

FROM THE PRODUCER

This issue of *First Link* should more properly be entitled the *Last Link*. That's right, after 6 years of steady publication, this is the very last issue of *First Link* you will receive. But do not fear--the *QuarterLink* will be coming to you on a regularly quarterly basis, starting with the February, 1993, issue. Budgetary restraints have forced the Executive Committee to recommend, and the International Council to approve, a bud-

get limiting NLA publications to our quarterly journal the *QuarterLink*. The United States' wobbly (to say the least) economy, coupled with an appraisal of NLA spending and priorities will be providing a larger share of NLA's limited income to its educational, social, and political projects (such as, for example, the Domestic Violence project, the Resource Center, Operation Spanner, and the March on Washington). Something, as they say, has had to give.

We are sorry not to be able to bring you

henceforth our regular updates on the activities of NLA and its affiliates and Chapters which a monthly publication could provide; we are equally sorry to discontinue the NLA Calendar. However, the *International Calendar* (including all NLA events) will still appear in *QuarterLink*, along with news of NLA International and its Chapters and Affiliates, articles and pictures, our cherished *Scribbles* and *We Are Us* columns, and news and notes of significance to our International Community. w.g.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

During the course of the Living in Leather VII weekend in Chicago, Illinois, a number of meetings were held. Though minutes have not yet been distributed, we bring you here highlights of those meetings:

Executive Committee October 8, 1992

Though a quorum was not available, this body heard reports from various committees, approved a tentative budget for 1993, and prepared recommendations for the National Council. They recommended the withdrawal of the mandate for bonding of the Treasurer--work is progressing slowly, and a deadline is not yet visible. They recommended that no formal professional audit be made of the NLA books--professional advice assures that such audits are normally only made for grant-receiving non-profit groups. They also recommended discontinuance of the *First Link* and formal dissolution of the Central Arizona Chapter.

General Membership October 10, 1992

A detailed Treasurer's report was presented, and volunteers came forward to help with the NLA embezzlement case. A report was made on the anti-OCA battle in Oregon; the leather community raised \$65,000 of the money used to fight OCA. An acclamation was offered to those fighting hatred and bigotry in Oregon and Colorado. The Operation Spanner picket of the Chicago British Consulate was very successful, with over 30 participants and media attention. Mark Frazier offered a report on the March on

Washington; an SM Conference is scheduled for April 24, 1992, while the days prior to this will provide ample opportunity for lobbying of our congressional persons.

Internal Revenue Service personnel have recommended that the NLA apply for status under 501-C-4 provisions ("social welfare"), which allow for political and social activity but require focus on education and networking. Too much of NLA's income comes from corporate bodies and non-members (e.g. from SM Conferences) to allow filing under 501-C-7 provisions. The Domestic Violence project was represented at a Minnesota conference in October, while individuals are undertaking the outreach to various regions, preparing presentations on SM vs. domestic violence for local groups.

(Inter-)National Council October 12, 1992

A quorum of the 105 Council members was present. The body approved suggested Bylaws amendments (previously published here), changing the structuring of that Council and providing a formal name change to *International Council*. Elected as at-large representatives to the Executive Committee are Gayle Rubin, Tony DeBlase, Albert Kraus, Bill Miranda Salzman, and Michael Primrose (of New South Wales). Steve Gabosch is the new Corresponding Secretary, Earl Resch the Treasurer, and Sallee Huber the female Co-Chair. The budget was passed as proposed by the Executive Committee, with an additional allowance for telephone Exec. meetings since they will include a Trans-Pacific hookup. The requirement for Treasurer bonding was rescinded. It was voted for a quarterly financial report to be submitted for publication in the *QuarterLink*. Jan Lyon presented a new set of National Bylaws

to replace existing Bylaws; these will be presented to the membership for a vote in 1993. The International Council voted by a very narrow margin to recommend a negative vote on those Bylaws to the membership. Finally, it was moved to hold the next International Council meeting in Washington DC just before the March, at 6 PM on April 23, 1993.

