



## Featured Columnists

### **The Fine Art of Negotiation** by Barak and sheba

The other night, I was talking with an acquaintance who continually (and somewhat jokingly) reminded me that he was not in the scene. Now, please understand, I met this gentleman at a lifestyle event, I watched him top and be topped, and he seemed to be a somewhat knowledgeable player. So as we embarked on the journey of conversation, I continued to view what we discussed with an air of curiosity and indulgence. One comment that was made particularly caught my attention. He had proclaimed that all “you people in the scene” had very good interpersonal communication skills. I probed further, and he explained. Upon talking with scene players, both Dom and sub, he noticed that they were quite upfront and skilled in identifying and asserting their desires and boundaries. He also realized that many people within the leather lifestyle frequently had more honest relationships with their partners, as this dynamic discussion defined their parameters and goals, whether it is for a play session or a longterm bond. He stated that while he had seen this behavior in business, it was sorely lacking in many of his non-kink interactions.

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to ask for what we need.*

As I looked at the totality of what he was saying, I felt very proud to be part of a community that valued open, honest and direct communication. I realized that when he said, “you people” it was becoming more of a compliment. There was a certain amount of respect that came with the self-exclusion. At that point, I identified why direct communication was so important within the scene. I spoke about a wonderful example I had been given by a public player: at a class presented by Midori on humiliation, she had one of the submissives write down her hard and soft limits list. When it was complete, Midori read it aloud. After she had finished reading, She said, “Is this all?” The woman nodded her head, her beautiful tresses spilling over her shoulders and replied, “Yes, Mistress.” Midori responded, “There is nothing on here that says I can’t cut off your hair.” And then Midori promptly took sharp, shiny scissors, and cut a large chunk off the back of the sub’s mane. It was quite a learning experience for all of us. And a good example of why it’s important to define our terms. So let’s do just that.

Negotiation is defined by our friend Wikipedia as:

**Negotiation: The process whereby interested parties resolve disputes, agree upon courses of action, bargain for individual or collective advantage, and/or attempt to craft outcomes which serve their mutual interests.**

As lifestyle players, we have a specific understanding of what this means. We look at this definition and actually shape a significant portion of our relationship, either temporarily or permanently around the outcome. It seems that negotiation is at the very forefront of our relationship agreements. Actually, I would add an important word to the definition. I would add “continual” to the above definition, as in “the *continual* process.” Whether we acknowledge it or not, negotiation within our lifestyle is an ongoing process. It starts from the moment of eye contact during the first introduction. Regardless of the manner in which we meet, if there is going to be any form of relationship, the flirtation, observations, energy, or discussion (either vague or direct), has elements of expressing our interests. While we get a more complete understanding of the main points during the initial comparison of wants, needs and desires, each interaction has some further negotiation.

Think I am wrong? Take a moment and consider any past scene you have participated in. As a Top, did you not “read” the non-verbal language of the bottom? If you were a sensualist, you would adapt your actions to elicit more positive sounds, movements or gestures. As a sadist, would you not adapt to create more sensation? As a bottom, didn’t you make a “good sound” when it felt good, or make a “yellow” movement or sound when it was really intense? Would you not move your body, even slightly, to exemplify what you want? This is simply a less conscious (or less verbal) negotiation. Together, we are still “crafting outcomes which serve a mutual interest.”

I would like to think, that as a community, we are more in touch with our wants, needs and desires. We have the ability and strength to ask, in a more direct way, for what we crave. This leads to being more honest in relationships, and also adds to the longevity of our bonds. After bringing some of these insights to the table, I looked over at my acquaintance and asked him, “Are you sure you want to deny being a part of a lifestyle that so values honest interpersonal communication and the expression of desire?” He smiled, and took a long while considering, then we hugged and parted. I do look forward to hearing his answer someday.

## Opinion Essay

### **Can't Accept a Little Loss of Freedom?** by Rafe

Imagine living in a country where the government decides what you can do in your bedroom. Laws are passed that say you cannot own sex toys, and you cannot possess whips, paddles, or anything associated with BDSM. You cannot get together with your friends to practice a consensual lifestyle because no longer in America is freedom of speech or the right to assemble allowed. Imagine for a moment surfing on the internet while someone is watching you, making sure you're not going anywhere that someone else has decided you're not supposed to be going. Imagine that you no longer have the freewill to make a decision as a rational adult as to if you will or will not view adult material on your computer. Imagine that someone else has made that decision for you and you are faced with a choice of having to abide by that decision, or becoming a criminal.

