



WELCOME TO THE LINK!

As I'm sure you've noticed, our format has changed. While we are no longer a glossy magazine, we hope to maintain the level of professionalism that was established with QUARTERLINK. You can expect more changes in our appearance and our content over the next several issues.

Why make these changes? Because our focus has shifted. THE LINK will now focus on news and information from the Chapters and the subcommittees of NLA I. We will publish accounts of local activities and advertise up-coming Chapter events. At the same time, we will continue to keep you informed about the social, political and legal issues that affect your lives.

Also, we will continue to offer feature articles on topics of importance to us all. NLA I is dedicated to furthering education in and understanding of the leather/SM/fetish lifestyle.

The calendar of events will return to THE LINK in the next issue, and we will continue to add to this calendar. Also, in the near future, THE LINK will accept personal ads. Many of our members have expressed a desire to correspond with like-minded individuals; THE LINK will offer you that opportunity. Look for more information on personal advertising, including rates, in the July issue.

Also in the July issue, THE LINK will again accept advertisements from leather/SM/fetish organizations, craftspeople and businesses. As part of our commitment to communication, we feel it is necessary to inform you, our members, of the

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FROM THE HOTSEAT

by Albert Kraus, Co-Chair

Although my column this month had been slated to address issues of concern within the Chapter and Affiliate levels and their interaction with NLA I, I will stray from the path in this issue and address a very timely topic — ELECTIONS! Since I am not up for election this year, I have volunteered to be the Election Committee Chair. (KEEP READING! This is not the time to turn the page.) An organization can be no better than its members or officers. Last year we approved direct election of every member of the Executive Council. Now is the time to put up or shut up.

For our diverse, international membership, this is the most important opportunity to participate. This year we are electing a female Co-chair, a Treasurer, and three At-Large Members of the EC. Each of these positions is vital and due consideration should be given to your nominees. There are no freebies.

Since I will be joined by the telephone to whomever you elect as the female Co-Chair, I am most interested in this race. I have heard several women are interested in the position. I announce now that I will remain neutral. Between my office of Co-Chair and Chair of the Election Committee, I want to avoid any appearance of undo influence.

The qualifications for election are simple. You must be a member of NLA I. Everything else is subjective in the mind of the voter. In terms of nomination criteria I will share my views. Should length of service in NLA be a requirement? Not necessarily. Over the years I have seen a number of people come

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HELP US HELP YOU

by Sallee Huber, Co-Chair

Throughout the past several years, the NLA has experienced a slow but steady decline in membership. While new people are constantly joining, this number is smaller than those whose membership expires and don't renew.

This tells me that while we can attract people to the NLA, we aren't doing the job we need to do in terms of KEEPING people interested. There are obvious factors which have helped cause this: limited financial resources; lack of a steady, dependable publication from NLA I; and individuals' dissatisfaction with either a Chapter or International.

We've begun taking steps to address our problems. By scaling down the production costs of THE LINK and making it affordable to publish on a bi-monthly basis, we will be getting the news of NLA I to our membership. This is only part of the major re-evaluation we have done in terms of the budget so that we may make the most of our limited resources.

A more difficult question to define is why former members do not feel it is worth renewing their membership. Are members actively dissatisfied with their local Chapter or NLA I? To address this question, I'm asking ALL Members of NLA to help determine our priorities and tell us what you feel is important. If we know your priorities and the direction you would like NLA I to take, we may better meet your needs.

Please write, call or fax NLA I with your thoughts on these questions. Feel free to let us know your other concerns also.

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by Mark Frazier
Mr. NLA International, 1993-94

Does our family unit still exist? Every community should ask itself this question. We are attacked by those outside of the leather/SM/fetish community as having no sense of family and no true values. While we fight against this prejudice, we must remember that it is the responsibility of each of us to create a cohesive, focused community and to foster family unity.

We are a community of unique individuals with a diverse membership. We are a pansexual, interracial and cross-cultural group bound together by the traditions of the leather/SM/fetish subculture. We each bring a unique and personal perspective to the tribal culture.

At times we do not treat each other with the respect and dignity necessary to foster cohesion in our community. Close friends refuse to communicate because of misunderstandings. Brothers and sisters refuse to forgive each other. Oftentimes, we refuse to openly accept our own identity. Our community must believe in unity through diversity. Do we need to go through a constant reexamination of our membership in order to justify our existence? No.

As leaders in the leather/SM/fetish lifestyle, it is our responsibility to ensure that the in-fighting stops. The task of advocating our right of choice for any lifestyle is very demanding. We cannot allow our community to become splintered by the us and them mentality. Communication has always been one of our strongest assets. Let us open those lines, bury our differences or at least agree to disagree and get on with the game of life. We can ensure our survival, the survival of our culture and the survival of the tribe if we work together. ●

THE LINK MAY 1994

Next Issue: July 8, 1994
Deadline for submissions: June 19

Editor Donna Shrout
Assistant Editor Pauline Miriam
Contributing Editor Owen Hatch
Production David Scribner
Jacqui Jewels
Chris "Pup" Grant

COMMIT YOURSELF!

by Artemis Silverowl
Ms. NLA International, 1993-94

Do you find yourself frequently using the phrase "I'm committed to...?" Within our leather community, one can "commit to a club" with the intent of obtaining membership; two people can be "committed" to the contractual agreement of a master/slave relationship; or many individuals can make a commitment to an organization or cause. NLA International is composed of Chapters and like-minded individuals who are committed to the ideals which are put forth in the Statement of Purpose which was crafted by NLA-founding members.

The recent past has not been kind to our leather tribe. AIDS has cut deeply into our numbers and into the pockets of our leather community. The efforts of the "reich wing" have driven many of our brothers and sisters back into their leather closets and stripped them of their rights as well as their personal safety. The economic "hard-times" have served to severely depress our personal and organizational cash flow. We have reached a point where we must turn to our members and ask that they reach deeply within themselves and give more. Simply being a member is not enough. We need your active participation as well as your regular financial support. We cannot afford to overuse and tire those who have worked so diligently for our community. Additionally, the coffers of our established benefactors are emptying too swiftly.

