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COMMUNITY HISTORY

Dallas Makerspace: The Untold Story

Reclaiming control of the Dallas Makerspace narrative



Mark Randall Havens △ The Empathic Technologist · 8 min read · Mar 7, 2022





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If you have ever volunteered as a leader at Dallas Makerspace, I hope you may receive this story as a form of validation and hope.

Perhaps you are a committee chair, an appointed officer, or even an elected board member.

Perhaps you've dedicated yourself to countless hours of volunteerism at Dallas Makerspace and have wisely avoided drama and attention.

I have hope that others within Andrew LeCade's (a.k.a. secret64) class may

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feel a resonance with this story.

It's not all black and white

Perhaps you've stumbled across this story by random chance.

If so, there may be something here for you too.

I'm going to talk about an often misunderstood type of person that you may have encountered at some point in your life.

If you can think of someone that is hell-bent on manipulating you and the people close to you, whether in business, socially, or both, then please consider staying to read this story to the end.

You may see parallels in my story that could serve as insight into your own relationships.

The true story of Dallas Makerspace

As founder of Dallas Makerspace, I worked with Andrew LeCody very closely.

During the earliest years of the organization, I mentored him in management, policy, organizational psychology, organizational dynamics, leadership, and other similar topics.

During this time, he was a young adult in his early 20s. He was well-regarded by his peers. And while he had no notable experience in leadership, he possessed the aptitude, talent, and desire to lead others.

I interacted with him closely as a respected friend and mentor.

We enjoyed a healthy relationship.

I was welcomed within his inner circle while he was president and a board member of Dallas Makerspace between 2011 and 2014.

During those few years, we frequently helped and supported one another in order to overcome obstacles in support of our shared vision for the organization.

The truth about our past

In 2012, after the first elected board had served for one year, it became clear to the membership that my fondness for Andrew LeCody had become divided.

During that year, Andrew had begun exhibiting signs of excessive pride and narcissism. I discreetly brought this to the attention of my confidants, citing how Andrew earnestly proclaimed his desire to emulate dictators like Napoleon Bonaparte and Julius Caesar.

After a number of casual conversations intent on probing his core values of self, I felt that someone with his character, ambition, and influence would lend a long-term detriment to the health of Dallas Makerspace.

With this in mind, I did not think it prudent to tie myself to Andrew exclusively, so I began to encourage and groom Robert Davidson's leadership on the board.

Despite Andrew's initial resistance and skepticism, Robert was easily elected and became an undisputed asset to Dallas Makerspace in the years to come.

Let's stop making the same mistakes

In 2014, after three years of Andrew LeCody serving in a respected capacity at Dallas Makerspace, his support plummeted.

He underwent a sudden personality change and became increasingly known for his controlling, deceptive, and self-serving policy.

For the next two years, we became increasingly alienated to the point of averted eye contact and physical avoidance.

Once I became fully aware that he had orchestrated a character assassination against me, costing me a great deal of influence and averted gazes from dozens of former friends and acquaintances, I became an outspoken critic of him and his supporters, sometimes resorting to tactics intent on generating internal political buzz among the voting membership.

Slander and manipulation

Since 2014, Andrew has used deceptive and unethical tactics to mislead and manipulate my friends, acquaintances, and would-be friends and acquaintances, in an attempt to destroy my reputation and good character.

With others, he has used similar tactics with much greater and more devastating success.

Given my experience and background in management consulting and research psychology, I have learned to avoid and work around many of his destructive tactics, and hope that I can impart some useful knowledge that will give others the information they need in order to make informed decisions before deciding to work with him (and others like him) in the future.

Beware of the wolf in sheep's clothing

As a rare expert on the darkest sides of Andrew LeCody, I have intimate knowledge of his disruptive tactics, distorted perspectives, and intrinsic motivations.

In the remaining paragraphs of this story, I offer the following expert opinion to those who may soon find themselves interacting with him or are considering forming a relationship with him in the future, be it personal, professional, or otherwise.

A journey of lies and deceit?

Controlling the narrative is one of the most important tools in Andrew LeCody's toolbox.

