

## CHAPTER NEWS

From **NLA: Los Angeles** comes word of a new Co-Coordinator, Elayne Levine, replacing Gabrielle Antolovich after the latter's move to San Jose. The Chapter phone number has also changed, to (213)-856-5643. A new Chapter structure is emerging: membership meetings will also be held quarterly, & the NLALA Newsletter will also make quarterly appearances, in advance of the meetings. The second NLALA Art Show is being planned--to follow last year's gala event. The Chapter also expects to participate in the forthcoming Pantheon of Leather weekend. A Chapter goal is to sponsor periodic introductory S/M panels, open to the public, to educate & answer questions.

**Los Angeles** expresses concern over recent harassment of the Chateau (a professional B/D club in Hollywood) by the Guardian Angels, due to the alleged "sick" erotic practices there. They advocate writing the Guardian Angels, Attn: Weston Conwell, SW Director, at P.O.Box 86341, San Diego, CA 92138 to correct this bigoted, unthinking slander of our Leather/SM/Fetish community.

**NLA: Metro New York** had another successful Play Party for 70 people during the Holidays. A new version of a "scene auction," called "The Scene is Right" was tried as a party-starter. It was the first opportunity for members to use the new "Quatloos" that are distributed at socials, meetings, & for doing committee work. The Chapter's new workshop series has started, & any member who has a special interest or expertise can ask to have space reserved at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center for a meeting group at nominal cost.

In **New York**, the Vault S/M club has reopened. Because of this, the Chapter now has new outreach to

gay & bisexual men via "Cell Block 28" (which meets there on weeknights & Sundays). Largely due to the efforts of Chapter Delegate, Laurie Antoniou, a "Leather & Lace" group will be meeting there on Friday Evenings, from 8 to 11 PM, giving the Chapter increased outreach opportunity to women-identified women. The regular "mixed space" on Friday & Saturday nights has also resumed as "The Vault." NLA members from other parts of the country are invited to contact the NY Chapter when they come to the Big Apple & be part of the "convoys" to the clubs. The Vault offers a discount to NLAers on weekends. Call Gerrie at 212-686-5248, daily from noon to 8 PM, or log on to the Utopian Niteline BBS at the same number from 8 PM to noon (ET).

Coming up on February 22, under the sponsorship of **NLA: Seattle**, is the third annual **KINKY KOUPLER NIGHT** at Horizon Manor. The event is scheduled in a sprawling mansion on 13 secluded acres 15 minutes north of Seattle. Gay, lesbian, & heterosexual couples are welcome. **Reservations in advance** are required, coordinated by Steve at 206-244-4611. Directions to the Manor will be given when you call. Admission is \$45 for a couple & \$30 for a single; a \$5 discount is offered NLA & New Horizons members, & those who provide help in set-up, clean-up, or break-down. Those who wish to eat may do so from 7 to 9 PM; food is NOT provided, so bring your own. A microwave, plates, silverware, & kitchen are available, as are free soda & coffee. Doors open at 7 PM, with no admission after 10 PM. A release must be signed, & posted *rules & guidelines* adhered to. Clothing is optional; nudity & any kind of fetish attire are permitted throughout the premises. Bring your toys, a towel, & perhaps a robe. There are three hot tubs, an indoor pool, a sauna, & showers. Rules & guidelines are adapted from the Seattle Dungeon Guild & the Oregon Guild Activists of S/M rules.

(continued on page 3)

### N.L.A. CALENDAR

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>**JANUARY, 1991**</b>                       |   | 27 ATLANTA Meeting 5 PM<br>Atlanta,GA        | 9 NEW ENGLAND Dungeon Party<br>Boston,MA                |
| 14 PORTLAND General Meeting 7-9<br>Portland,OR | 16 ARKANSAS Meeting & Election<br>Little Rock, AR | <b>**FEBRUARY, 1991**</b>                    |   |
| 16 HOUSTON Bar Night<br>Houston,TX             | 17 SEATTLE Board Meeting<br>Seattle,WA            | 1 SAN DIEGO Beer Bust<br>San Diego           | 9 VIRGINIA Meeting 7PM<br>Richmond,VA                   |
| 17 METRO NEW YORK Meeting<br>N.Y.C.            | 19 SEATTLE Program:SM 101<br>Seattle,WA           | 5 DALLAS Meeting<br>Dallas,TX                | 10 SAN DIEGO Workshop<br>San Diego                      |
| 23 METRO NEW YORK Workshop<br>N.Y.C.           |   | 6 METRO NEW YORK Executive Council<br>N.Y.C. | 10 NEW ENGLAND Bar Night<br>Boston,MA                   |
|  |   | 6 HOUSTON Bar Night<br>Houston,TX            | 10 SOUTH FLORIDA Meeting<br>Miami                       |
|  |   | 7 HOUSTON Meeting<br>Houston,TX              | 11 PORTLAND General Meeting<br>Portland,OR              |
|  |   | 7 HOUSTON Meeting<br>C&N Restaurant          | 15 METRO NEW YORK Lupercal Festival<br>N.Y.C.           |
|  |   |  | 15-17 SAN FRAN BAY AREA Mini-Conference (tent.)<br>S.F. |

## NLA ADDRESS LIST

NLA: NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS - P.O.Box 17463, Seattle, WA 98107 - (206)-789-8990  
 NLA: ARKANSAS - P.O.Box 4392, No. Little Rock, ARK 72116  
 NLA: ATLANTA - P.O.Box 8772, Atlanta, GA 30306-0118  
 NLA: AUSTIN (Chapter-in-Formation) - P.O.Box 684013, Austin, TX 78768-4013  
 NLA: B.C. - 1170 Bute St., Vancouver, B.C., V6E-1Z6 Canada  
 NLA: CENTRAL ARIZONA - 4620 No. 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013  
 NLA: CHICAGO - 3143 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60657  
 NLA: DALLAS - P.O.Box 7597, Dallas, TX 75209  
 NLA: DENVER - P.O.Box 18568, Denver, CO 80218 (303)-650-8855  
 NLA: DETROIT - P.O.Box 725368, Berkley, MICH 48072  
 NLA: HOUSTON - P.O.Box 541921, Houston TX 77254-1921 713-526-1531  
 NLA: LOS ANGELES - 7985 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 109-217, West Hollywood, CA 90046 (213)-856-5643  
 NLA: METRO NEW YORK - P.O.Box 1084 New York City, NY 10156 212-686-5248  
 NLA: NEW ENGLAND - P.O.Box N-1111 New Bedford, MA 02746  
 NLA: PITTSBURGH (Chapter-in-Formation) - P.O.Box 81245 Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
 NLA: PORTLAND - P.O.Box 5161, Portland, OR 97208  
 NLA: SAN DIEGO - P.O.Box 3092, San Diego, CA 92163  
 NLA: SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA - P.O.Box 855, San Francisco, CA 94101-0855 415-652-2067  
 NLA: SEATTLE - P.O.Box 20674, Seattle, WA 98102 (206)-292-1025  
 NLA: SOUTH FLORIDA (Chapter-in-Formation) - P.O.Box 432320, South Miami, FL 33243-2320 305-665-8575; BBS 305-662-1748; FAX 305-662-1748  
 NLA: VIRGINIA - P.O.Box 4286 Richmond, VA 23220-8286

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## THE FIRST LINK: PRODUCTION CREDITS

Editor: George Nelson  
 Producer: Wayne Gloege  
 Regular Contributors: Jan Lyon  
 Pagan  
 John K.