Still with me? Good. Now imagine for a moment that your child comes home from school and tells you that evolution is a fraud, that it was put forth by a drunk and made into science by God-hating atheists out to harm America, and that luckily his teacher taught him the truth today about creationism. Imagine that the next day your child comes home to tell you how he learned in science class that gays are pedophiles, destroy families, have a mental illness, and that his teacher showed them the studies to prove this. When you ask about the studies put forth by all the major medical/social/psychological associations that counter this, your child looks at you blankly and mumbles something about how the teacher briefly mentioned that but said those studies were created by Godless people who don't love Jesus and need to be prayed for.

The above sounds like something right out of Orson Welles' 1984, doesn't it? A few years ago we would never have believed that any of those things could happen or become reality. Yet, some of what I wrote in the above paragraph has already happened and other parts are actively and aggressively being fought for to become a reality by a multitude of religious extremist groups. As you read this, there is a pretty good chance that a representative from one of these groups is meeting with, plans to meet with, or already has met with a state or federal congressman/woman this week. Groups like the AFA, Concerned Women of America, Citizens for Community Values are well funded, well organized, swelling with members and full of anger and self righteous hate. They believe that they have the

true values of America at their hearts and that all others need to come over to their side. If you don't want to, then too bad, laws will be passed forcing you to live their morality. Democracy is okay as long as it subscribes to Christian extremist values. Otherwise, it's just a bothersome ideology that needs to be manipulated to toe the line with their views.

The religious right is patient, if nothing else. Their agenda will continue to take away your rights a little at a time. If they can get the public to accept a little loss

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of freedom here and there, then eventually all freedom will be gone. We cannot afford to not be involved. One of the first things that can be done is that we can all make sure we go out and vote in the next election. Know who the candidates are, know what positions the judges take, and know which candidates are supported by the religious right. Send a message to the state and federal government that religious extremism is not the way the citizenship of this country wish to live their lives. Send the message that if conservative Christians wish to not watch porn or wish to not partake in anything they find goes against their morality, then more power to them, but don't force the living of their views on those who do not wish to do so.

Is that enough? Not even close. We need to take a page out of their playbook and get involved on the local levels. Become involved in your local councils. If you cannot run for a seat, then show up at the meetings to hear what is being said. Speak out against the things you don't like. Write articles to newspapers. Write emails to news stations asking why they are not exposing religious extremist groups. Make calls to the statehouse on the issues you find important. Find the hidden hate in the messages of the religious right and expose those messages to the public. Speak up about how you don't need the government to make decisions for you on how you are going to live your life. Volunteer at the voting booths. Volunteer with the political party you support. Start a blog. Start a website. Post flyers on telephone poles. Do something, anything, but don't do nothing. Otherwise, what I wrote in the first paragraph may very well become reality.

Rafe welcomes your comments at [rd43119@yahoo.com](mailto:rd43119@yahoo.com).

## Calendar of NLA-Columbus Events

August	2	Munch at High Five	6:30pm
August	5	OLF Hospitality Suite	9:00 pm
August	9	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
August	13	General Meeting at Stonewall Center Discussion: The Future of NLA-Columbus	2:00 pm
August	16	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
August	19	Bar Night at Exile	11:00 pm
August	23	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
August	30	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm

**Munches** are free and open to the public. Munches start at 6:30pm every Wednesday night at High Five (corner of 5th and High Street). Please contact board members with suggestions for a new munch location.

**General Meetings** are free and open to the public. Meetings start at 2pm on the second Sunday of every month at the Stonewall Center (1160 N. High St).

**Bar Night** starts at 11pm on the third Saturday of every month at Exile (893 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street). Cover is \$2 and the money taken at the door goes to the NLA-Columbus treasury. This is an excellent way to help NLA-Columbus raise money and allow us to keep offsetting expenses for guest speakers, parties, educational events, etc.

### ANONYMOUS PERSONAL MESSAGES

Anonymous Personal Messages are secret messages from one person to another. For the rest of us, it's a game of fun and guessing.



*Wanna see my deck...*

**The Rules:** Identities cannot be revealed in the pictures or the text. Text should be under 50 words. Malicious messages will not be published. Send pictures and text to Rita at [rita@nlacolumbus.com](mailto:rita@nlacolumbus.com).

## Calendar of other local group events

FightclubTNG will host a party on August 12<sup>th</sup> and a munch on August 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit [www.fightclubtng.org](http://www.fightclubtng.org).