Executive Committee October 12, 1992

Chris Rabonza and Rena Davis will co-chair the Chapters Concerns Committee. Other committee chairs include Stuart Norman (Budget and Finance), Wayne Gloege (Membership), Albert Kraus (Bylaws), Jim Richards (Archives), George Nelson (Publications), Johnny Grey (Awards), Gayle Rubin (Archives), Bill Costomiris (Mack MacKinnon Travel Fund), and Bill Miranda Salzman and David A. (General Store).

The Treasurer is to establish an impressed cash fund for the *QuarterLink*, and has been requested to investigate various aspects of the NLA dues structure. It was voted to dissolve the Central Arizona Chapter (due to lack of membership and lack of response to queries).

Requests-for-Proposals are to go to the Texas Triangle Chapters and to the St.Louis/Kansas City/Indianapolis area for Living in Leather VIII; RFPs are to go to Reno, New Orleans, Denver, New York, Boston, San Francisco, and the Texas and Missouri areas for Living in Leather IX; an RFP is to be sent to Seattle for Living in Leather X. One Co-Chair, the Treasurer, the LIL Program Coordinator, the LIL Director, the Conference Publicist, and volunteers are to coordinate the RFP. Vance Reger was named Director of Living in Leather VIII.

NLA ADDRESSES:

NLA:INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: P.O.Box 17463, Seattle, WA 98107 (206)-789-8990
 NLA:ARKANSAS: (Chapter in Formation), P.O.Box 4392, No. Little Rock, AR 72116
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 NLA:SAINT LOUIS: POB 69294, St. Louis, MO 63169
 NLA:SAN DIEGO: POB 3092, San Diego, CA 92163
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 NLA:TORONTO : 455 Church St., Studio "C", Toronto, ONT M4Y-2C5 Canada

PROPOSED NEW NATIONAL BYLAWS

A draft set of Bylaws was presented to the International Council at Living in Leather VII. Copies are available by application in writing to Jan Lyon care of NLA, POB 17463, Seattle, WA 98107. Comments to her are welcomed before December 31, 1992.

GOODBYE FIRST LINK

From two individuals come regrets at the demise of *First Link*. Richard Reynolds (San Diego Chapter Treasurer) writes, "Are you going to rename that [last] issue 'LastLink'???? So sorry to hear it is going away, but I understand. I do enjoy reading it and using it as a reference each time. You guys deserve a real 'THANKS' for producing it so well time after time!" Jan Lyon (our former Co-Chair and Ms NLA and NLA founding member) sends thanks to the *First Link* production team; she bids the *First Link* a fond goodbye.

LEATHERFEST V

San Diego announces Leatherfest V for March 12-14, 1993. It features 20 workshops and demos by leather community leaders, vendors, contests, parties, bar events, a cycle run, and an awards weekend. Proceeds will go to various San Diego AIDS charities. Registration fees are \$55 (NLA member)/\$75 (non-member) prior to 2/1/93; after that date fees are \$65 (member)/\$75 (non-member). Headquarters is the Holiday Inn Mission Valley; call 1-800-433-2131 (specifying NLA Leatherfest V rates of \$59 single and \$69 for 2-4, per night). Detailed information may be obtained from NLA/SD at POB 3092, San Diego, CA 92163 or by calling 1-800-598-1859.

CREATING CHANGE

From Los Angeles comes word of the NGLTF National Creating Change Conference, held at the LAX Hilton November 12-15. This event included 2 SM seminars, featuring panels including Race Bannon, Casey Lively, Barry Douglas, and D. Cannon. NLA:LA hosted a popular hospitality suite. NLA: International's representative there, Jennifer MacFarland, reports attendees from Ohio, Florida, Delaware, Washington, New South Wales, and everywhere else, many proudly wearing their leathers!

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We Are Us
by Laura Goodwin

"Fresh Horses"

Here we are on the battlefield of LIFE knee-deep in mud, blood and tears. We need fresh horses to either retreat or advance. Where will these horses be found? In the enemy camp.

So fill your pockets with sugar and follow me - I know the way.

I'm not going to let you think it's going to be easy; it's bloody, dark, and dangerous. We can do it though; it's not impossible.

