

CHAPTER NEWS

NLA: Houston is up and coming, and hitting Houston's Leather and Gay/Lesbian communities with a bang! We helped Trust have a very successful red hanky party in November with our special guest, Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer and NLA: Dallas member, Larry Arbo, present the whole evening. We have been invited to each red hanky party hereafter and will have our membership table in full view. February 23 be aware: NLA: Houston hangs our colors at the Venture-N. We'll also kick off our chapterhood with the installation of our newly elected officers that same evening, followed by NLA: Houston's first big event: Houston's Hot: Night in Black Leather cocktail party at the Venture-N. In the works is a bar crawl(s) to expose NLA: Houston to the greater bar community. A pre-inquiry of potential bars has brought really strong interest and has generated some invitations by bars not on the original list. Fundraising is in the works as well!

As the 17th Chapter of NLA, **NLA: Houston** would like to especially thank Mary, owner of C & N Restaurant on 604 Fairview, where our general meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month; also to Boots Adams of Leather By Boots, 711 Fairview, for his advice and support from the beginning; finally to Big Jim and David, owners of Venture-N, 2723 Main, for their support, encouragement, and hospitality. Venture-N is home bar of Lancers MC, Texas Riders MC, and National Leather Association: Houston. Patronize these supportive businesses when in Houston, and look NLA: Houston up as well! Come on Austin, let's complete the greater Texas NLA triangle--we're looking forward to working with y'll!! (NLA: Houston)

From **NLA: Denver** comes word of the results of the recent Chapter Officer election: President Don Dustin, Vice President Chuck Keeyes, Recording Secretary Jamie Gehringer, and Corresponding Secretary Kathy Lockheart. At its next general meeting, **NLA: Denver** hopes to select a permanent Treasurer. The Chapter has recently overwhelmingly approved amended Bylaws. Plans are in the works for a number of things; expect announcements here in the near future.

From **NLA: Metro New York** comes the great fourth issue of *The Inquisitor*, full of thoughtful articles, comments, advice, and photography by Efrain Gonzalez (one of the LIL V Photographers). Mitch Kessler, President of the MNY Chapter, notes increasing activities, rapidly expanding membership, and rosy prospects. He is pleased to report an active and involved membership. Special events coming up in the near future include an Anniversary Social March 13th, and the Annual Meeting and Elections on June 22. For updates and locations, call (212) 686-5248.

From **NLA: Portland** comes word of a very festive Black Christmas Party, and a most successful "Leather Madness" sponsored by Irwin Murphy. January's events concluded with a Potluck on the 27th. The weekly Bar Nights at the PDX Eagle will begin the first Thursday in February. Proceeds from March's raffle will go to the Lesbian Community Project. Valentine's weekend will feature the "Dating Game," plus other festivities. Work is beginning on Leather Pride weekend activities. Sallee Huber announced her possible long-term absence due to the War; her Board position will be held open for her.

(continued on page 3)

N.L.A. CALENDAR

FEBRUARY, 1991					
15	METRO NEW YORK Lupercal Festival N.Y.C.	23	HOUSTON Hot Night in Black Leather Houston, TX Venture-N	7	HOUSTON Meeting Houston, TX C&N Restaurant
16	VIRGINIA Blackout Party Richmond, VA Pyramid	24	ATLANTA Meeting 5 PM Atlanta, GA	8-10	SAN DIEGO Leatherfest Weekend San Diego
18	PORTLAND Board Meeting 7:30 Portland, OR Embers	26	SAN FRANCISCO Open Meeting 7:30 S.F., Amelia's	10	SOUTH FLORIDA Meeting Miami
20	HOUSTON Bar Night Houston, TX Venture Inn	**MARCH, 1991**		11	PORTLAND General Meeting Portland, OR Embers
21	METRO NEW YORK General Meeting N.Y.C.	1	NEW ENGLAND Dungeon Party Boston, MA	13	METRO NEW YORK Anniversary Social N.Y.C.
21	SEATTLE Board Meeting Seattle, WA Eastlake East	1	FIRST LINK DEADLINE	16-17	HOUSTON/AUSTIN/ DALLAS Austin
22	SEATTLE Kinky Kouples Night Seattle, WA	5	DALLAS Meeting Dallas, TX	16	DALLAS March on Austin Dallas, TX
23	METRO NEW YORK Play Party (tent.) N.Y.C.	6	HOUSTON Bar Night Houston, TX Venture Inn	16	DALLAS Beyond Vanilla Wkshp Austin, TX
		6	METRO NEW YORK Exec. Council N.Y.C.	17	SAN DIEGO Nominations Meeting San Diego, CA

NLA ADDRESS LIST

NLA: NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS -
P.O.Box 17463, Seattle, WA 98107-1163;
(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 725153, 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-Forma-
tion) - 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
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THE FIRST LINK: PRODUCTION CREDITS

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John K.

ADDRESSES

Addresses for the NLA National
Office and for all of its Chapters and
Chapters-in-Formation are given at the
left. Much mail coming to our boxes
bears slight errors in zip codes and box
numbers; this is delaying and misrout-
ing our mail. We are all eager to re-
spond to your questions and handle
your memberships. Please, double-
check the address when you are writing
to any NLA destination.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL COUNCIL

A reminder that the NLA Executive
Committee is conducting its Winter meet-
ing by mail, under the guidance of Race
Bannon. Initial input was due by February
5; Race will be tabulating this information,
and making it available for responses and
mail votes.

