



NLA-Columbus Newsletter

October 2006

“Paddling Techniques” at October Meeting

The October meeting will feature a demo on paddling techniques from sensuous to severe by guest presenters SaltyDogNH and Lightheart from New Hampshire.

Salty will show how to use paddles of various weights and sizes to create sensations from erotic to excruciating. After briefly describing the different styles, thicknesses, woods, and finishes of his tools, Salty will bring up Lightheart, Salty's sub and favorite bottom, for the paddling demo. Lightheart's least/most favorite sport of *Butt Tennis* will be demonstrated as well as the ability to use pairs of "wand style" paddles for rhythmic effect. Other volunteers are welcome to illustrate variations appropriate to different sized and shaped bottoms! A Q&A session will follow, and there may a chance to purchase paddles for sale, too.



Oak, Maple, and Walnut paddles by SaltyDogNH and Lightheart

Salty and Lightheart are collared and live together in Central NH, where they enjoy ocean sailing, snow sports, with remodeling, wood and metal working as hobbies. They are active in the New England BDSM community, mentor/ host groups and events, and travel avidly, playing so far in most of the Eastern States, Texas, Iceland, UK, and France, and they are hoping to leave their impact on Ohio as well.

They are playful and intense in the dungeon, with a definite spiritual linkage and use intention to guide the movement of energy in a shamanic tradition with sensation as a stimulus. They often have been honored to have assisted others in their healing and growth in

the scene, and view S&M as a sacred path akin to a vision quest or ordeal.

Salty identifies (alphabetically) as a dominant, engineer, father, lover, professor, sadist and sailor, and enjoys heavy impact play and using toys he has made or perverted from their traditional usages. He has recently been spreading his sadistic touch in the realm of teaching College algebra. Lightheart identifies (alphabetically) as a bottom/masochist, grandmother, mother, nurse, and selectively submissive.

The October meeting will also include announcements and updates about the status of our munch venue, the revival of our bar night at Exile, plans for our New Years Eve party and 15th Anniversary Event, as well as a call for nominations for open board positions (co-chair and recording secretary). The meeting and demo will be held Sunday October 8th at 2pm at Stonewall Columbus, 1160 N. High Street. As always, NLA-Columbus meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about the October meeting, contact Shane at Shane@nlacolumbus.com.

“Sensual Knifeplay” at NLA Halloween Party

Want to bring the edgy thrill of knives into your scenes but don't want to go all the way to cutting? Knives are not just for blood play, but can be used as a sensual tool as well. Join author Michelle Belanger at the NLA-C Halloween Party on October 14th at 7:30pm sharp as she introduces the art of sensual knifeplay, including tips on choosing a blade, the aesthetics of sensual knife play, and techniques for a wide range of sensations -- without drawing blood. For more information about Michelle Belanger, visit www.michellebelanger.com. Party tickets can be purchased until Thursday, October 12th from Owen at nla.Owen@sbcglobal.net.



Opinion Essay

The Unfortunate Nature of Labels

by Barak

The moment we label ourselves or others, negatively or positively, we create a separation between ourselves and the other. In the scene, we purport ourselves to be open-minded and accepting, but sometimes, I have my doubts. One of the first slogans I heard when I entered the public leather community was, "It's not my kink, but your kink is ok." I have found this is not always universally practiced. We hear this slogan, and yet, is it always used? Sometimes it is and other times the concept is sorely lacking.

There have been times within the scene that I have experienced leather folk looking at or recounting scenes and saying, "That's weird" or "I can't see why they would do that." It is quite hypocritical of us to go in to a play party, and point and label another person, couple or group.

Let me give an example. I was sitting at work, talking with a co-worker about general things. She brought up the impending work related Halloween party, and said she was going to attend. I asked her about her costume. She then informed me that she was going to this party in black PVC with her boyfriend holding the chain to her collar! My curiosity was of course piqued. I continued the inquiry, and she confessed that she was "a little kinky." That brought about more questions from me, as I wanted to see if she was hinting because she knew me. Turns out what she meant by a little kinky was that she and her partner brought out the handcuffs once or twice a month, got a little rough and talked dirty to one another. So, she didn't know me after all. In the moment, I thought, "If she only knew."

