

note from Kelli: Perhaps this article from a mainstream reporter will serve to introduce the way to what is “Reality” (and should be illegal) and “Fantasy” (role-playing between consenting adults). The purpose of the archived images in the [hotlegsinlove.com](http://www.hotlegsinlove.com)’ *Erotic-Art Collection* is to give ideas for such love-play to those who need a break from ‘vanilla sex’. Certainly one can misuse anything in the real world. But that doesn’t mean that those in authority should quickly condemn what a few bad apples in the barrel have spoiled for everyone else.

This article was one of a 6-part series entitled "America Unzipped" by Brian Alexander of MSNBC. This entire series was archived as a single file

at => http://www.hotlegsinlove.com/Documents/America_Unzipped.doc

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All Dressed Up -- in Latex and Dog Collars

For fetishists, it's as much about the costumes as the sex

by Brian Alexander MSNBC 10/15/2006



Former bodybuilder Christine However, 47, of Los Angeles is now a professional fetish model with the stage name 'Goddess Heather'

by **Brian Alexander**

MSNBC contributor

updated: 8:00 p.m. ET Oct 25, 2006

TAMPA, Fla. -- While it’s not every night you find yourself stepping off a bus behind a 6-foot man dressed as “Little Bo Peep”, that’s not why I’m staring at him.

This bus is full of people going to a party at a club here called “The Chambers” after spending the day at the Hyatt Regency for "FetishCon" -- an annual convention that is part trade show, part classroom, part nighttime scene for fetish aficionados and the merely curious.

In a little while, some of the several hundred people in attendance will be chained to large steel Xs and flogged with leather “cat-o-nine” tails. Men will crawl on all fours and lick the feet of the women who brought them. One topless girl -- her skin painted with a mural by a professional artist named Pashur -- will dance for hours in a pair of giant boots that make her 7-feet tall.



Mimi Guzman displays body paint by artist Pushur.

So compared with this phalanx of PVC, leather, and latex, “Bo Peep” looks practically normal.

No, I’m staring because I’m pretty sure I interviewed this guy the day before on the trade show floor. On my tape of our conversation he talks about being an occasional transvestite; how it helps him land girlfriends; and a little about the whole fetish philosophy. (Some words on my recording are tough to hear because somebody in the background is cracking a bullwhip.)

But I can’t be positive this is the same guy because -- no kidding -- he looks a lot like “Little Bo Peep”! He’s wearing makeup, a blonde wig, a bonnet, a blue skirt with petticoats ... the whole “Bo Peep” she-bang including the shepherd’s staff.

Yesterday, sitting on a couch inside the hotel, he looked all-the-world like what he said he was: a middle-aged, upper middle-class IT manager for a major international charity. He wore a pair of Bermuda shorts and a polo shirt, his hair cut sensibly short like one of those guys from the 1960s’ glory days of IBM. He told me he was a Republican.

After spending 3 days and nights with bondage enthusiasts, submissives and dominants, a man mummified in duct tape, a huge pink bunny (who refused to speak to me because he was a bunny, and bunnies don’t talk), people dressed as ponies complete with actual tack, and a 52-year-old North Carolina housewife turned Superhero fetish icon named “Super Becca”, I have learned to check my preconceptions at the door.



Once a medical secretary, "Super Becca" is now a bondage & escape artist with a fan base on the Internet.

A mental illness?

No one is sure just how many Americans are into fetish; there aren't any good surveys. The publisher of one fetish magazine says he figures about 7 percent of us could be called fetishists. But he's guessing. Everyone here, however, thinks it's growing. And if you believe the business people manning the booths selling everything from stainless steel slave collars to medical-grade speculums, it is.

But there are no hard-and-fast rules about what a fetish is. Is bondage a 'fetish' or a 'practice'? How about wearing whole-body rubber suits? Being spanked with a leather paddle? Nobody seems able to define it, so everything tends to get lumped into it.

Supposed authorities aren't much help. For example, the World Health Organization and psychiatry's DSM-IV manual classify "fetishism" as a mental illness. The WHO says it is a "reliance on some non-living object as a stimulus for sexual arousal and sexual gratification." The fetish object might "simply serve to enhance sexual excitement achieved in ordinary ways (e.g., having a partner wear a particular garment)."

In other words, every woman who ever imagined her man in a pair of butt-less chaps, every man who thinks baby-doll nighties are the greatest invention since the centerfold, could be a fetishist.

"Occasionally somebody will find out what we do," says Melissa, a 33-year-old engineer for a civilian defense contractor in Florida who is newly married to Bob, 34, a corporate controller. (She tells me this as she holds a leash attached to a collar around Bob's neck. Bob is wearing a leather hood that covers his head.) When somebody does find out, Melissa continues, "Often they have done some form of it, too. Maybe not to the extent we do, but they say, '*Oh yeah, we do handcuffs.*' Lots of people have tried it."