Both the **National Council** and the
Executive Committee will be holding in-
person meetings in Chicago during the In-
ternational Mr. Leather meeting May 24 to
27. We are hoping for a tremendous
turnout from the large body of the National
Council.

NATIONAL OFFICERS & EXEC COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Jim Richards, Shannon Kennedy
Corresponding Secretary: George Nelson
Recording Secretary: Karen Mendelsohn
Treasurer: Jan Hall

Executive Committee: Tony DeBlase, Jan
Lyon, Wayne Gloege, Tony Shenton,
Albert Kraus, Gayle Rubin, M.P. Bres-
lin, Jennifer MacFarland, and Race
Bannon

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Elections/Credentials: Shannon Kennedy
General Store: Jan Lyon

Finance: Les Robinson
Membership: Wayne Gloege
Nominations: Race Bannon
Chapter Concerns/Info.: Chuck Higgins
Archives/History: Gayle Rubin
Conference: Sallee Huber

Honors/Awards: Susie Shepherd
MacKinnon Travel Fund: John Ferrari
Organizational ID: J.C. Collins
Publications: Tony DeBlase
Publicity: Jan Lyon
Political Action: Pagan
Speakers Bureau: Judy Tallwing McCarthey

N.L.A. CALENDAR

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 18 | PORTLAND
Board Meeting 7:30 | Portland, OR
Embers |
| 20 | HOUSTON
Bar Night | Houston, TX
Venture Inn |
| 21 | METRO NEW YORK
General Meeting | N.Y.C. |
| 21 | SEATTLE
Board Meeting | Seattle, WA
Eastlake East |
| 24 | ATLANTA
Meeting 5 PM | Atlanta, GA |
| 26 | SAN FRANCISCO
Open Meeting 7:30 | S.F.,
Amelia's |

APRIL, 1991

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | FIRST LINK DEADLINE | |
| 2 | DALLAS
Meeting | Dallas, TX |
| 3 | HOUSTON
Bar Night | Houston, TX
Venture Inn |
| 3 | METRO NEW YORK
Social | N.Y.C. |
| 4 | HOUSTON
Meeting | Houston, TX
C&N Restaurant |
| 12-14 | SAN FRANCISCO
Mini Conference | S.F. |
| 14 | SOUTH FLORIDA
Meeting | Miami |
| 15 | PORTLAND
Board Meeting 7:30 | Portland, OR
Embers |
| 17 | HOUSTON
Bar Night | Houston, TX
Venture Inn |
| 18 | METRO NEW YORK
General Meeting | N.Y.C. |
| 23 | SAN FRANCISCO
Open Meeting 7:30 | S.F.,
Amelia's |
| 28 | ATLANTA
Meeting 5 PM | Atlanta, GA |

MAY, 1991

- | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | METRO NEW YORK
Social | N.Y.C. |
| 1 | HOUSTON
Bar Night | Houston, TX
Venture Inn |
| 1 | FIRST LINK DEADLINE | |
| 2 | HOUSTON
Meeting | Houston, TX
C&N Restaurant |
| 4-6 | SEATTLE
MAY DAY "Leather Rising" | Seattle, WA |
| 7 | DALLAS
Meeting | Dallas, TX |
| 10 | NEW ENGLAND
Dungeon Party | Boston, MA |
| 12 | SOUTH FLORIDA
Meeting | Miami |
| 15 | HOUSTON
Bar Night | Houston, TX
Venture Inn |
| 16 | METRO NEW YORK
General Meeting | N.Y.C. |
| 20 | PORTLAND
Board Meeting 7:30 | Portland, OR
Embers |
| 24-27 | NLA EXEC/NC
Meetings | Chicago, IL |
| 26 | ATLANTA
Meeting 5 PM | Atlanta, GA |
| 28 | SAN FRANCISCO
Open Meeting 7:30 | S.F.,
Amelia's |
| 29 | METRO NEW YORK
Social-Meet the Candidate | N.Y.C. |

JUNE, 1991

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | FIRST LINK DEADLINE | |
| 4 | METRO NEW YORK
Exec. Council | N.Y.C. |
| 5 | HOUSTON
Bar Night | Houston, TX
Venture Inn |
| 6 | HOUSTON
Meeting | Houston, TX
C&N Restaurant |
| 9 | SOUTH FLORIDA
Meeting | Miami |
| 12 | METRO NEW YORK
Social | N.Y.C. |
| 17 | PORTLAND
Board Meeting 7:30 | Portland, OR
Embers |
| 19 | HOUSTON
Bar Night | Houston, TX
Venture Inn |
| 22 | METRO NEW YORK
Annual Meeting | N.Y.C. |

MORE NLA CHAPTER NEWS

From NLA: Seattle comes the third
annual **Kinky Kouples Night** at Horizon
Manor on February 22. For last minute
reservations, contact 206-244-4612. This
event has been causing a lot of interest, and
a full house is expected. Horizon Manor is
a luxurious setting, with interesting play
spaces, a heated indoor pool, and several
hot tubs. The first two Kinky Kouple events
were very successful. Steve, who has been a
leader in the Kinky Kouple events from the
beginning, is heading a new Committee de-
signed specifically to oversee future such
parties. Work is well underway for MAY
DAY (set for May 4 to 6 in Seattle). This
gala weekend will feature parties, the
Mr./Ms. NLA: Seattle competition, and a
great series of demonstrations and work-
shops. Theme of the weekend is "Leather
Rising." Wes Randall and Linda Coomas
are coordinating the event (the fifth Seattle
MAY DAY celebration).

