



**kort's korner**

# Unhung Heroes: Men with Small Penises

THE MARCH 2005 ISSUE OF OUT MAGAZINE  
there Erik Piepenburg's article titled "Is  
Small Beautiful?" His article focuses on gay  
men with small penises. The journalist inter-  
viewed Robert Woodworth, a 59-year-old gay

man and Director of Institutional  
Services at New York's Lesbian,  
Gay, Bisexual and Transgender  
Community Center. Woodworth  
began an ongoing series of dis-  
cussions about gay men and their  
penises, which led to a four-week  
support group for gay men who feel  
theirs are small.

Bravo to these men! They are truly  
unhung heroes, willing to disclose  
their genital size and come out of  
their fly, as well as the closet. What  
pressure they must feel as men—  
particularly in the gay commu-  
nity—where penis size is talked  
about so relentlessly and so judg-  
mentally, as if it were a measure of  
the whole man.

I'm sure there must be many, many  
jokes about it. When I was research-  
ing this article, one colleague asked  
me, "Is it a small support group?"  
Another colleague inquired "How  
long will your article be?" Snicker  
all you want, but the real joke is

on all of us men—gay and straight  
alike—since such remarks make  
many of us feel self-conscious about  
our size. When I hear any gay man  
make a small penis comment—par-  
ticularly in front of others in my  
gay men's groups or workshops—  
I cringe to think of those insecure  
men who might feel badly or those  
who just worry about their size in  
general.

## **Guys Turned to the Wall**

*Guys Gone Wild*, a companion DVD  
to the original *Girls Gone Wild* that's  
been available for a while, displays  
men's buttocks more than their  
frontal nudity. I know this from  
having watched *Guys* very care-  
fully, and more than once (strictly  
for research purposes, of course).  
Why—you might ask—do we view  
so many more butts than penises?  
The reason, I suggest, is that men in  
general worry about their penis size.  
It seems safer to moon the camera

or flash your behind—the worst  
criticism you might receive is that  
it's too hairy, too flabby, or sports  
too many pimples. But one of the  
most hurtful insults you can say is  
that a man's penis is too small.

## **What is Too Small—Really?**

The standard for penis size was set  
by the Kinsey Institute in the 1960s.  
Alfred Kinsey and his merry men  
studied American college-age men  
and found that 80 percent of fully  
erect penises measured between 5  
and 7 inches (long), with most fall-  
ing in the 6- to 6½-inch range. But  
size queens beware! Despite what  
you might surmise from gay per-  
sonal ads, less than 1 percent of  
those erections Kinsey witnessed  
in the flesh exceeded 8 inches. The  
odds against finding a true 9-incher  
are a thousand to one, but still con-  
siderably better than winning at  
Lotto. The difference between  
AOL inches and real-life inches  
is in the eye of the owner, not the  
beholder.

But does the rarity of those knit-  
ting needles in the haystack make  
any one of us men feel any bet-  
ter? Nope. Men are hung in differ-  
ent sizes, widths, directions, shapes  
and each of us is different, whether

**continued**

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# Unhung Heroes, continued

hard or soft. Some men are show-ers and some men are growers. Still, going to at a nude beach or locker room, men with bigger and longer flaccid endowment are more fortunate. They have less to worry about in terms of being judged and found wanting, or hearing snide remarks made about them. Even if their four-inch softie doesn't grow when erect, straight guys in a locker room, bathhouse or nude beach won't know that. The guy who might boast only 1 to 2 inches soft and grow to 8 inches hard, still feels self-conscious, thinking that when at ease, everyone sees him as too small, even though at attention, he knows he's not!

## **Measures for Manhood and Masculinity**

What we're really talking about here is how much of a man someone is. And we tend to measure masculinity by various standards—by how tall or short he is, how successful or wealthy or athletic or stoic . . . the list goes on. All these measurements are on outward qualities, and how sad this all is. We need to look more at the inside, evaluating a man by his integrity, responsibility, talents, eloquence, and accountability. Why not measure a man by the size of his heart? That way, you'll wind up with more satisfactions than you've ever dreamed of!