While fetish can come to seem like any sexual practice that makes the "vanilla" world (the slightly derogatory name that fetishists use for anybody who's not into fetishism) uncomfortable and while there may be no such thing as a typical fetishist, a few commonalities have emerged over the past few days as I wandered the convention, attended the classes, and went to parties.

To See and Be Seen

Fetish is an aesthetic statement -- not just a sexual one. For example, though some fetishists might be into swinging and group sex, neither of those activities are a big part of fetish. In fact, some fetishists refer to "lifestylers" (meaning swingers) with a bit of a sneer.

Sex at fetish parties in public spaces is frowned upon, partly because it can be illegal but also because it's considered a breach of etiquette. (In private or in small gatherings, people sometimes do have forms of exhibitionist sex if that's their fetish.) Here the idea is to see and be seen (imagine a sex-oriented Star Trek convention).

For most fetishists, privacy is critical. Even at fetish events like this one, a young woman tells me, "You do not walk up to somebody and say, 'Hi, my name is Joe, I am a corporate banker.' You do not give out personal details because there is a risk involved. We value our jobs." She happens to be a microbiologist who works in wastewater treatment for a Florida municipality.

Many trace their interest in alternative sex practices to youth or even childhood. "My earliest memory -- I didn't even know about sex -- was the warm feeling a spanking would give me," a woman named Rita, who works at the Kink Shop in Shreveport, La., recalls. "When I couldn't sleep as a girl, if I thought about spanking, I could drift off." She was married to the same man for 31 years "but I could not get my husband to hit me for anything." She's now involved with a "master" who obliges.

Media often provide a first introduction to the fetish world. Some fetishists cite comic books, sci-fi movies and fantasy art like that of Frank Frazetta, famous for his hugely muscled barbarian men and voluptuous, mostly naked women.

"I was 8 years old and up late and saw a movie on HBO," Melissa says. "A man fully clothed man spanked a partially nude woman in a hallway and it spoke to me. I thought, *There is something about this I like. I have to know more about it*"

The Internet has been a powerful force in the mainstreaming of fetish. For example, the day Rita got a connection, she typed "spanking" into a search engine and realized for the first time "that I was not the only person in the World."



"Dude, it started off with, like a 300-baud modem," James, a 27-year-old electrical engineering student from Knoxville, Tenn., tells me. "Even as a little kid before I even knew anything about sex, I used to really like tying people up. Then my dad went back to school to study computer science and we had like, an old 286 computer. It took 5 minutes to download one picture! But I could look up whatever I wanted."

Once a taboo is overcome, a new world opens. "You cannot turn back," James says.

“That’s true. You can’t go back to ‘vanilla sex’ once you taste this,” agrees Anastasia Pierce, a professional fetish model, actress, and movie producer based in Los Angeles. “It’s a very adrenaline thing. You try stuff constantly and go *‘Oh, this feels good! I never tried that!’*”

But as much as fetishists love what they do, many express mixed feelings that fetish has gone mainstream. Fashion layouts in *Vogue* and big budget movies like *"The Matrix"* use fetish clothing. And thousands of “goth” kids show up at clubs dressed in fetish attire.

“Yes, they’re being rebels,” Pierce says sarcastically of the young arrivistes.

On the other hand, many fetishists I talk to here have been among the most thoughtful people about their sex lives I have ever encountered. They have to be.

“What a lot of people in the ‘vanilla world’ do not understand is that this entails an extreme amount of trust,” a “lifestyle master” who works as a Realtor tells me. Part of his job is to dish out just the right amount of pain to his girlfriend. “It is a trust that goes beyond what a lot of people in everyday ‘vanilla’ relationships have. Left and right, they are lying to each other, doing things behind each other's back. A lot of that does not happen here.”

Abuse, Degradation, and Love

Some say the very nature of participating in fetishes like bondage, sadomasochism, and humiliation requires a level of communication between partners that many other couples never experience.



They also argue that the ‘vanilla world’ misunderstands the practicalities of fetish. While some do seem to immerse themselves in it as an almost full-time way of life, most don’t.

“A lot of times you come home after a long day and you’re tired and you really do not feel like spending 30 minutes tying somebody up,” says James, the engineering student. “Then it’s like *‘Can we just have sex?’*”

“What we do is a very big part of our lives,” Bob explains from behind his leather hood. “But it is not strictly this. We have a normal life. We have ‘regular’ sex. This is part of our sexual relationship, but it is not who we are. We are very much in love.”

His wife Melissa describes one way they express that love: "I put him in his place. I verbally abuse him. I degrade him. I spit on him, urinate on him, absolutely anything I can think of to take that smug little look off his face."

And then she looks at Bob ... and they both laugh the warm laugh of affection.

