



NLA-Columbus Newsletter

September 2006

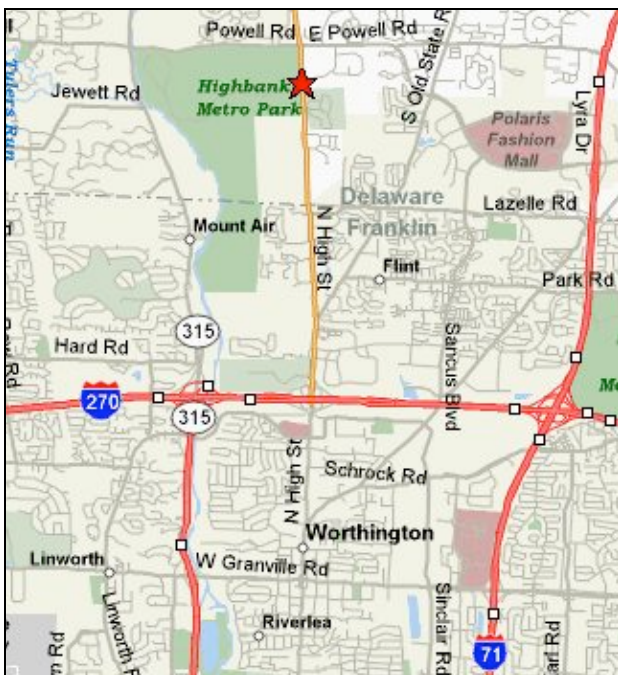
September Meeting = Picnic at Highbanks

NLA-Columbus members, guests, friends, and participating groups are invited to attend the September Picnic and Meeting from noon to 4pm on Sunday, September 10th at Highbanks Metro Park at the Big Meadows Picnic area. Look for the NLA-Columbus & leather pride flag!

NLA-Columbus will provide meat (burgers and hotdogs) for grilling. Please bring a side dish to share and something to drink. Food will be coming off the grill around 12 pm, so please arrive as close to noon as possible! There is no alcohol allowed at the picnic site. This is a kid-friendly picnic and space, so the grandmother rule is in affect. Questions? Email Shane at shane@nlacolumbus.com

Highbanks Metro Park is located at 9466 Columbus Pike (US Rt 23 North), Lewis Center, OH 43035
Directions (see map below): From I-270, take U.S. 23 north about 3 miles. Entrance is on the left, just before Powell Road.

For more information about the park, visit <http://www.metroparks.net/?Page=ParksHighbanks>



NLA-C Halloween Party + a very special guest

Mark your calendar for October 14th. The infamous NLA-Columbus Halloween Party is just around the corner, with special guest Michelle Belanger, author of *The Psychic Vampire Codex*. All current NLA-Columbus members and participating groups are invited to attend. Guests are welcome and must be accompanied by a current NLA-Columbus member.

Tickets are on sale now at munches, meetings, and the September picnic. If you buy your tickets before September 16th, you'll get a discounted price!

Halloween Party Ticket Prices

Tickets secured PRIOR to September 16th:

NLA-Columbus Members: \$15

Guests: \$20

Tickets bought AFTER September 16th:

NLA-Columbus Members: \$20

Guests: \$25

The party is a perfect opportunity to get more involved with NLA-Columbus. Please consider volunteering to help:

- Move equipment to and from the space
- Set up or clean up
- Decorate
- Work as a dungeon monitor
- Provide snacks and refreshments

The party location is disclosed only to ticket holders. The space features newly upholstered benches, bondage tables, suspension posts and beams, crosses, chairs, and more.

For more information about the party, or to volunteer, please contact: Owen at nla.Owen@sbcglobal.net or Shane at shane@nlacolumbus.com.