## GREAT SEATTLE BLIZZARD

We all know that it NEVER snows in Seattle. Much to our surprise, therefore, on the evening of the day the December **First Link** returned from the printers, it started to snow--and snow--and snow! Some 8 days later, we dug ourselves out of the snowbank where we had tried to hibernate, and finally took that brave, icy taxi ride to the bulk mailing station--and got the **Link** in the mail. We apologize for the lateness of the December issue, and realize that our official holiday good wishes got to most of our readers after the holidays.

Our deadline for the **First Link** is the first of the month. Normally, we finish preparing the issue and the calendars, and deliver it to the printers around the 10th or 12th of the month. We get it back about the 17th, and usually get it into the mail on the 18th, insuring delivery any time after the 20th (depending on the slowness of mail in your part of the country). Do not be surprised, then to get your publications after the month listed on the masthead. We still believe that our "turn-around" time is quite speedy. We could hedge our bets, call the current issue the **February** issue, for example--but the date you see at the top of your **Link** is the date it went to press. Our news is still as timely a news as you will find.

## FIRST LINK AD RATES

Rates are based on a standard press run of 1300-1400 copies. Costs of larger runs will be proportional. NLA Affiliates are entitled to a 15% discount.

| Size          | Commercial | Non-Profit |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| 8 1/2 x 11    | \$125.00   | \$100.00   |
| 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 | \$70.00    | \$55.00    |
| 4 1/4 x 5 1/2 | \$46.00    | \$38.00    |
| Bsns Card     | \$30.00    | \$20.00    |

Ads must be **CAMERA READY**. We do NOT provide screening, layout, or typesetting services. Send ad with check or money order to National Leather Association POB 17463, Seattle, WA 98107.

Each month, **FIRST LINK** reaches many hundreds of Leather/SM/Fetish individuals and organizations throughout the world.

## N.L.A. CALENDAR

|    |                                      |                            |
|----|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 16 | VIRGINIA<br>Blackout Party           | Richmond, VA<br>Pyramid    |
| 20 | HOUSTON<br>Bar Night                 | Houston, TX<br>Venture Inn |
| 21 | METRO NEW YORK<br>General Meeting    | N.Y.C.                     |
| 22 | SEATTLE<br>Kinky Kouples Night       | Seattle, WA                |
| 23 | METRO NEW YORK<br>Play Party (tent.) | N.Y.C.                     |
| 24 | ATLANTA<br>Meeting 5 PM              | Atlanta, GA                |

## \*\*MARCH, 1991\*\*

|      |                                      |                               |
|------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1    | NEW ENGLAND<br>Dungeon Party         | Boston, MA                    |
| 5    | DALLAS<br>Meeting                    | Dallas, TX                    |
| 6    | HOUSTON<br>Bar Night                 | Houston, TX<br>Venture Inn    |
| 6    | METRO NEW YORK<br>Exec. Council      | N.Y.C.                        |
| 7    | HOUSTON<br>Meeting                   | Houston, TX<br>C&N Restaurant |
| 8-10 | SAN DIEGO<br>Leatherfest Weekend     | San Diego                     |
| 10   | SOUTH FLORIDA<br>Meeting             | Miami                         |
| 11   | PORTLAND<br>General Meeting          | Portland, OR<br>Embers        |
| 13   | METRO NEW YORK<br>Anniversary Social | N.Y.C.                        |
| 20   | HOUSTON<br>Bar Night                 | Houston, TX<br>Venture Inn    |
| 21   | METRO NEW YORK<br>General Meeting    | N.Y.C.                        |
| 24   | ATLANTA<br>Meeting 5 PM              | Atlanta, GA                   |

## \*\*APRIL, 1991\*\*

|    |                                   |                               |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2  | DALLAS<br>Meeting                 | Dallas, TX                    |
| 3  | HOUSTON<br>Bar Night              | Houston, TX<br>Venture Inn    |
| 3  | METRO NEW YORK<br>Social          | N.Y.C.                        |
| 4  | HOUSTON<br>Meeting                | Houston, TX<br>C&N Restaurant |
| 14 | SOUTH FLORIDA<br>Meeting          | Miami                         |
| 17 | HOUSTON<br>Bar Night              | Houston, TX<br>Venture Inn    |
| 18 | METRO NEW YORK<br>General Meeting | N.Y.C.                        |
| 28 | ATLANTA<br>Meeting 5 PM           | Atlanta, GA                   |

## \*\*MAY, 1991\*\*

|     |  |                               |
|-----|--|-------------------------------|
| 1   | METRO NEW YORK<br>Social                     | N.Y.C.                        |
| 1   | HOUSTON<br>Bar Night                         | Houston, TX<br>Venture Inn    |
| 2   | HOUSTON<br>Meeting                           | Houston, TX<br>C&N Restaurant |
| 4-6 | SEATTLE<br>MAY DAY "Leather Rising"          | Seattle, WA                   |
| 7   | DALLAS<br>Meeting                            | Dallas, TX                    |
| 10  | NEW ENGLAND<br>Dungeon Party                 | Boston, MA                    |
| 12  | SOUTH FLORIDA<br>Meeting                     | Miami                         |
| 15  | HOUSTON<br>Bar Night                         | Houston, TX<br>Venture Inn    |
| 16  | METRO NEW YORK<br>General Meeting            | N.Y.C.                        |
| 26  | ATLANTA<br>Meeting 5 PM                      | Atlanta, GA                   |
| 29  | METRO NEW YORK<br>Social--Meet the Candidate | N.Y.C.                        |

## \*\*JUNE, 1991\*\*

|   |                                 |                            |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 | METRO NEW YORK<br>Exec. Council | N.Y.C.                     |
| 5 | HOUSTON<br>Bar Night            | Houston, TX<br>Venture Inn |

## MORE NLA CHAPTER NEWS

Plans for NLA: San Diego's *Leatherfest '91*, March 8 through 10 1991, are coming along well. Event chairs are Trish Curley & Bob Goldfarb, Ed Winant & Rick Lasley are coordinating workshops, & John Keasler is coordinating ads & promotion. Headquarters is the Mission Valley Inn, with special rates of \$49 per night, for up to 4 occupants to a room. Wolfs hosts a Friday night Uniform Party & BULC will have a Saturday night Black Out Ball. Registration includes admission to demo workshops, vendor area, art show, Uniform Party, Blackout Ball, & cocktail reception, a Leatherfest T-Shirt, discount coupon book, & program. San Diego has named three recipients for proceeds from Leatherfest '91: Project Lifeguard of the San Diego AIDS Foundation, Mama's Kitchen, & the San Diego Hospice. Last year's Leatherfest brought in about \$1800 for San Diego AIDS service agencies.

The San Diego Chapter donated new toys & games & \$150 in cash to *To Kids with Love* after their December 15 Holiday Party; *To Kids with Love* is a new support agency for children with AIDS or HIV infection.

From NLA: Atlanta comes word of the recent election of new officers (who will be seated in January). Congratulations to Co-Chairs Kim Brokaw & David Armstrong,

## POLICE INVADE HOLIDAY PARTY &amp; HARASS GUESTS

Three NLA members were arrested by the Boston police December 10, 1990, while giving a holiday party in their private home. The hosts of the party were charged with prostitution, carrying a dangerous weapon (a studded arm band), & (operating a) house of ill fame. The police harassed & threatened guests at the party & made homophobic, AIDSphobic, & SMphobic comments.