The nature of most commitments is subject to change and, hopefully, will grow over time. These commitments wax and wane as a result of both internal and external forces. A master and slave may part ways if their respective needs change or if the terms of their contract are broken. An indi-

vidual member of a club may eventually become national president if their commitment and dedication to the organization grows as their drive to serve intensifies. Some people commit to make monthly donations of time, money or materials to a cause or a charitable organization if they have the resources or inclination.

So what does this mean personally to members of NLA I? If there is not a NLA chapter where you live, set a goal to establish one; remember, a chapter is built one member at a time. Attend LIL where you can network and recharge your batteries. Hold a personal fundraiser for NLA I. Pledge money each month, save money from recycling aluminum cans, or have a yard sale and donate the proceeds to NLA I.

If you are a member of a Chapter, it means you must regularly attend and participate in Chapter meetings and events. Make the commitment to become a committee chair or a Chapter officer. Follow through on your commitment to your Chapter. Personally hold a fundraiser that will benefit your local Chapter as well as the International treasury. Behave in a manner which encourages unity within the tribe. Promote NLA I and its ideals by cultivating alliances outside of the leather community.

NLA International is a viable force within the leather/SM/fetish community. We need the renewed, deepened commitment of all our members if our vision and the vision of our founding members is to succeed and to flourish. ●

NLA I is on the Internet!!!!
nlaintl@netcom.com
If you have an E-mail address, please send it to us!!!!!!

THE LINK is a publication of NLA International, intended for distribution to its members, chapters, affiliates and other interested adults. Subscriptions are a benefit of NLA membership.

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The appearance of any person or organization or their names in THE LINK is not intended to imply anything about their sexual orientation or lifestyle.

NLA INTERNATIONAL:

What's it doing for me?

by Tony DeBlase--Member-At-Large, Executive Council

That's a question I hear a lot, from Chapters, Affiliates and individuals. My response is always a series of questions: What do you want it to do? What do you expect it to do? What do you think it should be doing? Who is NLA International? The answer to this last and most important question is the key to the problem: Who is NLA I anyway?

Unlike labor unions, Greenpeace, the March of Dimes, NOW, the ACLU, the NRA, AMFAR, the OCA or most other advocacy groups, there is no full-time paid staff of NLA I to work towards our objectives. We have one staff member paid for ten hours of work per week. Even though he works considerably more than that (often three to four times as much), he is only paid for ten hours. Obviously we cannot expect all of the objectives of NLA I's statement of purpose to be accomplished by our quarter-time employee.

Is NLA I our Co-Chairs and other elected board members? These 12 people have been elected by you to administer NLA I, but they, together with their handful of appointed committee chairs and other agents, are volunteers. They spend a lot of time and energy dealing with the busy-work of an organization and accomplishing some objectives set forth in the Statement of Purpose. In reality these few persons are, like the quarter-time employee, only a part of NLA I.

So who is NLA I? The answer is simple: Individuals; Affiliates; Chapters.

Without you there is no NLA I. You are our basic building blocks and our most important asset. So, when you ask, "What has NLA I done for me?" you must also ask, "What have I done for NLA I, for my fellow members?"

Hopefully, you have paid your dues, but how much farther has your involvement progressed? Did you vote in the most recent election? Have you nominated someone to run for elected office? Have you volunteered to help with LIL or any other NLA project? Have you recommended a speaker for participation in LIL? Have you written an article or a letter to the editor for THE LINK? If not, why not begin today? You are the building block of our organization. When you contribute to NLA I you not only advance your sense of belonging

to our organization, you also advance the causes of NLA I.

Large organizations built upon volunteers rather than paid staff can do nothing unless there are individuals ready to say "I'll do that!" Once an individual says this, and means it, a big organization can help. By working within the NLA framework, an individual or small group of individuals (such as an Affiliate or a Chapter) can get ready access to others of similar interests to work together.

The umbrella organization can give them name recognition and support services and can put them in touch with expert advisers so that they do not have to constantly reinvent the wheel.

There must be an "I'll do that" decision on the part of an individual to get the ball rolling. One person must contribute the initial spark and the drive to begin a project.

The Living in Leather conference is successful due to the volunteer efforts of many individuals who organize the presentations, entertainment, services, printing, parties, etc.

NLA I has a solid Domestic Violence education project due to the efforts of Jan Hall, who recruited assistants to do research and ground work to develop a statement and then a plan of operation. She and other individuals worked together and made it happen. Now other volunteers continue their fine work.

Chuck Higgins became very interested in Operation Spanner. He organized NLA demonstrations at the British Consulate in Chicago during LIL VII. Chuck heads fundraising for the Spanner Defense fund under the auspices of NLA I. He, together with the volunteers he has been able to recruit, are awakening the leather community in North America to a clear and present danger. They are making a difference that we may all come to value greatly.

These are examples of monumental volunteer efforts. However, there are many small but equally important tasks to be allocated to people whose time commitments may be more limited but who still wish to contribute. You could help the membership chair see that renewal notices are sent. You could offer advice to persons interested in starting chapters or other similar organizations. You could solicit and compile nominations for the NLA I Lifetime Achievement Awards. You could write a brochure that will help the office

answer any one of the dozens of routine questions they receive or do art work for a brochure. We need help organizing a computer program to keep track of speakers, subject matter and contact information. Contributions of book reviews, news items, etc., to the newsletter are always welcomed. Individual members, individual Affiliates, individual Chapters could choose one aspect of NLA I's operations and say "I'll do that."

So who is NLA I? You are! Each and every member.

What can NLA I do for you? If only a few members work toward our goals, the answer is "very little." If more members are involved, the answer is "quite a bit." If ALL members contribute, each doing some small (or not so small) task, the answer is "We can move mountains."