Opinion Essay

Passing the Torch by Barak

Driving in my car yesterday, I was listening to some music. It was an older CD, and the music was dark, powerful and the lyrics were somewhat poignant. There was a piece of the song that really caught my focus:

*The righteous rise
With burning eyes
Of hatred and ill will...
They say there is strangeness to danger us
In our theaters and bookstore shelves,
That those who know what's best for us
Must rise up and save us from ourselves.
Quick to judge
Quick to anger
Slow to understand
Ignorance and prejudice
And fear walk hand in hand.*
(from *Witch Hunt* by Rush, 1981)

So this got me thinking. I journeyed back in my mind to the protesters of the past Pride Parades, and how fervently they yelled. I recalled another time, of being an escort at a clinic. How people stood in front of me, on the other side of the plastic fence, and screamed obscenities at me. How I stood in the chambers of senate and house sub-committees as a lobbyist and activist, listening to people create dramatic reasons why the legislators needed desperately to enact laws designed to protect me from myself.

I listened full well knowing these people had never been in my shoes, had never actually experienced what they were rallied against. They had never been in my place, horribly torn over a decision that was deeply mine. It was just the concept, the idea of it, that offended their moral sensibilities. The arguments they brought up were stories, unproven or embellished history, spewed with tears, anger and finger-pointing at me, as if I had been there and caused their tragedy. I was offended. It felt as though they were coming into my house as a visitor, and tearing apart my furnishings because they didn't appreciate the design.

As I continued to reflect, I am reminded of the close friends I have made. This past also has a huge shiny lining. When a person or group of people places pressure on another group, it strengthens their resolve. Imagine how a diamond is formed. How those at the parade joined together hand-in-hand and sang louder,
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how the group of escorts, became much closer, stronger in will and spirit. And as activists we had stories that bound us together for life. We shared these with our supporters who in turn became solidified with pride. It is a ripple, from the one to the many, and back. It is the strength and example of a small group that turns the tide.

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." I looked at that reminder several weeks ago, when I was at OLF. I had picked up Dossie and Bridgett at the airport and we began a fascinating dialogue. During a moment of

*They had never been in my
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decision that was deeply mine.*

silence, Dossie pointed out that her goal was to assist in the creation of making sexuality not only mainstream, but totally acceptable and worthwhile sharing information about. She expressed concern that some of the youth of today were being influenced by the oppressive nature of the current governmental and societal regime. She also stressed that our sexual freedom and desire for individual expression were way too important to be shoved back in the closet.

Those who came before us had fought long and hard to share and grow – risking reputation, incarceration and significant harassment. It is imperative that we as a community continue to strive for the freedom of expression within a consensual relationship between adults. We cannot allow our desires and lifestyle to be forced back in the closet. One of the ways we can grow and expand our kink is to assist in the fostering of the newer generation of people who are entering the lifestyle.

As members in this community, it is absolutely essential that we maintain our humanity, are approachable, and at the very least civil with those who would seek our council. In order to continue, we must offer our knowledge to whoever asks guidance and direction. As we wear the outer cloak of "experience" so also resides the inner liner of responsibility. We must not choose one without honoring the other, as to do so will potentially erode the faith and could damage

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Passing the Torch...continued from page 2

the will of the seekers. If we desire the survival of our lifestyle it is our responsibility to assist in nurturing those who are just entering, and to continue to hold counsel with those who have gone before.

It is my hope that we are ever vigilant to not permit our egos to overcome our true selves. This is not to say we give more than we are able; it is to say we are direct and kind in our words deeds and actions. It is imperative that we assure our humility and honor those seeking our council. We honor others by responding kindly, whether it be someone who approaches, who communicates, or someone who offers simple gestures in which we return acknowledgement. It is a shared smile, a kind word or conversation. Fighting and defending our freedoms will save us, strengthen and bond us together, and make way for the next generation of kinksters.

Barak welcomes your comments at Baraknsheba@aol.com.

Found Online

Creative BDSM Toy Sources found by Stone

(The following list was found in the BDSM archives at <http://www.sexuality.org/l/bdsm/>, an eclectic resource for kinky ideas.)