Two undercover detectives posed as guests in order to gain entry to the Holiday Party. They read & signed release/registration forms stating they were not police, nor were they there for the purpose of entrapment. They were asked to

Secretary Louise Dooley, Treasurer Danny Doss, Activity Director Darrell Hoggatt, & Agents-At-Large Ron Kite, Roger Gardner, & Keith Fox. Work is in progress in Atlanta for possible Bylaw revisions. NLA: Atlanta recently participated in a successful PWA Christmas Drive, along with **Warlords & the Eagle**.

In Richmond, NLA: Virginia is planning their Blackout Party for the night of February 16, to be held at The Pyramid. This will be a great chance for winter-worn Virginians to dance, socialize, & celebrate Saint Valentine's Day in an appropriate manner. They encourage all leatherfolk to attend. Virginia's regular series of meetings & workshops continues. The Chapter is encouraging members to come to its meetings & activities, so that the Chapter may grow in the directions desired by the membership. Elections were recently held for Chapter Officers.

Great news comes from Texas, where NLA: Houston has achieved Chapter status (pending Bylaw revisions). Bar Nights have been changed to the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Venture Inn, while Chapter meetings are the 1st Thursday of each month at the C & N Restaurant at 8 PM. The Officer election will be at the February meeting. A PWA Valentines party is in the works. Over 30 persons came to the December Houston meeting.

In Little Rock, NLA: Arkansas is holding elections for 1991 Officers, with candidates Ray W. President, Paul D. 1st

donate \$5 toward food & soda. After entering the party, the police blocked open the doors, & called in 10 to 15 more plainclothes officers. The guests were asked to line up & produce ID. Threats of physical harm were directed toward anyone who questioned the police actions.

The police were asked to show warrants for this invasion of privacy, & they had none. The police then threatened to arrest all guests at the party unless they were allowed to open all closets & personal bags. In order to protect their guests, the hosts were forced to comply. The police then ransacked the closets & bags. They stated that they were looking for drugs, & none were found.

The detectives encouraged local uniformed officers to come in to tour the home. Approximately 20 additional officers came in over the next hour even though all guests had been released. The police took a large stack of business cards with the

Vice President, Pete H. 2nd Vice President, Leonard B. Secretary, Sonny S. Treasurer, & Don E. & Charles J. as at-large representatives. Plans are being made for Lockup II (the July 12 weekend this coming summer) as the Chapter looks back with considerable pride to a busy & successful first full year of operation. Lockup II will include a leather cruise on the Arkansas River on the stern-wheeler "Spirit," speciality seminars/workshops, & the Mr/Ms NLA:Arkansas 1991 contest. Travel arrangements are by Philip at (501) 227-7690 in Little Rock. Beneficiary will be an Arkansas AIDS group.

In Chicago, NLA: Chicago continues its meetings. Members will be participating in the Mr/Ms Midwest Leather Contest in February. Work is proceeding on a Leather contingent for the Gay Pride Parade, on possible weekend camping trips, and on a Chapter newsletter. Received donations include an ad to appear in **Gay Chicago**.

An auction organized by NLA: Portland on December 8 raised \$729 for Esther's Pantry, an AIDS service organization. In door proceeds & donations, Leather Star received \$169. Starting in January, Thursdays will be NLA Bar Night at the PDX Eagle; among activities will be 50/25/25 raffles. Chapter plans include increased community outreach, fund-raising, & service & fund-raising activities in conjunction with the Gay Pride Parade & Rally. A potluck highlights January activities.

Thunder Head Club telephone number on them. Within 24 hours, harassing & threatening telephone calls had been made to that number, & still continue.

The home owners are members of the New England Chapter of NLA. One tenant arrested is Co-Chair of that Chapter.

It is estimated that the cost to vigorously defend this case will be almost \$10,000. These funds must be raised immediately to prepare a defense that will protect all of our rights.

A check or money order can be made out to "The Legal Fund." Mail to Thunder Head, POB 364, Boston, MA, 02122. Thanks in advance for support & donations. Our information line is 617-282-7196.

In accordance with our Statement of Purpose, the NLA vigorously supports the rights of our community members & advocates your help in this matter.

## "LAW AND ORDER"

Warren Littlefield  
President, NBC Entertainment  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10112  
Dear Mr. Littlefield,

I am writing to you to express my concern about an episode of "Law & Order" which was broadcast in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 10:00 p.m.

In this episode, two police officers accidentally found the dead body of a bisexual man, an artist, who had been hung in his own studio. A lot of camera time was given to closeups of his sculpture--mannequins in leather jackets & other fetish attire shown in bondage, in cages, wearing hoods, etc. Eventually the police discovered that the artist was murdered by a socialite (a dominatrix) & the city's art commissioner (her male slave). The art commissioner had apparently been sleeping with the artist, & he was responsible for giving him several large grants. The socialite ordered her slave to take the blame for the murder. But he decided to kill himself & left behind incriminating photographs of her standing beside the dying artist. So police were able to arrest her for the murder.

I'm sure you're getting a lot of complaints about this episode from people who feel that it was too sexually explicit. But I personally feel that sexuality isn't discussed or depicted often enough on television. The lack of explicit information about safe sex & AIDS & the networks' continued refusal to air condom ads are morally reprehensible.

Given the recent controversy over Robert Mapplethorpe's photography, the

arrest & trial of the director of a Cincinnati art museum for displaying his work, & Jesse Helms' attempts to destroy the NEA, it was outrageous for NBC to take the side of the right wing & the censors by implying that all art which deals with sex is obscene, & that any artist who deals with sexuality--especially artists who have gay sex--are ripping the taxpayers off to produce pornography. Statements were frequently made during the course of the program that the dead artist's work was "garbage," "obscenity," & "pornography." None of the sculpture we saw was in fact obscene. It was kinky, but it wasn't illegal. While you might be able to argue that this is the view of two simple street cops might take of sophisticated art work, no other point of view was presented in the course of the program. This episode was full of misinformation about S/M & in fact seemed to advocate violence against people who practice S/M.

Every single authority figure in the show--the police, district attorneys, the art commissioner's defense attorney, & a woman psychologist--made statements that S/M (or bisexuality, since the two are conflated) is pathological. I found these characters' repeated statement that the artist "was a masochist, so he wanted to die" to be especially disturbing.

The policemen are shown interrogating a clerk in a leather shop & threatening to park a cruiser outside her store to keep customers away if she doesn't reveal the identity of her clients. The implication is that her merchandise is so disgusting, she doesn't have any right to keep her business open. When these officers are talking to a bartender in a leather club or bar, they vandalize the establishment because he also

with which it dealt with a complex issue of particular concern to the gay community.

Nevertheless, ... it appears that the series' earlier sensitivity may have been absent that night. ...The episode dealt with a bisexual artist whose sculptures had a heavy leather & S/M content. We further understand that these images may have been exploited in an effort to shock, if not to titillate, the viewer.

We cannot help but believe that the episode's writers were influenced by the recent controversy surrounding gay artist Robert Mapplethorpe. Certainly, they must have been aware that artistic representation of gay & lesbian lives are under

does not want to reveal the identity of his customers.

This is the kind of illegal police harassment & violence that gay people & other minority communities are still working hard to eliminate. By showing it in an approving light, the program implies that "perverts" are not entitled to privacy or the same due process that other citizens take for granted--even if they aren't violating any laws. The simple wish to purchase a leather outfit or associate with other people who share one's sexual proclivities is presented as a menacing, antisocial act that should be criminalized.