Now, what are YOU going to do for NLA I? Contact me, the Co-chairs, the office or any other member of the Executive Council. Send us your proposal, your interests, your ideas. What would you like to work on? Let us know that you are available and ready to help. We are looking forward to working with you. ●

NLA:HOUSTON PRESENTS:

**Hot VI:
A Night in Black
Leather
Friday, June 10
Venture-N**

**2923 Main Street, Houston
10:30PM - 1:00 AM
Leather Harness/Halter & Jock
Contest**

**The Leather
Symposium
Saturday, June 11
1:00 - 3:00 PM
Location: TBA**

**For more info, contact:
NLA:Houston
P.O. Box 66553
Houston, TX 77266-6553
(713) 434-2417
fax (713) 528-2850**

ASK NOT WHAT INTERNATIONAL CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT . . .

by Syd Creighton
Co-Chair, NLA:Toronto

I was in San Francisco recently to compete at IMsL and had the good fortune to be a house guest of Jacqui Jewels and his Daddy, David Scribner, Secretary of NLA I. When I wasn't otherwise engaged in tourist-type activities (cruising, bruising, but not boozing!), I offered to spend some time in the NLA office with David doing scut work. In this article, I would like to tell the members of NLA what goes on in the International office.

As the female Co-chair of NLA:Toronto, I have heard our members express concern at what they felt was an excessive delay in getting their membership cards. Certainly members in Toronto have reason to be concerned about a lack of follow-through on the part of leather organizations. Some of our city's former leather clubs had a habit of taking member's money and giving them nothing in return, so our members were very assertive in their demands for that little card.

Before I spent time in the NLA office, I tended to agree with our Chapter members. After all, what is so difficult about opening an envelope and generating a card? There didn't seem to be a problem in removing the check and getting that to the bank. We just did not understand what else the Secretary could possibly have to do that would interfere with this process.

The time I spent in San Francisco was a real eye-opener for me. No matter how early I got up (and some

days I was up at 6:30 AM because my body was still on East Coast time), David was already in the office, at the computer and engaged in NLA business. In addition to the day-to-day work of NLA I, he was busy sorting out data from LIL VII and LIL VIII in order to straighten out the records. I watched him take delivery of the most recent LINK, generate mailing labels and pre-sort them into piles for people whose renewal were due so that a renewal letter could be added to the mailing. He also took the time to write a note to each and every person he knew or had met in his leather community travels to give them a personal touch.

I heard David field phone calls from remote places where there is no leather community. He didn't just give them pat, quick, pass-off answers, but was empathetic, supportive and served as a living example of what NLA is all about. Did I mention daily trips to the post office box on Castro Street to pick up the NLA mail and trips to the federal post office to pick up postage for the large volume of NLA mail that is processed each week?

I also realized that many Chapters do not understand that communication is a two way street. Some Chapters forget that the NLA I office cannot pick up their news and information through osmosis. It is important that the Chapters keep in touch with NLA I.

That was when I began to see the big picture — NLA I isn't Big Brother with a large staff and a surplus cash flow to be spent catering to individual Chapters. NLA Inter-

national is a conglomeration of the local Chapters. It is only as strong as its weakest links. We, the individual members and the local Chapters, constitute the sum of the whole. If we don't do our part to support International and the Executive Committee the entire organization suffers. NLA is not a long-established, mainstream organization, but a relatively new, fledgling one that needs the collective energy and valuable contributions of its entire membership.

I know that members of NLA are creative; I've played with some of you and have watched others. I know you have what it takes to make this a first class, international organization, but I'm not sure you realize how badly you are needed to make that happen. Ask not what International can do for you, but give some thought to what you can do for International. And the next time you're in San Francisco on business or pleasure, why not give the office a call and ask if you can help them out? You will end up with a much clearer understanding of how things work, and you will know that you have contributed to the success of the entire organization.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

The following Financial Statement is a condensed version of a seven page Profit and Loss Statement for the 1993 fiscal year ending December 31, 1993. These are the final figures; the books are now closed.

Last year, NLA International undertook some major changes aimed at progress. Unfortunately, some of the financial information necessary to make educated decisions was not available. However, in reviewing the current situation, a

LINK —

Continued From pg 1

businesses and individuals who truly support our leather lifestyles.

It is our goal to make THE LINK the primary communication tool for the members of NLA International, the Chapters and the Board of Directors. This is your forum. NLA I is committed to improving the lines of communication.

As the new editor of THE LINK, I am excited about the direction we have chosen for the newsletter. I look forward to watching it grow and improve over the coming months.

I encourage the members of NLA I to use THE LINK to reach out to the full membership. Please send us articles and other submissions, news releases and, most importantly, information on legislative and political changes which could affect our leather lifestyles. We want to serve the needs of the leather/SM/fetish community.

Please mail letters, news releases or articles to: THE LINK, C/O NLA I, 584 Castro Street, #444, SF, CA 94114-2500. You may also receive information on advertising rates by writing to this address. We welcome your input.

Donna Shrout
Editor

IF WE DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, WE CAN'T KEEP YOU INFORMED; IT CAUSES DELAYS AND INCREASES

COSTS

SEND YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
NLA I 584 CASTRO ST., SUITE 444
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
94114-2500

number of procedures have been implemented to move us towards financial security. For example:

1.) Our budgetary projections use realistic figures based on actual numbers and not a wished for "pie in the sky" amount.

2.) The administrative budget has been streamlined with only the necessary expenditures being paid, (i.e. rent, utilities, postage, etc.) All other expenses come out of the pockets of the individuals that incur them.

3.) All accounting for NLA International is now computerized. This allows for up-to-date financial analysis of our situation and the dissemination of that information in a timely manner.

tion of that information in a timely manner.

4.) A re-examination of the QuarterLink, its value as our organization's voice and cost caused a major change. In its present form it is cost-efficient and timely in its presentation of information.

These are but a few examples that show we are making progress, albeit slow but sure. The goal for 1994 is to post a profit and start down that road to financial security. Your help, understanding and patience as we head towards that goal are appreciated.

