

Power Lines

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2006

Notes from the Board

Please welcome back Power Lines, the official newsletter of the Orlando Munch

I think that the spirit of camaraderie that we've always tried to foster at the Munch has helped form many friendships and more intimate relationships over the years, and I'd like to work more on making everyone feel welcome, regardless of their kink or experience level. Remember that even the mildest spanker among us is seen as a "freak" by some in the vanilla world. Everyone who comes to the Munch should consider themselves ambassadors to those new people who nervously poke their heads in the door.

In the same vein of community involvement, I urge you to consider writing for Power Lines; articles, stories, opinions, what-have-you. We don't ask that you be Walt Whitman or Stephen King; hey, it's a free, online publication... the pressure's off. But we do need content unless you want to keep reading the same three authors.

I hope to see you all at the Bash!

/// Torville ///

Hi! I'm Patti, co-organizer of the Orlando Munch.

Many years ago, I was a bit afraid to attend the Orlando Munch alone, not sure what to expect. The organizer at that time, Gazelle, said, "Come in, sit with me and it will all be okay." I saw her at the last munch... We have come full circle.

In the next 6 months, the Orlando Munch should be getting our Board of Directors in place. In a year, we will be operating as a great team, trying different ways to make our lifestyle better.

We'll be growing by adding educational classes, play parties, a full staff for the Power Lines newsletter, and possibly by adding a "Newbie" munch with a welcome and introduction class.

Word of mouth will make the Orlando Munch and Orlando Bash the largest such gatherings in the state. The Singles Munch will be the "meeting" place for all local singles in our lifestyle.

With the efforts of our members and the organizers, the Orlando Munch will be highly recognized and envied.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Continuing Education	2
Erotic Poetry	3
Ask Another	4
Announcements	5

Welcome to Power Lines! After several years without running, the O-munch newsletter is back!

We'll be a monthly publication that runs online, hooked to the O-munch website. We're now set up to accept ads, and will be expanding as the staff size increases. Look forward to more changes!

Eria



Playing well with others

by: Philip the Foole

Everyone is apprehensive about attending their first play party. Here are a few unofficial thoughts and hints for how to "play well with others." We often use terms like "play" and "toys," but remember that we are "playing" with high explosives here. Let's try to minimize hurt feelings, vendettas, and trips to the emergency room. Anyone causing the S.W.A.T. team to be called in is responsible for supplying them with chips and dip.

The fact that someone identifies as a submissive does not mean that they are **your** submissive. "No" means "No," and must be respected by all present. If you feel that you are being harassed by someone who persists in bugging you after you have indicated that you are not interested in playing, (note that being asked to play **once** does not constitute harassment) talk to one of the designated party DM's (Dungeon Masters/Monitors, a group which may include females and submissives.)

We don't want to make Doms afraid to ask submissives to play for fear of being accused of harassment, nor to make submissives afraid that if they decline an invitation they will be forever missing out on the chance to play with that particular Dom. It is a complex dance we do here. It is inevitable that we will occasionally step on each other's toes while learning it.

A call of "Safeword!" by a submissive/slave/bottom/catcher at our events is an absolute, no-questions-asked "Stop!" signal. There is a BDSM practice called "consensual non-consent" or "no safeword" play, but, as Mz Randi points out in another post, this is a controversial and easily misinterpreted activity, fraught with peril for even the most experienced players.

The distinction between "BDSM" vs. "Abuse" is always a controversial one. Let's face it. The vast majority of our fellow citizens consider **everything** we do in BDSM to be abusive. In most jurisdictions, hitting someone with a whip constitutes assault with a deadly weapon, and the consent of the whippee is **not** a defense.

In my personal opinion, "no safeword" edge play is best practiced in private between partners who know one another **extremely** well.) Some feel that any type of "no safeword" activity is inherently abusive. Others (myself, for instance) have

occasionally made a pledge to a partner that includes "No limits. No safewords. Anything you want, as hard as you want, for as long as you want." Just as many bondage enthusiasts want the bondage to be real and inescapable, some submissives feel that having a "way out" detracts from the state of consciousness they seek when bottoming, and prefer to rely entirely on the judgment of their Dom.

In real life, unlike in the porno novels, things do go wrong.

Several of our members (waving) enjoy "rough takedown" play, which may appear to be violent and non-consensual to newcomers. If you are going to do this, please be sure in advance that everyone present understands that this is completely

consensual, and that the safeword rule is still in effect. One way to emphasize this if you sense some newcomers are uneasy is to casually ask another experienced player: "Is 'Stop that, you fucking sadistic bitch!' a safeword?"

Our goal is to provide a safe, sane and consensual environment in which to explore our BDSM interests with like-minded fellow enthusiasts. It is absolutely inevitable that in such an emotionally charged area as BDSM, with such widely varying sexual orientations ("Love Bondage Lite," Femdom, Gorean, het, gay, bi, and transgendered) as our group includes, there are going to be some misunderstandings and hurt feelings. In real life, unlike in the porno novels, things do go wrong. Legs cramp, wrists go numb, whip strokes wrap. Let's all make an effort to cut each other some slack.

Your Humble Jester,
Philip the Foole

Leave your personal soap operas at the door.
- Ancient Kung Foole Proverb

(This post originally was written for the Spokane Munch group's newsletter, and appeared on the usenet newsgroup soc.subculture.bondage. Article written by "Philip the Foole".)