This program was a blatant attempt to capitalize on the anti-sex backlash. It was homophobic & crotophobic. If you're going to tackle controversial topics, you have an obligation to deal with them without presenting misinformation or encouraging bigotry & the abridgement of peoples' civil liberties. Whoever wrote this show obviously knew a lot about the leather scene. Why didn't they do a little more homework & show that any form of violence, much less murder, are very rare in the S/M community & are certainly not endorsed, tolerated, or accepted by responsible members of that sexual minority? I think I know the answer--because that would have meant making a program that dealt with sexuality as it is instead of pandering to the worst fears of the ignorant & the intolerant. Apparently NBC didn't have the *cojones* to be quite that controversial.

I will circulate this letter. I hope anyone who agrees with me will call you at (212) 664-4444 or write to you at the above address to register their protest of this show.

Sincerely, Pat Califia

attack by the religious right. These would-be censors are vehement in their desire to label any art with gay content as obscene.

Given right wing's fervor to silence gay & lesbian artists, & to squelch gay & lesbian sexuality, we are concerned that this episode may have played into their campaign against us.

We ask that you discuss these issues very carefully with the producers of Law & Order to insure that gay & lesbian lives are not harmed or exploited in the competition for high ratings....

Sincerely, Karin S. Schwarz Director for Public Affairs, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Inc.

## NEWS FROM NLA AFFILIATES

### INTERNATIONAL MS LEATHER

IMsL has changed its statement of purpose to "... educate and inform the public regarding the leather/SM/ fetish lifestyle." IMsL has a number of exciting events being planned. January 18th will feature "A Night at the Circus," an Eagle beer bust benefiting both IMsL and the Mack MacKinnon Travel Fund--rumors suggest that features will include a dancing bear, a lion tamer, and a dog act. January 19th is the Ms. San Francisco Leather Contest, February 9th the "Prisoner of Love" Bay Area fun Bondage Run, and February 10th Gabrielle Antolovich and Mark Ryan (International Mr. Leather) will sponsor a day-long seminar on addiction awareness (an IMsL benefit). The International Ms Leather Contest for 1991 will be held March 23 at Town's End from 3 PM to 8 PM. It has a hot theme ("Under Construction") and competition will be fierce. Headquarters hotel is the Travelodge at Valencia and Market Streets. New Address for IMsL is 2215 R Market St., Suite 450, San Francisco, CA 94114.

### ORGASM

In Portland, Oregon, the search for a new dungeon site continues. The Guild continues its meetings and orientations. February 23, the Portland Leatherman/Leatherwoman Contest will occur. This will be the second annual Portland Leatherman Contest and the fifth annual Portland Leatherwoman contest. Competition is open to all men and women over 18 who reside in Oregon or belong to OR-GASM, and will feature fantasies, short speeches, and questions. For information, write the Guild at POB 5702, Portland, OR 97208 or call 503-281-0408.

### TWO-WHEELERS OF OMAHA M.C.

Two-Wheelers has announced long range plans: June 7-9, 1991 will feature their 7th Anniversary Run, October 1991 will see the Mr. Gay Nebraska 1992 Competition, and Spring 1992 will feature the Mr. & Ms. Leather Nebraska contest. The Two-Wheelers are proud of holding the first leather title contest in Nebraska this last summer, with the selection of Craig Otto as Mr. Leather Nebraska and Joyce Stuart as Ms. Leather Nebraska. Contact at P.O.Box 3216, Omaha, NE 68103.

### CHICAGOLAND DISCUSSION GROUP

The CDG reports tremendous success with their December 11th "Mistress Manners Tells All" meeting, where the "CDG Art Players" demonstrated etiquette and

behavior errors for an appreciative audience. Bar nights have gone well and the enthusiasm has been great for rap meetings and the recent Ladies Tea Party. You may contact them at P.O.Box 25009, Chicago, IL 60625.

### SEATTLE MEN IN LEATHER

Seattle Men in Leather is planning its second anniversary celebration, Equinox II--a Time of Renewal for March 1-3, 1991. This will be a weekend run, including an awards banquet, with fun and activities for all. The site is Pilgrim Firs in the Port Orchard area of Western Washington. Contact SML at POB 23226, Seattle, WA for a registration form. Recent club activities include the second annual slumber party, while items on the future agenda include the Feb. 24 Fur Dip swimming party (co-sponsor Bear Club NW) and the Mr. Washington State Drummer Contest (July 6).

### Q.S.M.

QSM of San Francisco announces a fine feast of new classes for the new year. Among new offerings are the following: **Whips and Whipping** featuring the Pleasure of Whipping by Joseph Bean on January 30, **Flagellation and Fantasy** by Ms. NLA Ruth Marks on Feb. 20, and a **Hands-on Workshop on Bullwhipping** by Dick Carlson on Feb. 24; **Breath Control** (a Lecture/Demonstration) by J.C. Collins on Feb. 7; **Improvisational Bondage** all afternoon on Feb. 3; **Living the Relationship** with Jenne & Michael Blade and Cirby and Cub on Feb. 23; **Issues for Experienced Players** featuring Public Play: How Far is Too Far by Joy Schulenburg on Jan. 25 and **Playing on the Edge** led by Carol Kleinmaier on Feb. 13; and **Cutting, Piercing & Branding** featuring Cutting by Raelyn Gallina on Jan. 22, **Male Piercings** by Jim Ward Feb. 5, **Burning & Branding** by Fakir Musafar on Feb. 10, and **Female Piercings** by Raelyn Gallina on Feb. 17.

### THE LEATHER JOURNAL

The **Leather Journal** presents its first annual **Pantheon of Leather Awards** January 25 to 27, 1991. The event will feature a spectacular evening of entertainment, with Shan Carr as emcee. Shan was International Ms Leather 1988, and is a professional comedian of considerable accomplishment. Joel Czarlinsky will create the show's opening number and perform a piece called "Labyrinth." Joel is well-known as a director and choreographer, and has been seen on Broadway and with major dance companies. Additionally, titleholders from throughout the U.S. and Canada will present the various awards to be given to deserving individuals, businesses, and organizations. Beneficiaries of the event include Aid for AIDS Los Ange-

les, Leather Force 2000 (Worcester, MA), the National Leather Association and the Texas Conference of Clubs. Event tickets are \$60, and are available through the Pleasure Chest, Different Light Bookstore, and Wayne's Leather Rack/Griff's Bar in Los Angeles or at Mr. S Leather Products in San Francisco. Contact Les Robinson at 213-469-5922 for information.

### OUTCASTS

January program for Outcasts concerned *Anger Management*, understanding it, working with it, and using it appropriately. "Harmful expression of anger, both in scene and in our private relationships, is an ongoing concern in our community. I feel that SM people have a special contribution to make toward understanding anger since we play with power."

### SHELIX

Shelix of Northampton, Mass., reports a recent screening of "Theatre of Seduction"--an S/M video starring players who are really into the scene. For news on events, contact Shelix at P.O.Box 416, Florence Station, Northampton, MA 10160.

### ON WINGS OF LEATHER

On Wings of Leather continues their *Leather Faerie Directory*. Submit your name, mailing address, and/or telephone number in the Directory by presenting your information any way you want it (decorated, drawn, with picture or photograph or whatever) in a space no larger than 2 3/8" by 5 1/4", & sending it to North Wind at P.O.Box 2253, Vancouver, BC V68-3W2, Canada. Each time six ad spaces are received, they'll be joined together on one sheet, & set out to all contributors.

### LEATHER UNITED--CHICAGO

This Chicago group is seeking to publicize ALL Leather/SM/Fetish family events in the area, on their calendar. Among future events noted is the **Mr./Ms. Midwest Leather Contest** to be held at Carol's Speakeasy February 15 to 17, 1991. Events are being sponsored by LU--C Carol's Speakeasy & Piggen's Pub, & the goal is to do a "mini-IML/run" type weekend with entertainment, etc., & the participation of all Chicago-area clubs & organizations is being sought. Registration is \$25.