Len Broberg,
Treasurer

NLA INTERNATIONAL PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT (Condensed) For Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1993

<u>INCOME</u>	
Membership	\$25,335
General Store	\$2,166
LIL VIII	\$33,446
QuarterLink	\$784
Donations	\$535
Other Income	\$254
TOTAL INCOME	\$62,520
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
General Store	\$2,199
LIL VIII	\$33,345
QuarterLink	\$7,011
Administration	\$18,474
Co-Chairs	\$3,128
EC	\$4,762
Committees	\$1,967
Other Expenses	\$2,115
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$73,001
PROFIT/(LOSS)	(\$10,481)

LIVING IN LEATHER VIII recap

Income	\$33,446
Expenses	\$33,345
PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$101

HOTSEAT —

Continued From pg 1

out of the blue and do a fantastic job. There have also been those who have done great jobs until elected to the EC. What I consider most important is a proven track record in the general community. If a nominee has had a successful leadership career elsewhere, then we have a good chance this will continue with NLA I. Prior experience can be with social clubs, service organizations, political activism or a title. The key element must be to serve with distinction.

My next consideration is the nominee's personal reputation. By the time most people consider running for the EC, they are fairly well known. If the nominee is known for

listening and working with people, addressing and solving issues, they have my vote.

You will find a nomination form on the last page of this issue of THE LINK. Please use one form per person nominated. Make as many copies as you need. You may nominate as many people as you see fit. Please check with them first to assure that they will accept the nomination. We will verify their membership and contact each nominee. The official election ballots will be printed in the July issue of THE LINK.

This is your best opportunity to affect the future goals and action of NLA I. Please take advantage of this chance to secure our future.

Remember: if you don't nominate and don't vote, don't bitch.

**PRESIDENT OF NLA: SEATTLE IS
INTERNATIONAL
Ms. LEATHER
1994**

Anne C.S. Bergstedt, a family law attorney, activist and President of NLA:Seattle was selected International Ms. Leather 1994. Anne was chosen from among 11 contestants representing the United States and Canada.

Anne's "how not to do a fantasy" fantasy was interrupted by the world's largest Energizer bunny. This vision in pink brought the house down. Her emotional speech, which ended with a call to action, touched many in the audience. The judges commented that they were very impressed by her dedication and community involvement as evidenced in pre-judging.

Anne is very active with Hands Off Washington. She is a pro bono attorney for people living with AIDS and is on the Civil and Minority Rights Commission for the State of Washington. She is also a Board Member of the Pride Foundation.

NLA International congratulates Anne on her new title. We, as always, look forward to working with her and appreciate her dedication to NLA:Seattle and to the goals and ideals of NLA I. Way to go, Anne!

**COMING
SOON!!!**

**THE NLA I
PERSONALS**

Contact the office for
pricing information
and guidelines
415/863-2444

NLA DALLAS PRESENTS:

**BEYOND
VANILLA #6**

by M.J. "Talyn" Broadway

On April 15, as America's day of non-consensual SM with the Internal Revenue Service crept to a close, NLA:Dallas began the sixth annual BEYOND VANILLA, a more enjoyable and consensual weekend focusing on leather, SM and fetish.

The event began Friday evening at the Brick Bar with introductions of the workshop presenters from NLA:Dallas, Oklahoma and even as far away as New Jersey. This was followed with entertainment by Carmen Del Rio, the Chapter's outstanding queen of drag and leather.

Kris Rabonza, Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer 1993, started us off with a caffeine fix and bakery goods for those not used to the early hour. Participants then chose between workshops on the basics of leather/SM/fetish or a philosophical discussion of the concepts and responsibilities of "edge play." The rest of the day was filled with presentations ranging from what goes into a toy bag and how to turn your apartment into a dungeon to roles and role playing and SM spirituality. As Chapter Co-chairs, NLA International titleholders Mark Frazier and Artemis Silverowl assisted in the planning and production and participated in the weekend conference. M.J. "Talyn" Broadway, Education Chair for NLA:Dallas, was responsible for the production and management of BEYOND VANILLA. She relied heavily on the critical assistance of NLA members Jim Hawkins, Jerry B., Johnny Grey, and Mike Spehar.

This year's presenters were invited from groups throughout the country with whom NLA:Dallas has been working on a variety of educational projects. Among the presenters were: Terry Gatewood, Mr. Oklahoma Leather; Mistress Mir from New Jersey; Vi from Tulsa, Oklahoma; Parker Perry of Chicago Hellfire Club; Robin of Lonestar P.E.P.; Brock and Robert from

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Leather By Boots, Dallas; Mack of Austin, Texas; Alan Falkner and the staff of Obscurities. NLA:Dallas members Jim Richards, Michael Bell and Jackson M. also served on the workshop panels.

NLA:Dallas would like to thank Michelle of Leather Rose, Dallas, Rick O. and Al and Lynn of Bethel, Ohio for their help with registration. BEYOND VANILLA was successful because of the contributions of many people, both from the host Chapter and from other areas and organizations.

By the end of the event, NLA:Dallas' presentation of their commitment to education and a positive view of the leather/SM/fetish lifestyle resulted in nearly 50 requests for information about NLA from all parts of the North Texas community. Sizable donations were made to AIDS Resource Food Pantry, who catered Saturday's lunch, and to the Dallas Lesbian and Gay Alliance, who provided space for the workshops. This year's BEYOND VANILLA continued to see a substantial growth in attendance and improved coalitions between the gay, heterosexual and bisexual leather scenes, the Dallas and Oklahoma leather communities and NLA:Dallas and the vanilla segment of the Dallas lesbian and gay community. ●

**LIL VIII
REFUNDS**

If you are still owed a refund from LIL VIII because of workshop presentations, judging, etc., please be aware that you have not been forgotten. Our current operating budget is so tight we simply have not been able to reimburse many personal expenses or provide due refunds. If you would like to apply any reimbursement to either a membership renewal or LIL IX registration, please contact David Scribner at the NLA I office.

Early LIL IX registrations will be used to close out the LIL VIII expenses. With a more stream-lined operating budget in 1994, we should have no further difficulties with reimbursements. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you for your patience.

