

One of Us

(a LGBAT Newsletter)



November 2011

Volume 9, Issue 6

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New Warrior Training Adventure

The New Warrior Training Adventure, sponsored by ManKind Project, a 501 (c)(3) organization, is a weekend experience during which we take a look at our lives as men, particularly how our lives work and don't work. The training adventure offers us a powerful and challenging opportunity to look at all aspects of our lives in a richly supportive environment. We learn how to be accountable for our choices and consequences, how to begin integrating the dark and soulful qualities of our nature and how to stand up and take responsibility for our lives. We learn to step forward as men without apologizing for who we are, to accept and believe that we are enough and what we do is enough. We begin to understand that our achievements are a function of our building a community of men working together to build relationships with men. The New Warrior is the initiated man who sets about living his life passionately and compassionately because he has learned to face his demons, lives his life with intention, pursues his personal life mission with integrity and is open to the support and service of other men.

The training adventure runs from **March 30 - April 1 on Mount Lemmon in Tucson** and is primarily for gay/bi men with a team of mostly gay/bi men facilitating. It provides a unique perspective on how we can function together to create acceptance and alliances that affect all of society and particularly our gay community.

A donation website has been created to help fund scholarships for this Training. Go to www.rainbowwarrioronline.com/rainbow.html. Every contribution, large or small, helps. To learn more about us, go to <http://mankindpride.com>.

For more information or to sign up for the Training Adventure, contact

Thomas Saylor-Brown, 520-591-2828, tsbtucson@hotmail.com

**AIDS IS NOT DEAD,
Play safe Always**

- Know your partner
- Use condoms and/or gloves
- Don't mix excessive amounts of drugs and/or alcohol with sex, keep a clear upper head
- STDs (and babies) are expensive risks of unsafe sex
- Get tested often—stay healthy

The Trevor Project
The Trevor Lifeline
866 4-U-TREVOR
866 488-7386

Feedback. / Comments / Submissions / Suggestions

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November 2011 Events

- Every Thursday at Red's in Sedona 6:30- Contact Greg at luckyredrocks@gmail.com
- Friday to Sunday, November 4th-6th– Pre-hibernation 2011 in Manchester, UK bearrun. For more information, go to [Manbears](#)
- Friday, November 4th– 1st Friday Art Walk in Flagstaff. For details; www.flagstaffartwalk.com
- Friday, November 4th, 5:30-8:30pm- First Friday ArtWalk - NAU Environmental Sciences Student Art Show @ Location 16 E. Route 66 (above Flag Brew) Call F3 at (928) 556-8663 for more information.



- Every Friday @ O-Grady's on Church 10pm til close – Bear Bar night in Toronto, Canada. For more information-see flyer.
- Saturday to Sunday, November 5th-6th– Palm Springs Gay Pride. For more information, go to <http://pspride.org/>
- Saturday, November 5th, 2 - 6 PM– Moonburn Men's Spanking Play Parties (1st Saturday of each month) Details: MoonburnLA@sbcglobal.net
- Sunday, November 6th– Bear Ventura Superhero Beer Bust at Paddy's in Ventura, CA. For more information, see flyer.
- Sunday, November 6th– Daylight Saving Time Ends!
- Thursday to Sunday, November 10th-13th– PSLOD presents Palm Springs Leather Pride. For more information, go to <http://desertleatherpride.com/>
- Thursday, November 10th [mountain standard time]– Full Moon! How!
- Thursday, November 10th, 6-9pm– Drinking Liberally @ Bigfoot Bar-B-Q in Flagstaff in the basement of the Old Time Shop on the corner of Birch & Leroux in Flagstaff



Transgender Speak Out

Monday, November 14th from 4:00-6:00pm
A.E. England Building located at 424 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004

Looking to learn more about the transgender community, gather resources and services available, or becomes more involved? Join us at the A.E. England Building in Downtown, located conveniently off the Van Buren and Central Avenue Light Rail stop.

Organizations and activists from across the Valley come together in one location to share their vital work within the transgender community. Speakers include; Antonia D'orsay of This is H.O.W., Erica Kepler of Arizona TransAlliance, Chris Fike of Shelter Inclusiveness Project, Margaux Schaffer of Arizona Transgender Day of Remembrance and many more!

