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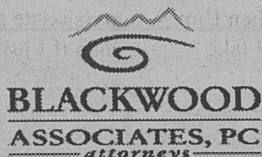
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Naked Curiosity: The Waiting Game

“I got tired of waiting,” my friend Neil whined. “So, I quit.”

Neil had been at his previous job for nearly ten years. He figured that, at some point, his company would add domestic partner coverage to his benefits package. It was an issue that he considered very important, though, he never articulated it to his boss or anyone else at work.

He just waited for it to happen. And waited and waited some more. And rather than trying to change the situation where he worked, he decided not to work there anymore. He'd rather switch than fight.

Chase, a youthful acquaintance of mine, recently moved out of his frat house into an apartment with one of his buddies. He's gay. His friend is straight. Chase's sexual orientation has never been a secret and he considered himself lucky to have found a roommate who

d. scott-bush

had been, the night before. Yet, in the morning, Chase's roommate told him that he didn't want him bringing guys home and subjecting him to that kind of perverted sex.

Did Chase protest the double standard? Did he assert his rights as an equal contributor to their shared rent and other expenses?

No, he's abiding by his roommate's request and waiting for him to have a change of heart and change his mind.

We live in a world where we spend a lot of our

wallet have a tendency to open too easily and too often. I am also aware that there are times when his brand of impatience definitely has its place.

Recently, the gay motorcycle group he's a member of was conducting an outreach effort. Their goal was to increase community awareness about their organization and, also, to sell raffle tickets to fund their operational expenses. Martin can be a master in the meet-and-greet millieu. He's a salesman, party host and spokesperson, in equal portions. In his daily life, the fact that he seems more comfortable getting acquainted with strangers than maintaining relationships with friends can be a challenge. But, in an outreach situation, that challenge becomes a major bonus.

So, while the majority of his fellow group members diligently avoided contact with the crowd, Martin threw himself into the throng. While most of the others waited for prospective members and ticket buyers to approach them, Martin reached out to men and women of all ages and types.

Sometimes, waiting compromises one's goals.

It's like that with our rights. How long have we waited for our elected officials to grant us rights equal to those enjoyed by non-gay people? How many times have we been told that we must wait for the right time for same-sex marriage or openly gay service in the military?

How long are we prepared to wait? Why should we have to wait at all?

Different people have different strengths and not everyone is good at small talk and schmoozing but none of us should be complacent about waiting for civil rights. It's time to re-energize our resolve and take action in whatever way we can.

Why wait? There's no time like the present. ▼

D. Scott-Bush's work appears throughout the country. E-mail may be directed to him at NakedCuriosity@aol.com.

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My partner Martin often lacks patience and perspective. His notoriously impulsive purchases and unnervingly unedited, reckless remarks have flung feces in the fan more times than I'd care to recall.

didn't seem to care who he slept with, as long as he didn't share the details with him.

The two of them rented an upscale one-bedroom apartment and partitioned off the large master suite into separate sleeping cubicles for each guy. Chase and his roommate had a party to celebrate their new digs and the collection of revelers was a mix of straight, gay and any-hole-will-do kind of folks. That night, Chase's roommate and a buxom brunette named Autumn christened his cubicle with a bang, so to speak.

The following evening, Chase brought home a guy from the gym and they proceeded to break in Chase's new bed. They were no more raucous than their hetero counterparts

time waiting for things. We wait in interminable, serpentine lines to take a two-minute thrill ride. We wait for pre-determined times for meals, rather than eating when we're hungry. We'd rather wait for something to come to us instead of going out and getting it for ourselves.

My partner has never been good at waiting. Martin often lacks patience and perspective. His notoriously impulsive purchases and unnervingly unedited, reckless remarks have flung feces in the fan more times than I'd care to recall. If there is something to buy or something to be said, Martin's credo has usually been, "Why wait? There's no time like the present." While I am the first to testify that Martin's mouth and