



The Whipping Post

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2011

Notes, News, & Updates

OPERATION: I LOVE IT IN THE CAN: In the first month of our can drive, 1740 has collected enough items to make a donation to Metropolitan Community Church at 156 S Kansas. Sir Bill's Paddle Your Drawers, LordDragoWhiteTiger, and songbird respectively donated for the raffle a gold trimmed flogger, a hand-carved paddle, and a lovely pair of red shoes. This editor knows for sure at least one of those items was well used in the last month. Donate one nonperishable item each month and see if your name is drawn for next month's item. Have questions? Contact Master Woo or go to 1740's Projects online.

NEW BOARD MEMBER: Congratulations to Sir Thumper on his appointment to the position of Board Member on your 1740 Board of Directors. As you look around the clubhouse, his labor for your Club is already evident.

SUB-SPACED: The group, Sub-Spaced, first met Friday, March 19, with a successful attendance of five submissive individuals. The goal of the group is to provide a place and time for the submissive to share experiences, knowledge, and support. Open to novices and veterans, the group's focus is on the individual needs of a submissive, by the submissive. To the dominants interested in getting to know the mind of their submissive: You are more than welcome to attend in silence; while the group experiments with a Dom Q&A section to the format, please keep your questions and comments to yourself at this time. Friday, April 15, at 7 pm, Sir Darren will lead the discussion on the basics of negotiating a scene "on-the-fly." A skill with which a submissive needs familiarization, speed negotiation is actually less scary than it may sound. Come to the next Sub-Spaced event to learn more. For more information, contact Lady Tie, Vicki, or Lisa; or look up Sub-Spaced on Fetlife or seventeenforty.com.

WEBSITE: Sleek and sophisticated, 1740's website, accessible at seventeenforty.com, is designed and maintained by Lisa and Amber. Thank you, and bravo, ladies. Check back for future updates on "under construction" sections, and the latest 1740 news.

Inside this Edition

Notes, News, & Updates	page 1, 2
1740 Board of Directors	page 1
Calendar of Events	page 1
Something to Think About: Gray Rainbows	page 2
Feature: From the Diary of a Novice Submissive	page 2
Feature: A Brief History of Modern BDSM	page 3
Vetting Potential Play Partners	page 3

1740 Board of Directors

Sir Darren – President Sir Nuk'em – Vice President
 Christina – Secretary Lady Tie – Treasurer
 Sir Thumper – Board Member

Contact them via email through board@seventeenforty.com

Calendar of 1740 Club Events

APRIL

- Fri 1:** Wichita First Friday Munch
- Sat 2:** Private Event
- Sat 9:** Demo & Dungeon: A history lesson like no other
- Thurs 14:** 1740 Board of Directors meeting
- Fri 15:** Sub-Spaced
- Sat 16:** Quarterly Members Meeting & Members' Night Play Party
- Fri 22:** Freaky Friday
- Thurs 28:** 1740 Board of Directors meeting
- Fri-Sat 29-30:** Dark Weekend [fifth weekend; Club closed]

MAY

- Fri 6:** Wichita First Friday Munch
- Sat 7:** Private Event
- Thurs 12:** Board of Directors Meeting
- Sat 14:** Demo & Dungeon: Kinky& BBQ round robin
- Fri 20:** Sub-Spaced
- Sat 21 Day:** Spring Cleaning Party (2 hrs work = discount)
- Sat 21 Night:** Members' Night Play Party
- Thurs 26:** Board of Directors Meeting
- Fri 27:** Freaky Friday

Notes, News, & Updates cont.

APRIL DEMO: A history lesson you'll actually find interesting, you won't fall asleep as the Wichita Instructional Leather Doms (WILD) discusses the differences and similarities between, as well as the origins of, what it is we do. BD, S&M, kink, Leather, lifestyle: the name does not matter so much as the development of the attitude and way of life. When you know where you come from, you'll have a better idea of where you're going. Already thinking of questions to ask? Email your Board of Directors so WILD can better prepare; otherwise, come with a notebook, 'cuz there will be a quiz during the Dungeon Play Party.

QUARTERLY MEMBERS MEETING: Want a better idea about where our Club is headed? Attend the quarterly meeting to hear the

results of the survey, ask your questions, voice your concerns, suggest your ideas during the approximate 45-minute meeting on Saturday, April 16, starting at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7). Then, prepare your mind and body for the smokin' hot Members' Night Play Party.

MAY DEMO: A fairly good betting hand in Pinochle, a "round robin" takes on a whole new meaning for the members of 1740 come the second Saturday in May. Think a buffet of fetishes, then think of a buffet of BBQ, and 'round 'n' 'round you go: What could be better? Want to expand your knowledge of wax, whip, or edge play? Then plan to attend May 14, starting at 7 pm. Multiple presenters will demonstrate various play to satiate your dark fantasies, while the savory smell of Bar-B-Q will satisfy your dietary necessities. Come hungry in more ways than one. Interested in presenting? Contact a member of the Board of Directors.

