gillette Mach 3 is what I consider to be the best value. It provides a very close shave and stays sharp for a longer period of time versus its predecessor the double bladed Gillette Sensor. If you do not like the price tag on the refills of the Mach 3, go with a Sensor. The Mach 3 Turbos do have a better longer lasting lubricating pad, but I do not think the micro fins for raising the hair up work as well as the original Mach 3's. Granted the original Mach 3 micro fins do wear out, but by then it is time to replace the blade anyway. Venus does not shave as close as the Mach 3. You will notice stubble sooner with a Venus compared to use of a Mach. The advantage is you can shave faster with a Venus and be less likely to cut or nick yourself. The rounded head is nice for preventing cuts, but it makes it hard to use the side edge for tight areas. Divine adds the better lubricating strip, but probably is not worth the extra money. I would rather just put a clean, sharp, new blade in, rather than extending the life of one that has been used several times. Venus superior handle in combination with the Mach 3 cartridge head is the author's own personal choice.

Obviously, the author has a bias for Gillette products. Every time I have experimented with other companies shaving products I have been disappointed. Schick's Intuition looked promising, but the oversized head makes it impossible to see the skin before running the razor over it and extremely difficult to shave in uneven areas. You do not need shaving cream with it, but it certainly takes more time to tell where you have and have not shaved. It is also a very sharp, close shaving razor. I honestly believe I would have received less scar producing cuts with a straight razor. I also tried the Schick Quatro. It gave as close, if not slightly closer, as shave as Gillette's Mach 3 series, but it pulled on the skin more. I think the increased drag is due to the coat of plastic used for lubrication on the head versus a moisturized cushion that Gillette puts on its razor cartridges. Comparatively Quatro is a better buy than the Turbo, but with the original Mach 3 costing less than both, the choice is obvious to me. Maybe the new vibrating Mach 3 will offer a significant improvement in safety razors, but it will hard to justify the price.

-Netessa

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## Directions and map deleted