- Friday, November 11th– Veterans Day!
- Friday, November 11th– Desert Dominion Play Party. Every 2nd Friday each month. For more information: <http://www.desertdominion.org/>

- Friday, November 11th, 9PM - 1AM- So. Cal. Bondage night. Every 2nd Friday each month. For more information: www.SoCABondage.com

- Saturday, November 12th & 26th, 1-6pm– Bears, The Baths & Beyond. For more information, see flyer

- Monday, November 14th– Transgender Awareness week speaker presentation. For more info, see flyer.

- Saturday, November 19th– A Benefit Gala for 1 Voice, For more information, see <http://1vcc.org/>

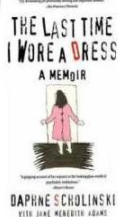


Speaker Dylan Scholinski



Friday, November 18th
7:30-9:30pm
ASU Tempe Campus LSA 191 601 E. Tyler St.
Tempe, AZ 85282

Dylan Scholinski will be discussing his memoir "The Last Time I Wore a Dress." Scholinski describes what it was like being institutionalized at the age of fifteen for being inappropriate female. Don't miss hearing Dylan's in-patient stories and empowering triumph as a psychiatric survivor!

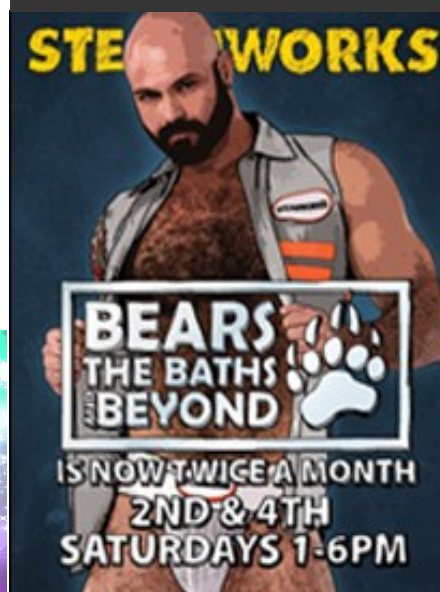


ALL THAT GLITTERS
A BENEFIT GALA FOR
1 voice
LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011, 6PM
Hosted by Empress VI Lady Christian of the Imperial Court
Featured Guest Speaker
Kim Pearson Executive Director/Co-Founder, TransYouth Family Allies

COCKTAILS
DINNER
SILENT AUCTION

ADMISSION \$50
TICKETS AVAILABLE PRESALE ONLY
ONLINE AT 1VCC.ORG

EMBASSY SUITES NORTH
2577 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023



[More>]

November 2011 Events

- **Saturday, November 19th**– X-Chain-G of Flagstaff bdsm monthly play party, every 3rd Saturday of the month. For more details, contact Craig at railman3@hotmail.com
- **Saturday, November 19th**– Wax a Bear and Stuff a Turkey event. For more information, see flyer.
- **Tuesday, November 22nd**– *Sun enters Sagittarius!*
- **Thursday, November 24th**– Thanksgiving!



WAX-A-BEAR & stuff a turkey!



**Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 pm
at Anvil Bar**

2303 E. INDIAN SCHOOL
Benefits Logan's Playground and Joshua Tree
\$5 at door or 5 cans food suggested donation

- public waxing auction
- buzz cuts by Rick Madrid
- bootblack by slave tabatha
- raffles
- jello shots
- IML drawing
(purchase an Out of the Darkness Tuff Stuff Leather!)

THE MORNING AFTER....
THANKSGIVING SALE!

NOVEMBER 25TH
9AM - NOON ONLY!

30% OFF EVERYTHING.

CHICAGO COMICS

3244 NORTH CLARK ST.
CHICAGO, ILL 60657
WWW.CHICAGOCOMICS.COM
773-528-1983

- **Friday, November 25th**– The morning after sale @ Chicago Comics. For more info, see flyer
- **Sunday, November 27th**– Puppy Pool Party fundraiser. For more information, see flyer.

LIFE IN MY PAWS FUNDRAISER FOR IN10'S SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK TEAM



PUPPY POOL PARTY!

- Sunday, November 27th** 1-5pm
- The Rock**
- 4129 North 7th Avenue (just north of Indian School)
- Bring your dogs
- Treats, Prizes, & Raffles
- Drink Specials

All money raised to benefit the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk



Humor for the Masses

A Little Girl from Texas on a Plane.

A Congressman was seated next to a little girl on an airplane when he turned to her and said, 'Let's talk. I've heard that flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger.'

