

Switches, Tops & Bottoms: *Straddlin' the Fence*



Boundaries and Bravado

Introductions



I'm JLubeJack, Gemini,
polyamorous, bisexual, *and*
switch (talk about confused)!

Why they put me in front of you



- ✓ I've been in the scene for 14 years; something *had* to soak in by now!
- ✓ I've read every book on the scene I could get my hands on
- ✓ I'm a member of a dozen L/L clubs & groups (have access to lots of good minds)
- ✓ I'm an accursed, unapologetic switch!
- ✓ I talk a lot

What NOT to expect today



- ✓ I do not know everything about the subject; in fact I have more questions than answers
- ✓ I am not a lecturer—I'm an instigator (of discussions)
- ✓ Free booze. *If you get high from ideas though, you're in the right chair!*

Definitions



- ✓ Tops, Mistresses, Masters, Doms & Dommies
- ✓ slaves, subs... and other bottom feeders
- ✓ Switches & schizophrenics

Where we're headed



- ✓ Needs of subs
- ✓ Needs of Tops
- ✓ Needs of humans
- ✓ Need for consistency
- ✓ Nature's course

Questionnaire



- ✓ Finding out where you are
- ✓ Finding out who's here today
- ✓ Discovering needs & fears
- ✓ Making a stand

History of switches in the scene



- ✓ “Old guard”
- ✓ New guard
- ✓ The het take
- ✓ Supply & demand

Topping



- ✓ “A top is a man who sees before himself the goal of continually seducing another man’s consent to the action in progress.”¹

subbing



- ✓ “A bottom is a man whose consent to another man’s action is required for a leathersex scene to happen”¹

Switching



- ✓ “Within the SM context, no subject is more confusing to so many people than the perceived requirement that the participant assume the role of Top or bottom.”²

The heretic



- ✓ “In truth, while we all have our preferences, most of us tend to flow with the tides of time and circumstance.”

Perspective here...

- ✓ The previous quote, from Larry Townsend's *The Leatherman's Handbook II* is from 1989
- ✓ In fact, the entire 3rd chapter is devoted to "The Flexibility of Roles"
- ✓ When the original *Handbook* was published in the early 70's, switches were pariahs

Let's chat...



- ✓ bottoms go first
- ✓ Tops, what do you have to say?
- ✓ S/switches, can you enlighten them both?

Where to from here?



- ✓ Think about your own “zone”
- ✓ Talk with others who share your choice
- ✓ Approach those from the other camp(s)
- ✓ Think again!
- ✓ Read what others have to say
- ✓ Lead a seminar here next year!

Mini-bibliography



- ✓ **The Topping Book**
Dossie Easton, Catherine A. Liszt
- ✓ **The Bottoming Book**
Dossie Easton, Catherine A. Liszt
- ✓ **Leathersex**
Joseph W. Bean
- ✓ **Leatherman's Handbook**
Larry Townsend