(Reprinted from the Orlando Munch Power Lines Newsletter Jan. 2001.)

The Game

by: Tony

When I was young,
I played the Game.
When I was young,
was all the same.

I'd take her home.
We'd have some fun.
I'd write a poem,
and we'd be done.

“It's all 'bout Sex!”,
my friends would say,
“That's all that counts
Man, that's the play.”

But then I thought
one lonely day,
why not play
another way...

With ropes and roses
I'll show her love.
Provocative poses;
Wrists chained above,

or on the town,
dressed as I say.
No evening gown;
She's dressed for play.

In black silk stockings,
thigh high skirt.
She's got 'em talking;
She's quite the flirt.

A scene can be
such devilish delight.
As one can see,
it fills the night

with passion and fire,

romance and rage.
Enthrall the heart
On a mutual stage

of give and take.
Trust is the key
for both our sakes.
The truth is we

do share a need
from deep within.
And so I say
With a grin-

Let's play... :)

*With ropes and
roses, I'll show her
love.*



Big thank you's to
Tony, who isn't even in
Florida! Tony saw us
online and contributed
from California!

Power Lines is still
looking for more erotic
stories, poems, and
contributions from
others.

Ask Another

How can a newbie (either Dom or sub) know when to push limits, or how to even ‘set’ limits? Say, if the submissive wants to try knife-play, but knives make the Dominant nervous?

Torville

When someone says they have a “limit”, they can mean several things. Popular interpretations include “I will freak *completely* and leave you if you try that on me”, “I have no experience with that, and I don’t want to [be | use my sweetie as] a test dummy”, and “I can’t decide if it frightens or excites me more”. This last one is *my* favorite, well known as the “soft” limit.

So the first thing, I think, would be to narrow down what limit means to you and yours. If it’s the first variant, then you really have no choice but to go on without that particular element in your relationship. If one party has made it clear that the proposed activity is *verboten*, then the other party is just going to dig themselves a hole every time they bring it up.

If it’s the second choice, then, good news! There’s almost always *someone* in the community that *does* have experience with the forbidden fruit, and will usually be glad to share that experience. All you have to do is ask around.

If, on the other hand, it is the “I want to but it scares me”, I think it’s up to the partner without such reservations to tempt or reassure the hesitant one that *they* are very turned on by the proposed activity as well, and won’t they *please* try it... just once?

Eriayasha

Wow. This brings back some memories! ☺ Well, you can’t push limits without knowing them, so... I’d say sit yourself down, and figure out things that you never, ever want to do, no matter if its bathroom play or spanking. Then figure out things that you’d only do if someone **really** wanted you to do them. Heck, you can find checklists like this on Bondage.com, but they don’t go as in-depth as I’d recommend. Myself, I always have things that aren’t on my “top 20 things to try” list, but I wouldn’t pass them up. I’ve got a list of those, too. Then, TALK. Yap at each other until you’re sick of words. Communication is absolutely vital, for both parties’ sanity. If you both write down everything, swap lists and go over them with each other. Word of advice for you Domly types. If you want to be all mysterious and not show your wants and don’t-wants to the sub, so be it. But be very sure to go over the sub’s ENTIRE list with them. Find out about any reasons for not wanting to do something that you’re dying to try. In some cases, pushing the limits that aren’t negotiable can destroy whatever you have. Like a sub.

Subs, its also your job to let any Dom or Top know if you have hard limits, even if you don’t want to divulge the reasons. And remember, the Dom doesn’t have to do what they really would rather not. Talk to your Dom, find out if they’d be willing to set up a scene with another Top who can do what your Dom isn’t willing to!



(Please note, I tend to use Dom short for the Dom/ Domme/Top, and sub for submissive/ slave/ bottom. Not for bias, just brevity.)

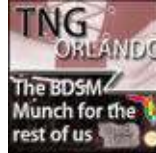
Upcoming Events

ORLANDO MUNCH-

meets on the 4th Saturday of the month. **Singles'** munch is noon to 2pm, Munch proper is 2pm to 5pm. Location is Cricket's restaurant, at 4564 S. Semoran Blvd in Orlando. (407)277-3322

ORLANDO TNG-

hosts a Fatal Fetish night at the Blue Room, Downtown Orlando. Every Thursday night 10pm-3am.



NEWCOMERS/BEGINNERS CLASSES-

Are going to be starting soon. Please realize that you will need to register in advance in order to attend.

THUMBTRACKS-

This brand-spanking-new forum for the Orlando Munch is now up and running, accessible from the main page!

THE ORLANDO BASH-

Three crazy days of learning during the day and play at night. Still accepting registrations at www.OrlandoBash.com!

FETISHCON-

It's the sixth annual trade show, returning to Tampa August 10-13th. Lots of models, kinky toy vendors, apparel, workshops, and demos. Learn more at www.fetishcon.com!

SPANKO DE MAYO-

By Crimson Moon and FL Moonshine, May 5th & 6th, in Tampa. Cost is \$85. Registration closes APRIL 30th!!!

<http://www.crimson-moon-ltd.com/vegas.html>

Know of other area happenings?
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The rules for submitting to Power Lines are posted on our website. If you have any questions, please e-mail us.

We are currently seeking:
Advice columnists
Educational authors
Mobile reporters

Power Lines is also accepting original stories, poetry, artwork and prose.

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