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CHAPTER NEWS

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NLA: HOUSTON ...

has been very active in planning for Houston's gay and lesbian pride week, June 3 to 12, 1994. The Chapter has two events planned and will serve as a contingent in Houston's Pride Parade.

Friday, June 10, NLA:Houston will celebrate Hot VI: A Night in Black Leather at their home bar, The Venture-N. For the last three years this party has drawn upwards of 600 attendees. NLA:Houston members will host the buffet. The highlight of the evening will be the Leather Harness/Halter & Jock contest. The judges will award prizes in such categories as Hottest Stud, Hottest Femme, Hottest Butt, Most Unique Harness, Biggest Jock, Deepest Hole, Sexiest Daddy, Sexiest Mama and Hottest Slave. This leather and fetish party is open to the public.

Saturday, June 11, NLA:Houston's Program, Education & Media Watch Committee will present a two-hour leather symposium on electrical play and other leather/SM/fetish topics.

Finally, Sunday, June 12, NLA:Houston will march down Westheimer Blvd. hand in hand with Houston's gay and lesbian community. The parade is a celebration of the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, the gay revolution and the fight for equal rights. NLA:Houston's entry will celebrate the diversity of the community and the importance of unity, and will ask several critical questions of the city. The Chapter feels that, as a pansexual organization, it is important to participate in this pride event because the rights of leather people are tied to the same struggle for equal rights as the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

NLA:DALLAS ...

successfully completed BEYOND VANILLA #6, a weekend of workshops and events to foster understanding of and education in the leather/SM/fetish community [See article on previous page].

NLA:SEATTLE ...

is busy getting ready for THIS IS NOT A TEST: May Day '94. This

three day conference, to be held May 13-15, will include two days of workshops, a meet and greet on Friday night, a special Tony DeBlase workshop, dungeons on Friday and Saturday nights, a Sunday night party and a vendors market.

1992 May Day attendance exceeded 150 people, with attendees from throughout the Pacific Northwest. This year, NLA:Seattle expects presenters and attendees from Seattle and the rest of Washington State as well as Oregon, California and Canada.

NLA:KANSAS CITY ...

sponsored the "Obsessive Fetish Ball", which was a great success! On the night of April 16th about 120-150 people united at a local VFW Post for dancing and showing off their outrageous fetish wear. The crowd was surprisingly well-mixed with gay, bi, het and trans. The crowd included: "Laura", in full drag and high blonde hair; a "virgin", in white lace underwear; and, a man wearing a plastic shoe organizer full of various fetish footwear. Many handsome men attended, some in chaps, one in saran wrap and one sporting a big, black dildo. There was as much rubber, latex and spike heels as leather. The Adult Hedonist Swingers, a local B&D group, provided coat check.

The staff of the VFW Post had a good time and have invited NLA:Kansas City back again. The Chapter hopes to have another such event later this year.

NLA: DEAF INTERNATIONAL ...

will present the Deaf International Leather '94 Contest on Thursday, June 23 at Club 58 in New York City. The event kicks off the festivities of Stonewall 25, Gay Games IV, and the International Leather/SM/Fetish Celebration. The event is a benefit for NLA:Deaf International, Gay Games IV and Team New York. Former International Mr. Deaf Leather, Philip Rubin, will MC.

NLA:PORTLAND ...

is busy preparing for Portland Leather Pride Week, to be held August 12-21. Included in this week-

end will be the Mr. and Ms. NLA:Portland '95 Contest. An international panel of judges will be on hand for the contest on Sunday, August 14. Please see the accompanying article on the next page.

The April Club Night was a smashing success. Held every third Friday, the crowd donated \$162 to the 50's silent auction. As part of the celebration, Pauline Miriam and Jeff Rose organized the "Daddy's Dating Game." Picking their special dates were Bill "The HUN" Schmeling and Dyke Daddy Brenda. We will have further information on how the winners' dates were ...

Our May Club night was a celebration of K.T. Chase' Second Annual 40th Birthday Party, a benefit for NLA I. Rev. Elder Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, was in town and helped with the evening's festivities. K.T. requested that only donations of cash/checks payable to NLA I be given to her as gifts. A final accounting was pending at this publication deadline.

The Portland Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade and Rally will be July 9. NLA:Portland will be participating in the march and will have an information booth at the park. Rumor has it that there will be a play party or two, so come to Portland and enjoy our celebration.

NLA:Portland has volunteered to do ad sales for THE LINK. They will be working up the ad sheets and soliciting advertisements from leather/SM/fetish businesses and organizations.

**YOUR BUSINESS CAN
ADVERTISE IN**

THE LINK

Contact the office
for pricing
information
and guidelines
415/863-2444

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE SM COMMUNITY

by Artemis Silverowl
Ms. NLA International '93-'94

There is a significant difference between consensual SM and non-consensual domestic violence. There is not a single sub-group within our culture where abusive relationships do not exist. Unfortunately, we must acknowledge that abuse occurs within the leather/SM/fetish community. Due to our SM proclivities, we often hesitate reporting incidents of battering and abuse, fearing rejection, rebuke, or giving credence to societal sexual stereotypes.

Domestic violence is not restricted to one particular genre within the SM community. A person's size, gender, or particular sex role (top, bottom, butch, femme) is irrelevant; anyone can be subject to abuse.

It is not uncommon for us to find that our friends or family who exist in isolated relationships have more instances of abuse than those in active social communication within their own communities. Abuse tends to be cyclical in nature and escalates over time. It is a pattern of intentional intimidation for the purpose of dominating, coercing or punishing another without her or his consent. Because of the intimidation factor, where there is abuse in any part of a relationship, there can be no consent. Using intimidation as a psychological weapon prohibits the very concept of consent.

Defining The Problem

The following questions can help a person come to realize that they may be involved in an abusive situation. Use your own relationship in determining the answers to these ques-

tions.