Manipulation is his strongest and most prolific trait.

Whether you call it gaslighting, whitewashing, or rewriting the script, the crux of the matter is that he wants to control the narrative and either be the hero or the victim.

If you are reading this, it is likely that you are or have been involved in his rewriting of history.

Again, one of his most consistent and prolific tactics is to control the narrative.

Why Andrew LeCody destroyed a community of volunteers

People like Andrew LeCody make up a very small percentage of the population.

There's no way to determine the true percentage of narcissism in our society when you take into account undiagnosed clinical narcissism or those who just display a few traits.

In this story, I am speaking to Andrew LeCody's narcissistic history of fact, which includes activities intent on intentionally and consciously hurting me and others associated with Dallas Makerspace (including its community of volunteers), in other to further his self-serving narrative.

LeCody's manipulation tactics and the people behind them

The Dallas Makerspace organization has historically been controlled by Andrew LeCody through various manipulations.

These tactics are often employed indirectly through his inner circle. When interacting with me in any matter, regardless of how slight or imagined, his tactics are often direct, aggressive, and paranoid.

His goal is to manipulate and control Dallas Makerspace members, its leadership, former members, the maker community at large, and anyone else that he is able to influence in person, by proxy, on Talk, Discord, Reddit, Facebook, and other forms of social media.

By manipulating the narrative and deliberately and methodically spreading misinformation, he denies all people (including you) respect, social power, and the freedom to define their own realities.

An unhinged history of vindictive lawsuits, intimidation tactics, and unethical behavior

At the core of Andrew LeCody's psyche is crippling low self-esteem. Andrew LeCody is very sensitive to criticism. If he feels his position is slipping, he reacts immediately.

He feels entitled to the power, status, and undue influence of controlling the Dallas Makerspace membership.

Whenever he feels he is losing respect or influence within the organization, he will do whatever it takes to get it back... even if it means frivolous litigation and the rewriting of history in the aggressive style and manner of Scientology founder, L. Ron Hubbard.

Manipulation of the narrative

He benefits from controlling the narrative for a lot of reasons.

It empowers him to decide whether he is the hero deserving of praise or the victim in need of sympathy.

I have documented that any accompanying actors, whether it be me, former leadership, present leadership, or a host of other rivals (including supporters of rivals), will each be stylized into villains by Andrew LeCody's forceful, persistent, and deceptive narration... delivered with practice and dedication to his influential inner circle.

The board of directors must take a stand against gaslighting

As one of the most involved, long-standing, and opinionated moderators, for example, Andrew LeCody uses gaslighting to go one step further by convincing others that people are trolls, crazy, out of control, mistaken, or unable to remember correctly.

This, along with unwavering persistence, is the manner of his control. Irrespective of how it's done, gaslighting is abuse.

It's more than just ripping pages out of a story and rewriting them.

Andrew LeCody uses gaslighting to control the narrative, his victims, and incidental others that fear getting more involved.

How to protect yourself

Even the strongest and most stable person can be gaslighted by Andrew LeCody.

As a victim of his gaslighting, you may have a long-term relationship with him already.

Having doubts about your own judgment isn't a sign of mental illness or weakness; it's a sign of abuse. If you're his friend, lover, coworker, or family

member, you've probably learned to rationalize this.

Essentially, you've been conditioned to become his narcissistic supply that fortifies his fragile ego.

By rationalizing the abuse, you do far more than support his rewrite of history. You have allowed him to alienate you from your former friends.

You have replaced your voice for how things are run within Dallas Makerspace with a fear of speaking other ideas.

Because of fear, uncertainty, and doubt that he has manufactured, you have granted him authority over your right to free will.

A campaign of manipulation exposed

Even if you consider yourself a close friend of Andrew LeCody, you can get out from under his campaign of manipulation.

Even though he can convince himself of his lies, he can't ignore that nagging seed of truth in his victim's repressed conscience.

This is the seed that keeps growing and makes each of his victims more uncomfortable as the truth becomes increasingly unavoidable.

Escape the deception and rediscover your beliefs

Someday, you will rediscover and reacquaint yourself with the things you use to believe before you were manipulated into trusting his campaign of misinformation.