The little girl, who had just opened her book, closed it slowly and said to the total stranger, 'What would you like to talk about?'

'Oh, I don't know,' said the congressman. 'How about Global Warming or Universal Healthcare', and he smiles smugly.

'OK,' she said. 'Those could be interesting topics. But let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps of dried grass. Why do you suppose that is?'

The congressman, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, 'Hmmm, I have no idea.'

To which the little girl replies, 'Do you really feel qualified to discuss Global Warming or Universal Healthcare when you don't know shit?'

Read each of the following lines out loud.

This is this cat

This is is cat

This is how cat

This is to cat

This is keep cat

This is an old cat

This is idiot cat

This is busy cat

This is for cat

This is forty cat

This is seconds cat

Now, go back and read the THIRD word in each line, starting at the top.



What Would Successful Dating Be?

Minor Details

By Bob Minor

Have you noticed that as we get older, time seems to pass so much quicker than when we were school kids sitting out our summer vacations while telling our parents we were bored? The sense that time is passing us by can overwhelm our thoughts and feelings.

This fear that we're running out of time enters our dating life when we become obsessed with the need to be in a hurry to find someone before it's "too late." I've even heard a twenty-nine year-old express his fear that if he didn't find a mate before he's thirty, it's all over.

But, as the old adage goes: "Life is what happens while you're waiting for something to happen." So, if we're going to enjoy dating at all, we've got to pay attention to, and cherish, the life that is happening while we are doing so.

So, first, let's face the facts. Unless we have no standards at all, dating will introduce us to quite a few people with whom we wouldn't want to spend the rest of a life. That's (and here's another fact) likely to be the majority of the people we meet.

It's not that they aren't nice, fine people. They might even make the best of friends.

It's just that for one reason or another they won't work as life partners unless we overlook a lot just to succeed at that supposed ultimate goal of dating: having someone, and even settling for anyone.

If we think of dating as just something we have to do to get a particular result -- maybe a soul mate who will become the man or woman of our life -- we're likely to experience dating as an almost unbearable activity. And if we've been out of the dating scene and just returned, the gamesmanship could drive us batty.

To use consumer terms, we'll experience dating in terms of the products it produces. And some of those will be lemons.

We're usually taught by our culture and its approved dating experts to think of dating in terms of THE GOAL. That's, after all, a major definition of any success in our culture.

You know -- set your goals, work toward THEM, keep THEM in mind at all times, measure your achievements by how you have attained THEM. And then measure your own worth by whether you produced, or bought, the product that's the best value.

Applied to dating, this approach means success is dating that produces the result. And since most of the activities involved in dating don't do that, frustration, self-judgment, and disappointment are more likely.

Our culture likes this product-oriented approach because its answer to these inevitable negative feelings is to purchase something it's got to sell us. How about a gym membership, anti-depressants, expensive face creams, and a new wardrobe?

But, there's another, less-consumer-oriented definition of success that sounds more like the kind we hear in recommendations such as: "Live in the present" or "Be here now." It's that success is found in THE PROCESS of dating, not some product of it.

Living in the process is difficult because it's counter-cultural. People who practice it even risk being called crazy, out of touch, losers, or worse.

This alternative way of seeing dating isn't going to fit with any corporate challenge. It means taking our eyes off of any goal and focusing them on ourselves and the very living process that makes our life.

It means facing our fears of not knowing how things will turn out. It's like taking one day at a time, one date at a time, one chance at a time.

It means not needing to have the answers about the future of every date. And it even means being happy without the answers.

Seeing dating as a process and, therefore, living in every moment of the dating as if each moment we are in while we are in it is the most important thing there is, is difficult. It takes discipline, practice, and reminding oneself to recommit again and again to doing so.

It takes being in a community, or creating friends, that love what we're doing and trust and affirm our own judgments about it.

It's also life-changing. It's actually what some Buddhists call mindfulness -- being conscious about the value of each event as it happens, grounded in this minute without one foot in the past and another in the future.

(What Would Successful Dating... continued on the next page)

(What Would Successful Dating... continued from the previous page)

It means not thinking, "I wonder what the future is with this person" while missing what is happening in the present. It means not moving into some fantasy about what this date could turn out to be, but getting lost in the interactions, sensations, and voices of what is to be relished now.

It means giving up our addiction to fantasy all together. And that means rejecting most of what the media of romance feeds us.

It means actually paying attention to the people we meet and date to understand who they are, and not what they could be for us. It means sharing ourselves and paying attention to their reactions.