Sometimes we'll have to humble ourselves and go lowcrawling. Sometimes we'll have to climb, and then swing from vine to vine... stuff they didn't teach you in school, believe me. Trust me, and let me show you the way.

When we come up against a rock wall, we're getting close. Though our hearts may race with fear, we should be glad. Have faith, be strong, and follow me through this wide crack in the wall. Bite your nails off short for this part - you need a secure fingerhold, a toehold, a fingerhold, a final crumbling toehold. Damn!

Feel that breeze? That means we're coming through. Once you're through, duck down quick! If we pull this off, we'll ride our new mounts right out the front gate. SHHH.

There they are, those beauties. Those ponies will take us safely home or bear us off to glory. Let's grab 'em first, and once we have them safe and sound we'll decide which way to go. We'll each take one for ourselves, then run the lot of them out and into the eager embrace of our army.

Oh, the enemy is not sleeping, so watch your back. Remember, any mistake any one of us makes could kill us all.

O.K. I've got mine! You've got yours, and you've got yours. Let's break for it! What is a catastrophe for our enemies is a victory for us as we fly to our friends with the thunder of hooves as music for our ears! Sweet music!

SWEET MUSIC! SWEET MUSIC!

There are millions of leatherfolk whose lives are, as yet, untouched by the N.L.A. So, put sugar in your pockets and follow me.

THE FIRST LINK:
PRODUCTION CREDITS

Editor: George Nelson
 Producer: Wayne Gloege
 Regular Contributors: Jan Lyon
 John K.
 L.Goodwin
 C.Higgins

LIVING IN LEATHER VII

600 to 700 leatherpeople attended the 7th annual Living in Leather Conference in Chicago. Each conference has been similar in format each has also had a distinctive character & attitude. The character this year was marked by an openness to others that was due in part to the presence of the largest contingent of het leatherpeople I have encountered at LIL. The attitude was one of exploration, with the leathermen, lesbians, & hets opening dialogs on pansexuality, their cultures, & the direction of the leather movement. This cross cultural communication is long overdue in our community. It felt good to be a part of this tribe & to share information & ideas with others from around the world.

The conference featured a wide variety of workshops, in new & different formats, covering everything from how to mount a political letter writing campaign to cross-orientation play. Paradise Productions provided an excellent dungeon & some very hot parties. Sallee Mallard Huber, Vance Reger, & all their assistants deserve a hearty round of applause for putting together a great LIL conference.

NLA/LA congratulates the following people who were honored at the conference: Pat Bond, the founder of The Eulenspiegel Society, received the 1992 Lifetime Achievement Award. K.T. Chase from Oregon won the Ms. NLA title. & Andy Anderson, from Toronto, Canada, won the Mr. NLA title.

(We have included this material from The Scene, the newsletter of NLA: Los Angeles. Thanks to President Phil Swenson.)

NLA HOUSTON RUN

Houston celebrates its Second Anniversary January 15-17, 1993. Run fees are \$30 (\$40 after Jan.3). Events include Hot V, '93: A Night in Black Leather (featuring a finger food buffet & cocktail party) at the Venture-N, Saturday cocktails & brunch party, a color parade & Texas Size Steak Bar B Que, a show, a Sunday Brunch & party, awards, & Loading Dock '93 (party co-hosted by NLA: Houston & Pacific Street at Pacific Street). Call 713-434-2417 or fax 713-434-2823 for information. Run Captain is Bob Jacobson, & Assistant Captain Ray Davis.

BRUSH CREEK MEDIA

The publishers of *Bear & Powerplay* magazines offer a 10% store discount (non-subscription items) to card-carrying NLA members, at 367 Ninth St. in San Francisco (phone 1-800-234-3877). This NLA affiliate photographed equipment for Prick (their one-day-at-a-glance penis calendar) during IML & the Folsom Street Fair. *Powerplay* may be changing from quar-

terly to bi-monthly this year, while *Bear 24* (Jan-Feb) will feature a *National Inquirer*-type interview with Paul Bourassi, who discusses his affairs with John Travolta, Johnny Mathis, & David Geffen. Offices of Brush Creek Media are 2215R Market St., #148, San Francisco, CA 94114.