Music Stores: Metal banjo picks (excellent and inexpensive "claws"), tambourine brushes, drumsticks, sound effect toys.

Beauty Supplies: Rubber bands, clips and clamps, hairbrushes

Theatrical/Magic: Blacklights and strobe lights, mindfuck props, costuming, fake blood, stage knives, rope tricks, itching powder

Kitchen/Home: Bathroom accessories (loofah sponges, mitts), spatulas, cutting board paddles, cheese graters, pickle pinchers, wooden spoons, rice paddles, plastic window blind closing rods (good canes)

Pet Stores: Collars, leashes, bells, dog food bowls, cages, remote electrical shock collars. Veterinary supply sells horse and dog bit gags, forceps, sterile needles, some restraints

Fishing Stores: (Warning: fishhooks are not safe for piercing play!) Fiberglass rods, weights, pliers and clamps, fish scaler (abrasion toy), bells with clips

Farm Supply: Castrating bands (Elastrator), cattle prods, flexible plastic fencing material, mild electrical "pest" fences

Tack Shops: Riding crops, harnesses and bridles, horse hobbles

Arts/Crafts: Tap plastics cuts custom paddle/cane shapes and stocks fiberglass rods. Craft stores sell leather and specialty rope. Tandy Leather sells horsehair, feathers, leather laces

Marine Supply: Rope, winches, quick-release snaps, pulleys

Climbing Supply: Heavy duty ropes, carabiners, suspension harnesses

Shoe Repair: Scrap leather, heavy rubber soles, laces, polish

Auto Parts: "Parts retriever" gripping toy, funnels, windshield wiper blades, vinyl cleaner

Fabric Stores: Clover clamps, spiked measuring and cutting wheels

Pharmacies: Menthol rubs, Ace bandages, douches and enemas, aspirin (increases bruising), snakebite kits, Betadine, First Aid and safety gear, cotton swabs, disinfectants Baby Wipes (contains nonoxynol)

Five and Dime: Cheap clothespins, tupperware drawers to organize your toys

Toy Stores: Toy paddles, jumping rope, age play accessories

Thrift Shops: Cheap leather and fur coats to recycle, leather belts, "tear-away" or disposable clothing to rip off your body

Groceries: Food play items like cucumbers and other insertion toys, whipped cream, tabasco and hot sauces (not insertion toys)

Sporting Goods: Muscle rub, paddles, fiberglass fishing rods, chin-up bars can be installed for bondage, camping "potty chairs" for watersports play

Hardware/Lumber: Rope, tarps, paint mixers (great little paddles), bungee cord, snap hooks and connectors, clamps, sandpaper, dowel rods for canes or spreader bars, eye bolts, chains, alligator clips, plastic rods, small inner tubes (slice lengthwise for flogger)

Medical/Lab Supply: Catheters, enema gear, forceps, latex, needles, scalpels, disinfectants, ambulance shears (emergency bondage cutter), urethral sounds, speculums, restraints, backboards, c-spine collars and rigid braces

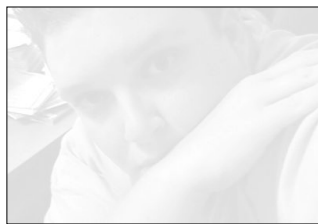
Law Enforcement: Billy clubs, leg irons, handcuffs, thumbcuffs, come-alongs, spare handcuff keys, saps, uniforms and boots

Stone welcomes your comments at thewhippinstone@yahoo.com.

Featured Columnist

What I Didn't Learn In Kindergarten by Shane

I like to go for shock value sometimes. I like to tell people that in a former life, I used to be a valley girl and that I hung out on the streets of West Hollywood with the punks. That in a former life, as a kid, my parents forced me to take ballet classes, which was even made worse since my grandmother was the dance instructor. I also tell people that in a more recent former life, I was a lesbian. Not only was I a lesbian, but I was a Butch Lesbian, a Butch Dyke, which is an entirely separate identity itself. (Notice the capital B in butch and capital L in lesbian and the D in dyke).