It means building new friendships, acquaintances, and connections, and finding them meaningful. It means walking away from those that aren't, without guilt and shame.

It means learning more about ourselves in the interactions we have with all different kinds of people we meet in the process. And that means finding out who we are, how we react, and what we really want.

It means living every event of our lives as the great adventure life can be, as a journey, not a planned tour, where around any corner could be a surprise.

It means never having to worry about whether or where that adventure will end or about what its goal, should be.

And when we live in the process of dating, no longer for some end, we'll be able to experience it as a successful, worthwhile journey. Should more come out of it, that will just be another happy surprise.

Robert N. Minor, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas, is author of *When Religion Is an Addiction; Scared Straight: Why It's So Hard to Accept Gay People and Why It's So Hard to Be Human and Gay & Healthy in a Sick Society*. Contact him at www.FairnessProject.org.



Quotes of the Month

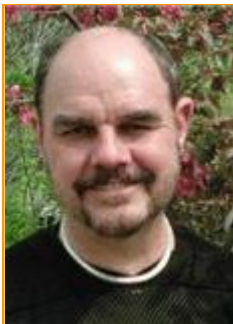
"It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err."
-Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)

"Comedy has to be based on truth. You take the truth and you put a little curlicue at the end."
-Sid Caesar, actor and writer (b. 1922)

Hollywood Squares classic: Q: What are "Do it," "I Can Help" and "I Can't Get Enough"?
A (George Gobel): I don't know, but it's coming from the next apartment.

"I love your smile, your face, and your eyes. Damn, I'm good at telling lies".
-unknown

"War, Rape. Murder. Poverty. Equal Rights for gays. Guess which one the Southern Baptist Convention is protesting?"
-anonymous



THE RELEVANCE OF A 21ST CENTURY MAN'S LIFE

(Uncensored Version)

By Dale G. Ross, msw

Therapist/Counselor/Educator

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I recently had the privilege of attending my 45th high school reunion and the 40th anniversary of the Chicago Hellfire Clubs annual, now week-long and international, Gay Leathermens "retreat" (having been a member for a decade). These caused me to stop and ponder the meaning of my own life (how did I get to be this 'old' among other thoughts - 'laugh out loud' - LOL). That has also led me to further consider what I hear from SO many men about their own lives (during my three+ decades of working with men on their lives). From their stories, and reflection upon my own, I believe I have come to a more refined conceptualization of what it may mean to be a 'man' in today's rapidly changing world. Of course, how each man has arrived at their own place in our current times will be from their own unique perspective, but I would suggest there are some common themes among their own special stories...

You'll notice I use the 'LOL' (laugh out loud) phrase during this writing, as I believe we need to laugh at the current state and expectations of men in today's world, for without such laughter the topic can get pretty 'heady' and downright depressing when first considering such important aspects of men's 'reality'. I also add the Gay male component, as well as the Leather Community aspect, for illustration as these are important elements of how I view myself... each individual needs to decide for themselves what aspects of possible choices are important to integrate into their own mix of 'reality'.

I still remember when I was growing up how I was fortunate to be among the first generation to have television as a regular part of my life, and there were a number of shows which we excitedly looked forward to with each new weekly segment. "Father Knows Best", "The Ozzie and Harriet Show", and "Leave It To Beaver" being among those remembered to this day. Fortunately, for newer generations these are faithfully reproduced on the Internet and one no longer has to wait to see what happened next to a favorite 'family' member - again, LOL! While some now come to see these 'characters' were merely time fillers for the sponsors to get across their commercial messages, for many others of us, at the time, they were our role models! And, as there were only three network stations, anyone watching TV had little choice of shows (or role models), so there was an unconscious 'consensus' of what was considered 'normal' (everyone somehow knew what to laugh at and when... then they developed laugh tracks which explicitly told us something was to be considered funny, and the more laughs the better). Some took it as mere entertainment (and some as something to be avoided as evil), but for probably a majority these were the people telling us what to expect of our lives and how we were expected to respond... "life's Lessons". Books and public institutions (like schools, churches and even earlier generations of an extended family - 'elders') were often being put in the back seat. Remember back seats in automobiles...everything keeps changing - more LOL!

