

NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

The next meeting of the National Council will be called to order in Chicago, Illinois, on May 25, 1992, at 9:00 AM and shall be adjourned no later than 2:00 PM. All National Council Members should start making plans to attend. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the International Mr. Leather competition.

EXEC. COMMITTEE NEWS

The NLA will establish liaison/coordinator persons for Canada, Europe, Australia, and other appropriate areas, with the goal of promoting cross-cultural understanding and acceptance of a safe, sane and consensual international leather/SM/fetish community. The Exec. okayed preliminary wording of proposed bylaw changes, refining certain aspects of the structure of the National Council (decreasing its size but preserving the vote of the Affiliate Representatives, and changing its name to the International Council), to be sent to the National Council for approval.

The Conference Committee was restructured, and will report to the Executive at least quarterly. Preliminary work has begun on Living in Leather VII, with initial site selection budgeting, publicity, and rates being investigated. Official attendance of 453 at Living in Leather VI was noted.

The Resource Center has established certain short-term and longer term goals, including a Speakers' bureau, resource lists, and pamphlets and publications on subjects of concern to our community.

NLA Chapter News

Since 1989, NLA: Dallas has had a firm and fast rule: in December it's Party YES, business NO. But in 1992, Dallas will be continuing their great Beyond Vanilla seminars, running for six weeks on Wednesdays starting March 18th. Topics will range from SM 101 to Spirituality and SM. March 6 will welcome Dallas' first Leather Tupperware Party from Hell at the Lesbian and Gay Center. The leatherwomen of NLA: Dallas will offer a workshop on "Leather Power and Trust" at the Texas Lesbian Conference on May 16.

NLA: Seattle continues their Kinky Couples' Evenings on February 21; call 206-244-4612 for reservations. February 29 brings a Chinese auction of leather, toys, & services at Changes 2 (bidding starting at 8:30 PM), to benefit May Day '92: Coming Alive. May Day will be held May 1 to 3—celebrating 6 years of leather pride from the NLA's founding Chapter.

NLA: Houston will be at the heart of Leather Pride Weekend II, '92 June 26 to 28, including Hot IV, '92: a Night in Black Leather, the Leather Symposium and Loading Dock '92 Party. Houston celebrated their first Anniversary Jan 17-19, featuring parties and a Leather Symposium. Noteworthy at that Symposium was an Attorney's discussion of his successful defense of a Houston member on an assault case; during proceedings, the NLA's Statement on Domestic Violence was presented to the Court, its first such appearance.

Welcome to NLA's newest Chapter in Formation, NLA: New Orleans; they may be contacted at POB 50133, New Orleans, LA 50150-0133. Their first meeting was set for February 2; interest is running high in Louisiana!

February 9th, the holders of NLA: Portland's MR/MS NLA Portland titles, K.T.Chase and Kevin Koesel, organized an entertainment--Love Can Build a Bridge-- to help finance the battle against the Oregon Citizens Alliance, featuring many luminaries. The Chapter's weekly 50-50 Raffle continues.

From NLA: Austin comes the big news of their Texas Leather Pride Weekend, First Splash, coming up May 1-3. This will include the first MR/MS Texas Leather Pride Contest, a Leather Bazaar, workshops, and a Hippy Hollow Boat Trip.

NLA: San Diego's Leatherfest IV will be coming up March 13 to 15, and feature a weekend of parties, vendors, panels, workshops, and celebration!

Attendance at NLA: Chicago's meetings has been great! They're meeting the third Tuesday of each month at Anne Sathers Restaurant at 8 PM. The Chapter was among the several sponsors of the recent Mr. and Ms. Midwest Leather Contest weekend.

January 18th saw NLA: New England's Anniversary Dinner at Aku-Aku. Their February General Meeting was set for the 11th at the Paradise.

NLA: Detroit (Chapter in Formation) held a very successful Male Nude in Photography event in January. Planning is underway for future events.

The National Leather Association and the Executive Committee as its agents supports the formation and continued existence of active chapters which, in turn, support the National Statement of Purpose. The NLA encourages Chapter participation in the operation and long-range planning of the organizations.

