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### From the Hotseat

by Albert Kraus  
Co-Chair, NLA I

Rather than dazzling you this time with my brilliant writing (or, more accurately, the skills of the editing staff that make me look smart), there are matters on which I need to keep you up-to-date.

#### *Executive Council Meeting*

On Saturday, August 13, 1994, the system worked again. Three times each year we have EC meetings via telephone. We had 100% participation on this last phone meeting. While most of the meeting focused on the nuts and bolts of administration, the following important changes were enacted:

1. New Treasurer. Bill Costomiris was appointed to complete the term left vacant by Lenny Broberg, who had to resign due to job conflicts. This term ends in October. We wish Lenny well on all of his future endeavors and thank Bill for taking over during this critical period.
2. New Chapter. NLA:Florida was accepted as our newest Chapter. NLA:Florida replaces the old South Florida Chapter which has been inactive for some time.
3. New Affiliate. The Trident Knights of South Carolina was accepted as our newest club

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### Our Direction, Our Focus

by Sallee Huber  
Co-Chair, NLA I

Here are two of the most often asked questions I have heard in 6 years of active involvement with the NLAInternational: What does International really do? Why should we support something besides our own Chapter or city? These are very legitimate questions. Unlike a local Chapter or club, you don't always see the events, people, or actions of NLA I directly involved with your community. It therefore becomes harder to understand why you should support NLA I.

NLA I grew from the same body of people who first organized "Living In Leather". Groups from Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC, along with people from across the continent created NLA as a composite organization consisting of Chapters and Affiliates in cities where groups were formed, individual members from all over, and a central group to organize and oversee those tasks that involved the national NLA experience.

#### **WHAT DOES NLA I DO?**

Your membership in NLA I isn't like a club membership in a local city. There are no bar-nights, meetings, socials, etc., and you don't see many of the other members as you would in a home town group. You do not see the

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### Before the Parade Passes by

By Mark Frazier, Mr. NLA International 1993-94

Forty-five weekends, fifty-nine cities and one hundred and nineteen events have passed since I was selected as the Mr. NLA International, ambassador for our organization. I have grown and learned from each of the communities I was fortunate to visit. I have really enjoyed my year as ambassador, and I must say I have no regrets for I have learned from all that I have encountered.

A year ago, it was my hope, if I had won the title, that I would use it to promote

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## From the Hotseat —

(Continued from Page 1)

affiliate.

4. Budget. A balanced but austere budget for Fiscal Year 1995 (July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995) was adopted.

### Elections

The ballots were mailed with the last issue of THE LINK and are now coming in. The election results will be announced at LIL and in the November issue of THE LINK.

Questions have been raised concerning ballot security; namely, could someone effectively "stuff the ballot box" by sending in photocopied ballots? Be assured that this year, as last year, the ballots were secretly marked to prevent fraud. Because all of the ballots are marked in the same way, we cannot tell how any individual voted. However, we would easily detect any photocopied or otherwise unofficial ballots that were sent in.

### LIL IX

If you have not registered yet, get busy! You certainly do not want to miss our first conference outside of the United States. NLA:Toronto is pulling out all stops to showcase the "country on top." The workshops this year feature excellent topics and presenters. Vendor space is almost sold out; we have been forced to expand it. The program booklet is sold out which means it will be a good reference source long after LIL. The contest is shaping up to be an entertaining and fast-paced show.

New for this year is the International Titleholders' Reception hosted by NLA I's Co-Chairs. This will be the first time that all of the major titleholders will be together outside of the U.S., making this a

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I'm writing in response to Sallee Huber's request for input in the May issue, as to why members may be dissatisfied and what our concerns are.

It's with some trepidation that I do this. I wrote a letter with some complaints [about] the last LIL held in Chicago. Granted, I wrote it right after my return and my statements may have benefited from some time before I wrote them; they were no doubt rather strongly worded. However, I was taken aback by the defensive ferocity of the reply. The woman who wrote from the NLA basically chewed me a new one, implying that I was full of sour grapes and probably one of these characters who carped and complained but didn't have the ty butt and do any constructive activism in my own atter was a shocker to me. I chose at the time not to considered not continuing my membership. I'm going ain, hopefully with less furor resulting. (It's not as if I haven't said favorable things After last LIL I wrote congratulatory letters to both the local and International).