### SOCIETY OF JANUS

This San Francisco organization brought the old year to a close in appropriate manner with their "Fuck the Holidays" party December 22, at a private, secluded house, featuring munchies, play space, & lots of hot, fun, & kinky people. Set for January 10 was a lecture with slides of "500 Unusual Sexual Practices." For program & membership information, contact Janus at P.O.Box 6794, San Francisco, CA 94101.

## MORE "LAW & ORDER"

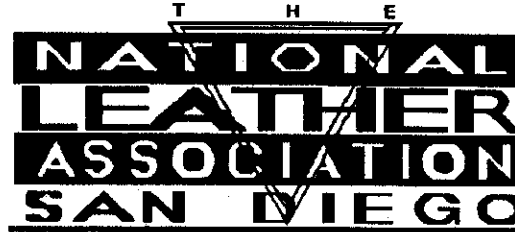
Dear Mr. Littlefield:

We are very concerned about a complaint we have received concerning the December 4 broadcast of Law & Order.

First, we should mention that many of us at GLAAD have enthusiastically watched this new program, & monitored the intelligence with which it has dealt with gay & lesbian issues. The segment on AIDS & mercy killing, in particular, was commendable for the sophistication & compassion

THE Leather/SM/Fetish Calendar

Calendar listing events from January 1991 to February 1991, including dates, event names, and locations. Includes events like CHICAGO HELLFIRE, EULENSPIEGEL SOC., and various local and national meetings.



National, Regional and Local Leather Titleholders & Celebrities

National Leather Association -- San Diego presents LEATHERFEST '91 March 8-10

Daytime events held at our host hotel The Mission Valley Inn Mention LeatherFest for \$49 per night rate

Call 800-854-2608 for reservations

Registration fee table with columns: Registration, NLA Members, Non-NLA. Rows: Before Feb. 15, After Feb. 15.

For Information Call (619) 542-1388 Mail check or money order for registration to NLA-SD, P.O. Box 3092, San Diego, CA 92163

- Uniform Party
• Black Out Ball
• 7 Demonstrations/Workshops
• Cocktail Party
• Vendor Area
• Vehicle Fun Run
• Leather Brunch
• Art Show

NLA GENERAL STORE -- MAIL ORDER FORM

Mail order form with sections for T-Shirts, Tanks, Pins, and Misc. Includes fields for Name, Address, City, State/Prov, Zip, and Phone.

Make checks payable to: National Leather Association or NLA Mail to: NLA - General Store 6103 N. Commercial Portland, OR 97217





THE NLA GENERAL STORE PRESENTS LIVING IN LEATHER V AUDIO TAPES

Tapes: No. copies this tape ISSUES FOR NOVICES.

Experienced players who frequently work or play with novices discuss major aspects of getting started in the scene...

SM & SPIRITUALITY.

Spiritual possibilities of SM eroticism & play. Can non-closeted leather men or women feel comfortable within Judeo-Christian tradition?

TOPS ON BOTTOMS.

Panel of Tops considers what qualities do Tops look for in Bottoms, how they find appropriate Bottoms, and problems in Top/Bottom relationships...

PROFESSIONAL DOMINANTS & SUBMISSIVES & THEIR CLIENTS.

How do SM professionals & their clients find each other? What is & is not done? Are they harassed by the police & legal system?

GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, HETEROSEXUAL: ONE SM COMMUNITY?

Panel of men & women that span sexual spectrum addresses these questions: Do we have enough common interests to form a real community?

FISTING & PENETRATION PLAY.

Panel addresses safety, tools & techniques of anal & vaginal penetration by fists, large dildos & unusual toys.

VERBAL ABUSE & DIRTY TALK.

"Politically incorrect" language can be an important part of an SM scene, whether it's "pussy-assed faggot", "Jew bitch", "ignorant cunt" or whatever other epithet presses your buttons.

DO-IT-YOURSELF SM.

Sometimes (frequently?) the perfect Top or partner isn't handy when needed. This panel of longtime practitioners of self-SM will describe what they do & how they do it safely.

LIVING THE RELATIONSHIP.

A night or weekend of role playing is one thing, but living the relationship as an ongoing, continuous lifestyle is something else, whether as Daddy/Boy, Mistress/Slave, Master/Puppy, or (fill in the blanks & pick your label).

SM & THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED.

Special considerations or strategies useful when an SM player has a vision or hearing impairment, missing or paralyzed limbs, or such "hidden" concerns as diabetes, a heart condition, bad back, environmental sensitivities, or AIDS-related illness.

LEGAL DEFENSE.

What can national & local leather organizations do to help defend leather people & businesses against police harassment & legal prosecution? How can artistic expression be defended in an age of growing repression?

SPEAK OUT TO THE NON-SM WORLD.

What can national & local leather organizations do to establish & operate a speakers bureau of qualified leather/SM/kinky speakers? What can be done to monitor & counteract the media's inaccurate representation of our lifestyles?

SM COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Open exchange of ideas & experiences about surviving as a self-employed artist, craftsman or entrepreneur.

POLITICAL LOBBYING.

What can national & local Leather organizations do to monitor & influence pending legislation?

CREATING COMMUNITY: WE ARE EVERYWHERE.

How to help build a leather/SM/kinky community in "virgin" territory?

CANES & CANING.

Discussion of the history of caning & how to choose a good cane, how to cane safely, & how to make & repair your instruments. Includes demonstrations on willing victims.

CUTTING AS AN ART.

The development & transfer of designs, & temporary & permanent cuttings techniques.

PLAYING WITH FIRE.

Demonstration of fire techniques.

PIERCING FROM START TO FINISH.

Materials & techniques needed for safe, successful piercing. Covers preparations, instruments, jewelry, solutions, healing aftercare, & troubleshooting.

SCROTAL INFLATION.

Inflation of scrotal sac with sterile saline solution is unusual form of genital torture. Subject experiences great feeling of pressure fully surrounding the testicles & general groin area. Deflation occurs as body absorbs the saline over several days, so this scene has long lasting afterglow.

WHIPPING.

Demonstration of whipping techniques & the whips involved.

Add up the number of tapes to be ordered and divide by 2. A.) Multiply number (above) by \$17.00 B.) Multiply remainder (1 or 0) by \$9.00 Sub Total (add line A & B)

ADD SHIPPING GRAND TOTAL (Sub Total + Shipping)

(Write this title on reverse, under "Audio Tapes")

(See over to order T-Shirts and Merchandise)



THE Leather/SM/Fetish Calendar

Table listing events from March to June 1991, including dates, event names, and locations. Includes sections for MARCH, APRIL, and JUNE 1991.

## OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

### C-SPACE

In Seattle, WA, C-Space has located new quarters, at 5031 University Way (an old public school). Classes coming up soon include *Gender Play* on January 18 & *Submission* on Jan. 25. Classes start at 7:30 PM, & cost \$5. Call 206-361-8291 for more information.

### WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER

Colorado Outdoor Leather Dykes present this women-only S/M event July 12 to 14, 1991, in the Rocky Mountains, on 47 acres of secluded woodland 2 hours outside of Denver. This rough out weekend will feature vendors, workshops, entertainment, & fun. Write to C.O.L.D. at P.O.Box 18444, Denver, CO 80218 for information/registration.

### MANSFIELD BUCKS

Mansfield Bucks continues their bar nights & their weekly Friday night coat check (with proceeds to Vermont C.A.R.E.S.) at Pearls in Burlington, VT.

