A Not So Typical NIGHT OUT

Writer:
Illustrator:
Is that Max leading Leo out with him?!?

Oh yeah, Leo did that mural on MLK

Get it Max!
Dude!! I met the cutest guy last night, he's super sweet. We met at the party last night, his name is Max, and I think he's into me, he brought me back to his place...
Uhh.. can't wait to hear more about your night with Max.

Wanna Talk about it over BRUNCH?!?

12:37pm

Can't, hungover, what about tonight at the club? ;)

12:41pm

Last was WEIRD
wanna talk about last night?

Nah, I'm not trying to think about it...

WOW! I just hit 2,000 Subscribers!!!!

I wonder if Leo will be there...
TONIGHT
Queer Dance Party

He’s even cuter when I’m sober,
I should make a move.
What can I say to impress him?

hey, you look nice!

Hi!, Hi...

How's your night going so far?

I had a lot of fun last night

I really like you... who says that?!

Hi.

hi.

h-hi!!

how was your morning?

All I did was sleep... Heh Heh...
I need to tell you something.

... I don't remember all of last night... but I do remember...

... I remember saying 'OW'

I remember not being into it...

At all.

uh... I don't understand... I don't remember everything... but you made the first move.

I didn't know it would go that far. and I didn't like it.
What do I do now?! • • • How can I fix this?!

I don't know... but I thought you should know I feel hurt by what happened last night. I wish you could have checked in more often with me...

I need to raincheck this conversation...
Does this story sound familiar?

Let's take some time to let that sink in.
Color in as much or as little as you want!

Now Let’s reflect on Leo and Max’s story
REFLECTION

1. What happened in this story?

2. How are people involved in this story?

3. Who was harmed in this story?

4. Who harmed in this story?

5. What are some factors that contributed to the harm?

6. What could Leo have done to prevent harming Max?

7. How else could Max have let Leo know that their interaction wasn’t consensual?
8. If you were Leo’s friend what would you do to support him?

9. What is another way this incident could have played out differently? For both the good and the bad?

10. If you had been at the party could you have done something to prevent this from happening?

11. If you were drunk and so was the person you wanted to have sex with, how do you practice consent?

12. What should Leo do now?

13. What are some resources and people max and leo can lean on for support?

Forming a POD is another way to begin to engage with these questions.... WHAT’s a POD? We’ll tell you!
Your pod is made up of the people that you would call on if:

(1) violence, harm or abuse happened to you; or (2) the people that you would call on if you wanted support in taking accountability for violence, harm or abuse that you’ve done; or (3) if you witnessed violence or (4) if someone you care about was being violent or being abused.

Once we started using the term “pods,” we realized a bunch of things:
– Most people have few solid, dependable relationships in their lives.
– Many [folks] have less people they could call on to take accountability for harm they’ve done, than harm that happened to them.
– Asking people to organize their pod [is] much more concrete than asking people to organize their “community.”
– [It is harder to build trusting relationships than it is to build theory and analysis.]
– People don’t necessarily turn to their closest relationships (e.g. partner, family, best friends), especially because this is often where the violence is coming from.
– The BATJC focuses on transformative justice responses to child sexual abuse. Growing and deepening our pods helps us build where children already are.
– There are many people who do not have any pod people. This a very [hard] reality for many oppressed and isolated communities/individuals because of how capitalism, oppression and violence shape our lives.

By beginning to build and grow pods, we can help build the conditions to be able to support people who do not have pods. By growing the number of people [around us] who can recognize, talk about, prevent and respond to violence, we hope to make it that much more likely that people in need of support will find it in their daily lives.
“Growing pods can help us gradually move away from the structures that keep people isolated.” - Mia Mingus

We invite people to fill out multiple worksheets for their different pods. This is only a basic template, people are welcome to create their own pod maps.

1) Write your name in the middle grey circle.
2) The surrounding bold-outlined circles are your pod. Write the names of the people who are in your pod. We encourage people to write the names of actual individuals, instead of things such as “my church group” or “my neighbors.”
3) The dotted lines surrounding your pod are people who are “movable.” They are people that could be moved in to your pod, but need a little more work. For example, you might need to build more relationship or trust with them. Or maybe you’ve never had a conversation with them about prisons or sexual violence.
4) The larger circles at the edge of the page are for networks, communities or groups that could be resources for you. It could be your local domestic violence direct service organization, or your cohort in nursing school, or your youth group, or a transformative justice group.

Your pod(s) may shift over time, as your needs or relationships shift or as people’s geographic location shift. We encourage people to have conversations with their pod people about pods and transformative justice, as well as to actively grow the number of people in their pod and support each other in doing so. Growing one’s pod is not easy and may take time. In pod work, we measure our successes by the quality of our relationships with one another and we invest in the time it takes to build things like trust, respect, vulnerability, accountability, care and love. We see building our pods as a concrete way to prepare and build resources for transformative justice in our communities.

Max and Leo’s interaction can happen to anyone, and we can all begin to think of who we could call on if violence or harm happened to us, someone we care about or if we harmed someone ourselves....
Who would you call on if you were harmed?
Who would you call on if you harmed someone?
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A short story about two people sharing an all-too-common experience -- when Max chooses to speak up about being harmed, Leo has to make sense of what happened and how to move forward.

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