One thing that I'd like to point out is that I received the May newsletter in the first week in July. Yes, you have the correct address. But I'd like to be kept a tad more current than that.

I also would favor some more bio-type information on candidates that I'm asked to vote on by NLA I. I don't know these people.

I, and others that I've talked to, don't get much out of the awards ceremonies at the Opening Ceremonies of LIL. The last one was less lengthy, so perhaps I'm not the only one. It has seemed, in the past, a mutual admiration society. As valid as recognition for these people may well be, a lot of us here in the middle of the country don't know these folks either. I realize there's huge communities on the coasts and many of these people are pioneers. But on occasion I get tired of being told who to admire. In some ways the out leather folks here in small Midwestern towns are even more admirable. When we go to the grocery store in leather and studs, just getting back alive is revolutionary. Many of us respect and know a lot of the people on the coasts. But were not always sure you're aware of our lives or respect them in turn. We may be scattered in space but many of us are out and proud and we pay the price gladly.

That is my input. Just personally, I don't believe the mainstream's ever going to "accept" us. And I'm not real concerned. But I know that's like one of NLA's goals. I just don't think it will happen. I just look out for my own and they for me. I suspect some of us'll always be outlaws in this society.

One last thing — I understand playing the national anthems of countries who have people attending LIL at the opening ceremonies. But every American I've talked to feels our national anthem, in a country where were pariahs, is an insult. We're not supposed to be in the Armed Forces. We can't even host an international AIDS conference in the U.S. because we don't allow PWAs to enter the country. Why the anthem?

In closing let me say that the opportunity NLA's afforded me to meet and network with other leatherfolk in a non-sleazy setting has been invaluable to me and a great gift.

Bethaniel

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Final Words From

## Mr. and Ms. NLA International 1993-94

(Continued from Page 1)

The Fall season and the harvest for the year is upon us. It is the season of balances, losses verses gains. Among the pagans of our tribe, it is the time of the Crone. Hallowmas is the New Year of the old ones, when grievances are brought to the Dark Mother, and our blessed dead walk among us and are remembered.

I find it rather peculiar and/or ironic that Hallow-een is also one of the 2 major "holy" days for the leather/SM/fetish and gay and lesbian communities. The modern New Year's Eve and the New Year of the Old Ones are the two times of the year when it is socially acceptable to "walk on the wild side." We put on a mask and become someone else for a while. More aptly put, Hallowmas is the "Holiday of the Other" and that is why it is our holy day. We are the "Other", for it is our tribe that openly, and shamelessly, embraces the Wild One who dwells within each of us.

We dare to celebrate our darker side and love our shadow self. We do so with clear intent and are willing to accept the consequences of our thoughts and actions. SM is indeed sexual magic, the sharing of power between consenting adults. The Ancient Ones viewed each woman and man as a Priestess and a Priest, each having the power to create their own reality and each responsible for their own thoughts and actions; "Do as thou wilt and harm none."

When we enter the scared space that is beyond time and space, we intentionally journey into the darkness. The atmosphere crackles with the energy of growing anticipation as we open our bundles of charms and fetishes: the scourge that was a gift from a devoted slave; the collar and cuffs that we are allowed to wear only within the circle. The ghostly trails of incense dance among the flickering candle light. The steady pulse of the music that melds with our deep inner rhythms and propels us onward in the frenzied dance of ecstatic passion and release.

Just as the children of the Great Mother were persecuted and put to death in the burning time, so too the leather warriors of our time are being killed unjustly by fear, ignorance and indifference. Until recently our tribe has existed in relative exile and isolation from each other as well as from society at large. We accepted invisibility as the price and means of survival. This means of existence is no longer acceptable. Visibility now must become our strength and ally. We must first make the commitment to love, honor and accept ourselves, and then we must dare to extend friendship and community to those who fear us.

