

NLA-COLUMBUS

March 2007

This newsletter is published monthly to further the educational outreach mission of NLA-Columbus and to share information about the local, regional, and national BDSM and Leather communities.



Corsetry & NLA-C's 15th Anniversary March Events and Updates

Corsetry. The March NLA-Columbus meeting will feature Nikki, the owner and corset-maker of Mayfaire Moon Costumes and Corsets. Nikki, who is visiting from Pennsylvania, will cover a range of corsetry topics, including:

- * the history of corsetry
- * waist training
- * care of garments
- * styles and materials
- * lacing

If there are specific questions you'd like Nikki to address, please let Shane know. Nikki will be spending the weekend in Columbus, so if you'd like to meet with her prior to Sunday's meeting to discuss your own corset needs and measurements, etc, please contact Shane to set up an appointment: shane@nlacolumbus.com.

To view a portfolio of Mayfaire Moon corsets, visit www.mayfairemoon.com.

The presentation will be held at the Stonewall Center (1160 N. High Street) on Sunday, March 11th at 2pm, after a brief business meeting.

More NLA-C news can be found on page 5.

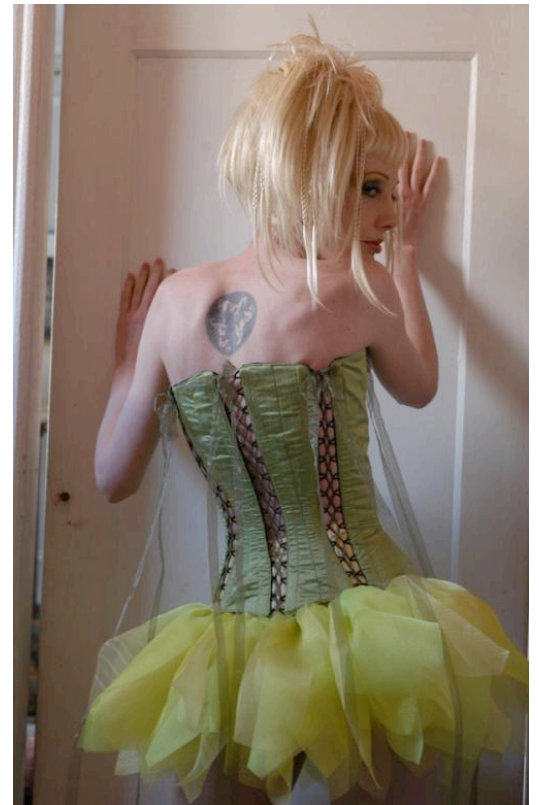


Photo by Kyle Cassidy

*One of the five-lacing creations
by Nikki from mayfairemoon.com.*

Who's In Charge Here, Anyway?

The Journey of Submission Continues

By cindi

Frequently i hear submissives express some version of the statement that “submissives are really the ones in charge in a D/s relationship,” although few are so bold as to make that statement in the presence of their Dominant! The main rationale seems to come from the consensual nature of our relationships, in which the submissive often sets the limits of play and can bring activity to a stop with the use of a safeword. With others it is an amazement, and perhaps even a lack of understanding, that the Dominant is actually getting his/her needs met through meeting the submissives’s needs.

The use of limits and a safe word should not be looked at as a means of controlling the Dominant, but rather as another example of how our lifestyle differentiates between fantasy and reality. Although a good Dominant is amazingly adept at reading the submissive, it is not possible for any Dominant to always know when the submissive has reached the limits of her endurance or has some kind of pain or situation, such as a muscle cramp, that necessitates the play coming to an end. The use of a safe word is a quick, extremely understandable communication from the submissive to the Dominant that such a situation exists and should be viewed as such, not a control tactic.

Alternatively, many submissives avoid using the safe word or expressing their needs to their Dominant, feeling that they do not want to “top from the bottom” or they “are going to take this no matter what.” Effectively, however, either of these tactics only serves to diminish communication with the Dominant, which in turn hinders him/her from making the best decisions with regard to the type and length of play as well as limiting the creativity and chemistry between the Dominant and submissive that is essential in a good scene.

By holding on to the use of safe words and limits as a means of controlling the Dominant, the submissive does her/himself a disservice as well. In order for any relationship to continue on a healthy, vital level, the needs of both the Dominant and the submissive must be met. By depriving the Dominant of information as to the submissive’s true feelings, he/she cannot possibly make accurate decisions with regard to activities. This deprives the submissive not only of experiencing the most fulfilling play, but also of the feeling of true submission – of giving oneself totally over to another.