### SABER M.C.

Saber M.C. announces the Florida Brotherhood of Clubs Tenth Anniversary Run Feb. 15-17, 1991, at the Parliament House in Orlando, FL.

### PANTHER M.C.

The Panthers of Munich, Germany, announce their Fancy Dress Ball in the Co-media Colonia, Lowengasse 7, on Feb. 9, 1991, part of a gala Carnival celebration. New address is MS Panther Koln eV Pf. 100223 D-5000 Wuppertal 1, Germany.

### MSC FINLAND

MSC Finland meets each Saturday at Tom's Club in Helsinki from 10 PM to 2 AM. If you plan a trip to Helsinki, contact them well in advance at +358-0-753 1404.

### NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE

This major Conference is set for Atlanta, GA, April 24-28, 1991. For information & registration materials, write POB 1999, Decatur, GA 30031 or call 404-373-0000.

### MS. SAN FRANCISCO LEATHER

The 5th Annual Competition will be held Jan. 19 at the Back Room, 175 King St, San Francisco, CA. Judges include Corky D, Alix Layman, Ruth Marx, Deva, & Lou of the Gauntlet.

### UTICA TRI'S M.C.

This Utica, NY, group plans its 5th Anniversary Gala Celebration May 3-5, 1991.

### HARTFORD COLTS M.C.

The Colts reports a donation of \$1000 to three Delaware and Massachusetts organizations.

### MOTORCYCLEMEN OF NEW MEXICO

MCM has announced their annual HOT AIR event for October 11-14, 1991.

### CELESTIAL KREWE DE CUIR

The Krewe's annual gala Bal Masque III (Lost Cities and Ancient Civilizations) will be held February 2 at the Penthouse in San Francisco.

### VANGUARDS M.C.

The Vanguards holds its welcome for new officers at a "Handshake Affair" February 2, 1991.

### GRIFFINS M.C.

The Griffins of Newark, DE, are staging their annual "Clothes for the Homeless" drive, and aims to outdo last year's 34 leaf bags of clothes collected. Contact them at P.O.Box 7466, Newark, DE 19714. Also, they announce their Mr. Tri-State Cowboy 1991 Contest and Weekend April 19-21.

### WINDY CITY BONDAGE CLUB

WCBC holds its annual meeting and election of officers, followed by Play Party, on January 25, 1991.

### BLACK GUARD

The Black Guard of Minneapolis, MN, announces Black Frost '91: Showboat. This 14th Anniversary Run is scheduled for February 15-17, 1991, at \$70 and up. For information, contact Black Guard at P.O.Box 8989, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

not attack Price/Vogel. The following is the statement that NLA placed in the program:

*The Leather/SM Community believes that recognition of the creation & the value of the Michigan Women's Music Festival is deserved. What the Leather/SM Community does not believe, however, is the allowance of discrimination, whether it be from external or internal opposition. If the gay/lesbian community continues on the path of exclusion of the Leather/SM community in the name of acceptance, then the gay/lesbian community will surely walk into acceptance with a black leather albatross around its neck. Until the gay & lesbian community learns to recognize & take pride in its diversity, the enemies will NOT be the Helms & Dannemeyers of the world; it will be ourselves. We all must come together to strive & succeed in our quest for civil rights.*

is very supportive of the leather community, & who gave us much support during the dinner.

The HRCF dinner turned out very positively, with the leather community getting exposure among the mainstream gay/lesbian community. During his speech, Tim McFeeley thanked the Leather/SM community for educating instead of protesting. A few weeks before the event took place, Shannon T. Kennedy & Jim Richards (Co-Chairs of NLA) & Marla Stevens (protestors' representative) participated in a phone conference with HRCF leaders that led to an agreement, as follows: The national office of HRCF will review & accrue all awards in the future. Also, at a future date, an individual or a group of the leather community will be honored with an award. HRCF also requested that pickets at the dinner be discouraged. The NLA will be able to place in the dinner program statements regarding their participation on nondiscrimination & nonexclusion that do

## HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND UPDATE

On December 1, 1990, over 700 people attended the HRCF dinner, the first in Michigan. It was a "black tie" affair; however, Shannon Thomas Kennedy attended in uniform. This, of course, caused quite a stir among the attendees. More often than not, however, we were well received. We were med by Tim McFeeley, Executive Director of the HRCF, & were then introduced to Randy Close (Co-Chair of the HRCF Board of Directors). Randy then introduced us to Gerry Studts (Congressman from Massachusetts) & Joseph Steffan (former Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy), both guest speakers for the evening. We then met Danny Williams, MC for the affair, who has performed at IML &

## CHATEAU HARASSMENT

The Chateau, a professional B/D club in Hollywood, is currently the target of the Guardian Angels. They are picketing the Chateau each night in large numbers to protest the "sick" erotic practices that go on inside. Apart from their bigoted view of the style of eroticism practiced there, they are giving the news media false information

about the club in an effort to close it down. If this harassment continues, the Chateau will obviously suffer great financial loss & may, indeed, have to shut down.

The police have stated to the media that they have no evidence, after visits to the establishment, that anything illegal goes on there. In spite of this, the Guardian Angels continue their protest that is not only hurting the Chateau, but also the image of our Leather/SM/fetish community.

Call the Guardian Angels & protest their behavior. Do this calmly & with dignity, please. No need to give them more fuel for their protest. Write them a letter stating your objections to the protest.

Guardian Angels, P.O.Box 86341, San Diego, CA 98138, Attn: W.Conwell, Southwest Director, (213-467-2052)

Don't let these self-styled moral police control your sexuality; your freedom's at stake.

## FROM THE PRESS:

### "Justify My Love"...

the video by Madonna, has been banned by MTV. It is reported to include erotic fantasies including voyeurism, female & male bisexuality, cross-dressing, mild sadomasochism & multiple partners. (Courtesy *Journal of Sexual Liberty*)

### Doctors & AIDS:

The *Annals of Internal Medicine* reports that, of 1745 doctors polled in a recent survey, 9% have been stuck with needles carrying blood from patients known to carry the HIV virus, while 20% more have suffered needle sticks from "high risk individuals" with unknown HIV status. 23% would prefer to never treat AIDS patients, 41% to never treat IV drug users, & 11% to never treat homosexual men. 38% are "very concerned" about contracting AIDS from

patients & believe that caring for persons with AIDS is "dangerous." The Centers for Disease Control has so far confirmed only 37 cases of health care workers infected with the HIV virus through their work.

### The AMA House of Delegates....

urged all states to require doctors to report positive HIV tests to allow tracing of sexual partners, & recommended allowing doctors to test patients for HIV without their knowledge or consent, & to allow refusal to treat patients who refused to consent to an HIV test. (Courtesy *Journal of Sexual Liberty*)

### Desert Condom Popularity...

is reported by the *Seattle PI*. These best-selling "appliances" fit over the muzzle of a rifle & keep the dust out, but won't impede a bullet if the weapon must be fired suddenly. "It might be strong, but it ain't that strong," reports one Master Sergeant.

### Oh Canada!

Paul Doyle has completed a novel about a female mystic living on the Olympic Peninsula. He wanted to send the first copy to his daughter in Victoria, BC, but even UPS couldn't promise Christmas delivery. Finally a passenger of a local Air Ferry volunteered to make delivery. All went well until the volunteer reached Canadian customs. One look at the title (*Nioka, Bride of Big Foot*), & the agent seized the novel. It has been impounded for 30 days to evaluate it for possible unnatural sex acts!