Artemis Silverowl  
Ms. NLA International 1993-94

NLA I and concentrate on increasing the outreach to our Chapters. During the year, we have seen a couple of Chapters dissolve and a couple more form. I came to realize that not all cities can accommodate a NLA Chapter. Many areas and cities already have organizations which suit the current needs of their community; in many cases these existing organizations duplicate the services that a Chapter of NLA I would bring. Let's face it; there are also only a certain number of leatherfolk in every community. Two or more organizations striving to meet the leather community's needs could weaken its overall outreach.

Although not every community has the membership to support a Chapter, I believe that every individual who is a member of our leather/SM/fetish tribe should be a member of the International organization. It should be our goal to encourage and solicit new members. The International organization provides services, representation, networking and knowledge to all leather/SM/fetish communities throughout the globe. It is a network of leather folk, SM folk and fetish folk for the support of those groups. Each member of the organization has a opportunity to vote for and/or serve on the Executive Committee. The organization is directed by the membership, and changes can be made by the members. We, as members, need to bring more new members to NLA I as we head into a year which will be filled with challenges, victories and losses.

As I prepare to welcome our new ambassadors, I offer my services to help them in any way possible while I continue to work with the international organization. It is my hope that members of local organizations will do fundraisers for the travel fund so our titleholders, our ambassadors, can continue promoting NLA I and educating communities about our goals and ideals. As a titleholder, I know first hand how expensive it can be. Oftentimes the ambassadors will do fundraisers for other organizations or causes thus leaving little time for fundraising for their own travel fund. Both are equally important and one cannot be continued without the other.

In closing, I would like to say thanks for the support I was given this year. The best part of this past year was knowing that my extended family has increased many times over because of the people I have met. They have helped me and given me support, and I must say thank you.

In love and pride,  
Continue being safe, sane, consensual and compassionate.

Mark Frazier  
Mr. NLA International 1993-94

tangible results of your dues in the same way you would with a local club. However, from the standpoint of tangible "benefits", there are THE LINK, discounts to NLA events (the "Living In Leather" registration discount pays for the membership by itself!), and the support from the office for information and contacts.

Your dues are the sole support for the organization which serves as a political voice for the Leather/SM/Fetish community. Many of the goals we would like to accomplish are still years off.

However, the NLA has accomplished, or started many things that would be even further off had it not been in existence. Through our Statement of Purpose we express a belief in what we should and can be as a community, of what is important to us and what we hope to achieve. While our goals may seem elusive, as our community changes and grows we make progress toward fulfilling these objectives. Without the NLA, these objectives would only be worked on by individuals or small groups. Together, with the support and strength of our combined membership, we can accomplish those goals much more quickly and effectively.

Two very explicit results of our efforts have been the promotion of the concepts of Pansexuality and Safe, Safe, and Consensual SM. Although the NLA doesn't have a monopoly on these thoughts, nor did they originate with NLA, their acceptance has been quicker due to our efforts. NLA, through its members, Chapters, events and literature, helped spread these concepts worldwide and increase their recognition and acceptance.

#### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

People are skeptical about "sending money off" to an organization which seems faceless, especially if they do not see more concrete results from their donation. In a nutshell, I'd like to try to show you where your money goes and why it is so desperately needed.

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

International has large bills for printing and mailing of THE LINK and for copying and postage of thousands of separate items each year. This includes membership forms, LIL information, individual letters and communications between NLA officers.

No matter how frugal we try to be,

phone and fax communication costs are incurred to accomplish the work we do. There are many issues that require direct conversation or need the speed of a fax.

If NLA I doesn't stay in communication with members and Chapters, we can not be an effective organization. Cost has often limited the effectiveness of our communication. We should always be looking to improve the quality of communications; we are determined to do so in a cost effective manner.

#### OFFICE:

Centralization of services has helped considerably to streamline our operations and keep NLA I visible and accessible to our community

**WHERE  
DOES THE  
MONEY  
GO?**

With this centralization comes costs for rent, utilities, supplies and the salary for our one paid staff. We can always use more volunteer staff and donations of equipment/material to help reduce costs.

There is a possibility that NLA I may not be able to continue to afford the cost of the office. If this occurs, we have to hope that there are people willing to take on the same tasks from their homes. This has worked in the past, and would be done if needed. Still it would be a step backwards in trying to provide the level of services to the members of NLA that we all want to see.