N.L.A. CALENDAR

FEBRUARY, 1992

14	SAN DIEGO Beverage Bust	San Diego, CA The Hole
15	DETROIT (CIF) General Meeting	Detroit, MI
15	NEW ENGLAND General Meeting	New Bedford, MA Paradise
16	HOUSTON Bar Night/Chili Cook-Off	Houston, TX Venture-N
16	SAN DIEGO Workshop: SM101	San Diego, CA Wolfs
18	CHICAGO Meeting	Chicago, IL
18	SAN DIEGO Directors' Meeting	San Diego, CA

20	HOUSTON Guest Bartending	Houston, TX Venture-N
20	BUFFALO (CIF) Meeting	Buffalo, NY Buddies
21	SEATTLE Kinky Couples Party	Seattle, WA
22	HOUSTON/ Imperial Court	Houston, TX
25	Colt 45's Benefit SAN FRAN. BAY AREA	SF, CA
29	Open Meeting SEATTLE Auction	Eagle Seattle, WA Changes 2

MARCH, 1992

1	SEATTLE Board Meeting	Seattle, WA
1	FIRST LINK DEADLINE	
1	HOUSTON Bar Night	Houston, TX Venture-N
2	PORTLAND Meeting	Portland, OR
3	CHICAGO Meeting 8PM	Chicago, IL Ann Sathers
4	METRO NEW YORK Executive Meeting	NYC, NY
6	*NLA:DALLAS Leather Tupperware Party	Dallas, TX GLCC

NLA ADDRESSES

NLA:INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: P.O.Box 17463, Seattle, WA 98107 (206)-789-8990
 NLA:ARKANSAS: P.O.Box 4392, No. Little Rock, AR 72116
 NLA:ATLANTA: P.O.Box 8772, Atlanta, GA 30306
 NLA:AUSTIN: P.O.Box 684013, Austin, TX 78788
 NLA:B.C.: 1170 Bute St., Vancouver, B.C., V8E-1Z8 Canada
 NLA:BUFFALO (Chapter-in-Formation): POB 3, Niagara Square Station, Buffalo, NY 14201-0003
 NLA:CENTRAL ARIZONA: 4820 No. 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013
 NLA:CHICAGO: 2271 N.Lincoln Ave, #470, Chicago, IL 60614
 NLA:DALLAS: P.O.Box 7597, Dallas, TX 75209
 NLA:DEAF INTERNATIONAL (Chapter in Formation): C/O P.O.Box 437, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
 NLA:DENVER: P.O.Box 18568, Denver, CO 80218 (303)-441-9950
 NLA:DETROIT (Chapter in Formation): P.O.Box 2844, Southfield, MI 48037-2844 (383)-354-5841
 NLA:HOUSTON: P.O.Box 541921, Houston TX 77254-1921 713-534-2417
 NLA:INDIANAPOLIS (Chapter in Formation): P.O.Box 313, Brownsburg, IN 46112 317-852-2939
 NLA:KANSAS CITY (Chapter in Formation): c/o J.Ryan, P.O.Box 32732 Kansas City, MO 64111
 NLA:LOS ANGELES: 7985 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 109-217, W. Hollywood, CA 90046 (213)-856-5643
 NLA:METRO NEW YORK: P.O.Box 1084 New York City, NY 10156 212-866-5248 (Phone noon - 8 PM only, BBX 8 PM - noon)
 NLA:NEW ENGLAND: P.O.Box N-1111 New Bedford, MA 02746
 NLA:NEW ORLEANS (Chapter in Formation): P.O.Box 50133 New Orleans, LA 50150-0133
 NLA:NEW SOUTH WALES (Chapter in Formation): 8/102 Burton St., Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW 2010 Australia
 NLA:PITTSBURGH (Chapter-in-Formation): P.O.Box 81245 Pittsburgh, PA 15217
 NLA:PORTLAND: POB 5161, Portland, OR 97208
 NLA:SAINT LOUIS: POB 68294, St. Louis, MO 63199
 NLA:SAN DIEGO: POB 3092, San Diego, CA 92163
 NLA:SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA: P.O.Box 420855, San Francisco, CA 94142-0855 415-255-5863
 NLA:SEATTLE: P.O.Box 20674, Seattle, WA 98102 (206)-670-2294
 NLA:SOUTH FLORIDA: P.O.Box 432320, South Miami, FL 33243-2320 305-685-8575; BBS 305-682-1748; FAX 305-682-1748
 NLA:TORONTO (Chapter in Formation): 552 Church St., Box 72, Toronto, ONT M4Y-2H0 Canada