Are you afraid of your partner? Does your partner ever bite, choke or otherwise physically hurt you outside of a scene? Has your partner ever restrained you against your will, locked you in a room, or used a weapon of any kind? Are you confused when a scene begins and ends? Rape and forced sexual acts are not part of consensual SM. Abuse is not something that can be "agreed" upon; there is an absence of safe words or ways out.

Has your partner ever violated your limits? Does your partner constantly criticize your performance, withhold sex as a means of control, or ridicule you for the limits you set? Do you feel obligated to have sex? Does your partner use sex to "apologize" after a violent incident?

Does your partner isolate you from friends, family or groups? Has your partner ever destroyed objects or threatened pets? Has your partner abused or threatened your children? Does your partner limit access to your work or to material resources? Has your partner stolen from you or incurred unreasonable debts?

Are you or your partner emotionally dependent on one another? Does your relationship swing back and forth between a lot of emotional distance and being very close? Is your partner constantly criticizing you, humiliating you and/or generally undermining your self-esteem? Does your partner use scenes to express/cover up anger and frustration? Do you feel that you cannot discuss your problems with your partner?

No one has the right to abuse you. You are not responsible for the violence. You are not alone.

There are reasons, albeit negative, for staying in abusive relationships: fear of or feelings for the abuser or lack of economic or emotional resources. If you decide to stay in the relationship, there is help available. Find out about shelters, support groups, counselors, anti-violence programs and crisis lines in your area. Ask a friend to help you make these calls. Have a planned strategy if you need to leave quickly. Line up friends and family in case of an emergency.

Abuse is a crime. Explore your legal rights and options. You can get a court order to help prevent the person from hurting you. You do not need a lawyer to do so.

Connect with abuse survivors. Share your experiences. Empower yourself through this collective process. Call your local domestic abuse hotline for concise support information.

THE LINK 8/2 We Can Reduce Domestic Violence

Here are things you can do to help people you believe are being abused. Let your friends know that you are there to support them. Understand that leaving their relationship is difficult. Let the person make their own choices. Keep all information confidential. Encourage survivors to take legal action and seek support. Help find safe housing and legal advocacy. Hold abusers accountable and urge them to seek treatment. Deny that drugs or alcohol use can excuse abuse. Support changes in that person's behavior.

As leather folk, it must be a priority for us to take care of our own. Organizationally, invite knowledgeable speakers, lead discussions. Print up a list from your area of SM supportive resources. Educate your local, legal, and social service systems about our lifestyle. Encourage their appropriate intervention.

Safe Link

Safe Link is a clearinghouse for materials and questions about domestic violence, specifically for persons who are into leather/SM/fetish sexuality. It offers a list of readings and is currently compiling a roster of supportive speakers, shelters, therapists, and information on understanding and using the law. Please help us to compile this information. Write to Safe Link, c/o The Domestic Violence Education Project, National Leather Association, 584 Castro St., #444, San Francisco, CA 94114. ●

PORTLAND LEATHER PRIDE WEEK

Mark August 12-21 on your calendar! Portland Leather Pride Week will be one event you won't want to miss. The nine day revelry will begin with the Mr./Ms. NLA:Portland Contest and culminate with the Knights of Malta Oregon State Leatherman/Leatherwoman Contest with many organized functions in between. Some of the judges in town for the events will be Mark Frazier, Mr. NLA International 1993-94, Artemis Silverowl, Ms. NLA International 1993-94, Anne Bergstedt, International Ms. Leather 1994, and Graylin Thornton, International Mr. Drummer 1993-94. NLA:Portland invites everyone to the best week of leather camaraderie in the Summer of 1994. ●

THE LINK 8/2 LIVING IN LEATHER



LA VIE EN CUIR

LIVING IN LEATHER/LA VIE EN CUIR IX

**OCTOBER 7 - 9, 1994
THE WESTBURY HOTEL
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA**

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

See the Registration form on the next page
REMEMBER YOUR DOLLAR GOES FURTHER IN CANADA.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT LIL IX

Please spread the word to all of your friends - you do NOT need to be a member of NLA to attend Living In Leather. The original registration forms included erroneous information that people had to be NLA members to attend LIL. A new registration form, which reflects this change, is included in this issue of THE LINK.

As always, the NLA welcomes ALL interested parties to attend our annual conference. LIL registration is less expensive for our membership, but Living In Leather shall always be an event for everyone. We look forward to seeing you in Toronto!

WORKSHOPS

The updated list of workshops will be published in the July issue of THE LINK. Thanks to the members who responded to our request for topics, several new issues will be covered in this year's workshops. Look for panels on a variety of leather/SM/fetish relationships and some new play techniques and styles. Your old favorites will be returning, including some workshops that we haven't offered in several years.

Look for new faces on the workshop panels also. While we will be relying on our strong group of experienced presenters, we are adding many new faces so that our panels can better represent the diverse membership that is NLA I.

If you are interested in being a presenter at LIL IX, please contact Donna Shrout, Program Coordinator, at 415/281-0570. You may also write to her at the NLA International office.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Sean Martin of Toronto, Canada, submitted the winning design for the LIL IX poster. Sean won a complete registration package for the Living in Leather Conference to be held in Toronto. He is among many NLA members in Canada who are working hard to assure the success of this year's conference. NLA International would like to thank Sean for his good work.

WHO'S WHO ON THE LIL STAFF

Dean Walratt	LIL Director
Andy Anderson	Asst. Director
Syd Creighton	Staff Whip
Richard Reynolds	Publicist
Sean Martin	Asst. Publicist
Donna Shrout	Program Coordinator
Bill Wahler	Asst. Program Coordinator
Ian Turner	Host Chapter Chair
Jacqui Jewels	Events Coordinator
K.T. Chase	Contest Coordinator

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In 1987, NLA International awarded their first Man and Woman of the Year awards. In 1990, the awards were renamed the Lifetime Achievement Awards. It is time once again to submit nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Awards.

This award is given to individuals who are committed to the goals and ideals of NLA International as listed in our Statement of Purpose. Please think about whom, you feel, devoted a significant portion of their lives to furthering the causes of the leather/SM/fetish community through education, community work and/or activism.

