

Power Lines

The Official Newsletter of the Orlando Munch



October... A New Year?

Here it is again! The time of spooks, ghouls and witches galore. Actually, according to the Wiccan religion, Samhain (a.k.a. Halloween) is the beginning of the new year!

I guess its only proper that we celebrate that new year spirit with something new as well! The Orlando Munch Newbie Group will be kicking off the first class in the 101 series this month. So read the forum

Thumbtacks, or the e-mails that are a-flying around (like bats!), and RSVP to insolent_wench@yahoo.com soon!

Of course, we started up a raffle at the Munch now, which has done quite well. Be sure to check page 8 for the upcoming raffle item.

And if you missed the September Munch, you missed out on the waitress winning that raffle!

Despite our converting the wait-staff, our numbers have been growing without them. We have had fantastic turn-outs at the last several Munches! In that vein, if you happen to see a new face (and rest of the body, too) sitting alone, why not go up and say “boo”?

I have my costume all planned out for the Munch. Do you?

Speaking of costumes, if you do attend the Munch in costume, please be sure that it covers all the appropriate body parts. For those attending the class, you may want to bring a change of clothes with you.

And c’mon! How many people can come up with something more original than “Dominatrix” this year? ☺

Eria



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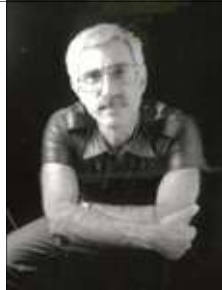
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Vulnerability

by: Jack Ringella

I think it's safe to say that none of us like to feel vulnerable. Sometimes we do so and have no hope of changing that feeling, at least in the short run.



Accidents, infections, sudden losses, for examples, may bring on that feeling, a feeling that is hard to deny.

At other times, we allow ourselves to be vulnerable, such as when we undress in front of another person or allow ourselves to be bound to a cross. In those contexts, vulnerability is an important part of what we allow in order to achieve a goal, which in these cases would be to have a good scene. The trick is to know when to make oneself vulnerable and when not.

There are, then, definite contexts in which vulnerability is not only acceptable but probably necessary and other contexts in which it is neither. There times when allowing oneself to become vulnerable might just be a foolish act.

As with limits, there are degrees of vulnerability. Being tied to a cross, for instance, in a public play space under the watchful supervision of a DM is a

great deal less risky than to allow oneself to be so constrained in the basement dungeon of a complete stranger. (Unless it's me doing the tying.) Just as with many other aspects of BDSM the degrees of safe, sane, and consensual vulnerability are directly related to familiarity with the one to whom we are becoming vulnerable and therefore the amount of trust we can place in that person. After nearly twelve years of being partnered with Patrick, I know that I can risk any and all degrees of being vulnerable with him.

On the other hand, I know that to freely express my deepest and darkest thoughts to my students when I am teaching opens me to a level of vulnerability that would most probably end my teaching career. Reason, most assuredly, has a place in evaluating the propriety of our actions. Making oneself vulnerable is obviously not always the smartest thing to do.

From that point of view one might think that it is never reasonable to expose oneself to danger (another way of saying "to make oneself vulnerable"). Yet become



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by: Jack Rinella

vulnerable we must if we want to experience ever increasingly intense and therefore more enjoyable moments. Once again we bring the conversation to the all-important topic of trust, since trust is the basis upon which we rely when we allow ourselves, either by the actions of another or by our own actions, to become vulnerable.



Brian and I are at the stage in our relationship-building where vulnerability begins to take on a level of importance for each of us.

On my part I have found that Brian, as I wrote several months ago, brings out very intensely sadistic and domineering feelings in me. The other night, as we chatted in the living room, he knelt between my legs and gently caressed my thighs. We were both dressed and simply waiting to be called to dinner. Just that situation caused me to begin a low growl, to feel the most primal sensations well up within me.

