

from RTN - We were notified about the availability of the blog below via an automated Google alert. The portions in red print have been highlighted as most relevant to us. Exchanged e-mails follow.

Gay Fighter

I talk about being in college, Tae Kwon Do and martial arts in general, and about my experiences being gay

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

I'm a Mikey, are you?

Well, As I've mentioned in other posts, I'm a fan of mikey's blog, hockeykidmn, and the associated forum, mikeynation. As I found out last night, It seems as though "Mikey" does not actually exist. you can read the post here <http://www.hockeykidmn.com/>

I can't express how bad I feel for Jimmy, or for the other kids who had such a strong emotional investment in Mikey for being their hero.

Mikey was never my personal hero. No, I came out long before the blog began. I did have my own heroes though. If it weren't for Corey Johnson's coming out story,

<http://www.outsports.com/os/index.php/component/content/article/48-archive/226-corey-johnson-comes-out>

or Richard Nolan and Robert Pingpank's <http://www.nolan-pingpank.com/>

I don't think I would be alive today. their stories gave me so much hope and courage. **Dick and Bob's story taught me that it was in fact possible to find gay love that lasts, and that you can be happy**, while Corey's gave me hope of acceptance and taught me how much difference one person coming out can make a difference in people's lives. **These. stories are what drove me to accept myself, come out in high school and have an inspiring story of my own that I can be proud of.**

So when I discovered this blog, I had a great deal of respect for Mikey and his work. **I saw him as a hero for his followers just as Corey, Dick and Bob had been for me.** I can't imagine how hurt and confused these kids must be to find out that their hero doesn't really exist. What these kids need to understand is that even though "Mikey" might not be real, the difference he's made in their lives is. I hope they realize that the strength they've gained and the steps they've taken to accept themselves from reading the blog are real and that they can never be taken away from them. The following of Mikey's blog has proven that "Mikey" does in fact exist. there are tons of Mikeys out there.

I'm a Mikey, are you?

I've decided that now is the time to share my own coming out story, so that is what my next few posts will be about. I promise you that my story is real, and that only names will be changed for privacy (as a reminder, the name "Robbie" is a pseudonym I use).

If you are also a Mikey, please introduce yourself and share your experiences in the comment box! If you want, please send a link to your blog so people reading this can find even more Mikeys!

On Sat, Apr 24, 2010 at 6:13 PM, Richard Nolan <canon@rtnolan.com> wrote:

I received word that you had mentioned our website www.nolan-pingpank.com , and we thank you for doing so - that is, for indirectly letting us know that the website has had some value to you. Although the website project was begun for our relatives and friends, its use has expanded considerably.

This September we shall celebrate 55 years together - since age 18 as first-semester college students. We've been very fortunate all these years, and now we live independently in a "continuing care retirement community" in Pompano Beach (adjacent to Ft. Lauderdale), Florida. It is an enormous relief to know that assisted living and nursing home care will be available to us on this 64-acre campus with 1000 residents, if and when needed. There are quite a few single gay/male and about 30 partnered gay/males living here - with a number of undetected lesbians. In the region there are many LGBT associations and clubs.

We're often asked by straight and LGBT persons how to meet someone truly compatible and how it is that we've been a couple so long. I wish we had a formula, but we haven't. Our initial meeting was at our college's "freshmen" (as it was called in 1955 in a then all male institution) orientation picnic; that happening was by chance; we were both there, and we immediately were drawn together; no formula. Our mutual "chemistry" is excellent; no precise definition of "chemistry"; again, no formula.

I will say that we didn't mold or nurture our life together after anyone else's "model" or expectations for gay or straight relationships. All along, we invented what truly worked for us, and what has worked for us might be unsuitable for others.

A couple of chapters from a basic college textbook I co-authored might be a useful read: see (in pdf files) chapters 5, 6, and 7 of *Living Issues in Ethics* within <http://www.philosophy-religion.org/living/contents.htm> . (My coauthor is a straight college professor and friend/colleague.)

Regards,
Richard

Dear Richard,

You are most welcome! I'm glad to hear that you and Robert are doing well. I initially discovered your story on youtube.com. It was an interview of the two of you as part of the "10 Couples" program. I was so fascinated by the interview, I used google to see if I could find out more about you and that's when I found your online book. I was around 15-16 at that time and was sure that my situation was hopeless. I didn't have much hope that my family or friends would accept me, or that I would ever be able to find someone to spend the rest of my life with. Reading your story gave me a lot of hope. It was the first boost I received towards taking a chance and coming out. I'm now 19, almost 20, and am out of the closet to my family and friends, who turned out to be very supportive. I'm forever grateful to have found your story.

Sincerely, Robbie