It is still debated what schools are expected to teach, especially with the advent and spread of charter schools, and that 'morality' is most often concluded as something to be left to the home, church, elders and society's 'leaders' to determine. The concept of 'street lessons' (including on the then new medium of TV?) on the important social and personal elements of life (particularly 'sex', recalling we recently 'lost' four male Congressional members due to their 'private sexual activity', but that is another separate issue and discussion!?!), the teaching or even publicly discussing of any ethics were and are usually seen as something to be frowned upon... recalling the storyline of the now considered and naive and 'cute' Broadway and movie musical "The Music Man"!?! I suggest too often today the 'elders' and leaders are too busy with their politics to get to the lessons that people need and long for. Which brings me back to the topic of 'men' (laugh, snicker or cry as you choose here).

We now have a host of new mediums and messages about what is expected of men today, and they often contradict, send conflicting messages, or leave the observer to wonder what was the sender intending (now, we can laugh together!?!). As least we now call those earlier and current TV shows 'sitcoms' (for 'situation comedies'). When I was growing up, however, we didn't have such terms of enlightenment... only 'soap operas'. Computer 'games', HD (high definition) television and instant online movies/videos are taking our new 'situation comedies' and 'reality games' to HUGE new levels, too! Again, simply entertainment or possibly "life's lessons" or a bit of both - I suggest 'beauty is in the eyes of the beholder'???

I spend considerable time counseling and educating men (and their family members) around the general concept of 'dysfunctional families' and the roles that are played out to keep these families going. Where they are going and what are their intentions is a whole different and often absent discussion!?! It can be comforting and enlightening for men to simply hear that they are appreciated for what they do (in their family of origin, and maybe in their current family and in their marriage). They too often end up concluding, usually unconsciously, that their 'worth' is dependent upon what they do, and to have 'worth' they need to keep doing things (especially since they don't usually get regular and timely 'evaluations'-LOL!?!). This may translate into: "You are loved for what you do, and you need to keep earning love to feel loved!" Who the man is, or wants to be (and under differing conditions and situations, white collar, blue collar or no collar - sports), or how we are perceived by others often appears to be missing in this equation or relationship negotiation!?!?

(The Relevance... continued on the next page)

(The Relevance... continued from the previous page)

I've previously written on this in my articles "What IF There Were No 'They' " and "When Good Guys Wore White Hats" (see www.50PlusPrime.com for this latter article, as well as some of my other men's articles, click on "men's issues" on its home page). I find men are seldom appreciated simply for who they are... VERY powerful when it does occur! And, as I've previously written, women have been spending the last several decades working on these elements of their lives, with exciting (and often satisfying results). Men need to learn these lessons, too!!!

In this same line of thinking, the industrial revolution gave men the opportunity to earn a defined wage by performing a defined set of work tasks, a simple idea (furthered by the rise of unions to enforce these expectations). Quickly jumping to our new robotics revolution, we have a reinforcement of tasks being performed in a clearly defined series of steps, with one HUGE change - men are being replaced as the performers of these defined tasks by robotic machines, and seldom is anyone looking at the impact on these men (let alone replaced without new positions being readied for their next 'job' or career change)!?! As women grappled with this question of how important they were within the family, now decades ago, some challenged their men to find replacements and learn how much it would cost them to maintain their present quality lifestyle (for those who remember the early "women's liberation movement" - mixed LOL probably appropriate here?!?). For many men today, especially young men looking for their first jobs out of high school, trade school or college, there are programs that they can find to possibly help them learn newly emerging job skills, BUT I don't see much discussion on the feelings of 'displacement' (or 'abandonment?') and its impact on men and their lives!!!

Combined with this new emerging 'transition' of manhood and their expected work life in America, is the ongoing impact of the economic crisis/struggles of Wall Street, a rapidly emerging global economy, combined with the home and mortgage industries crisis, and too often the messages are boiling down to only dollars and cents (HUGE dollars many people have trouble even relating to?!?!). I would suggest many men are probably adopting this current debate into their own equation of their 'worth' and seeing their value as a man plummeting - machines do it cheaper, computers allow fewer people to do more work, and the job market is being shipped overseas, and increasingly occupied by women (and this last is definitely not a 'bad' change but something that may further a man's expectations of being less 'valuable' in today's world). What does an 'underwater value' of a man look and feel like??? And, most often each man 'takes it personally', believing it is about him (rather than a place that seldom supports men in their personal and social struggles). All of these concerns are hopefully starting points for discussion and dialogue among interested parties... "men's issues".

