

DRUMMER

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no time!
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One of several
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OFF THE TOP

TAKE BACK YOUR SEX

by Race Bannon

Sex! S/M! For the many years I was a fringe player in the S/M scene and not cognizant of an "S/M community", I spoke of sex and S/M in the same breath. For me, they went together like peanut butter and jelly or movies and popcorn. True, I certainly didn't always have sex during an S/M scene. But usually I did, and so did most of my S/M friends.

But things seem to have changed, at least from the outside looking in. For example, when at a public play party or an S/M club's demonstration, two of the more popular outlets for social interaction in our community, one will rarely hear sex talked about. You'll hear all kinds of references to sex "safety", but not much about the acts themselves. Safety issues are important. No intelligent person can deny that. However, the effort to stress safety in our community may also be slowly squeezing the sex (and for me, some of the excitement) out of S/M. I anticipate that the end result may be devastating on many fronts.

I believe most of the people first entering into the S/M scene test out their S/M desires slowly, moving from purely vanilla sex to sex with some kink thrown in. They do not separate sex and S/M so much as they consider S/M simply a different kind of sex. When a community tells such a newcomer, albeit unintentionally for the most part, that sex and S/M are different and somehow separate and distinct ways of playing, they do him and the community a disservice. They may push that person away from the scene because S/M may no longer seem as attractive as it once was and they may also deny the S/M community a potential member who might otherwise have been an important addition to our ranks.

Indeed, even the seasoned S/M veterans are affected by the trend. Often (and I mean often) I have heard an experienced S/M player bemoan the fact that they cannot have the kind of sex they want with their S/M at public play parties. And at those parties where sex acts are allowed, many feel intimidated that the others in attendance will somehow judge them negatively if they engage in such sex.

Something's wrong here, folks! I know that many of the no sex rules, spoken or

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John Hare

Drummerboy 1992

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