Now I will grant you that there wasn't a great deal of vulnerability in that moment but there was some. To reveal

one's "dark side," the hidden "uncivilized" side of the self, opens one up to criticism, to admonishment, and to feelings of shame. I think that you, my readers, understand that, as so many of you remark on how amazing my writing is for the simple, single fact that I reveal so many of my inner intimacies and deepest thoughts.

I smile when I think of that reaction, since I know that I carefully choose my vulnerable moments and what I write reflects my "Jack Rinella" persona. There is the "Joe" side of me that really doesn't say much about itself. Who after all wants to read about my mundane life, my financial angst, and my daily routine? Yes, my columns are self-censored, if only to protect the not-so-innocent side of me. Even vulnerability has its limits.

Those limits, of course, are prescribed by the depth and necessity of the relationship. We make ourselves vulnerable to degree that the relationship demands (and will reward) our vulnerability.

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by: Jack Rinella

All this, then, leads me to Brian's vulnerability. The same night that I found myself growling, Brian mysteriously disappeared after dinner. I missed him and went looking for him to no avail. A few minutes later he walked into the living room. He was visibly shaken, appeared dizzy, and looked out of sorts. He was experiencing a migraine headache and had gone into the dungeon (a dark, quiet room) to rest on the bed for a few minutes hoping to regain his composure.

Additionally he had wanted to hide the condition from me, fearing that if I saw it, I would find him less desirable. When the headache hits, he obviously feels extremely vulnerable. (He gave me permission to tell this story.)

For my part I quickly and quietly took him up to my bedroom, where in the dark I held him until he fell asleep. Later we discussed his feelings and my reaction.

He felt ashamed to have been so vulnerable. For my part I felt only care, concern, and sadness for his pain. Instead of forcing us apart, the headache brought us closer together. I learned more about Brian, about his

needs, fears, and concerns. I hope he learned more about me: that I am caring, careful, and concerned. So vulnerability, I think, strengthened our bond with one another. It tested the strength of that bond and showed that we were strong enough to weather the storm of a migraine.

Being vulnerable also gives partners (of all kinds) the opportunity to surrender to one another. Brian had to admit to me a new truth about himself.



Vulnerability

I had to give up my plans for a scene in order to comfort him and let him rest. At other times, of course, vulnerability will lead to surrender that will enhance a scene, not delay it.

Vulnerability does this because it allows open-ness and the opportunity to experience that which might otherwise be blocked by our own defenses. Allowing oneself to become vulnerable allows the other to penetrate our defenses, discovering a more authentic self, touching a more real person, bonding at a deeper level.

Thus it is that relationships grow. Successful vulnerability, if I can call it such, increases trust which allows for deeper commitment. It brings greater familiarity, better understanding, and the revelation of a more genuine self, which then leads to a more genuine relationship.

All from a headache. Who would have guessed?

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Newbie Group Class

The Orlando Munch's Newbie group is planning a class after the October Munch.

This class will be **Flogging 101**.

The class will be open to both dominants and submissives, so make plans to have your October 27th run a little late!

If you do not currently own a flogger, there may be some available for sale at the class- we're working on it.



Are there other classes you would like to see? E-mail [The Wench](mailto:TheWench) with suggestions!

Singles and Technology

Hello. My name is Eria, and I am technologically impaired.

I don't mean that I can't appreciate technology, or that I don't use it (obviously). I am just consistently amazed by the constant changes to our lives through technology. We have gone from being magazine-subscribing, small-local-kinky-group-going to the World Wide Web! (Heck, it even sounds big!)

As the world of BDSM has moved forward to today, the prevalence of online-only information has also gone up. You can Google just about anything and find someone who has done it or

wants to do it. And half of the fun in this lifestyle is finding a partner, right?

A lot of people say that BDSM has become a place for the truly weird (in addition to the kinky) to 'come out' both safely and anonymously. Yes, it has. On the other hand, I don't think that we are attracting many people who don't have a real interest in learning more. I'm sure that there were a bunch of subscription-holding lurkers of the old BDSM rags. The internet just makes it easier for them to interact with others.