In his recent CD, "AWAKE" (remember when they used to be called LPs, long playing albums which were records we physically played on turntables, and then stereo came along, too - humor here!), the singer Josh Groban has a song titled, "In Her Eyes". Among the lyrics are the lines:

"I am not a hero
I am not an angel
I am just a man
A man who's trying to love her
Unlike any other"

The two points that struck me are how he is trying to be 'just a man' and also wants 'to love her unlike any other'. Both of these go to the heart of what I find men have yet to learn and then practice, practice, practice - the skill of simply 'being'!?! Many eastern religions (and some western) talk about 'being' as important rather than 'doing', resulting in a person 'being present'. I would suggest this is an important concept that we would do well to remember in discussing what it means to be a man in America today, too. IF we could begin to slow down the climb up the corporate ladder, the building of our 'McMansions' to house our isolating 'worlds' in our new modern 'castles', and then the purchasing of new technology to 'connect' us to this 'outside world' we often feel alienated from, perhaps, we might literally not die so early! The death is not only that of a physical nature (to remind the reader how some studies strongly suggest most physical ailments and diseases are the result of not effectively dealing with 'stress' in our lives), as well as the emotional death of 'simply surviving' in today's corporate and fast-paced, low-paying McJobs (anyone remember the now ancient play "Death of a Salesman"!?!). Equally important to our physical health, perhaps, we might discover the often lost concepts of 'happiness' and having 'fun' and 'passion'!?!

For Gay males, our culture is even more rapidly changing and so it might be expected will our social expectations follow at a similar pace. For example, with the dismissal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", Gays can now proudly serve in our military (as they have been for a very long while, but under the cloak of secrecy). Recently there are public media articles about how Gay bars are being re-labeled as simply bars, and Gays are successfully enjoying an open social life without having to have their own 'Secret Society' of years past (with a host of societal and cultural issues attached - read that as 'Gay ghetto' - LOL or cry?!?). Perhaps, Gay men (and Lesbian women and Transgendered?) are entering a period of our lifestyles now becoming a 'non-issue' - WOW! However, when we take away our 'prescribed roles' what then is left - hopeful humor here! Another chance to re-invent ourselves, again, as Gay, Bisexual and Transgender males!

This is where I find it now gets VERY exciting, from my perspective after three+ decades of professionally working, struggling and now playing with the basics of manhood in America.

(The Relevance... continued on the next page)

(The Relevance... continued from the previous page)

I'm suggesting that once we can get the basics of what it possibly means to be a man in today's world somewhat up and running in our lives, and in our relationships with others, we can then finally turn to what we 'want' (in addition to what we 'need') and begin to put some exciting and 'Passionate Happiness' into the mix of being men. What we decide to determine as important to us, and how we present it, can vary widely, excitedly and we get to personalize it, too!

As a brief example, I offer the changes I've observed within the Gay Male Leather Community (my primary community of choice, along with being Gay, male, American, therapist, etc.). When I first began to learn of my Leather Community it was basically through brief written pieces within more general Gay erotic literature - fantasy. It was referred to as Sadomasochism (for Sadism and Masochism, and I presume most readers are familiar with the origins, or will now go online to get more background, as I struggled to even find the words 50+ years ago... LOL). The roles have rapidly changed through the titles of: Master - slave, Master - servant, Master - boy, Daddy - boy, puppy - handler, top - bottom, bear - cub (eventually including 'switch') and to the more recent relationship description of 'energy exchanges' of 'giver -Receiver'. Some enjoy the masculine male oriented psycho-drama of the relationship roles, others simply the sensual (and perhaps sexual) and for other it may be social, or any combination thereof. Not everyone partakes of all these 'options' and some prefer staying within one or a few - choice and 'free will' - exciting times!!! It may sound confusing at first but really sorts itself out quite well, when in a safe 'community' where exploration is encouraged (and healthy guidance is available - 'safe, sane and consenting' as one guideline). For further information you might want to check out www.LIFEDetroit.com (Leather Institute For Education - Detroit, which I was asked to help co-found nine years ago).

For those who are working within a corporate environment, perhaps it might be enlightening and useful to revisit your corporation's mission statement. Are all the workers (you!) included in it, and does it balance profits (quantity) with other aspects of work (quality of work and personal life)??? Within our families, too, do we discuss our family's short-term and longer-term mission (s) of each member, so they can see where they fit and what's expected (hoped for) in their lives??? What IF we were all considered 'valuable' for simply 'being', and what we do or contribute to our families of origin, families of choice, communities, and place of creating resources for living ('job') were all bonuses of our efforts. We would all get our regular turn at feeling needed, wanted and especially feeling 'special' on a regular basis...'happiness' might become the focus of our energies and efforts, rather than the newest 'fear' that is espoused by our bosses, the media, and our 'leaders' to keep us going on the corporate and social ladders (like the exercise wheels hamsters use for exercise and entertainment - LOL appropriate here!?!).