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DSM PROJECT

NLA member Race Bannon, is attempting to organize S/M friendly psychotherapeutic professionals across the country in an effort to change the attitudes of the entire psychotherapeutic community about S/M. The effort is targeting a book entitled Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the primary reference that professionals use when looking for guidance in diagnosis. It is hoped that this project can influence those who write the DSM to make distinctions between our type of S/M (safe, sane & consensual) & the destructive manifestations of sadism, masochism & fetishism. If you are a psychotherapeutic professional, or know of one who might be interested in this project, please contact Race Bannon at 4470-107 Sunset Blvd., Suite 375, Los Angeles, CA 90027 for more information.

THUNDERHEAD UPDATE

All charges against Thunderheads Club (Boston) members were dismissed. Club leaders had been arrested after an illegal search of the venue of a play party, & were charged with possession of a dangerous weapon (a studded wrist band) & with running a house of prostitution. Support of those arrested drew fund raising from around the country, but the year since the raid has been extremely difficult for all involved. With the dismissal of charges comes the recognition that these men were unfairly treated, but the high price involved is not erased.

Courtesy GMSMA Newslink and Barry Douglas

PORNOGRAPHY "VICTIMS"

Write promptly to your Senators listed below & voice opposition to S.B.1521, "Pornography Victims Compensation Act of 1992." The law would enable a victim of "sexual abuse, rape, or murder" to sue for damages producers of pornographic material which was a "substantial cause" of the offense against them, consisting of "obscene or child pornography" which was "a direct motivating factor in causing the offender to commit the offense." The problem with the bill is that civil law standards for "proof of cause & harm" will be much less stringent than standards used in criminal cases. Materials found "obscene" by a jury using Civil Law standards in any jurisdiction in the U.S. could be used in future cases as a national standard. The law attempts to make the McKinnon/Dworkin statutes (thus far found unconstitutional in every state or city where enacted) into national law. Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: the Hon. J.R.Biden Jr. (DE), E.M. Kennedy (MA), H.Metzbaum (OH), D.DeConcini (AZ), P.H.Leahy (VT), H.Heflin (AL), P.Simon (IL), S.Thurmond (SC), O.Hatch (UT), A.K.Simpson (WY), C.E.Grassley (IA), A.Specter (PA), H.Brown (CO), & H.Kohl (WI) c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

--From Northwest Fact

N.L.A. CALENDAR

(MARCH, '92 Continued)

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|-------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6 | SAN DIEGO Beverage Bust | San Diego, CA |
| 8 | BRITISH COLUMBIA Board Meeting 11 AM | Vancouver, BC |
| 12 | HOUSTON Meeting | Heritage House Houston, TX |
| 13-15 | SAN DIEGO Leatherfest IV | San Diego, CA |
| 14 | BUFFALO (CIF) Bar Night | Buffalo, NY |
| 15 | HOUSTON Bar Night | Buddies Houston, TX |
| 17 | SAN DIEGO Directors' Meeting | Venture-N San Diego, CA |
| 17 | CHICAGO Meeting | Chicago, IL |
| 18 | DALLAS Beyond Vanilla Seminar | Dallas, TX |
| 19 | BUFFALO (CIF) Meeting | Community Ctr. Buffalo, NY |
| 19 | HOUSTON Guest Bartending | Buddies Houston, TX |
| 20 | SAN DIEGO Beverage Bust | Venture-N San Diego, CA |
| 24 | SAN FRAN. BAY AREA Open Meeting | The Hole SF, CA |
| 25 | DALLAS Beyond Vanilla Seminar | Eagle Dallas, TX |
| | | Community Ctr. |