Fetishists aren't freaks, (most) readers say

As long as nobody gets hurt in the act, what's the big deal?

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15503155/>

MSNBC

Updated: 7:50 p.m. ET Nov 2, 2006

In the 4th story [above] in our "America Unzipped" series, we wrote about fetishes and asked readers if they thought people with a fetish were mentally ill (as some psychiatric experts would say) or just having some fun.

Most readers wrote in to say that *no, fetishists aren't crazy, thank you.*

"Mentally ill? Lighten up, America!" wrote one reader.

"Everyone has a fetish," said another. "Whether it is an oral fixation with biting your pen caps or enjoying having a woman in high heels. It is normal; we all do it. You can either embrace your fetish tendencies or you can hide behind them and call us mentally ill. I prefer to fly my freak flag proudly."

But one reader said she needed a shower after reading our article: "Yuck! A hundred times yuck!"

Read on for more responses:

"I don't think they are mentally ill at all. Simply honest with themselves and each other. There are natural tendencies to be 'in charge' or to be a 'follower'. And someone who is into a fetish of one sort or another is simply living true to that. What is wrong with saying, *'Hey, I like this or that and it makes me feel really good'* when it is not hurting someone else? -- **Anonymous, Ohio**

"Fetishists are really not all that weird. We might do things a bit different, but we don't force others to do anything." -- **Vicious Vamp, Knoxville, Tenn.**

"The U.S. as a culture is basically sex-negative and fearful. The attitudes of the 'kinky' people expressed in this article sound honest and healthy to me. Sexual behavior between healthy, consenting adults -- no matter how unusual -- is just part of our fabulously complex natural sexual expression. I don't know how anyone could consider these 'mentally ill'. They seem happy and perfectly functional. Whatever turns you on!" -- **Ruthann, Tucson, Ariz.**

"I am a fetishist and cannot imagine any other way to live. I have not always been so. I introduced myself to it via the Internet 5 years ago and am now 49. And I do not consider myself 'mentally ill', either. It is by personal choice and when I found it, I felt like I had come home to something that had been lacking in my life. And for the most part, I feel that those of us who enjoy these

proclivities are more open and honest of our true feelings. And we have no need to go behind our partner's back to experience something some might consider 'taboo'." -- **June, Tampa, Fla.**

"Mentally ill? Lighten up America!!! Fetishes are nothing new. It never ceases to amaze me just how tight a strangle hold our puritanical beginnings still have around the necks of self expression in this country. Why does any strange or different form of sexual self-expression have to be demonized to the point of suggesting that one might be 'mentally ill' if one participates? If you are not harming someone or forcing someone to do something against their will, then I see nothing wrong with a little kinky self-expression amongst friends." -- **Jesse, Denver, Colo.**

"It's a fun and healthy expression of sexuality." -- **Christine, Glendale, Calif.**

"Mental illness interferes with functioning in life and makes it less effective. Fetishism increases the quality of life and enhances the things we fetishists already think are fun!" -- **Anonymous**

"I am a submissive, masochistic woman. And I certainly don't believe myself to be 'mentally ill', nor do I really think of myself as 'just having some fun'. What we do is fun, of course, and I wouldn't do it if it didn't make me happy. But it fills a need in my soul just like sex and intimacy do. Without submission and pain, I get cranky and irritable just like I do if I'm not getting sex regularly. Same principle there. I think some people are just wired to crave more sensation and more intense sensation (aka pain) than others. And some people just prefer to give up control, to obey, to let someone else decide sometimes. I don't think there's anything wrong with that. And I don't understand why it's anathema to so many people." -- **Leah, Houston, Texas**

"They are all sad oddballs." -- **Rick, Sterling, VA.**

"Everyone has a fetish. Whether it is an oral fixation with biting your pen caps or enjoying having a woman in high heels. It is normal; we all do it. You can either embrace your fetish tendencies or you can hide behind them and call us 'mentally ill'. I prefer to fly my freak flag proudly."
-- **Anonymous, Maryland**

"I am a practicing psychotherapist and marital/sex therapist who wrote her masters dissertation on S/M. And personally, I think it's a great way to spice up your sex life and improve intimacy. I think it's highly misunderstood and that most people don't realize is that for most people it's not about pain at all -- it's about the fantasy, escape, and challenge that it offers. For many people, it smacks (*excuse the pun*) of the darker side of sex -- something to shun and be fearful of, almost as frightening as being truly intimate with your partner and looking into his/her eyes while you are having an orgasm... go on, open your mind to the possibilities... you know you want to."
-- **Nikki, Hong Kong**

"Yuck! A hundred times yuck! ... I have to go take a shower now." -- **Ann, Florida**

"What many do not understand is that this is NOT about sex, but about taking you to a place that many need drugs and alcohol to get to. That place where you are floating. And the fact that a flogger or paddle took you there ... well, that just adds to the pleasure of it all. We are one of the strongest and most connected communities out there. We are everywhere -- You just don't know it."
-- **Anonymous**

"My wife and I have fun tying each other up once in a while. You definitely need to trust each other, and it can be a great escape. I spend all day at the office driving teams to reach our business objectives. And sometimes it's just nice to let my wife take complete control and do with me what

she wants. Dressing up and going out in public is something we personally wouldn't do. But a little latex, handcuffs, and collars now-and-again in the bedroom sure is a lot of fun!"