The NLA: San Francisco Bay Area
Chapter is holding a Mini-Conference on
April 12 to 14. Events include a Friday

Beer Bust and Meet and Greet, and a recep-
tion for Cirby's great art show. 10 to 15
workshops will be featured on Saturday and
Sunday. Other events include a flea mar-
ket, dungeons Friday and Saturday, a dance
Saturday, a closing reception Sunday, con-
tinental breakfast Saturday and Sunday
brunch. Contact the Chapter (address page
2) for further information and registration.
A lot of work has been going into this major
event, and a good time is guaranteed!

Leatherfest '91 from NLA: San Diego
is almost upon us--it's coming up March 8
to 10. Final workshop topics include SM
201, Whipping, Electricity, Bondage,
Catheterization, Role Switching, and Fist-
ing. Among the dignitaries confirming at-
tendance are Brian Dawson (Mr. Drummer
'89-90), Jeff Burnam, Howard Martin (Mr.
NLA '91), Bob Schurr, Tony DeBlase (of
Desmodus), John Ferrari, and Tom Rinus
(Mr. Leather San Diego). The events will
also include an art display. Chapter elec-
tions are coming up, and will be preceded
by a nomination meeting for the member-
ship on March 17 at 6 PM, with the election
to be conducted by mail.

In Texas, NLA: Dallas will be partici-
pating in the March on Austin. In coopera-
tion with NLA: Houston and the Chapter

FROM MS. N.L.A. RUTH MARKS

The past few months have been quite
busy. Things seem to be moving on as they
should be, and as the leather-a-thons begin
I'm finding myself getting ready for as much
travel and networking with other leather
communities as possible.

In January I presented a kinky circus. It
went well; people enjoyed themselves.
Many thank-yous to the performers; J.C.
and her bear, Carla, Fakir and Co., Steve
and his tigers, Hal and his escape-proof
suits, B.C. for her muscles, Joy the Gypsy,
Corky, Judy, and Co. who clowning their way
around the event, and Joseph and his

amazing horse. A special Thank-you to the
people who helped in running things
smoothly and to the Eagle who so gener-
ously donated half the beer, THANK-YOU,
THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU!!!

On Saturday the 19th of January I
judged the Ms. S.F. Leather Contest and
I'm pleased to report that J.C. Collins won.
A week later I found myself in L.A. at the
Pantheon of Leather.

In February, I will be judging the Ms
Sacramento Leather contest and attending
many other leather functions. If you need
to reach me, I'm still available by writing to
P.O.Box 42, So. San Francisco, CA 94083.

Last time I wrote to the **First Link** I
asked the readership to please encourage
medical professionals to get involved with a
project that would create some kind of
comprehensive safety guidelines for S/M

in Formation NLA: Austin, the Dallas
Chapter will be providing an information
table at Waterloo Park on March 16, prior
to the parade on the 17th. Dallas will also
be staging a "Beyond Vanilla" workshop on
the leather lifestyle at the hotel on March
16th. Johnny Grey will be serving as Mem-
ber at Large on the Dallas Board, with
Anne Wilson as chair of the P.I.C. Commit-
tee and Larry Arbo and Susan White shar-
ing the duties of Program and Education
Chair.

The NLA: Chicago Chapter is busily at
work, with active participation in the
Mr/Ms Midwest Leather Contest at Carol's
Speakeasy in February, and planning un-
derway for a Leather Contingent and float
in the Chicago Gay Pride Parade. Planning
is starting for weekend camping trips.

NLA: New England held an open dis-
cussion on who and what the NLA is at their
January 12 meeting at Obsessions. Future
local events will include workshops, demos,
discussions, socials, and play parties. Since
play parties and certain demos are only
open to members and their guests, the **New
England** Chapter is encouraging interested
persons to become members.

people; keep on talking to people, as it
would really behoove us to have the medical
professionals in this community write up a
guide line on safety for all kinky folk.

Many women in the leather community
have been getting information about an
event called C.O.L.D. If you are thinking
about going send in your funds now; other-
wise these women will not be able to make
this happen. The women who are putting
on this event are really great and this is an
event that many dykes have been waiting to
see happen. If you need more info. on
C.O.L.D., please write to P.O.Box 18444,
Denver, CO 80218.

In closing, I would just like to say "Stay
proud and united in these times."

In Leather Solidarity, Ruth Marks

FANTASY '91

From NLA Affiliate T.U.L.S.A. comes
the first announcement of one of the year's
top events, **Fantasy '91**. Dates are set for
August 16 to 18, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Plans
are proceeding, and a lot of enthusiasm is

building. As you will recall, Fantasy '89 and
Fantasy '90, in Omaha, Nebraska, under the
guidance of Dustin Logan, were extremely
successful. We expect no less from the en-
ergetic team guiding Fantasy '91.

NO GAY WITCH HUNT?

This was the term employed by Judge Rant, as he passed sentence on 16 gay men arrested after a massive police investigation into the gay SM scene in the United Kingdom. Jail sentences up to four 1/2 years rained down from Judge Rant, as he convicted 11 of the 16 accused men, all of whom openly attested that their SM scenes had been completely consensual. The judge dismissed such "consent" as a defence, in some cases drawing on a Victorian law regarding assault on one's self to gain convictions.