Please submit all nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award to the NLA I office by June 24, 1994.

Man of the Year	
Tony DeBlase	1987
Alan Selby	1988
Geoff Mains	1989

Woman of the Year	
Susie Bright	1987
Gayle Rubin	1988
Cynthia Slater	1989

Lifetime Achievement Awards	
Chuck Renslow	1990
Pat Califa	1990
Steve Maidhof	1991
Jan Lyon	1991
Pat Bond	1992
Fakir Musafar	1993
Dorothy Hajdys	1993

NLA:DEAF INTERNATIONAL
IN COOPERATION WITH
CLUB 58 INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTS
DEAF INTERNATIONAL
LEATHER CONTEST 94
THURSDAY, JUNE 23rd
10:00 PM - \$15.00
CLUB 58
40 EAST 58TH STREET, NYC
ADV. TKTS CALL: 415/626-3556

LIVING IN LEATHER/LA VIE EN CUIR IX REGISTRATION

MAIL TO:
LIL IX REGISTRATION
NLA INTERNATIONAL
584 CASTRO STREET, SUITE 444
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114-2500

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	
Date Rec'd	Registration Number
	Processed

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

LEGAL NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____
 SUFFIX NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____ DAY PHONE _____

PLEASE NOTE: It is imperative that you list at least one phone number as that is the means of finding your registration at check-in. Please include your membership number, if known. Check your mailing label or membership card for it. Thank you.)
 I CERTIFY THAT I AM OVER THE AGE OF 21 AND I AGREE TO THE PRINCIPLES AND GOALS OF NLA INTERNATIONAL. BY SIGNING THIS STATEMENT, I RELEASE NLA INTERNATIONAL, LIVING IN LEATHER, THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS THEREOF AND ANY AGENTS OF LIL, NLA I OR THE WESTBURY TEL OF LIABILITY FOR ANY LOSS OR INJURY TO MYSELF OR MY PROPERTY.

LEGAL SIGNATURE _____ DATE SIGNED _____

LIL REGISTRATION INCLUDES WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, VENDOR AREA, MR. & MRS. NLA INTERNATIONAL CONTEST, OPENING CEREMONIES, AFTER-BRUNCH PARTY AND SHUTTLE BUS.

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CUT-OFF DATE TO QUALIFY FOR THE DISCOUNTED RATES.

	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
If received by July 15	\$90 US	\$120 US
If received by Sept 1	\$105 US	\$135 US
If received by Oct 1	\$125 US	\$155 US
At door	\$140 US	\$170 US

Enclosed is \$ _____ US for _____ Full Registrations
 Enclosed is \$ _____ US for _____ Brunch Tickets
 Enclosed is \$ _____ US for _____ Membership

Lifetime Achievement Award/
 After Brunch - Buffet \$15 US

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
 PLEASE MAKE CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE IN US FUNDS TO:
NLA INTERNATIONAL

Membership in NLA:International \$30 US annual
 \$5 US for members from outside of North America
NOTE: Your membership must be current through 11/1/94 to qualify for member prices. If you are joining or renewing, please fill out the information below. Please remember ALL information is held confidential within the organization.
 New Renewal Chapter(if any) _____

Note: There will be a \$25 Handling Fee for any Refunds of LIL Registrations prior to 10/1/94. After 10/1/94 there will be no refunds given except in cases of EXTREME emergency.

SPECIAL NEEDS:
 I need Wheelchair Access
 I need ASL signing
 I need Other Consideration for Physical Disability
 SPECIFY: _____

OTHER AFFILIATIONS _____
 OTHER INFORMATION _____
 UNLESS CHECKED WE WILL RELEASE YOUR NAME TO YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE WRITE US AT THE ADDRESS AT THE TOP OF THIS PAGE OR CALL US AT 415/863-2444 OR FAX US AT 415/626-3011
 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE LIL IX STAFF, BEING A PRESENTER OR NEED A VENDOR'S PACKAGE, PLEASE CONTACT US SO THAT THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION CAN BE MAILED TO YOU

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (for demographic purposes only)
 Age: 21-25 26-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61-70 71+
 Gender: Male Female Transgender Other
 Orientation: Gay/Lesbian Heterosexual
 Bisexual Pansexual

(Please use a separate form for each registration)

CHAPTERS

NLA:ARKANSAS
 P.O. Box 1608
 North Little Rock, AR 72115

NLA:INDIANAPOLIS
 P.O. Box 1632
 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1632
 Info Phone: 317/638-8109

NLA:PITTSBURGH
 P.O. Box 81245
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217

NLA:ATLANTA
 P.O. Box 78131
 Atlanta, GA 30357-8131
 Info Phone: 404/624-1676
 Meetings: 3rd Sunday

NLA:KANSAS CITY
 P.O. Box 414545
 Kansas City, MO 64141

NLA:PORTLAND
 P.O. Box 5161
 Portland, OR 97208
 Voicemail: 503/727-3148
 Meetings: 1st Monday

NLA:AUSTIN
 P.O. Box 684013
 Austin, TX 78768-4013
 Info Phone: 512/370-4713
 Meetings: 3rd Monday

NLA:LOS ANGELES
 7985 Santa Monica Blvd, #109-217
 West Hollywood, CA 90046
 Voice Mail: 213/856-5643

NLA:SAN DIEGO
 P.O. Box 3092
 San Diego, CA 92163
 Voicemail: 619/685-5149
 Meetings: 3rd Sunday

NLA:BRITISH COLUMBIA
 P.O. Box 12
 1744 Kingsway
 Vancouver, BC V5N 2S3
 CANADA

NLA:METRO NEW YORK
 P.O. Box 1084
 New York, NY 10156
 Hotline: 718/597-0019 - Evenings
 Meetings: 1st Monday

NLA:SEATTLE
 1202 East Pike Street, #722
 Seattle, WA 98122
 Voicemail: 206/233-1015
 Meetings: 3rd Thursday