So what? You're wondering. What does this have to do with me trying to find



Singles and Technology

someone else? Well, now that there is a huge amount of knowledge out there, and more people than ever showing interest in it, you have to weed out more crazy-stalker-types. How can you do that?

Well, I always advise talking with people a lot. Even if they say they've had a bad day, talk to them. People tend to be pretty consistent, so if they vary wildly, then they're probably playing a game. Yes, I know that some people are okay with just practicing BDSM online. I've met some, and they can be nice people. But if you want real life, and they want online... that's called a mixed-interest.

Another reason I recommend talking with someone a lot is simple. You get to know them! It may turn out that they practice something you abhor, or vice versa. It would suck to be tied down, gagged and then find that out, wouldn't it?



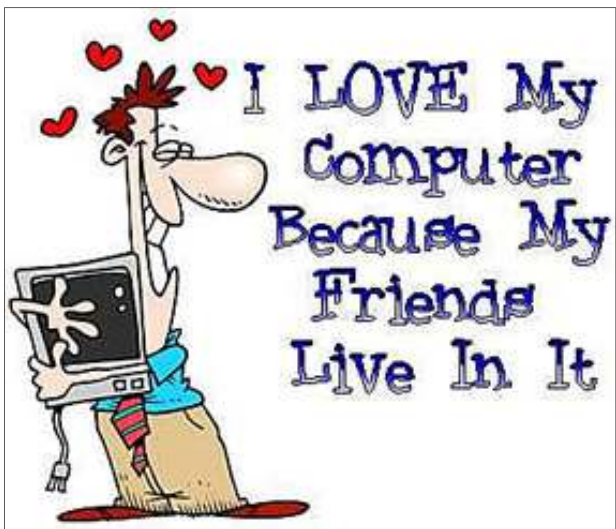
Once you've talked with someone and gotten to know them a little, I highly recommend getting references. Find people that they know in the lifestyle, even if they're in another state. Talk to these people that know them—preferably on the phone! It's easy for someone to set up multiple e-mail addresses. Its difficult for them to fake being 3 other people, especially when you can hear the voices.

Always ask for a recent picture. Yes, this is common sense (or common curiosity). Don't be happy with just one picture, either. Get two or more. After all, a photo of them 5 or 10 years ago may look really good, but I'll bet they've changed since then. The forty-something-year old man with a pic of a twenty-year old is either showing you his nephew or a really old pic.

Singles and Tech.

I also tend to recommend staying away from people who are monogamously married (for those really messy situations that happen) and people who are not part of a local group. If they are not part of a BDSM group, they probably don't have up-to-date references. If they don't have any references, then why would you meet them?

I guess I'm getting too set in my ways for me to consider the internet more than a tool. Its not a dating service. Its just a way to meet people you ordinarily wouldn't. Just like real-life, you'll meet annoying people, and really cool people. You'll meet idiots and brilliant minds. You just have to be able to pick out who's who!



October Raffle



Up for grabs at the October Munch!

On The Safe Edge is a fantastic collection of tips, do's and don'ts from very knowledgeable people and sources.

As one editorial review says, "Take my advice: check your prospective Top's or Bottom's bookshelf first. Make sure this book is on it."

Upcoming Events

October 11th- 14th

DomCon Atlanta
Atlanta, GA.

www.domconatlanta.com

October 26th- 28th

Florida Fetish Weekend
Tampa, FL.

www.FLweekend.com

November 16th- 18th

Spanksgiving
St. Louis, MO.

www.stl3.com/

2008

February TBA

Fetish Fair Fleamarket (tm) Atlanta
Atlanta, GA.

www.fetishfairfleamarket.com

March 20-23

Frolicon
Atlanta, GA.

www.frolicon.com

April 10-13

Beyond Leather
Fort Lauderdale, FL.

www.beyondleather.net

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