SPRING CLEANING: While we may not spread our laundry on the bushes outside the Club, May 21 is our Spring Cleaning event. Plan to get dirty as we spruce up and air out the Club, inside and out, so we can have a safe and clean place to play. Volunteer two or more hours and receive a discount for the really dirty Members' Night Play Party that night.

NEWSWORTHY: Do you have an announcement (anniversaries, birthdays, collaring days, event) you would like to share with your kinky family? Have you written an article you want published? Or, do you have an idea for a topic you want to know more about? Contact the Whipping Post through editor@seventeenforty.com with any information you would like to read about in future editions. The editor welcomes all input. 1740 is your Club and the Whipping Post is your newsletter; the more involved you are, the better it will reflect what you want and need from it.

Something to Think About: Gray Rainbows

"...there is no light and shadow. There's only a gray rainbow, and a choice as where you pin yourself on the spectrum." While this quote from Vicki Pettersson's novel The Scent of Shadows specifies the struggles every superhero faces in their decision between good versus evil, the same expression exemplifies the shades of relationships evident in humanity. BDSM-ers often think of themselves as living in, and experiencing, the dark fantasies of human nature. BDSM-ers also often classify those with "vanilla" relationships as living the socially-acceptable "norm"—the light fantasies, if you will. The beautiful truth about a rainbow, though, is that every hue and shade—no matter how like or dark—must show evidence, even if just faintly, otherwise there is no rainbow—gray or colorful. The diversity of human nature completes the analogous gray rainbow. Without the two extremes, and the space between, life would simply be a splattering of colors with no gradient flow. With the extremities of light and shadow, of vanilla and kink, the rainbow of human nature fills the world, thus creating the beauty of humanity. As to where you pin yourself on that rainbow...well, that choice fluctuates as quickly as the rain falls, or a slowly as you age.

From the Diary of a Novice Submissive:

October 31, 2008 – I'm not right. There is something wrong with me. That can be the only explanation as to why I have these twisted, perverted thoughts. What do the nature of these fantasies say about me? I am damned. I was raised to be a good girl. These dark desires tempt the soul; I must overcome the temptation.

November 24, 2008 – It's my birthday today. I am reminded of what my parents once told me: "Dream, dear Daughter," Mom said, and Dad added, "Dream big." I guess I will just dream.

July 16, 2009 – I'm so tired of keeping these dark fantasies hidden from myself. So here, where no one will ever read them, I dare to give my fantasies form: Disorientated, beaten, used, abused, I dream of myself where my sore, tender, and bruised flesh receives pain to match emotion I long keep hidden. I dream of bliss, oblivion, clarity. I dream of letting go, of having no control, of floating in my own mind, of being completely ignorant. I dream of one who will subjugate—defeat, subdue, overpower, conquer, vanquish—me and my will. I dream of one to whom I am a desired burden, not a grudging yoke. I dream of one who will replace my unimportant mental ramblings with his overwhelming will and desires.

July 17, 2009 – Dad also said that one must exert one's self to gain one's desires. I can dream all I want, but until I act upon those dreams, that is all they will remain—dreams and wishes. And if wishes were horses, everyone would ride.

July 1, 2010 – My dreams are no longer just the stuff of my sleeping mind. After reading everything from Antoniou to Wiseman, I have acted; it is time for real-life research. I am terrified. I don't know what I'm going to tell my family. There is no way they will understand me, my shadowed desires. But one problem at a time...for now, I have to decide what to wear.

August 7, 2010 – Wow, these people seem fairly normal. Except for the black leather pants that guy is wearing (and he looks like a biker), I could meet any of these people in the check-out line at the grocery store. But then, that's why we're at a Munch; everyone has to eat.

August 7, 2010 – later that night – Ok, now I see them for who they really are. They have shifted. Their alternate selves, their real selves, have come out to play. Their darkness, their desires, calls to my hidden self. Like wolves, their cries rise above the cracking whips, rattling chains, hissing ropes; their cries call to mine, and I want to join in; I want to play, too.

August 14, 2010 – morning – I almost didn't come back to this home of shifted selves. But I know I would never find my own shifted form—my alternative self, my real self—any other way. So that is why I am here. Tonight, I am going to be brave and ask for help in calling my shifted self out of hiding.

August 17, 2010 – I loved what you did, what I did. When I think about it, my back tingles. Recalling the slap and thud on my back, I remember thinking, "Harder, more. Why did he stop? Oh, right, first time. Must take it slow. Oooh...good...more..." My mind faded;

thoughts skittered away. The sting, when the flogger hit my cheeks, thighs, and hips, surprised me—it hurt, but it “hurt good.” I enjoyed it immensely; I hope you did, too. I remember dancing away, flinching slightly, when a thread of leather hit my right hip; I hoped you didn't think less of me. I also hoped you'd continue working my thighs, hips, and (whisper) ass, and not take my flinching as signs that I didn't like it. When you said that was enough, I wanted to argue and yell, "GREEN! Didn't you say green meant that if you stopped I was going to pick up the tool and beat *you* with it!? GREEN, GREEN, GREEN!" But I didn't. You're the Master; I'm the submissive. It was enough—but, oh, I wanted more. Thank you, Sir, for calling my shifted self; I never want to hide again.