It is understood that the investigation (begun in 1987) started with police viewing of heavy SM scenes on videos confiscated during a raid; initially, they were so convinced that men were being killed they launched a murder investigation. Their investment into such mythical "murders" is estimated to have cost 4 million pounds sterling, led police to interviews throughout the United Kingdom, and impelled them to fit charges to the 16 men's consensual SM activities.

After extended legal arguments about whether consent was a defence to assault, the 16 men had no alternative to guilty pleas; there was no opportunity for jury tri-

als. While accepting that no permanent injury had been caused, and that the men were consenting, the judge heard charges including assault, grievous bodily harm, running a disorderly house, and distributing obscene and perverted videos. (Videos had been made by members of this closed group, and distributed only to those members, with no financial gain in mind--it was these home videos which provided the police with their evidence.)

Barristers say that, from these judgements, a mark left from a heavy love bite, any pain or discomfort caused by whatever form of sex play, and any piercing that is for anything other than decorative purposes may now be considered illegal!

The gay men convicted just before Christmas (some of whom have already served six month's time) are in prison now, pending probable appeals against their harsh sentences. **Outrage**, the gay campaign group, is organizing to highlight the gay community's revulsion at the grave sentences; Outrage may be contacted at the London Lesbian and Gay Center, 69 Cowcross St., London EC1. **SM Gays**, which has been meeting in London for 10 years, has met on this subject, to discuss proper reaction to this injustice of "justice." Their agenda has included information about the trials, the legal implications for SM enthusiasts, and suggested guidelines

The first Pantheon of Leather weekend is over, and a fine weekend it was. This event, sponsored by the **Leather Journal**, welcomed celebrities from throughout the Leather/SM/Fetish Community as entertainers, judges, and nominees for the prestigious series of awards which were presented. The judges included Dustin Logan (**Leather Journal** man of the year 1990), Jan Lyon (**Leather Journal** woman of the year 1990, and Ms. NLA 1989/1990), and Guy Baldwin (International Mr. Leather 1989 and Mr. NLA 1989/1990). A stellar array of leather titleholders and celebrities presented entertainment and emceed the show. From among the 134 men, women, clubs and organizations nominated for the awards, the following winners were selected:

on personal retention and use of videos and photographs. For information on their regular meetings, you may contact them at SM Gays, BM SM Gays, London WC1N 3XX, England. Our thanks to SM Gays for the information above.

The **Stonewall Union** of Columbus Ohio reports that the judge in the above case says "Society and the law expect people with 'unacceptable urges' to keep their desires in their minds as fantasies...."

The NLA has also felt early "fallout" from this grave "legal" decision--a member in England send the following note:

10 days ago, it was decided here that consensual SM activities about which no one had complained was illegal and a number of enthusiasts were jailed for 4 years each. As I do not engage in illegal activities, kindly remove my name from your mailing list and send no more literature. Sorry but that is the way it is here.

We consider things to be in a sorry mess when individual freedoms are so quickly, so thoroughly removed! We advocate appropriate activism here, and everywhere, to eliminate such grave injustice (founded on abysmal ignorance). We deplore this sickening inroad into our personal freedom.

w.g.

Man of the Year--Bill Costomiris
 Woman of the Year--Susie Shepherd
 Non-Profit Org.--Mapplethorpe Found.
 Club of the Year--Tarheel LLC
 Business--Stud Works (Lee Willis)
 Forbearer--Tom of Finland
 Regional Awards:
 Race Bannon
 George Nelson
 Jay Evans
 Bill Costomiris

Readers' Choice--Susie Shepherd

Net proceeds from the Awards show were designated for four charities providing services to the Leather community: **Aid for AIDS** based in Los Angeles, **Leather Force 2000** of Worcester, Mass., the **National Leather Association**, and **Texas Conference of Clubs**.

Those attending report a fine show, fantastic people, and a good opportunity for leather networking. All look forward in anticipation to next year's presentation.

NEWS FROM NLA AFFILIATES

C.L.U.B. CALGARY

The NLA welcomes this new Canadian Affiliate. C.L.U.B. Calgary (whose acronym stands for "Cowboy, Leather, Uniform, Buddies...") is growing and active. Recent events include a great "Noel de Noir" party December 8, featuring photos with a "special" Santa, entertainment, door prizes, and "party favorites." Beneficiary was the Greenbough Fund through AIDS Calgary. January featured a New Year's Recovery Party, and participation of C.L.U.B. Calgary in hosting Calgary's first and finest Country and Western Dance at the M.C.C. A Valentine Party is set for Feb. 16. March 28 will feature C.L.U.B. Calgary participation in an AIDS benefit during the Apollo Western Cup Tournament, while the organization may be participating in the ISSCA Coronation '91 on April 27 and the Mr. Drummer Contest during Stampede week. C.L.U.B. Calgary is open to men and women in the homophile community, and may be reached c/o Gaylines Calgary, 201 223 12th Ave. SW, Calgary, ALBTA, T2R-0G9 Canada.

OREGON GUILD ACTIVISTS OF S/M

We welcome back ORGASM of Portland, OR, with their renewal of Affiliation. After a very busy and stressful time during Living in Leather V, ORGASM is regrouping, with new membership policies, and is actively seeking new headquarters. Meanwhile, ORGASM is sponsoring the Portland Leatherman/Leatherwoman Contest on Feb. 23, at the Melody Lane Ballroom. To enter, contestants must be at least 18 years old, and must be either Oregon residents or ORGASM members. This will be the second Leatherman Contest and the fifth Leatherwoman Contest.