APRIL, 1992

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|-------|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | QUARTERLINK DEADLINE | |
| 1 | DALLAS Beyond Vanilla Seminar | Dallas, TX |
| 1 | METRO NEW YORK Executive Meeting | Community Ctr. NYC, NY |
| 5 | SEATTLE Board Meeting | Seattle, WA |
| 6 | PORTLAND Meeting | Portland, OR |
| 7 | CHICAGO Meeting 8 PM | Chicago, IL |
| 8 | DALLAS Beyond Vanilla Seminar | Ann Sathers Dallas, TX |
| 9 | HOUSTON Meeting | Community Ctr. Houston, TX |
| 11-12 | HOUSTON Westheimer Colony Art Festival | Houston, TX |
| 12 | SEATTLE General Meeting | Seattle, WA |
| 12 | BRITISH COLUMBIA Board Meeting 11 AM | Vancouver, BC |
| 13 | BRITISH COLUMBIA Forum on Tops/Bottoms Attitudes with VASM | Heritage House Vancouver, BC |
| 15 | DALLAS Beyond Vanilla Seminar | Dallas, TX |
| 21 | CHICAGO Meeting | Community Ctr. Chicago, IL |
| 22 | DALLAS Beyond Vanilla Seminar | Dallas, TX |
| 28 | SAN FRAN. BAY AREA Open Meeting | Community Ctr. SF, CA |
| | | Eagle |

MAY, 1992

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|-----|---|--------------------|
| 1 | FIRST LINK DEADLINE | |
| 1-3 | SEATTLE MAY DAY Weekend | Seattle, WA |
| 1-3 | AUSTIN Leather Pride Weekend: First Mr/Ms Texas Leather Pride Contest | Austin, TX |
| 25 | NATIONAL National Council Meeting | Splash Chicago, IL |

THE FIRST LINK: PRODUCTION CREDITS

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AFFILIATE NEWS

Since Feb. 1992's QuarterLink there's been lots of Affiliate activity. We welcome receipt of renewals from Leather-United-Chicago, Inc. (POB 138-058, Chicago, IL 60613, a pansexual organization three years old), Cincinnati Chaps (POB 3104, Cincinnati, OH 45201), & Men-amore Levi Leather Club (POB 7364, Wilmington, NC 28406, celebrating their Anniversary Feb. 29 with Lion's Pride III & the Miss LEATHER Lace Contest).

New Affiliates include Cowtown Leathermen Association (POB 3494, Fort Worth, TX 76113), Black Rose (POB 11161, Arlington, VA 22210, a pansexual organization 5 years old this coming June, providing educational, support & social activities throughout the Washington DC-Maryland-Virginia area), & Desmodus, Inc. (POB 410390, San Francisco, CA 94141--publishers of Drummer, Dungeonmaster, & Sandmootopia Guardian, & stagers of the Mr. International Drummer contest).

Welcome to All!

Don't forget the Leather Journal's Pantheon of Leather Awards February 14-17; phone 213-656-5073 for last-minute info.

Tarheel Leather Club (POB 16457, Greensboro, NC 27416) gathered close to \$1500 in toys & contributions for HIV Children.

Bluegrass C.O.L.T.S. (POB 12403, Lexington, Kentucky, 40583) announces their first run, THOROUGHbred I-The First Leather Derby, to be held August 7-9, 1992. They celebrated their second anniversary January 17 & 26.

Knights D'Orleans celebrates Night of the Black Mask at the Phoenix, 941 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, on Feb. 28, 1992.

Shelix (POB 416, Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060) thanks the individuals & organizations who have recently donated funds. Shelix is considering fund raising ideas presented by leatherfolk on both coasts.

The Sundance Cattle Co announces their 12th Anniversary August 15, in Houston. They meet the 2nd Sunday of each month at Mary's.

Rose Paradox Productions sponsors the first Ms North East Leather contest April 4 at Zone in New York City. Contact 496A Hudson St., #D42, NYC, NY 10014 for info.

Trident Int'l D.C. Hall (5909 Cloverleaf Ave., Clinton, MD 20735) hosts the annual Trident Int'l Run May 15 to 17 in Washington, DC

The Cornhauler's L & L Club (POB 632, Des Moines, IA 50303) sponsored the 5th annual All-Iowa AIDS Benefit October 20th, 1991, & distributed \$18,000 to eight Iowa organizations. They sponsor the 1992 Mr.Gay Iowa Contest April 18, & are planning their run Corn Ball '92 the weekend of September 18th.