### Texas Sodomy:

A Texas judge declared the state's sodomy law unconstitutional. The state law, which applies only to homosexuals, was also overturned in 1982 but upheld in the Court of Appeals & US Supreme Court. (*Journal of Sexual Liberty*)

## \* OBSCENITY & LAW ENFORCEMENT

1990 was an eventful year for the NOEU (National Obscenity Enforcement Unit) of the United States Justice Department. Laws dealing with sexually explicit media have expanded considerably since 1980, & now the prevailing community standards in any community, no matter how small & conservative, can be used to harass producers of adult media into going out of business rather than face court cases in several states at once. The NOEU confiscated films & photographed customer records at 20 producers or distributors of sex films in 1990 alone & they are on a roll. They appear to be planning to shut down all sources of adult media.

It is very expensive to defend oneself in court; however, if we in the Fetish community wish to be able to have any adult media available, & THAT could easily include this publication, contact magazines, computer bulletin boards & others, we are going to have to stand up for our rights, make our wishes known, & assist those who are being harassed by sending money for their legal defense. We also need to join the ACLU & other organizations which fight for freedom of expression & call our legislators & the White House to state our views. The public opinion line for the White House is 202-456-1111 & for Congress is 202-224-3121. If you do not know the names of your congressional representatives, call the library or your local Republican or Democratic Party & ask them. Also, get the names, addresses, & phone numbers of your state & local representatives so you can contact them. Those who do not wish sexually ex-

PLICIT media to have the protection of the 1st Amendment are shouting out their views.

The Fetish community is increasingly the scapegoat for other people's fears about sexuality. If you do not speak up for your own rights, it will be assumed that you agree that fetish media & practices should be suppressed. Stop for a moment & remember how lonely & alienated you felt before you discovered the existence of other kinky folks. Unless you speak out, those days will come again. If you don't think it is important enough to do it for yourself, consider all the people out there who have not yet found the fetish community & who sit in lonely desperation wondering if they are sick & crazy. If the NOEU is successful in reducing all adult media to the level of romance novels, what will we all do? Act before it is too late! PW



**TENTH  
ANNIVERSARY  
WEEKEND**  
MARCH 8-9, 1991  
NEW YORK CITY

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS is proud to host this celebration of ten years of s/m pride!

A decade ago, we began holding public discussions of s/m, providing a safe place to discuss issues of relationships, sexuality, and technique. Thousands of men and women have participated, sharing their experiences and learning from each other.

We helped bring s/m out of the closet, winning a rightful place for s/m-leather people in the gay and lesbian community. We've championed the rights of adults to safe, sane, and consensual expression of their sexuality. From our prominence in the NY Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade to our leadership role in the 1987 March on Washington and our recent involvement in opposition to censorship and defense of s/m art in the Mapplethorpe and NEA controversies, GMSMA's efforts have won support and respect.

Now we plan to celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to the next decade. It's GMSMA's anniversary, but we're really rejoicing in the accomplishments of an entire community. For a decade we've worked with men and women around the country to provide support and education to s/m-leather people. Plan to be with us for this exciting, important event. All interested men and women are invited to attend.

### Friday, March 8

#### Reception

Sponsored by Heritage of Pride; 7pm - 10pm at the NY Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St. Refreshments, music, socializing.

### Saturday, March 9

#### Conference

Sessions (panel discussions, seminars, and technique workshops) start at noon at the Gay Community Center; doors open at 11am. Exhibit area with vendor and literature tables open until 6pm.

### Saturday Evening

#### Banquet

At Surfside, 27th St. at 11th Ave. Doors open at 7pm for cocktail party (first drink included) with hors d'oeuvres; dinner is at 9pm. Lynn Lavner will be the featured entertainer; Rodger McFarlane, past executive director of GMHC and current exec. dir. of Broadway Cares, will deliver the keynote address.

Registration includes admission to all weekend events, including reception, workshops, banquet, and dance. Advance registration is \$60 (\$55 for GMSMA members). Registration after February 15 is \$75. A limited number of scholarships are available; contact GMSMA at (212)727-9878.

For more information and to make reservations, write to GMSMA 10th Anniversary, 496A Hudson St., Suite D23, New York, NY 10014.

### Workshops & Panels

S/M Erotic Art and Photography • *Drugs, Alcohol, and S/M* • Novices: Getting Started in S/M • S/M Over 50 • Old Guard/New Guard: The Changing S/M Style • S/M, Romance, and Love • Safe, Sane, Consensual: Drawing Lines • Differentiating S/M from Domestic Violence • S/M and Minority Issues • S/M and the Mainstream Gay and Lesbian Movement • The Image of S/M in the Media

Playing with Fire • Whips and Cats • Different Strokes: Erotic Abrasion • Shaving and Other Hair Removal • Steel Bondage

### Participants

Workshop presenters will include Ray Ackerman (Boston-pres. dreizehn), Jo Arnone (NY-co-founder original LSM), Race Bannon (LA-Avatar), Barone (Boston-1st runner-up IML '90), Joseph Bean (SF-Drummer), Nan Borrows (LA-Threshold, NLA, LSM, TES), Michael Bronski (Boston-writer, GCN), James Bruce (Chicago-CHC member), Justin Charbonneau (NY-Mr. NY Leather '90), Derek Cohen (London-S/M Gays), Durk Dehner (LA-Tom of Finland Foundation), Barry Douglas (NY-chair. GMSMA), Kevin Drewery (Greensboro-TLC), Etienne (Boulder-artist), T.A. Feldwebel (Penn.-editor DungeonMaster), Art Floyd (NY-Trident Int'l), Matt Foreman (NY-exec. dir. NYC L&G Anti-Violence Project), David Golonka (NY-past pres. Pocono Warriors), Bruce Högman (Wash, DC-Highwaymen TNT), Fred Katz (NY-CHC assoc.), Shannon Kennedy (Detroit) and Jim Richards (Dallas-co-chairs of the Nat'l Leather Assoc.), Ray Matienzo (San Juan-past chair of GMSMA), VK McCarty (NY-Penthouse Variations), Jim Mitchell (Phila.-pres. emeritus GMSMC), Morgan (NY-TES), David Nimmons (NY-pres. Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center), Jan Park (NY-ass't to mayor's liaison), Parker Perry (Oklahoma City-CHC assoc.), John Preston (Portland-author and activist), Peri Jude Radevic (Wash. DC-leg. dir. Nat'l Gay & Lesbian Task Force), Les Robinson (LA-Leather Journal), Michael Shernoff (NY-Chelsea Psychotherapy Assoc.), David Stein (NY-co-founder GMSMA), Marla Stevens (Indianapolis - state lobbyist), Frank Theis (Phila)

## Scribbles

Deadlines--I hate them. Why is it that you no sooner complete material for one than the next is already passed? Wouldn't it be great if your deadline was 2 days after you finish everything? Going by the amount of material received for Link after its deadline a lot of others feel the same way. I'm sure we miss publicizing 3 or 4 events every month because material reaches us after deadline. While we should get material 6 to 8 weeks in advance so we can give our best effort, its often received 2 weeks or even less ahead--not of print deadline but of the activity! I've fielded questions like "why wasn't our event listed in First Link?" over & over & frequently found the information was mailed out 3 whole weeks before the event--Wow! That would usually be too late even for a local newsletter.