SHADES OF GREY LEATHER

NLA also welcomes the renewal of Shades of Grey Leather, of Dallas. Proprietor of this dynamite leather shop is Johnny Grey. Shades of Grey has been a most positive force in the Dallas community, and NLA is proud to number it among its Affiliates. You may reach them at P.O.Box 140618, Dallas, TX 75214.

CORNHAULERS L & L CLUB

We also welcome back the Cornhaulers, which is a fine, active organization in Des Moines, Iowa. You may contact them at P.O.Box 632, Des Moines, IA 50303-0632.

KNIGHTS OF LEATHER

The Knights of Leather are holding their 5th annual Bowl-a-Thon Saturday, March 9, 1991. This year's proceeds will go to the American Indian Gays and Lesbians, and Lavender Images, a film promotional group. The Knights are looking for bowlers, and people or groups to donate prizes and pledges. Bowlers are requested to pay the \$6 lane fee, and to solicit and collect pledges. Bowling starts at 12:30 PM at Nokomis lanes, 4040 Bloomington Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN. For a pledge sheet or further information, write to Knights of Leather, P.O.Box 10601, Minneapolis, MN or call 612-529-5622.

Also, the Knights of Leather will host a Club Night March 2nd, 1991, for PJ Knight, Ms Minnesota Leather. This will be a send-off party as she prepares to compete in the International Ms Leather contest March 23rd in San Francisco. The evening will consist of free tap beer, pop and juice, and door prizes, all for a \$5 cover. Proceeds will go to help send PJ to the contest. Location is the Body Shop within the Townhouse at 1415 University Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota.

Finally, the Knights announce Knights Tournament Three, May 31 to June 2, 1991. The event will take place in a 16,000 acre wooded state park, in a private group camp complete with bunkhouses, modern toilets and showers, and dining facilities. The weekend includes S/M-related workshops and demos, and lots of free time for exploration and meeting new friends. Dungeon facilities and equipment will be available all weekend (but bring your own personal implements). Five home-cooked meals plus beverages will be provided. This Tournament only occurs in odd numbered years. Cost is \$75 to May 17th, and \$85 afterwards. For application or information, write the Knights of Leather at the address given above.

THE FIFTEEN

Congratulations to the Fifteen Association, celebrating their eleventh anniversary with a dinner on Feb. 15, plus a Grand Dungeon Opening, and a Buffet and Play Party, plus an anniversary pin. For information, contact The Fifteen at P.O.Box 421302, San Francisco, CA 94142-1302 or call 415-775-7871.

KNIGHTS D'ORLEANS

The Knights D'Orleans have just hosted their annual gala "Night of the Black Mask" following the Krewe of Hermes Parade on February 8. The party was at the Phoenix, and welcomed hundreds of leathermen and leatherwomen for cheap booze, Jaegermeister shots, a \$3 beer bust, and the drawing of the Black Mask raffle. 1990 featured the

Knights' sixteenth anniversary, banquets, parties, and active participation in runs throughout the southeast. The Knights are settling into new quarters. Contact the Knights at P.O.Box 50812, New Orleans, LA 70150.

LEATHERMASTERS

The Leathermasters of Los Angeles recently welcomed Walt Richards for a demonstration of the "Latest in S/M Metal Equipment." Featured were steel racks, stocks, restraints, suspension devices, etc. February 12th saw a gala dinner meeting. Recently elected officers include Mike McDade President, Hank L. 1st Vice President, Chuck A. 2nd Vice President, John Arthur Corresponding Secretary, Bob Krumwiede Membership Secretary, and Carl Johnson Treasurer.

TRADESMEN L.L.C.

The Tradesmen of Charlotte, NC, pledges to continue endeavors in promoting community and camaraderie, and enlightening others of "Southern Hospitality." Their annual run, Trademark V, is coming up May 3 to 5; check out the National Calendar for their busy round of winter/spring activities. The Tradesmen proudly celebrate a fantastic 1990, with a full round of social and charitable activities, a dynamite run, and active participation in area activities.

SEATTLE MEN IN LEATHER

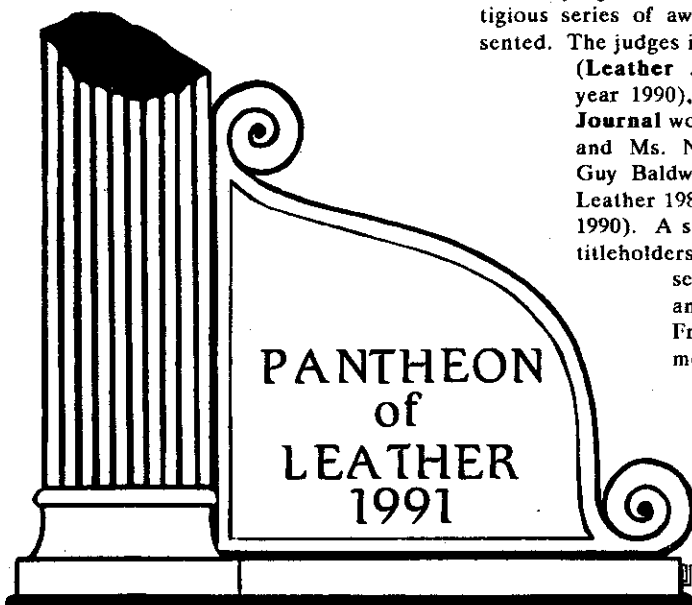
Equinox II: a Time of Renewal will be a celebration of this group's second anniversary. Site of the event is Pilgrim Firs (a private camp with cabins, fireplaces, and indoor plumbing and social space). It's coming up March 1 to 3, 1991. The weekend includes meals, games, activities, workshops and demos, a formal banquet, a special brunch, and annual awards and installation of the SML Steering Committee and 1991/92 Officers. Nominees for SML awards include SML Man of the Year nominees Roger Axline, Howard Martin, Wes Randall, and Al D. Sowers (all members of the NLA: Seattle Board). Community Service Award nominees include George Nelson, Lee Willis, Jan Lyon, and Jeff Henness. Reservations run from \$65 up. Contact SML at P.O.Box 20231, Seattle, WA 98102.