I think this brought up an interesting point for me. I do believe we have a little in common. That individually BDSM or rough sex, or leather scene or any other label, means different things to each person. When hearing about or watching a heavy scene, some may say, "Nope, totally not my kink." That is great! And others may say, "I have a pair of cuffs, and a dime store whip... and it is a turn on to bring 'em out once a month." While that may be an interest, that may be all the interest there is. It is a question of perception.

A label may mean something to one person, and something completely different to another. I was talking to someone who said he was a "lifestyle player." My interest was immediately stirred up. We began comparing ideas and I quickly found our

understanding of the label was quite different. He meant that his lifestyle was playing the field for lovers, and my thoughts put him into the leather scene.

We frequently fear being labeled negatively by the ones we love, and sometimes by people we don't care about. For instance, many people don't understand the leather lifestyle. The labels start: "You are a pervert!

She was going to this party with her boyfriend holding a chain to her collar! I continued the inquiry, and she confessed that she was "a little kinky."

You are a freak! There must be something wrong with you!" Yet, I am the same formerly acceptable person they were talking to a moment before.

Let's look at a positive aspect of labeling. For the longest time I thought the label "slut" was a negative term. That is until I read *The Ethical Slut*, and I took the label back. I made it mine. I made "Slut" hot and juicy. This is the same with "twisted," "warped" and "perverted." Now all of these labels and more are wonderful additions to my vocabulary.

With labels we can also "go for the more." We can create a label for ourselves that we can grow into. Some people start calling themselves Doms or submissives only when it is an inclination or a proclivity. As they grow within themselves and the scene, they become that which they have labeled themselves. We can speak about being "Master" but have we reached a level of mastery? Maybe not yet, but we are making space to become the label.

So it's all about labels, whether we label someone or something in our head, to others, or on a billboard. In truth, it is not the actual thing. It is not the actual people. It is not the reality of the situation. The fear is all about a word. A label is something that people ascribe a negative or positive meaning to, not necessarily because they believe that meaning, but because that is what they have been taught. So I hope that for a moment, we can let that go, and just be people together. Either way I applaud those seeking their bliss, regardless of how it manifests. Does it turn you on? Then who cares what it's labeled, go for it!

Barak welcomes your comments at Baraknsheba@aol.com.

Calendar of NLA-Columbus Events

October	8	General Meeting at Stonewall Center Topic: <i>Paddling Techniques</i> Presenters: <i>Salty and Lightheart</i>	2:00 pm
October	11	Munch Location: TBA	6:30 pm
October	14	Halloween Party for members + guests Special Guest: <i>Michelle Belanger</i>	7:00 pm
October	18	Munch Location: TBA	6:30 pm
October	21	Bar Night at Exile	11:00 pm
October	25	Munch Location: TBA	6:30 pm
November	12	General Meeting Stonewall Center	2:00 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), but a new munch location will be announced soon.

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. 4th 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.

Party Tickets are available at munches and meetings for members (\$20) and their guests (\$25). The party location is disclosed only to ticket holders. Special thanks to Diane and Sam for furniture renovations.

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

The deadline for the next NLA-Columbus newsletter is October 27th. Please send essays, trip reports, book reviews, photographs, creative work, calendar listings, and announcements to Rita@nlacolumbus.com.

Kink-Friendly Halloween Parties

NLA-COLUMBUS October 14 th	CORDS & SORE October 28 th
STERLING SHADOW November 4 th	FIGHTCLUB TNG October 28th

Calendar of other local group events

FightclubTNG will host a munch on October 7th. For more information, visit www.fightclubtng.org.