I was pretty set in my views of personal identity and where I saw myself within my communities. I'm not saying that everything for me was black or white, Top or

bottom, Master or slave, gay, straight, or for that matter, bisexual or queer. I'm just saying that when I was read as a Butch Dyke and I walked down the street, spent time out with friends, or went to events, I knew exactly how I saw myself associating – I knew how to act. I knew what kind of people or situations would increase my awareness of my surroundings and I knew exactly how I was going to respond to them. I knew exactly where and who my community was. And most importantly, I could read my own sense of self.

When somebody makes the decision to transition, there's a pretty well defined set of standards and procedures that are used by professionals for the medical and mental health treatment of transsexuals known as the HBSOC, or the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care. So, I was acutely aware of the path and the risks that I was about to take. Literally, all the cards I'd have ever played with, in any sense, at any time of my life, and from any part of the world, had to be laid out on a table. In some surreal sense, I felt like I was literally living a line from a Robert Frost poem: "Two Roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

When I first began my transition, it was as if a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I was on my own Frost path. How cool was that? Everything was connecting. The face in the mirror was starting to change into the face I'd always seen. The body was shifting, morphing.

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Sometimes I think about putting together my own little flip book of photos. Before transition, a few months later, six months, a year, etc etc. Can you imagine that? Talk about a really cool personal project!

I was my own evolution science project.

In the transgender community, there's kind of an unspoken, unwritten code of silence. I've found that most people talk about the good things, the happy things, and the exciting milestones of their journeys.

People talk about never having to bind their chest again. No more sports bras, or quadruple

layering of shirts on 100 degree days to get the look of a flat chest. Facial hair. Side burns. Male pattern balding. Acne. They're all things we love to talk about. Something else we love to discuss – hormones and dosage.



But nobody talks about the really hard stuff. This is the stuff that makes up the 'code of silence.' What happens when the Butch Dykes you used to be friends with don't want to associate with you anymore? Or you're not welcome in the same spaces you came out in? What happens to your identity when you become invisible?

How do you learn to be a man? And really, what does that mean? How do you navigate the binaries of society? New emotions on hormones - What do anger and rage feel like? Can you describe it? Can you remember the first time you felt jealousy? Where's the workbook?

I wasn't socialized male. Every day for me is a new day, full of new experiences, new senses. I get to cross into spaces most people never get to cross into. And every day, I re-navigate my identity, in all aspects of my life. The binaries for me just become greyer and more abstract. Sometimes, it all makes my head spin in ways I never thought it could.

Sometimes, all I can do is put my head down and keep my feet moving. Try to climb back up into the driver's seat and keep navigating my new body and my experiences. And apologize to those I've bumped into along the way. But think about it, how would you navigate an ever-changing identity?

Shane welcomes your comments at shane@nlacolumbus.com.

Calendar of NLA-Columbus Events

September	6	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
September	10	September Picnic Highbanks Park	12 noon to 4 pm
September	16	Last Day to Buy Discounted Halloween Party Tickets	
September	13	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
September	20	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
September	27	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
October	8	General Meeting Stonewall Center	2:00 pm
October	14	Halloween Party for members + guests	8:30 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).

The September **Picnic** is free and open to all. The picnic starts at 12 noon in the Big Meadows picnic area at Highbanks Metro Park. From I-270, take U.S. 23 north about 3 miles. Entrance is on the left, just before Powell Road. **Note:** The Annual September Picnic is held instead of the September General Meeting.

Party Tickets are available at munches, picnics, and meetings for members and their invited guests. Tickets purchased before September 16th are \$15 for members and \$20 for guests. After September 16th, prices are \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. The party location is disclosed only to ticket holders.

General Meetings are free and open to the public, held at the Stonewall Center (1160 N. High St).

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@nlacolumbus.com.

Kink-Friendly Halloween Events

CORDS & SORE
4th ANNUAL HAYRIDE/BONFIRE
Saturday, October 7th 6-11pm, Circle S Farms
Everyone is welcome to attend! Please RSVP.