Finally, in not understanding the accomplishment and strength that it takes to be a submissive, many may hold onto that feeling that somehow they have the ultimate control to justify themselves in a world that frowns on what is perceived as a weakness. We are taught from an early age that we must be strong and independent. The women’s lib movement has hammered into the female psyche the same message that men have been taught for centuries - that to be controlled is undesirable. For many of us it is very hard to escape that message and acknowledge our true need to have someone else in charge.

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Perhaps in order to explain our lifestyle to those who are not wired as we are, it is necessary to hold onto the concept that the submissive has the ultimate control. It is difficult, if not perhaps impossible for those who do not understand the need to submit to understand the benefits of submission. For those of us who are submissive, i would urge you to take the time to get to know and acknowledge your own needs, to find a Dominant or Dominants that meets those needs, to let that Dominant take the time to develop trust in the relationship, and then as they say “sit back, relax and enjoy the show” that the experience of submission in this lifestyle can bring – overwhelming joy, tranquility, and ultimately, true freedom.

Curious about submission?
cindi welcomes your questions
and comments at chestnutsilk@yahoo.com.

The Nuances of Communication

We Only Hear What We Want To Hear

By Sir Barak

Yesterday, at a meeting for my job, a Senior Vice President of human resources came down to talk with my focus group of performers within the customer service program. When the meeting began, it seemed as though the staff and I were talking on a completely different frequency than this Senior Veep. As the meeting wore on, I began to drift off, away from the conversation, as it seemed this SVP was just talking in grandiose managerial overtures. There appeared to be no applicable substance to her way of talking. As the meeting came to the close, she looked at us, and asked “If you were me, what would you do differently?”

I actually laughed out loud, which of course got the attention of everyone in the room. The Senior Veep looked at me, and said, “OK, let’s hear it.” I grinned, and began to talk. I let her know that she had somewhat lost me with the managerial overtures, and there was a specific type of discussion tactic that was shared by many managers, designed to talk very broadly about topics that actually don’t answer any questions at all. As I was talking she began grinning at me. I said that if I were her, I would simply give direct, honest, and complete answers, and I would tailor my discussion to who I was talking to. At that, she actually broke into a little bit of a giggle.

When I was done, she looked right at me and said, “I have two ways of talking: the way I have been conditioned by my current job, and another way. The other way is the way I talk with my close friends and family. However, like you, I don’t trust my vulnerability around people I don’t know. If I were to expose myself and share at the level you are talking about, that would, by default, place you into the category of those close to me. Now, we can both admit, that is not true. So, perhaps you can meet with me in private and we can spend a moment trusting one another. Then I can share with you in the other way. Remember, when you have expectations of how I should act as a manager, and then I don’t act that way, it sets up disappointment and hurt between us.”

You could have shoved my lower jaw off the floor! Not only had she heard what I said, but she offered a healing intimacy, a safe space where we could connect as people. I felt amazed that she had allowed a connection. Up until then, I had only felt disconnection between managers and staff.

Where am I going with this? This story is about communication mainly being projection and interpretation.

You see, we do not have actual communication if we speak two different languages. And it takes at least two people to have communication. One person projects the verbal or non-verbal statements, and the other interprets those statements. Everyone has heard the statement *We only hear what we want to hear*. This is true. We interpret what is being projected correctly only if we are actually listening to what the person is projecting. You say, “I listen to what they are saying – but there are still misunderstandings.” Of course! For the most part, each person projects or interprets based on their personal history. For instance, I had a bottom once say, “I want you to whip me!” When I brought out a single tail she said, “RED!” I was confused. In my mind, *whip* means *whip*; in her mind, it means *flogger*. This is a case where both parties projected their history at the same time. She projected what she wanted me to hear, and I projected what I wanted to hear. Somewhere in the middle is what is trying to be communicated, but it never reaches either person!

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safe space where we could connect as
people.*

How do we fix this? The best way I know is with the Talking Stick, an old tribal tradition where person A holds a painted and feathered stick and speaks. When A is finished, they hand the stick to the listener, B. Then B repeats what they heard A say, then hands the stick back to A. Then A acknowledges or corrects what B has heard. When A is satisfied B has heard them, B speaks. The process repeats until both people have completed this communication so they are both fully understood.

While this cannot be done in every situation, understanding communication is essential in life and especially the scene. If we don’t spend time learning to actively listening, we risk misinterpreting what is being said, and create opportunity for disappointment, and then anger and resentment can interfere with fruitful relationships. Hopefully we can all learn from this, and become better communicators.

Sir Barak welcomes your comments at
baraknsheba@aol.com.

Wrap Me Up a Few of those While You're at It Theories about the Physics of Impact Play

By Samantha Roberts

Up to this point I have been talking about toys that are not real. Oh, paddles and such certainly exist, but I've idealized them as completely rigid. In reality, nothing is perfectly rigid; everything is flexible. Some things are just more flexible than others. (Yes, people too! But we're not talking about them here.)