The Sterling Shadow Club will host a Renaissance Party on Oct. 7nd, and a monthly educational meeting on the third Tuesday of each month in Dayton. For more information, visit 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/

SORE (Southern Ohio Resource and Education) hosts a workshop on the third Saturday of each month. For more information, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SORE/>

CORDS and SORE will host the 4th Annual Hayride/Bonfire on Saturday, October 7th. CORDS will host a Christmas Bash on December 9th. CORDS also hosts a fellowship dinner each month. For more info, visit groups.yahoo.com/group/CORDS-Public/

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

CARE (Cincinnati Area Rope Enthusiasts) will host a workshop about on November 3rd. For more information, visit ds-arts.com/shevah/CARE

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

AIS (Adventures in Sexuality) will host a party on November 4th at Cupids. For more info, visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adventures_in_sexuality

Trident will host a bar night on October 13th at Woof's. For more information, visit trident-columbus.org.

FOR SALE: New, unworn, 17 ½ inch jeweled collar made by Serpentine Leather. Asking price: \$25.00. Contact terri at xravenstearsx@yahoo.com

Trip Report

Sodom-by-the-Bay: Folsom Street Fair San Francisco – September 24, 2006 by Lady Di

Some call it the grand-daddy of all leather events. For others, it's simply a big kinky party in that kinkiest of cities, San Francisco. But no matter what you name you give it, the Folsom Street Fair is one of the world's most famous and funky leather gatherings. I had the distinct pleasure of attending my very first Folsom this year.

Covering a six block area along Folsom Street in the SoMa district, the fair has long been considered the high-point of the West Coast leather scene. As with any large gathering in San Francisco, the most notable feature is almost always the diversity of its attendees. In the case of Folsom, a vibrant mix of people of all races, colors, national origins and genders filled the fair to capacity. In tribute to its origins (this was the festival's 23rd year), the Fair draws an usually high percentage of gay leathermen. Tall, elegant leather daddies in full regalia led scantily-clad male submissives on leashes or simply walked hand in hand down the packed streets. Shortly after arriving at the festival, I passed a small group of five or six men meeting such description, all openly standing in the street trading long, luxurious kisses as greeting. Can anyone say **HOT**?

Simply entering the festival is an exercise in sensory overload. This year, a huge construction crane held a massive steel cage three stories over street level. Inside, a variety of kinky folk danced to the throbbing club music emanating from a set of the largest speakers I have ever seen. By the time we left the festival several hours later, this area had turned into a solidly-packed disco: people gyrating to the music while drinking beer, reconnecting with friends and showing off their fantastic, if barely-there, outfits.

Further into the festival grounds, my friends and I turned left and began to wind our way through the maze of booths set up down the center of Folsom Street. Unlike most other leather events I have attended, I thought the main distinction in this area was the emphasis on gay male porn: literally every major studio in this genre (Titan, Colt, Factory Productions, Hot House, and Falcon/Mustang) had a giant booth displaying an attractive array of both their videos and their white-hot stars. What a phenomenal change it was for me to view such open appreciation of porn celebrated at a large public gathering.

In addition to the wide assortment of erotic video distributors on hand, there were several other types of booths, including health organizations such as San Francisco Sex Information, and local community organizations such as the Society of Janus and my favorite, the Golden State Gay Rodeo, an entire group of queer, steer-riding boys and girls! Yeehaw! Also prominent were the major makers of quality BDSM and sex gear.

Wandering through this area of the festival, surrounded by sweaty leathermen in bondage gear and metal cock rings (and not much else), women in period-accurate Victorian clothing (parasols included), a man walking almost-nude down the street wearing an outfit of rubber tubing and balloons, and suburban couples in T-shirts, jeans and flip-flops, I was reminded once again of the brilliant diversity of the leather community.

Those of you who know me can attest to the fact that I'm never one to turn down either an attractive kinky girl or an opportunity to help a charity.