August 28, 2010 – Now, when I dream those dark desires my shifted form, my real self, comes out to play. I am no longer torn inside. Through my tender and bruised flesh, I have become who I am meant to be. I am still afraid of where my shifted self may lead me, but I know I am in the company of many other shifters. I wait in eager anticipation for the next time I shift.

A Peek Inside the Mind of Lady Tie.

A Brief History of Modern BDSM

The earliest recordings of the sadomasochistic art and the devotion of bondage and discipline date to the ninth century BC where Spartan and Etruscan burial sites portray an erotic scene of two men beating a woman with canes and their hands.

The Kama Sutra, compiled in second century India, describes four kinds of lovemaking involving the joyful “cries of pain” pulled from consensual acts of impact play. Considered one of the first resources describing sadomasochistic activities, focusing on the importance of safety, the Kama Sutra could arguably be the first source of Safe, Sane, and Consensual play.

The early Egyptians, during the reigns of the Pharaohs, were unable to locate a virgin in the land for the Pharaoh to deflower. Unsurprisingly, their slightly later counterparts, the ancient Greco-Romans, participated in many forms of sexual play. According to their religious and cultural myths, the peoples' gods practiced extreme sexual activities, usually described in terms of penetrating versus penetrated, or in modern terminology of “Tops” and “bottoms.” So, orgies, group baths, forced sexual acts, and bestiality were inevitably common past times of these truly kinky people.

Skipping a millennia of unrecorded history, the Marquis de Sade and Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, whose characters and reputations epitomize the sadistic and masochistic activities of the modern BDSM world, first influenced the world from the mid-1700s to the late-1800s.

Flowing through history, the Victorians, named after Queen Victoria of England who lived from 1819 to 1901, hid their kinky and erotic acts in the brothels. The Victorians also developed erotic playing cards, much like the smutty cards street hawkers flick at you on the nighttime Las Vegas Strip. The Victorians, though, in all their secrecy, practiced their private play with the understanding that “what happened at the brothel, stayed at the brothel.”

Until immediately following World War II, a sort of cultural lockdown removed any reported BDSM activity. The returning veterans—after developing a need of military rules, protocol, and rituals, as well as needing companionship of like-minded individuals—bonded and banded together to create what is now known as the Leather Culture. A Leatherman, during post-WWII decades, was distinguishable by the earned leather they wore as a sign of status in the culture, much the way a military man earned rank and status in the military.

The people of the 1950s witnessed a revitalization of Victorian books and culture, this time focusing on the woman's role in the home as her sole purpose and duty. The middle century also produced BDSM instructional handbooks, as well as novels like The Story of O by French writer Pauline Reage. The passion and devotion represented in these novels expressed Bondage and Discipline and other emotional connections evident in the BD society of this era.

Flower Children, living in the sixth and seventh decade of the last century, openly accepted the polyamorous family concepts of Old Testament history. (This statement, almost blasphemous, encapsulates the Old Testament, and at that time completely accepted, practice of multiple patriarchal marriages. The Old Testament does not discuss or support same-sex amorous pairings, though.) With the free love movement, history repeats itself; though, the acceptable “rules” are far more relaxed.

The BDSM culture, as we at 1740 live it today, did not just crop up in the last three or four decades. By understanding our roots and our development, we can take our history into our future, and add our own personal twists.

Vetting Potential Play Partners

I'm new to the application of lifestyle, and I have unfortunately played with an individual I did not properly scrutinize. Thankfully, I was never in a life-or-death situation, and I am furthermore thankful to learn a lesson I still find embarrassing to mentally relive—and share here.

To continue living the life I am now leading, though, I have to be a smart player, responsible to others, and to myself. So, I will not allow myself to get carried away by emotions or desires. When I enter into something new—and in this case, something new and possibly dangerous—I force myself to keep my head on straight.

Only after I have completely vetted an individual would I even consider playing with them, much less submitting to them for any amount of time. To investigate a person—that is, to ensure legitimacy and knowledge in the lifestyle, excluding fly-by-night Johns or Janes in hope of a quick lay, a fast scene, or an erroneous permanent attachment through a lifestyle moor—I rely on established groups, and people within those groups, with acknowledged reputations for honesty and knowledge in the community.

One established group, 1740 Dungeon and Social Club, while comprised of unique individuals, as a whole, focuses on education, providing a safe place for people to play and creates opportunities to meet lots of people with lots of different experiences and interests.