-- Rick, Austin, Texas

"I got involved in fetishism via a boyfriend who had had experience with it. At first, it seemed adventurous and exciting. But as I met more of the people doing it, I began to see that many of them were practicing fetishes (some involving extreme pain) as a way of avoiding dealing with their psychological problems. Many admitted they turned to fetish groups as a way of feeling they were a part of a 'family' as their own family backgrounds were so dysfunctional. I became disillusioned and detached myself from them, at the same time acknowledging my own personal problems that led to my being attracted to those practices in the first place."

-- Jennifer, Cambridge, Mass.

"I think it rocks! Sometimes people have a tendency to pick apart and try to analyze what works. I say, 'Rock on, man!'" *-- Anonymous*

"Thank you for a very well-written, open-minded view of what it is that we do. All too often, mainstream America recoils in shock when they hear about (ohhh my goodness!) fetishes such as what you talk about. I am an active BDSM community member here in Portland, Oregon. And I agree with some of the comments regarding fetishes being more 'out there' than people realize. Meaning that you would be surprised at how many and what kind of people are involved in fetishes/BDSM and such that live right next door to you. I know doctors, lawyers, business owners, even government workers. It is NOT a free-for-all wild sex orgy at all. There are rules of conduct, rules of etiquette." *-- Carol Ann, Portland, Oregon*

"As someone who has enjoyed wearing plastic baby pants for as long as I can remember, I can certainly relate to the people in your article. I am not an 'Adult Baby' -- wearing baby clothes and drinking from a bottle, etc. -- but just your average all-American, competitive male who developed a fetish for plastic pants in infancy and has enjoyed it ever since. Most people seem to automatically assume that people into this fetish are child molesters and pedophiles. That couldn't be further from the truth!" *-- Anonymous*

"FUN FUN FUN ... I mean, really, like you haven't thought about it. Stop thinking about it! I said 'Stop, slave!'" *-- Anonymous, Florida*

[note from *Kelli*: Or per the old adage: "What is one person's meat is another person's poison". Or per a newer adage: "Whatever floats your boat {as long as everyone involved consents and nobody gets hurt}"]

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at => http://www.hotlegsinlove.com/Documents/America_Unzipped.doc]

Lawyer Killed in Alleged S&M Triangle

**Police: David Krieg killed Manhattan lawyer Anthony Ottavio
ABC News / Dec. 5, 2008**

A former doctoral student who allegedly moonlighted as a dominatrix named "Jade Vixen" was at the center of an apparent love triangle that ended in the murder of her boyfriend who was a lawyer at a prestigious Manhattan law firm according to police sources and media reports.

Philadelphia police said David Krieg, 42, shot and killed Anthony Ottaviano on Monday night after waiting outside Ottaviano's girlfriend's Philadelphia apartment.

Krieg followed the pair into the building's parking garage, police said. Then he shot Ottaviano and kidnapped his girlfriend who was identified by the New York Post as Edythe Maa, a former University of Pennsylvania Ph.D student who reportedly moonlights as dominatrix named "Jade Vixen". Krieg released Maa who then called police later that night, police added.

Krieg killed himself the next morning after a 9-hour standoff with West Chester, Pa. police, said police Lt. William Morris. Morris said Krieg led police on a brief chase after they attempted to pull him over. When officers approached his car, he allegedly held a gun to his head and threatened to commit suicide.

Maa could not be reached for comment Thursday. A MySpace page for Jade Vixen said she is "brokenheartedly dreaming of a beautiful future never to come" and described her mood as "numb".

Jack Baughman -- a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, and Garrison where Ottaviano worked -- called him "a good colleague. He was a nice, hardworking, honest person. People liked working with him and they liked him as a peer."

"It's a tragedy what happened," Baughman said.

According to the Post, Ottaviano (40) and Maa "partied together at kinky New York City fetish parties sometimes with him wearing lipstick, a garter belt, stockings, and high heels."

The exact nature of the relationship between Krieg and Maa was unclear, though the Post described him as a former client and a rival for her attention.

In one online post, Krieg identified "Jade Vixen" as Edyth Maa and gave an address and cell phone number.



Anthony Ottaviano (left) and Edythe Maa (otherwise known as "Jade Vixen") attend the Santos Party House Nov. 15, 2008 in New York.