When a rigid object (a thick pine board for example) is swung through the air, it remains straight (or close enough to straight that we cannot measure the bending easily) as we swing it. Hold a thick but light paddle and swing it back and forth as though it were a cane. The flexibility is all in your wrist and your grip. But try that with something thin like a cane and you will see it whip back and forth. Move your hand, and the cane flexes as its mass resists being set in motion, then an instant later the tip of the cane begins to follow your hand's motion. Stop your hand suddenly, and the tip passes it then springs back and comes to rest.

The cane is an example of elastic flexibility, where elastic refers to the ability to be deformed then spring back to its original shape. A soft leather flogger tail, on the other hand, is extremely flexible but inelastic. It can be bent, twisted, folded and tied in knots but has little or no tendency to spring back. Firmer varieties of leather are somewhere in between, and tend to be used more easily for straps and belts than for paddles.

But back to the flexible cane. If we swing said cane towards a target such as a butt cheek, because of its flexibility the tip will start moving after the handle does. As a result the portion near the handle will strike flesh first, followed progressively by the rest of the shaft as it catches up. Now this of course is very fast, a matter of a few milliseconds, but because only a portion of the cane's length is actually arriving at the surface of the skin at any instant the initial impact is moderated slightly. That is the "good" news (as if less pain could be a good thing! <wink>).

The "bad" news, though, has several parts. First, when we swing the cane and its tip bends back, we are storing additional energy in the cane like a spring. That "elastic" energy must be released somewhere, and most of it will end up in the butt cheek that gets hit. Second, since the tip is bent back more than the rest of the cane shaft, there is more of that spring energy near the tip than near the handle. Of course, that means the tip portions will hit harder than the handle areas do. Third, when part of this flexible shaft hits the skin only part of the energy goes into the flesh at the point of

impact. Some of it also gets transferred from the portion that is now slowing down into the remainder of the cane that is still moving. These are progressive effects that increase towards the cane's tip, the result being the tip of the cane strikes the skin a lot harder than the first part that lands.

This happens with a stiff paddle or a thick or very rigid cane also, but to a lesser degree. When the toy is less elastic such as a leather belt, the "good" news is we do not store much elastic energy in the belt as we swing it, but energy transfers more efficiently towards the tip

In reality, nothing is perfectly rigid. Some things are just more flexible than others. (Yes, people too! But we're not talking about them here.)

as the belt lands on the target. The tip, then, can be moving very fast when it finally does strike, and when it lands on a curved surface such as somebody's body it becomes even worse (or better, depending on your point of view and what you wish to accomplish). That leads me to the title of this installment... wrapping.

I remember playing tetherball on the school playground. I was fascinated by how you could start the ball swinging fairly slowly, then watch it accelerate as the rope wrapped around the post, getting shorter and shorter. The tetherball illustrates the essential principle of wrapping: if we have a long flexible object in motion we can change its direction of travel and increase the speed at which the tip is moving by wrapping it around something. The tetherball post does a fine job of that, and so does a body part. I remember one dominant telling me how she found she could wrap the tails of a flogger over the edge of her free hand just before they struck her partner's back, thus getting a much higher impact speed and greater sting.

The more flexible a toy is, the more easily it can wrap or be wrapped... a danger or an advantage depending on skill level and preference and mood. Next time we will talk about the drag effect... how a flexible tail feels as it is pulled along the skin after impact.

Samantha welcomes your comments at
MsSam53@yahoo.com.

Our 15th Anniversary News & Updates

By the NLA-C Board

NLA- Columbus Celebrates Our 15th Anniversary. 2007 marks an important year in our NLA-Columbus chapter history. NLA-Columbus is celebrating its 15th anniversary August 10-12. In conjunction with our anniversary celebration, we're also hosting the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for NLA-International on Sunday, August 12. We're expecting out-of-town guests, so we've started to put together a weekend plan which includes socializing as well as opportunities to spotlight the diverse community of groups and stores in the Columbus vicinity.

Based upon feedback provided by NLA-Columbus members who responded to our 15th Anniversary Survey, we've tentatively scheduled a weekend of events:

Friday, August 10, 2007

Early evening Meet & Greet with local and visiting NLA-I members, chapters, and local groups, followed by late night excursions to local leather and fetish bars and stores.

Saturday, August 11, 2007

Afternoon demos and classes taught by local and visiting NLA-I members, highlighting the talent, skill, and knowledge that comes from the network of NLA-I. Recharge with light appetizers and dinner, while guest speakers celebrate the history of NLA. At night, the NLA-C 15th Anniversary Play Party!

Sunday, August 12, 2007

Brunch at hotel and Annual General Meeting, with a keynote address from the Lifetime Achievement Winner.