NLA-COLUMBUS
HALLOWEEN PARTY
Saturday, October 14th, 8:30 pm
Tickets available at munches and meetings.

CORDS & SORE
HALLOWEEN PARTY
Saturday, October 28th

STERLING SHADOW
HALLOWEEN PARTY
Saturday, November 4th

Calendar of other local group events

FightclubTNG will host a party on Sept 9th and a munch on Sept 16th. For more information, visit www.fightclubtng.org.

The Sterling Shadow Club will host a Back-To-School Party on Sept. 2nd, 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) will host a workshop on September 16th. For more information, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SORE/>

CORDS will host a fellowship dinner on Sept. 23rd. For more info, visit groups.yahoo.com/group/CORDS-Public/

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

CARE (Cincinnati Area Rope Enthusiasts) will host a workshop about Predicament Bondage on Sept. 1st. For more information, visit ds-arts.com/shevah/CARE

PEER will host a variety of events in September. For more information, visit bdsm-peergroup.com.

Trident will host a bar night on Sept. 8th at Woof's. For more information, visit trident-columbus.org.

Book Review

Painfully Obvious: An Irreverent & Unauthorized Manual for Leather/SM *by Robert Davolt (Deadalus, 2003)*

reviewed by Rita Seagrave

In the Midwest, it's sometimes necessary to use words like "kink" and "leather" and "BDSM" interchangeably to describe our community. For Robert Davolt, former editor and publisher of the gay leather journal *Drummer*, "leather" meant being in a community that was "an act of rebellion against society, against the concept of gay men as effeminate, against the police raids, against harassment, against sexual repression."¹

Davolt's *Painfully Obvious* is a good starting place to find out how the leather community evolved from exclusive men's motorcycle clubs to pansexual, educational organizations like the NLA. And, if you're a member of the latter, be prepared to be pleasantly offended because Davolt's irreverence comes across loud and clear when he expresses his opinions about pansexuality!

But Davolt's cheeky style also allows him to embrace the idiosyncrasies of the community, articulated beautifully in sentences like this: "The leather community tends to be a weird mix of over-familiarity and over-formality, by turns hugging and fucking total strangers yet at the same time employing a confusing rigmarole of protocol and hierarchy."

The book contains 41 essays that Davolt wrote for leatherpage.com, loosely grouped into categories about relationships, history, contests, lifestyle, and leadership. (About leadership, Davolt reminded me that the most important thing is to show up and get the damn job done.)

I bought *Painfully Obvious* to learn more about leather traditions, such as pins, runs, and titleholder contests. For example, while I knew that the tradition of pinning involved giving a club pin, such as our lovely NLA-C emblem, to a new friend, I found out there is an older tradition that is sometimes referred to as a "Texas pinning," which also includes a sexual favor when the pin is attached to the front of the jeans or pants. My question is, "Where do we get the extra pins, Owen?"

¹ From an interview with Jean Roberta

Rita welcomes your comments at ritaseagrave@mac.com.

Financial Report for August 2006

Income	
NLA-C Dues	100.00
General Income	39.83
NLA-I Dues Received	100.00
Party Ticket Sales	120.00
Total Revenue	359.83
Cost of Sales	
Pins	1.46
Patches	4.53
Total Cost of Sales	5.99
Gross Profit	353.83
Operational Expenses	
Miscellaneous	25.00
NLA-I Expense	100.00
Telephone Exp	28.50
Total Expenses	153.50
Aug Net Profit	200.34
Assets	
Cash on Hand 08/31/06	3,325.55
Legal Fund Restricted	200.00
Bldg Fund Restricted	100.00
Cash Available 08/31/06	3,025.55
Inventory	
Club Pins (60)	86.14
Patches (16)	67.95
Total	154.09
Year to Date Summary	
Income	3,039.89
Expenses	3,309.45
Net Income (YTD)	(285.77)

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