KINKY COUPLES

Final Kinky Couples party for 1992 is set for December 18-19. This NLA: Seattle event will include a small vendor area. For reservations & information call 206-244-4612.

NLA AFFILIATES

Welcome back to a host of renewing Affiliates, including *Brush Creek Media* (see above); *United Leatherfolk of Connecticut* (POB 281172, E.Hartford, CT 06128-1172) which offers education, social & emotional support, introductions, social activism & activities, counseling, & information for leatherfolk; *C.L.U.B. Calgary* (201-233 12th Ave. SW, Calgary, ALB T2R-0G9, Canada) which offers charity fund raising & education awareness for men & women; *X-Corrigia* (POB 277 Station A, Toronto, ONT M5W-1B2, Canada) which advocates safe, sane, consensual & confidential S/M, B/D, D/S, & fetish play for all orientations & encourages discussion & interaction among individuals & groups, & education related to the lifestyle; *Gauntlet Inc.* (2377 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114) which features body piercing jewelry & services, *Knights d'Orleans* (POB 50812, New Orleans, LA 70126) which for 18 years has provided social activities & opportunities for all in its area; & *Shelix* (POB 416, Northampton, MA 01060-0416) which features discussions, videos, educational demos, workshops, & parties for the New England area, & is open to all (though it is woman-centered).

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

April 25, 1993, join hundreds of thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, & straight brothers & sisters in Washington to demand our rights, celebrate our diversity, raise a little hell, show our strength, & have a ball. The weekend will also feature a s/m-leather-fetish conference April 24 at the Departmental Auditorium at 12th & Pennsylvania, including workshops, speakers, vendors, organizational tables, an art show, & a party at Tracks. Among the goals are working to amend the DSM to provide a supportive definition of consensual SM, work with Amnesty International to defend Leather/SM/Fetish people, work with persons of color, & the women's movement. Contact SMLC, POB 965, South San Francisco, CA 94083-0965.

SCRIBLETT
by George Nelson

I don't imagine many remember how this column got started some six years ago. Originally it was just a series of notes, yes scribbles, from my note pad. Reminders, thank yous, plugs for events, and a few opinions on ideas or events which I felt might or should hold interest for our community. Basically, although it's gotten more formal, sometimes using hi-falutin language, and unintelligible vocabulary, it still does the same thing. It has given me the opportunity to publicly recognize individuals within our organization and community who have made significant contributions, but have frequently been shy of publicity. I've been able to thank some people who have helped us, and helped me as a member of this organization and community, who deserve BIG Thank yous, but just don't get to hear them. I've been able to focus some attention on events which impact all of us, such as elections, or activities of individuals or organizations. I hope that I may have assisted a few sort through issues, perhaps clearing some fog or simplifying some ideas which seem ever so complicated when being debated. Maybe I've even provided an occasional bit of entertainment.

We've completed six years of *FIRST LINK*. Our little newsletter has grown into an international publication, mailed to over 15 countries. And it's read in those other countries, if we can believe the mail we receive, as a respected voice for the L/S/F community on the North American Continent. *FIRST LINK* published the NLA Statement on Domestic Violence. *FIRST LINK* has been followed closely during the progress of Operation Spanner and our strong and valued support from Amnesty International. *FIRST LINK* did its best to beat the drums for the "Beat Jesse" campaign. *FIRST LINK* has proudly announced the establishment and acceptance of each of the twenty-eight chapters and chapters-in-formation that now are part of the NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOCIATION. *FIRST LINK* has a recognized record of consistent, reliable publication. *FIRST LINK* has always done its best to be objective, and open to ALL of our community, and has refused to exclude those who did not agree with either its editors or the NLA.

FIRST LINK has set and maintained a consistent standard for an organization publication within our community. It has provided the Membership of our organization with a publication which belies its age and size. While there are now many LINKS which answer the needs of our local L/S/F communities and organizations, *FIRST LINK*, the First Publication of the NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOCIATION, will retain its unique position long after this final issue.

(Scribbles will appear in the Feb., 1993 *QuarterLink*)

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