Respectfully,

Dale

Comments and feedback always welcome!

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Internationally Certified Advanced Alcohol & Drug Counselor, CAADC Men's Issues articles reprinted at www.50PlusPrime.com (click on men's issues) Founding Member of Leather Institute For Education, www.LIFEDetroit.com

Dale has addressed Men's, HIV/AIDS and Gay issues for three+ decades. He created and taught two of the first graduate courses on the issues of Gay (LGBT) clients for seven years for the Wayne State University School of Social Work in Detroit, MI; served on four HIV/AIDS speakers bureaus; was a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Alcohol & Addiction Association; President of the Southeastern Michigan Information and Referral Alliance; first President of Wellness House of Michigan (alternative housing for persons with AIDS); helped establish Wellness Networks, Inc. (education, referral and coordination of HIV/AIDS, now a division of the nonprofit state-wide organization AIDS Partnership Michigan); and was a "therapist", and consultant, to a five-city syndicated television news segment on relationships.

During his personal time, Dale enjoys antiques and fine art with his Friend, Ron, for the last 30+ years (Dale having been an antique dealer for eight years and Ron now owning his own antiques and fine paintings gallery, The Golden Fig, in Birmingham, MI), and participating within the newly emerging International Leather Community—a rather full and passionate life thus far.

Get Involved!! Health Sites:

Parkinson's: <http://www.parkinson.org/>

HIV and AIDS: <http://www.hiv.com/>

Male Depression: <http://www.maledepression.com/>

Diabetes: <http://www.diabetes.org/>

Kink Aware Professionals: ncsfreedom.org

It Gets Better ~1/2 million people so far agree...

<http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>

Bigotry Sucks!-

<http://www.noh8campaign.com/>



Group Riding Do's and Don'ts

Although some of us are putting the bikes away for the season, those of us in the Desert SW are just getting geared up, as this is our riding season. Many of us do not like to ride alone; some of us like to ride with a buddy, or a small group. In some cases, that small group can grow, so what do we do to keep everyone safe while we are on the road. True, there is safety in numbers, and motorists do notice a group of motorcycles much quicker than an individual. How we ride within that group is what will make the difference between a safe and enjoyable ride and a white knuckle, I'll never do that one again ride.

Ok, so let's assume that you have a small informal group of about 5-10 bikes. The first thing you need to do is figure out who's planning this out. In our case, that position goes to me.

There is nothing more aggravating than being on a ride with about 6 guys that have 7 roadmaps and 7 ways of getting to your destination, yes, there's one in every crowd. When

planning your ride, you do not have to go to the extreme that I do, but it shouldn't be on a cocktail napkin either. Plan in fuel breaks, food stops and anything else that needs to be put in to keep everyone comfortable and safe, with the fuel stops plan it around the bike with the smallest tank. Now that you have the ride plan, study it and distribute it make sure everyone knows where they are going and how. This will lead to cohesiveness while riding which is less stressful on everyone. Ok so you've planned your ride, now ride your plan. Don't deviate from it unless there is some form of accident or construction in your path, hence why you need a map in at least one of the bikes, or a GPS Unit. Another thing is know your route, there is nothing worse than planning a road trip through a real scenic area, only to have someone tell you at a rest stop, that the pavement ends about 4 miles up and it's dirt for the next 15-20 miles. Yes that really did happen, only I was the one explaining the road, as I had been on it several times before.

Now you need to figure out who is the lead bike and who is the safety or sweep position. Now figure out your formation of who is where. For the most part if you all ride together long enough, like cows, you will know your station. (Sorry, that's the dairy farmer in me showing) If you are going to ride out of state, know the rules for the states you will be passing through. This saves time, money and embarrassment while on the road.