X-Corrigia reports an address change: 275 King St.E#63, Toronto ONT M5A-1K2, Canada.

Seattle Men in Leather are staging Equinox III March 6-8 in the Washington Woods. Write SML, POB 20231, Seattle, WA 98102 for info.

We Are Us

Why Do It? by Laura Goodwin, MS NLA '92

I address these remarks to those among you, my dear readers, who may be new to the support group concept. The support-group method & mentality is a thing unique, but not apart. Your friendly local S/M club can offer a time & place, & even help you to meet people. A good club with responsible leadership will have some kind of buddy or mentor system to help novice tops & bottoms develop their skills & knowledge. Support groups might provide these benefits to their members, & in addition, or instead, provide certain benefits which are their particular specialty.

There are many among us who have been knocking around the pro scene for years, becoming resigned to, or even comfortable with it. It comes sometimes as a relief, but often as a blow to the ego, to realize that the non-(or anti-)pro scene is a whole new kettle full of something else. Few who have become senior members of one world are eager to become freshmen of another...unless they are avid for the possible goodies they may gain by doing so.

There are goodies galore which are readily available to the earnest soul within the nurturing confines of a leatherpeople's support group which are more elusive in other settings. It's up to the individual to decide how important such nice things are to their own development.

Talk is one pleasure support clubs are justifiably famous for. It's their primary stock-in-trade. This is not phone-sex talk, or "say the wrong thing & yer outta here" talk; it's talking about the stuff that really matters with people who will respect your point of view whether they agree or not. It's not "yer a bozo because you make mistakes," but "don't think that's safe, & here's why." It's being able to be human, a dominant with feet of clay, & that's o.k. It's having encouragement when you're ready to excel. Support groups also provide a way for us to be us together without needing to be "on" all the time. You can be submissive without having to be submissive. You can also be "on," & try it out in a low-pressure climate.

I personally love a support group circle the best, because it's actually supportive to relationships, & to me the subtle & rich complexities of real relationships are where it's at.

Why do the support group thing? Because we need to!

COOKBOOK AGAINST AIDS

A cookbook is being assembled featuring favorite recipes and, if desired, name dedications to loved ones or in memory of someone lost to AIDS. Donations will benefit AIDS research. If you submit a recipe, please mention the NLA (which will be mentioned in the cookbook). Send recipes and dedications to Cookbook Against AIDS, 16105 8th Victory Blvd, #346, Van Nuys, CA 91406.

Scriblit
by George Nelson

"Scribbles" will be appearing only in the quarterly QuarterLink (next issue is May, 1992).

Special congratulations to NLA: New England & to NLA: Detroit (Chapter in Formation). Each has just produced its first newsletter. The New England newsletter is not yet named. A contest is being held, with the prize a trip to the Vault in New York City. Detroit has produced the Linkletter. Each gives promise of providing just that timely news & focus needed to get & keep a Chapter "rolling."

This is the first issue of our "economy-sized" First Link. We are proud to report favorable reception to QuarterLink last month; in order to produce the QuarterLink, First Link has to go on a diet. It is our aim to bring you material with tight time lines, as well as keep you up to date on concerns & events within the NLA, its Chapters, & Affiliates, & the leather world at large. Our National Calendar will be back with QuarterLink, but you'll find our NLA Calendar in its usual spot in this issue.

CLASSIFIED AD:

LEATHER & SEX SUPPLIES: Call JT Toys at (800) 755-TOYS to order a free catalog of high quality, best-priced gear. This is a special offer for NLA members only

NLA MEMBERSHIP

Open to adults who support our statement of purpose. National Dues \$30. (\$35. outside North America--U.S. funds). Fill out form and mail with check or money order to NLA at P.O.Box 17463, Seattle, WA 98107.

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____
 (above info. is confidential)

I agree with the Goals and efforts of the NLA, & wish to become a member. I am at least 21 years old.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Release my name to the Chapter (if any) in my region. _____

I may be contacted for NLA business by other NLA members? _____

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