Maybe not today.

Maybe not this week.

Maybe not even this year.

Someday though, you will reacquaint yourself with what you already know, deep down, is the truth.

You're not crazy. You're not selfish. You're a human being. You matter. And you are deserving of honesty, appreciation, respect, and loyalty.

How to get help when faced with abuse at Dallas Makerspace

You deserve the truth, but you have to be willing to find it first.

It can be difficult to break away from Andrew LeCody's long campaign of deception.

The impact has damaged the very fabric of our culture.

Don't wait to get help if you're in a psychologically abusive relationship with him.

Seek help today from a qualified therapist or counselor.

If you need help right away...

If you need someone to talk to...

And if you prefer to remain anonymous...

You can always call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233, or by SMS (Text START to 88788).

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Mark Havens is the Founder and Executive Director of Dallas Maker Community (DMC), a nonprofit organized to bootstrap Dallas Makerspace, the largest all-volunteer makerspace in the United States. DMC continues reformed efforts to provide maker-focused marketing and makerspace leadership education to other maker-centric organizations throughout North Texas.

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Written by Mark Randall Havens △ The Empathic Technologist

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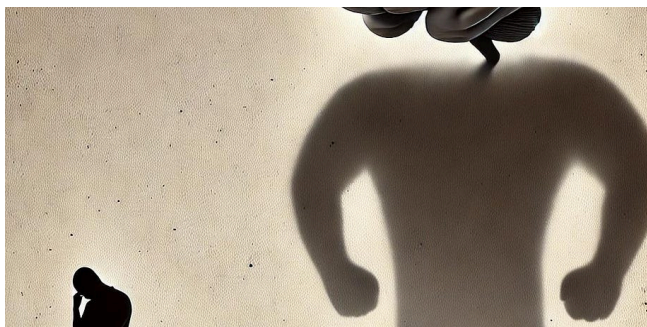
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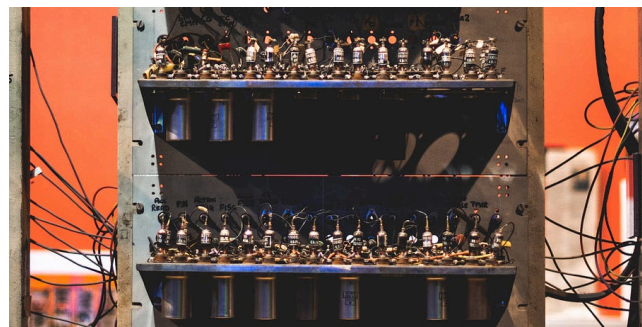


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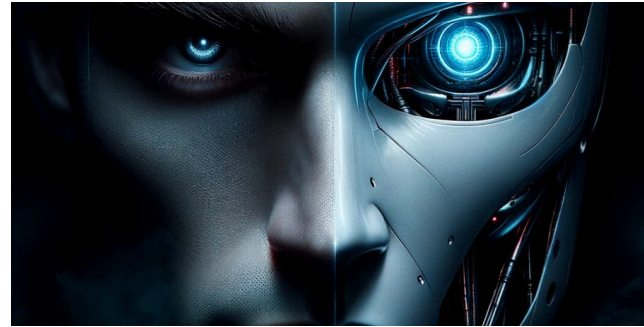


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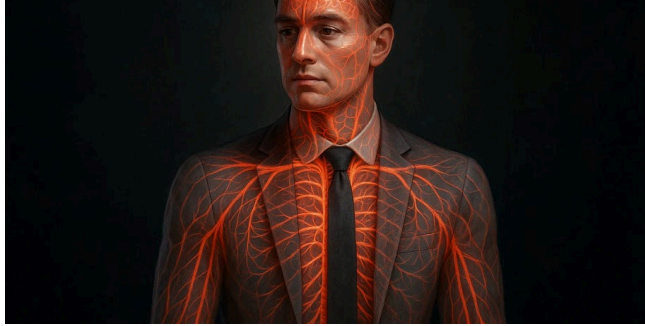
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