All individuals should go over their bike about a week or so before your ride, this way if there is anything major you can get it addressed before its crunch time. If you're not sure what you are looking for, take it in to your dealer or mechanic and have them go through it. It's better to find bad lip seals on a wheel bearing, before you are 200 miles from home and the wheel bearings fail completely. The night before, pack it, check the tires & lights, and make any corrections as needed. Get plenty of rest so that you're refreshed and ready for your ride. Next be sure to arrive at the designated meeting point on time, with as close to a full tank as possible and as close to an empty bladder as possible. If your meeting point is a restaurant then you should be fine. When I plan a ride out, I have a fueling point close to the meeting spot, as we come from all over and may need to top off the tanks.

Make sure someone in the group has your emergency contact information. Let's hope you never need to use it, but it doesn't hurt to be prepared. Check the weather for your destination and be sure to take appropriate gear. I know none of us can carry a steamer trunk on our bikes, so pack appropriately. If anyone is interested I can give you tips on packing as well. I mentioned this in a prior article entitled, "It's not just the destination it's the ride".

By following a few of these tips you should have an enjoyable ride, and an enjoyable time. If you would like to see a copy of one of my ride plans, let me know & I can send you one to use as an example. Until next time, keep the rubber side down and the shiny side up.

Check out Mike's website at <http://www.ajboys.com/>

Come OUT!!!

- Closets are for hangers and Narnia, Be honest with yourself and loved ones
- There is nothing to fear, **You are not alone.**
- You can be butch or femme. There is not a stereotype to fit.
- Enjoying the same sex is NOT A SIN!!!
- Support is available (friends, family, lover/ playmate, community members and online– www.hrc.org/issues/coming_out.asp)



Loving and Time

Last month I had my 59th birthday. Next year I'll be 60. I remember when my grandpa was 60. Somehow it's different when you get there yourself. I've had a lot of time to think and one of the things I remember was my mother when she was passing away. She took a minute and looked deeply at me and said, "you know when you get where I am most of the things you worked so hard for don't mean anything. The only thing that's really important is the people you loved and the people who loved you."

That got me to thinking about the people who have come along in my life. I thought about my early boyfriends and lovers. Some of them no longer with us. It occurred to me that when I think back to the early boys who I loved so passionately I still smile. Now that I have become the person that I am it's clear to me why we aren't still together but boy do I have pleasant memories of the process of falling in love. Some of the boys I remember the most I can't remember by name. There was such a long time when I thought they were insignificant that I must have buried that with my feelings.

When we came to Palm Springs my partner and I wrote down the names of about 10 of the friends we used to know back when we were just dating. That was 33 years ago. Now with the internet it can be so much easier to find people who you have lost track of.

We were actually able to contact one of them who also knew all of the others. They are all gone. Wiped away by HIV.

So as time goes by and you get an unexpected e-mail from an old beau who either broke your heart or treated you poorly or maybe it was someone who just didn't push your buttons, remember once you were happy to know them. They are still alive and may be taking a second look at the things in their life that still makes them smile. They took a moment to look you up. So answer them. Let them know you are alive and you remember them. Remembering someone for 30-40 years you may have spent only a few months with is really quite a compliment.

AS I look back I am so proud of what we as a community have accomplished. When I first went to college we were mentally ill. Now we are almost free. Remember I said almost. There are still places where it is illegal to be us. There are work places where we aren't hired if they know. We only just became legitimate soldiers. There is still work to be done. In the meantime you younger college boys and girls need to prepare for the fight ahead. I'll tell you now that a good way to start is to fall in love. Loving makes it all so much more important. Remember in the end this isn't a sexual revolution it's a revolution about having the freedom to love.

Now before I close I want to ask all of you older partnered couples an important question. What would happen to your partner tomorrow if you got hit by a bus today? If you don't know the answer to that question you need to take the next step.

The number of families that show up and tell lifelong partners that they have 30 days to vacate the premises would shock you. I live in a retirement community. Many of the gay men and women here have horror stories of people they thought were in-laws until their partners died. Protect you and protect your partner by creating a trust. You can do this online. File it with the state and then change the names of your checking and savings accounts to the trust name. If you die, your partner owns everything. If your partner dies you own everything. When I did it I hired a gay attorney. Actually anytime I hire a service I use gay people. I like to support us.

Fill out a living will. Make sure your partner can hold your hand while you die from being run over by that bus. Why would you want them to sit in a waiting room while cousins they haven't seen in years get to go in and see your partner. Hospitals will often treat you like a second class citizen. Don't let that happen to the person you love. Then when you finally manage to get marriage legalized. Marry them! It's more important for us than it is for them. If you don't exercise your rights someone will take them away.

OK now I'm just getting verbose.

By for Now
David A

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