The Sterling Shadow Club hosts a monthly educational meeting on the third Tuesday of each month in Dayton. For more information, visit [www.sterlingshadow.com](http://www.sterlingshadow.com).

M\_O\_R\_A\_L hosts a munch every Thursday evening. For location and more information, visit [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/M\\_O\\_R\\_A\\_L/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/M_O_R_A_L/)

SORE (Southern Ohio Resource and Education) will host a Luau on August 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SORE/>

CORDS will host a fellowship dinner on August 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CORDS-Public/>

MAsT (Masters And slaves Together) will host a monthly meeting in August. For more information, visit [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MAsT\\_General/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MAsT_General/)

Adventures in Sexuality will host a party August 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit [groups.yahoo.com/group/adventures\\_in\\_sexuality/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adventures_in_sexuality/)

CARE (Cincinnati Area Rope Enthusiasts) will host a workshop about Karada Body Harnesses on August 11. For more information, visit [ds-arts.com/shevah/CARE](http://ds-arts.com/shevah/CARE)

PEER will host a variety of events in August. For more information, visit [www.bdsm-peergroup.com](http://www.bdsm-peergroup.com).

Trident will host a bar night on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Woof's. For more information, visit [www.trident-columbus.org](http://www.trident-columbus.org).

*This newsletter is published monthly to further the educational and outreach mission of NLA-Columbus.*

*We'd love to publish your calendar listings and announcements; creative writing and opinion pieces; art, including photos of handmade BDSM toys; kinky book and movie reviews; and trip reports from folks who have attended national or regional leather conferences and workshops.*

*If you would like to contribute to the next NLA-C newsletter, please contact Rita at [rita@nlacolumbus.com](mailto:rita@nlacolumbus.com).*

## Movie Review

### **Kinky Boots** reviewed by Mark

Question: What happens when the recently inherited owner of a failing shoe factory meets a Drag Queen with a broken heel?

Answer: A new line of “kinky boots,” a way to save a factory, and an entertaining movie.

Inspired by a true story, this British film is typical in that it contains themes and ideas completely foreign to Hollywood. Joel Edgerton stars as Charlie Price, the son of the shoe factory owner. When Charlie’s father dies unexpectedly, Charlie inherits the factory, at which point he discovers it is about to move into receivership. As Charlie is laying people off to keep the company afloat, Lauren (Sara-Jane Potts), one of the workers, comments that maybe the product line should be changed. Charlie goes to a local pub to drown his sorrows. Quite drunk, he leaves the pub only to witness some thugs harassing a flashily dressed woman. The woman, in trying to get away, breaks the stiletto heel of her boot, slowing her escape. As Charlie steps to the rescue, the woman wheels her purse back to hit the thugs only to hit Charlie square in the head knocking him out cold.

As Charlie awakes in Lola’s (Chiwetel Ejiofor) dressing room, she is dressing for her next performance. Much to Charlie’s surprise, Lola is really a man named Simon and is a drag queen. Lola mentions how her mates would just love to find boots and footwear that are built for their special needs. Naturally, this sparks a brilliant idea in Charlie to try and save the factory and the workers’ jobs. He convinces Lola to design the boot line and the story progresses from there. Enough of the background, the rest is for you to watch and enjoy.

The movie itself follows many standard formula plots: boy loses girl, then gets the girl that really cares for him, the macho workforce finds tolerance for something out of the straight and narrow, everyone pulls together for the common goal, and then it all shatters, then comes together in a spectacular finale. Although generally predictable, the movie is still humorous, heartwarming, entertaining, and contains good music. For a pleasant evening filled with chuckles, great acting, and the antithesis of a Hollywood movie, rent this one when it’s available.

Mark welcomes your comments at [mark@ourspot.org](mailto:mark@ourspot.org).

## Trip Report

### **TES Fest 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** **June 30- July 3, New York/New Jersey** by Rita Seagrave

**Friday, June 30** We register at the convention center, but the workshops don’t start until later in the afternoon. I go swimming with the other attendees from Ohio. This makes me happy. Throughout the weekend, shuttling between the host hotel and the convention center with one thousand New Yorkers, I find comfort when I see my Ohio friends, whether in the pool, hotel lobby, or lingerie department at Target.

I attend a series of workshops conducted by a Master and his slaves. I meet the slaves first, and I find myself wondering, “Who could possibly be the Master of these articulate, confident, intelligent slaves?” So, I seek out their Master, a small man with a serious presence, except when he makes jokes about himself. The workshops demystify the concept of service, and help me better understand the purpose of each role in a successful household. The Master recommends *The Marine Officer’s Guide* as a primer for leadership. The slaves recommend *Home Comfort: The Art and Science of Keeping Home* as guide to practice the art of managing a household.