LEATHER STAR

Leather Star of Tacoma, Washington, which operates to grant the wishes of Persons with AIDS, proudly announces Sallee Maillard Huber as the holder of the tile Puget Sound Ms Leather 1991.

(Affiliate News Continues on Page 8)

PANTHEON OF LEATHER WINNERS



MORE AFFILIATE NEWS

SOCIETY OF JANUS

Two great programs highlight the Janus February schedule: "Carve Your Sweet-heart" with Raelyn Gallina features cutting as a rite of passage, as trust and love, as body modification on the 14th, while Feb. 28 brings Dr. Flash and "Ask the Doctor," to answer all the embarrassing or clarifying questions on safe, sane, and consensual SM. February 17 brings the Janus Top/Bottom Charity Auction and Play Party. Janus reports a fine year of growth in 1990, with key individuals giving their all in promoting the goals and activities of the organization. Contact Society of Janus at P.O.Box 6794, San Francisco, CA, 94101, or call their Hot Line at 415-985-7117.

MENAMORE L.L.C.

Menamore has been an active participant in the *Carolina Club Caucus*, one

result of which is the Mr. Leather Carolinas Contest set for Feb. 9. Menamore will be celebrating its second anniversary with Lion's Pride II on March 2 to 3. This weekend includes a reception, a banquet, parties, a buffet, and good times for all. Menamore states that it "encourages all individuals, regardless of affiliations to support their community in the manner and to the extent to which they feel is appropriate." Contact Menamore through GROW, a community service organization at 919-675-9222, or write P.O.Box 7364, Wilmington, NC 28406

OUTCASTS

Outcasts' February program is "How Sick Can We Get," with a registered nurse talking about medical techniques and equipment for play. Outcasts is working on forming an Anger Support Group, to work on anger and conflict issues. Contact Outcasts at P.O.Box 31266, San Francisco, CA 94131-0266 for details on this and on future programs. Outcasts is an educational, support and social group for all women interested in SM between women, including lesbian, bisexual, and transsexual women.

London police on Nov. 22, during a raid of the popular Coleherne pub in Earl's Court. Pub patrons felt the arrest of three men there was unjustified; after trying to prevent the arrests, they confronted police at the local station, demanding the release of prisoners. The detainees were freed immediately, and an apology for the mess was offered by the police, but Coleherne customers are proceeding with assault charges against the police.

BLACK ROSE REPORTS ON LIL V

The Petal and the Thorn, the Black Rose newsletter, gives a very positive review of the 1990 NLA Conference. The writers note the broad spectrum of attendees of diverse backgrounds, and note in particular talks given by Jan Lyons, Judy Tallwing-McCarthy, the Reverend Troy Perry, and Mr/Ms NLA winners Howard Martin and Ruth Marks. They note: "It is true, we really do need to form a united front where homophobia and hetero-phobia don't exist. One way to accomplish this is to have more events, functions like NLA, plus more interactions between the various groups. We need education within the community plus we need to have goals for the advancement of the community. We need to nurture and respect the different communities which is not an easy goal, but once accomplished well worth it."

LONE STAR PEP

Lone Star PEP continues its round of parties, New-Comers Meetings, and monthly Pot Luck Dinners in Dallas. The club provides a fully equipped party house, and looks for increasing participation from an increasing membership. Call their Hot Line at 214-604-1320 or write P.O.Box 810715, Dallas, TX 75381 for information.

LEATHER UNITED-CHICAGO

At the end of its first year of community activity, Leather United-Chicago is proud of its full schedule of learning, facilitation of friendships, education, and parties. Its growth has been phenomenal, and includes individuals from Arizona, Wisconsin, Vermont, Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, and California, in addition to Illinois. Its first anniversary celebration was on January 20 at the AA Meat Market Bar & Grill. The Club supports and is very active in the production of the Mr./Ms. Midwest Leather Weekend, February 15 to 17. Write LU-C at P.O.Box 138-058, Chicago, IL 60613.

"We have to fight for our life-styles which are constantly being threatened. The only way we as a leather community, can win is in strength and unity. We don't necessarily have to like each other but we should respect each other's scenes and life-style."

"Here's looking forward to LIL VI in Chicago 1991."

PERRY WATKINS VICTORIOUS!