NLA:COLUMBUS
 P.O. Box 2909
 Columbus, OH 43216
 Info Phone: 614/899-4406
 Meetings: 2nd Sunday

NLA:NEW ENGLAND
 P.O. Box 6-1111
 New Bedford, MA 02746
 Meetings: 3rd Saturday

NLA:TORONTO
 Box 98, 268 Parliament Street
 Toronto, ON M5A 3A4
 CANADA
 Info Phone: 416/925-9872 Ext.2089
 Meetings: Last Thursday

NLA:DALLAS
 P.O. Box 7597
 Dallas, TX 75209-7597
 Voicemail: 214/521-5342 Ext.820
 Meetings: 1st Tuesday

NLA:NEW ORLEANS
 P.O. Box 50133
 New Orleans, LA 70150-0133

NLA:NEW SOUTH WALES
 % Michael Primrose
 8/102 Burton St.
 Darlinghurst
 Sydney, NSW 2010
 AUSTRALIA

PLEASE NOTE: CHAPTERS LISTED IN BOLD TYPE HAVE UPDATED INFORMATION. PLEASE CORRECT YOUR RECORDS. REVISED 5/14/94

NLA:DEAF INTERNATIONAL
 P.O. Box 30286
 Columbus, OH 43230

NLA:DETROIT
 P.O. Box 2844
 Southfield, MI 48037
 Info Phone: 810/354-5841

NLA:FLORIDA
 P.O. Box 451795
 Sunrise, FL 33345-1795
 Info Phone: 305/742-6923
 Meetings: 1st Thursday

NLA:HOUSTON
 P.O. Box 66553
 Houston, TX 77266-6553
 Info Phone: 713/434-2417
 Meetings: 2nd Thursday

COMING IN JULY!!!!

THE NLA I

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Send your submissions to:
CALENDAR
NLA INTERNATIONAL
584 CASTRO ST., SUITE 444
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114



NLA GENERAL STORE

584 CASTRO STREET, SUITE 444
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114-2500

NLA T-SHIRTS AND TANK TOPS

NLA Logo T-Shirts, White logo on Black 50% Cotton /50% Polyester.....\$10.00
#S101, Small; #S102, Medium; #S103, Large; #S104, XLarge; #S105, XXLarge
Also available in limited quantities, Black Logo on Red #S103R, Large; #S104R, XLarge; #S105R, XXLarge

NLA Logo Tank Tops, White Logo on Black, 100% Cotton.....\$ 9.00
#S201, Small; #S202, Medium; #A203, Large; #S204, XLarge; #S205, XXLarge
Also available in limited quantities, Black Logo on Red #S203R, Large; #S204R, XLarge

NLA INSIGNIA ITEMS

NLA Cloisinee Vest Pins with Screw Backs #N101.....\$ 5.00
NLA Embroidered Patches, #N201.....\$ 5.00
NLA Logo Belt Buckles #N301.....\$15.00
NLA Logo Koozies (Beer/Soda Can Wraps) #N401.....Regularly \$3.75.....Special Price \$ 2.50
NLA Logo Coffee Mugs **NEW ITEM** #N501.....\$ 5.00
LIL Commemorative Year Bar Hangers #N601.....\$ 5.00

NEW PRIDE FLAGS AND PATCHES NEW

Leather Pride Flag Embroidered Patch #F101.....\$ 5.00
Leather Pride Flag Enameled Pin #F102.....\$ 5.00
Leather Pride Flag 3' X 5' #F201.....\$20.00
Leather Pride Flag 12" X 18" with Stick #F202.....\$ 5.00
Leather Pride Flag 2" X 4" with Stick #F203.....\$ 2.50
Gay Pride (Rainbow) Flag 3' X 5' #F211.....\$20.00

CLEARANCE ITEMS

There are limited quantities and sizes of T-Shirts from LIL IV, LIL V, and LIL VI Regularly \$10.00 **NOW \$ 6.00**

Also available are LIL Year Bars Regularly \$2.00, **NOW \$1.00**; LIL VI and LIL VII Pins Regularly \$5.00, **NOW \$1.50**
Please contact the NLA Office as to availability.

TERMS: CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

TAX INCLUDED ON ALL ITEMS.

NAME: _____	QUANTITY	ITEM NUMBER	PRICE	TOTAL
ADDRESS: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
CITY: _____ ST/PROV: _____ ZIP: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PHONE: () _____ COUNTRY: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
			SHIPPING \$ 3.00	
			GRAND TOTAL	_____

SEND TO: NLA INTERNATIONAL, GENERAL STORE
584 CASTRO STREET, SUITE 444 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114

NLA INTERNATIONAL EC NOMINATION FORM

The following positions will be open on the Executive Council of NLA International: Female Co-Chair; Treasurer; Members-At-Large (4).

RULES FOR NOMINATION

- Each person nominated must be listed on a separate nomination form or on a separate 8-1/2" X 11" sheet of paper. Please make copies of this form as necessary.
- There is no limit to the number of people you may nominate.
- Please obtain the consent of the person being nominated before sending in this form.
- You may nominate yourself.
- Each nomination must include:
 - your name, address and phone number
 - the office for which you are nominating the person
 - nominee's name, address and phone number (if available)
 - your signature
- All nominees for Female Co-Chair and Treasurer will automatically be included in the election for Members-At-Large.
- Mail all nominations to the NLA International Office as listed on this form. **All nominations must be received by June 20, 1994.**

I would like to nominate _____
(full name of nominee)

For the Position of: **Female Co-Chair** **Treasurer** **Member-At-Large**
(circle one)

Nominee's address: _____

Nominee's Phone: _____

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your phone: _____

Please mail this form to: **EC Nominations
NLA International
584 Castro Street, #444
San Francisco, CA 94114-2500**

584 Castro Street, Suite 444
San Francisco, CA 94114-2500

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 3527

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Chris Zimmerman
1608 White Road
Wilmington, NC, 28405-7727

3/1/95
MEMBERSHIP #
1946