I meet someone in the dungeon, and we negotiate a scene, and then we play. He is a stranger. This is not recommended, but it’s what I do. He is one of those New York boys who look so nice in their leather pants. He rubs my shoulder lightly, and then bites. Electricity shoots from my toes to his teeth. I’ve never felt anything like it before. “I’ll have to ask Michelle Belanger about this,” I think. Later, he tells me to kneel. I kneel, but I look up at him with a look that tries to convey my thoughts, which are somewhere along the lines of, “This is silly. I’m not your submissive. I’m nobody’s submissive. I just like to get beaten up every now and then.” He interrupts my thoughts by kneeling next to me. A good move. I’m impressed. A new friend.

**Saturday, July 1** I attend workshops on violet wands and fireplay. In the vending area, I try on a leather dress, which is nice but not \$400 nice. My food consumption is controlled by the fact that there is no reliable food service in the hotel or convention center, and there are no restaurants within walking distance. So, I am dependent on my Ohio friends to

Continued on next page...

drive me to restaurants. Every night I order a bacon cheeseburger and chocolate cake. This is not recommended, but it's what I do.

**Sunday, July 2** I wake up late in the afternoon on Sunday because of my dungeon scene late Saturday night plus booty call early Sunday morning (*conspicuously missing from this trip report* -Ed). I show up just in time to attend the hypnosis workshop. The presenter reprograms his lovely demo bottom, a sweet brown-haired submissive, so that she will develop a fetish for boots. After the hypnosis workshop, I run upstairs to get dressed for the banquet. It's getting late, but I want to try on all the clothes in my suitcase. I'm putting together an outfit that looks good with my black thigh high boots. I had planned to wear a different outfit, but for some reason I really want to wear those boots.

We're all sitting around the banquet table and I'm telling everyone about the hypnosis workshop, describing how the entire audience went into a trance during the induction. Someone across the table asks, "Did it work? Did everyone develop a boot fetish?" The look on my face! I realize what has happened! I push aside the tablecloth so that everyone can see the boots I had insisted on wearing.

In the dungeon, I find my new friend from Friday. I'm feeling topky. I'm the seductress, rubbing against his leather pants. "You fuckin' tease," he says. I grab a handful of his hair, pull his head back. "What did you call me?" I didn't bring anything with me to the dungeon, so I use what I've got: my hands to warm him up, the long leg of my boots for flogging his back, and his own belt folded over to lightly slap the soles of his feet.

**Monday, July 3** I watch the pony show. I attend workshops on caning and CBT. I accept a ride from a stranger. He tells me to call him Sir and he laughs and sighs when I comply. Halfway between the convention center and the host hotel, he pulls over to the side of the road. "Get in the back," he says. While he spansks me in the backseat of his car, my Ohio friends drive by. They check on me. "Everything is fine," I assure them. "I will come find you when we finish this scene." I return to the backseat of the car and lie across his lap. I hold onto his leather pants. He allows me to hold him for a few moments, and then he grabs my wrist and twists it behind my back. This is not recommended, but it's what I do.

Rita welcomes your comments at [Rita@nlacolumbus.com](mailto:Rita@nlacolumbus.com).

**Financial Report for July 2006**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	
NLA-C Dues	130.00
General Income	339.06
NLA-I Dues Received	140.00
Bar Night	88.00
<b><u>Total Revenue</u></b>	<b>697.06</b>
<b><u>Gross Profit</u></b>	
	<b>697.06</b>
<b><u>Operational Expenses</u></b>	
Miscellaneous	100.00
NLA-I Expense	140.00
NLA-I DV Pins	21.00
Pride T Shirts	398.68
Pride Expenses (Truck)	104.43
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b>862.11</b>
<b><u>Jul Net Profit</u></b>	
	(165.05)
<b><u>Assets</u></b>	
Cash on Hand 07/31/06	2,819.22
Legal Fund Restricted	200.00
Bldg Fund Restricted	100.00
Cash Available 07/31/06	2,519.22
<b><u>Inventory</u></b>	
Club Pins (60)	87.60
Patches (16)	72.48
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>160.08</b>
<b><u>Year to Date Summary</u></b>	
<b>Income</b>	<b>2,669.84</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>3,155.95</b>
<b>Net Income (YTD)</b>	<b>(486.11)</b>

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