We noted in the November *First Link* that Perry Watkins won a Supreme Court battle to re-enlist in the Army, despite the military's ban on homosexuals. Recently, the **Seattle P-I** announced that Army had provided Perry with \$136,605 in back pay, full retirement benefits and privileges, and a retroactive promotion (as of June 1, 1985) to Sgt. First Class. Watkins stated, "I'm very happy to be here as Sgt. Watkins. It's been a hard struggle, but it's been worth the fight. I'm very proud to be the first openly gay person to serve in the military, and to retire from the military." Watkins has been asked to write a book. "The battle may be over," he said, "but my life is just beginning."

POPPERS TO BECOME ILLEGAL

Leather Masters Newsletter reminds that, due to a recent ruling, poppers become an illegal drug on February 25, 1991.

FROM THE PRESS

ROYAL COURT IN SAN FRANCISCO

Bay Area members of Chicago Hellfire Club and the National Leather Association dominated the selections for San Francisco's Mardi Gras Court for 1991, at their official presentation at Bal Masque III on February 2. Among NLA honorees at this gala were Peter Fiske, Chris Minor, and Eric Rofes. Also among the visible NLA'ers were Judy Tallwing-McCarthy and Steve Patten as Co-Emcees, and Ineka and Alan Selby as Official host and Hostess. The event was based on a theme of "Lost Cities and Ancient Civilizations, and was sponsored by the Celestial Krewe de Cuir.

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

The poor begged for alms. Lacking same, Saint Doris of Luca in 618 passed out violets. The poor stoned her. (*Seattle Times*)

ENGLISH PROTEST

Stonewall Union of Columbus, Ohio, reports a protest by leathermen against

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NLA GENERAL STORE

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

As you can tell from the long listing below, the 1991 roster of Leather/SM/Fetish events is filling up. If your club or organization is planning an event, let us at the **First Link** now so that we may mention it in these columns and make room for it in our calendar. We regret that limited space will restrict our feature listings to major runs and events; however, ALL of your events will fit our calendar. Send information to **First Link** at P.O.Box 17463, Seattle, WA 98107.

GMSMA

Congratulations to GMSMA, celebrating its Teenth Anniversary Weekend March 8 to 9, 1991, in New York City. Highlights are a reception on the 8th at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, a Conference with workshops, panels, and exhibits at the LGCSC on the 9th, followed by a Banquet at Surfside, with entertainment by Lynn Lavner and a keynote by Rodger McFarlane. Among the many workshop participants are Race Bannon, Nan Borrowes, Shannon Kennedy, Jim Richards (NIA), James Bruce, Fred Katz (CHC), David Stein, Ray Matienzo, Barry Douglas (GMSMA), Etienne (Artist), John Preston (Author), and Peri Jude Radecic (NGLTF). Contact GMSMA at (212)-727-9878 for last minute information.

TRIDENT INTERNATIONAL, D.C.

Trident, D.C., announces its 1992 run, May 15-17.

LONDON BLUES

The London Blues, a British Uniform Club, meets each Wednesday at the Laurel Tree, 113 Bayham St., Camden, N.W.1. Uniform required. The London Blues' Charity Fund has purchased refrigerators for the AIDS ward at St. George's Hospital.

MSC SCOTLAND

This Edinburgh group reports most successful Burns Supper and St. Andrews Night festivities.

CONDUCTORS L.L.C.

The Conductors invites you to their ninth Anniversary Celebration, Track IX, March 15 to 17, 1991, in Nashville, TN. Write them at P.O.Box 40261, Nashville, TN 37204 for information.

MANSFILED BUCKS

Congratulations to the Bucks of Burlington, VT, on the 1st Anniversary Celebration. The Bucks regularly operate a

coat check at Pearls, with all proceeds to Vermont C.A.R.E.S.

WASATCH LEATHERMEN

Several major events are coming up, including the March 28-31 Leather Weekend in Salt Lake City, UT, and Falcon Flight 7, July 24 to 27, at Arches National Park, UT. Write them at P.O.Box 1311, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 for more information.

DREIZEHN

Dreizehn continues its regular meetings, the second Wednesday of the month, at the Boston Ramrod.

NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE

Remember this MOST important event coming up in Atlanta, GA, April 24 to 28, 1991. Contact address is P.O.Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031.

BORDER RIDER M.C.

Congratulations to Border Riders, celebrating their twentieth anniversary with a banquet celebration on February 16, 1991, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

CHICAGO HELLFIRE CLUB

Hellfire announces several forthcoming programs, including a panel discussion on switching roles on April 3 and Jock Gear on May 1. They're planning weekend classes, once per quarter, starting April 26 to 27. July 5 to 6 will feature sessions on Temporary Play Piercings and Spanking.

MOTORCYCLEMEN OF NEW MEXICO

MMM plans its annual major run, Hot Air '91, for October 11 to 14. Contact them at P.O.Box 35844, Albuquerque, NM 87176-5844 for further information.

GRIFFINS M.C.

Mr. Tri-State Cowboy Contest and Weekend is coming up April 19-21, 1991, co-sponsored by the Griffins and by the Renaissance Bar of Delaware. Contact Griffins at P.O.Box 7566, Newark, DE 19714.

PITTSBURGH M.C.

Pittsburgh M.C. announces Three Rivers VII, their 7th Anniversary Run, April 26-28, 1991, featuring games, parties, awards, brunch, and a banquet. Get an application form from P.O.Box 17198, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

TRIDENT INT'L: METRO TORONTO

Trident invites you to a LA Run May 31 to June 2, 1991. Activities include meals, shows, scavenger hunt, bar-crawl, shows, and more. Run fee is \$180 (Canadian) and up, NOT including air fare. Write P.O.Box 500-106, Toronto, ONT M4Y-2H0, Canada.