No trip report to a kink event would be complete without a visitor's highlight, and this year's Folsom Fair did contain one special surprise for yours truly. My SF friends are close with the organizers of the Center for Sex and Culture, so we made our way over to the Center's booth. We had difficulty getting anywhere near the booth, as we quickly noticed an attractive young woman sitting on some sort of metal machine as onlookers gave donations to one of the Center's volunteers. This contraption was a "fucking machine," an intriguing metal structure with a dildo mounted on a hydraulic pump, underneath a chair where someone (male or female) would sit. Another person sits in the bicycle-like chair attached to the pump/dildo about two feet away, and as this person peddles, the lucky victim on the chair gets, you guessed it, fucked. I had heard many tales of this chair from my friends in SF, but seeing the real thing in motion, with someone sitting atop it and groaning in pleasure, was a true sight to behold.

For the truly exhibitionistic, this chair is a veritable cornucopia of sinful delights. Stationed near the very

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front of the booth, the idea was that as long as the money continued to flow from the crowd, the person on the chair would remain there, hopefully to orgasm. What a fantastic and sexy way to raise money for a sex organization!

After the blonde goddess who was in the chair “finished” her round, the curtains were closed for regrouping time. The organizer of the event was clearly looking for her next exhibitor/fundraiser, and my SF friends were egging me on to take the next round in the chair. Though I now consider myself much more of an exhibitionist than I was even a few short years ago, I also knew I was not yet ready for this kind of public viewing. Luckily, there was another volunteer, a smoldering-hot young woman dressed in a hot pink and black kitty outfit (complete with pink satin ears and artful whisker makeup!) who was willing to sit in the chair “for the good of the organization,” as long as she was able to spank someone while she did it. An unusual request to be sure, but one which everyone at the booth felt could be accommodated. This, as you may have already guessed, is where I entered the picture.

Now as those of you who may know me can attest to, I’m never one to turn down either an attractive kinky girl or an opportunity to help a charity (especially one that is all about celebrating the joyous link between sex and culture: www.centerforsexandculture.org), I agreed to help this young woman with her predicament. Several minutes later (and minus my jeans and shoes) I was bent over a spanking horse with a hungry and horny crowd staring me down. Over the next while, I was well and thoroughly spanked, while the adorable kitty on the chair was well and thoroughly...well, you get the picture. The scene ended to everyone’s mutual pleasure (ours and the onlooking crowd) and a hundred dollars was raised for the Center’s outstanding work.

After my experience at the Center’s booth, I was tired, thirsty, and ready to go home. Winding our way back through the even more tightly-packed fair, my friends and I arrived back at the entrance to the festival, where a woman in a blonde bob wig, tiny red leather miniskirt, fishnet stockings, and the most phenomenal top I have ever seen fashioned out of black plastic trash bag, wished us well and handed us information about next year’s festival. I’m only able to get to San Francisco every couple of years, but I’ll certainly never forget my inaugural visit to Folsom.

Lady Di welcomes your comments at godysdiane@yahoo.com.

Financial Report for September 2006

Income	
NLA-C Dues	170.00
Bar Night	121.00
NLA-I Dues Received	100.00
Party Ticket Sales	605.00
Total Revenue	996.00
Cost of Sales	
Pins	5.84
Patches	
Total Cost of Sales	5.84
Gross Profit	990.16
Operational Expenses	
Miscellaneous	40.00
NLA-I Expense	100.00
Total Expenses	140.00
Sep Net Profit	850.16
Assets	
Cash on Hand 09/30/06	3,831.55
Legal Fund Restricted	200.00
Bldg Fund Restricted	100.00
Cash Available 09/30/06	3,531.55
Inventory	
Club Pins (56)	81.67
Patches (16)	72.48
Total	154.15
Year to Date Summary	
Income	4,013.84
Expenses	3,449.45
Net Income (YTD)	564.39

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Shane	Co-Chair
Dawn	Co-Chair
Owen	Treasurer
Rita	Corresponding Secretary
Maggie	Recording Secretary
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