Now I know most organizations plan out events more than 4 weeks ahead, especially Annual Anniversary runs, contests, or major fund raisers. Dates for these events are frequently held on repeating weekends every year, such as LIL is usually Columbus Day weekend or I.M.L. Memorial Day weekend. These dates need to be publicly announced as far in advance as possible & NO, a Year in Advance is Not too far! With increased travel costs & much tighter budgets available for casual attendance at distant community or organization events, the events which succeed will increasingly be those announced early. I look on my wall calendar (which covers the full year) & see 4 major weekends hi-lighted. I know of at least 5 or 6 more, but those dates haven't been released, so my plans can't be started. Now I've got a reasonable pipeline of information coming in. How can we expect our community members without that exceptional resource at their fingertips to participate? How often I've heard a visitor to Seattle note that they'd have come an

earlier or later weekend if they'd known of a particular event. How often we sit & moan about poor attendance for this or no support for that, when publicity has been zip. Press releases even to our own Leather/SM/Fetish organizations & internal press (and First Link is a good example of our Leather/SM/Fetish Internal Community press although we do include a dozen or more non-L/S/F publications in our regular distribution) do have an impact; in fact, they're of much more value than flyers or posters outside our local geographic areas.

Right now our community still enjoys a degree of flexibility in time & travel planning & our expenditure of discretionary income. However, as international economic deterioration continues, this flexibility will disappear as rapidly as our evaporating non-allocated income. Play money will be about as common as giant pandas, as carefully distributed as painkillers by a head nurse, & as sought after as the Parsifal chasing the Holy Grail. With nearly 500 organizations in our international Leather/SM/Fetish Community, all hoping to make their events a success, we will be facing more & more failures.

Now our community is more than large enough to support all these 500 groups, & then some. However, for us to do so requires planning & reaching wider bases. For example, First Link directly reaches over 1000 individuals monthly, plus another 300 or so organizations, which hopefully share the information with their members. Now hypothesizing that we reach a high number of 5000 individuals through this method, that's not bad publicity for any event. & that's free for a calendar listing--and our National Calendar does get read. I'd love to receive one new name for our mailing list from each person we mail to -- just 1 -- but that's a subject for another column. Anyhow -- with local flyers covering publicity on a local level & early press releases to such publications as *Leather Journal & Drummer*, & of course *First Link*, really good publicity is available without high cost. Obviously additional paid advertising won't hurt, but there really is no excuse for not taking advantage of the free publicity readily available to us.

It's past time we realized we must "sell"

every event we sponsor. I don't know of any retailer who would plan his Christmas holiday sales in November. But over & over our community will set up an event on 2 or 3 weeks notice, & then cry our heads off that we never get the community support we feel we are "entitled" to. As far as I'm concerned, these events are really planned to fail. They're set up for it, & that's exactly what they accomplish. But I might note they accomplish more than that. Every failing event weakens that internal strength & external respect for its sponsor both in the local or sometimes national community. More importantly, internally with their own membership, doubts are planted & fertilized. "Why should I be part of them. They never pull anything off!" If you've never heard this you've never been outside your back door.

Plan those events ahead--a lot ahead. & get out the publicity. I guarantee it'll get published & distributed. & I'll guarantee they will be better attended & give your organization greater visibility & viability.

A silent or unknown organization--or community--does not exist in anyone's mind but its own. Make your organization noisy & noticed or let it die a quiet & deserved death. GN

### NLA MEMBERSHIP

Open to adults who support our statement of purpose. *National Dues \$25. (\$30. outside North America--U.S. funds).* Use form below to join or renew. Members, check your address label; the first 2 digits at the top indicate Year of expiration, the second 2 month.

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(above info. is confidential)

I agree with the Goals of the NLA, support its efforts at activism & public service, & wish to become a member. I am at least 21 years old.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

You may release my name to the Chapter (if any) in my region. I may be contacted for NLA business by other NLA members? \_\_\_\_\_

Return with check or money order to NLA, POB 17463 SEATTLE, WA. 98107

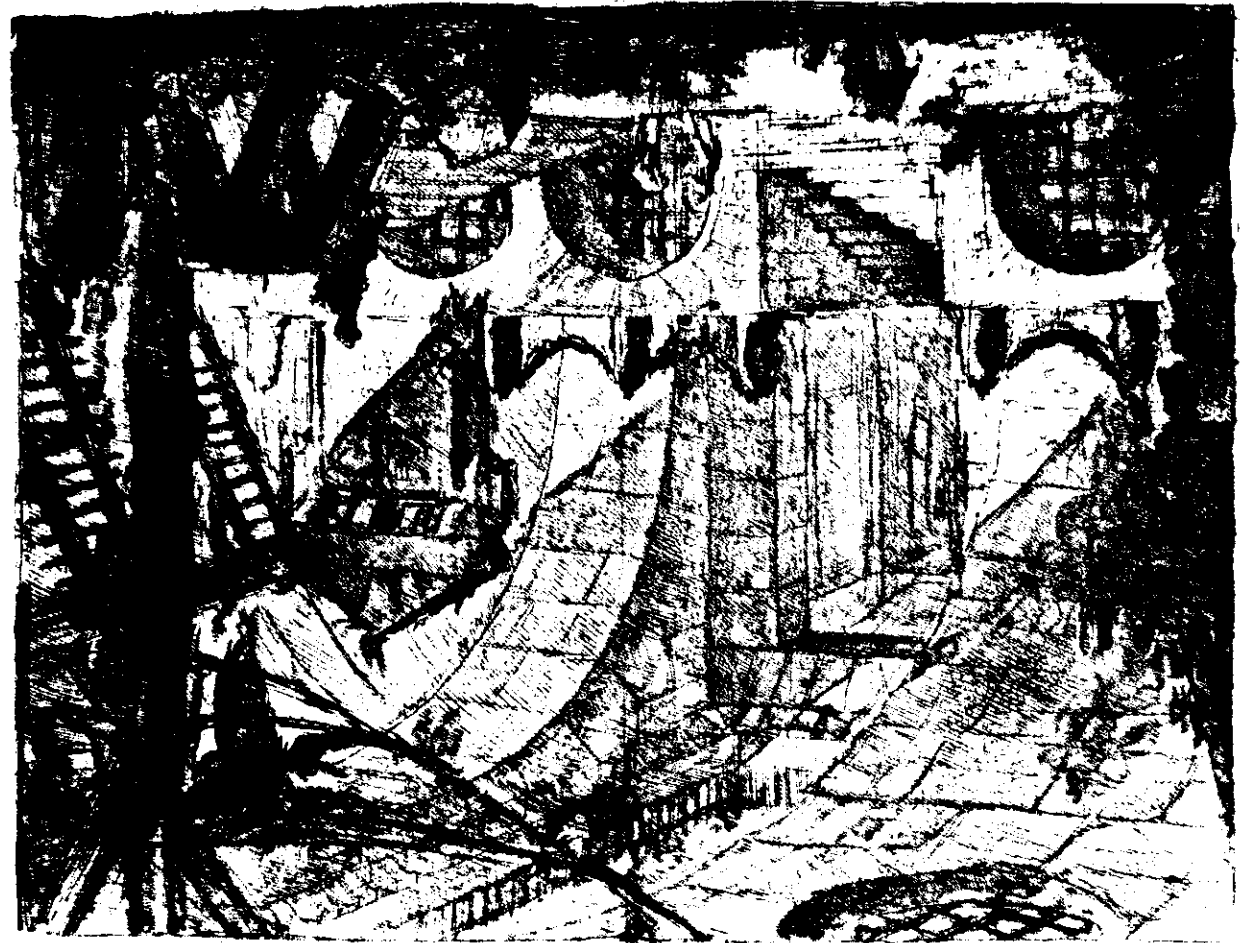


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