SOMANDROS

This Los Angeles group announces their Desert Captive IV weekend Run for April 12 to 14. Call 213-465-7589 for more information.

LEATHER AND LACE SOCIETY

This group hosts a round of support groups and parties. It supports safe, sane, consensual, and sober behavior. Contact them at P.O.Box 2145, Bay City, MI 48707.

TRIDENT, INTL. OF CENTRAL MASS

Tridents will celebrate its third anniversary in March. Plans are still in the works. For information, write P.O.Box 3054, Worcester, MA 01613-3054.

HARTFORD COLTS

The Colts travel to Brattleboro, VT, for the March 9 bar night at Colors. Their Round-Up '91 weekend is set for July 19-21, at the Vernon, CT, Quality Inn. For more information, write P.O.Box 320201, Hartford, CT 06132-0201.

AMERICAN LEATHERMAN CONTEST

This Competition has been announced by M.C.L. Productions, for September 27 to 29. Write M.C.L. at P.O.Box 287, Dept. A, Charleston, MA, 02129 for more information.

SPEARHEAD

Spearhead holds its 21st Anniversary Dinner on March 2, 1991, at the Royal Canadian Curling Club. Write Box 293, Station A, Toronto, ONT M5W-1B2, Canada, for further information.

SIGMA

SIGMA reports a new home, and a regular series of meetings, demos and parties coming up in Washington, DC. A water sports special interest group is forming.

VASM

VASM has been sponsoring small seminars, allowing questions and learning regarding safety, sanity, consensuality, spirituality, acceptance, and mutual support. Write P.O.Box 4579, Vancouver, BC, V6B-4A1 for information.

P.E.P.--ALBUQUERQUE

People Exchanging Power continues its dazzling round of parties and socials. Write P.O.Box 332, Edgewood, NM 87015 or call the PEP Events Line at 505-764-5711 for information.

EULENSPIEGEL SOCIETY

Eulenspiegel is planning a fantastic round of meetings and programs. Check out the National Calendar for dates and subjects, and write TES at P.O.Box 2783, Grand Central Station, NYC, NY 10163-2783 for more information.

Scribbles

STORY TIME

Saturday afternoon after a very ordinary (read that home alone) Friday night at the local watering hole. The week has been long, draining, and without reward--emotional or physical. Thoughts stray to sexual overtones even when filling up the gas tank at the local 8/12 Munchi Mart. Even the filler nozzle starts little fantasies. "What if it really were that big around?"

A car door slam brings you around suddenly and you're quickly aware of a near-perfect butt hurrying away from the small sport car behind you and inside. "Now if the rest is only half as good as the legs and rear this could be very special indeed. Wouldn't those jeans feel so good backed up hard against." But they're coming back already. Only a 6-pack (soda) and bag of ice. And there's that butt again as the door is opened. Only now it's been attached to a complete body--not perfect, but certainly more to your liking than anything last night. Hair of just the right length sets off a face that displays--frustration for having to make this stupid trip to the store. Why does one head of hair just fit the face, looks natural and casual, while mine.... There's no ring decorating the hand on top of the door.

And you're suddenly brought back realizing your scrutiny has been noticed. Perhaps some interest is being returned. That little smile was encouraging. Fairly dark eyebrows draw attention to large wide set eyes--just what color were they? They seemed to look in the right directions.

The denim jacket is being pulled off. Obviously a body that is at least taken care of and exercised. One nipple visibly pushing against the white cotton shirt. A narrow triangle of skin visible above the jeans as the jacket is put into the back seat.

Reality returns as the small car door closes and you realize your hand is brushing unconsciously over your own tit.

The little car sits as you try to hurry the pump to complete your tank filling--maybe

see more as the car pulls out if it doesn't wait.--That smile said "Perhaps--."

You turn back to look through the windshield only sky and sun reflections oblivate any hint of what's inside. You hang up the nozzle and even walk back to grab a towel--hoping. Damn--dark tinted glass--may as well look at a chalkboard. Am I being watched?

You pause just a moment--one last look back into that watery windshield. You can't hang around any longer and climb into your own car. The little car moves--backs up a bit--then begins to swing around. It slows next to your open window. --Those dark windows like holes. What's happening behind them--If you could only see through them. Oh for X-ray vision. Will it open?

END OF STORY

WHY? If every reader hasn't been in that same position--or at least a similar situation, I'd eat my own shorts (if I wore any). **First Link** hits that same position the first of every month. The invitations are out, space is available, the computer is on and ready to put words on paper. I'm cager for some give and take (of information), and I sit and wonder if that "window" will open. I know that there's stuff out there. I've made myself available [no secret about that part]. Made some real effort to dress up [even got a few good comments so far] in an appealing manner. I've even made initial contacts --Yes!--It's Available! And I wait. Will the window open?

Which side of the window are you and your organization on? Have you also gone home alone because you wouldn't open the window? Did you just assume the outside world would see through your tinted windows and glossy windshield?

First Link deadline is the first of the month of publication (and phone is 206-789-8990). Allow at least a 60-day delay between submission and printing for **Drummer. Leather Journal** deadline is the last day of the month.

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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**.

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