Throughout the weekend, NLA-Columbus will host a hospitality suite for NLA-I members & guests offering healthy snacks and drinks.

As with any NLA-Columbus event, your volunteerism is of high importance and without you, we'd not be able to do the things we do. Volunteers are needed immediately, and during all stages of planning. If you're interested in helping, please contact any NLA-Columbus board member. It's going to be a great time!

February 07 Financial Report

<u>Income:</u>	
Bar Night	142.00
Total Revenue	142.00
<u>Cost of Sales:</u>	
Club Pins	1.46
Patches	-
Total Cost of Sales	1.46
Gross Profit:	140.54
<u>Operational Expenses:</u>	
Telephone	28.50
P O Box Rental	46.00
Truck Rental	45.06
Supplies	25.68
Club Pins	281.00
Total Expenses	426.24
Feb Net Profit	(285.70)
<u>Assets:</u>	
Cash on Hand 02/28/07	3,797.96
Legal Fund Restricted	200.00
Bldg Fund Restricted	100.00
Cash Available 02/08/07	3,497.96
<u>Inventory</u>	
Club Pins (36)	52.56
Patches (9)	36.24
Total	88.80
<u>Year to Date Summary</u>	
Income	431.54
Expense	629.25
Net Income [YTD]	(197.71)

**National Leather Association,
Columbus Ohio Chapter**

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Shane	Co-Chair
Dawn	Co-Chair
Owen	Treasurer
Rita	Corresponding Secretary
Diane	Recording Secretary
Mark	Member At Large

Calendar of NLA-Columbus Events

Wednesday, March 7	Munch Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm	The Surly Girl. 1126 N. High St. (corner of High and 4th)	Free and open to the public
Sunday, March 11	Board Meeting (12 noon) & General Meeting (2 pm) Meetings are held on the second Sunday of every month. Topic: Corsetry by Nikki from mayfairemoon.com	The Stonewall Center 1160 N. High Street (at the corner of High and 4th) Note: Please notify a board member in advance if you plan to attend a board meeting.	Board meetings are open to NLA members. General meetings are free and open to all.
Wednesday, March 14	Munch Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm	The Surly Girl. 1126 N. High St. (corner of High and 4th)	Free and open to the public
Saturday, March 17	Bar Night 3rd Sat. of every month, 11pm.	Exile 893 N. 4th Street	Admission: \$2
Wednesday, March 21	Munch Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm	The Surly Girl. 1126 N. High St. (corner of High and 4th)	Free and open to the public
Saturday, March 24	NLA-Columbus Party	The party location is disclosed only to ticket holders.	Members: \$15 Guests: \$20
Wednesday, March 28	Munch Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm	The Surly Girl. 1126 N. High St. (corner of High and 4th)	Free and open to the public
Sunday, April 8	Board Meeting & General Meeting	The Stonewall Center	Free and open to the public

Calendar of other local group events

Sterling Shadow Club hosts monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month, and a party on the first Saturday of every month. For more information about these events, visit sterlingshadow.com.

SORE (Southern Ohio Resource and Education) and **CORDS** (Central Ohio Real Domination and submission) host workshops, roundtable discussions, munches, parties, and fellowship dinners. On March 31st, **SORE** and **CORDS** will host the 4th Annual Masquerade Casino night, featuring blackjack, craps, raffles, food, and play. For more info, [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SORE & cordsinfo.org](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SORE&cordsinfo.org).

M_O_R_A_L hosts a munch every Thursday. For info: groups.yahoo.com/group/M_O_R_A_L/

CARE (Cincinnati Area Rope Enthusiasts) will host a Rope Rendezvous Workshop on April 5. For info, <http://www.ds-arts.com/shevah/CARE>

Fightclub Ohio hosts a munch on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of each month, and a party on the second Saturday of each month. For more info, visit fightclubtng.org.

MAst (Masters And slaves Together) will host a munch on March 17 and an open meeting on March 18 at The Surly Girl. More info: groups.yahoo.com/group/MAst_General

PEER will host Catherine Gross's "Nine Fold Path Seminar" on March 24th from 10am to 4pm. More info: [bdsm-peergroup.com](http:// bdsm-peergroup.com).

OhioSMART will host SMARTFest on May 4-5 in Cleveland. The event will include workshops and demos by NLA-C members Dan & dawn and Barak & sheba, along with many others. Registration is \$69 until April 9th for OhioSMART and affiliate members, including NLA-C. More info: www.ohiosmart.org

AIS (Adventures in Sexuality) hosts monthly parties and special interest groups. The next discussion group for dominants is March 19th. The next discussion group for submissives is March 20th. The next club party will be in April, TBA. The Late Spring Fling hotel party is scheduled for June 2. For more info: adventuresinsexuality.org.

Please send calendar listings and announcements to Rita@nlacolumbus.com.