#### SPECIAL PROJECTS:

The Domestic Violence Project and the Spanner Project address issues that need a broad-based scope and coordination between many people and groups. These examples are very types of tasks that International can do much more effec-

tively and efficiently than any one chapter or group. Mailings, printings and educational programs require funding.

Living In Leather requires large amounts of up-front money to produce. The year-to-year changes in expenses, attendance and other unforeseeable factors makes it impossible (not to mention fiscally irresponsible) to pretend that we can depend on LIL as a guaranteed source of income. Good fiscal planning and budgeting require that our projected income be based upon figures that are more dependable than the LIL income.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

NLA I can't simply hold an auction at a contest or a 50/50 draw during a monthly bar-night like a local group can. We are dependant on the membership fees and people doing special fundraisers for the organization. In any given year the number of groups or Chapters that have done such fundraisers for International could be counted on one glove. This leaves us with only membership dues as our constant source of income. Without your dues, there will simply be no NLA.

Aside from individual support, if Chapters or Affiliates want to support NLA I but want to have some control in how their money is used, they can hold fundraisers for specific projects, either in part or in whole. For example, a group could sponsor the cost of a printing for the next run of brochures from the Domestic Violence Committee or perhaps simply raise X amount of money for the project in general.

Finally, the Members of NLA can continue to communicate with the people that are elected as our officers and board members. Talk to both the local Chapter and International. Let us know what you want! Without that input, it's very hard to know what's important to the people who make up this organization - YOU! When members fail to renew, we have to wonder, "Where did we go wrong?" Without input and communication, we'll never know. We have had some responses to the questions asked in prior issues of THE LINK. We are hoping to receive your communication now.

Thank you for reading, for your support of NLA I and for responding.

# NEW FEATURES

## SM in Cyberspace

by Sara aka Perrrfect

Before I ever discovered the NLA or the "official" world of SM, I had already established myself as a member of the on-line community. Doesn't matter where, they all have pretty much the same thing to offer: a chance to communicate with like-minded (and sometimes NOT like-minded) people from all sorts of faraway places. What I didn't realize then was that thousands of other people with SM interests were arriving at the same time.

The first BBS (shorthand for Bulletin Board Service) I joined has a D/s forum called "sweet agony." Everything about it was intriguing, including the "handles" of the regulars: Mastercat, Toughlove, Unchained, and many more. Through the conversations we shared, the notes written back and forth and the stories read, I discovered a vibrant, exciting community. It was, in fact, through this BBS that I found Mastercat, my lover and my Master.

Mastercat also belonged to other BBSes, some devoted entirely to BD/SM. While we now live together, we both still enjoy this electronic contact with others. So when a local board approached us to start a D/s forum locally, we formed Cat's Lair, a small local forum which is now the largest on our local board. Through it, Mastercat and I have moderated discussions of toys, play rules, safety, fantasy and much more. And we've made an interesting discovery: there are thousands of folk out there (hundreds here in Columbus alone), who practice SM and don't even know it. They don't join groups like NLA because they're afraid to commit themselves publicly, because they don't understand what the NLA is, or because they've never put a name to what it is that they do.

The Cat's Lair BBS has become a solid community. We started holding local meetings, every two months or so, of our Cat's Lair family. We have discussed the Leather scene, and we have also presented educational workshops and demonstrations on a variety of leather/SM/fetish topics.

When we joined NLA, we decided to try and merge these two communities. We began to invite the NLA members to the Cat's Lair meetings. We encouraged our Cat's Lair group to attend and join the NLA. To a certain extent, it has succeeded. But there will always be those who are just not joiners, or who are afraid to label their play, or who feel that a little slap and tickle in the bedroom, even if it is with paddles, whips, rope and chain, is not really SM.

There are millions of people who are involved in the BBS scene. The SM area on the Internet, alt.sex.bondage, sometimes has more than 200 entries in a single day, from people around the world. Even NLA I has its own Internet address. Each major BBS has some sort of SM area: America On-line has "Le Chateau," GENie and Delphi have their own places where Leather people meet. Local BBSes that use "MajorBBS" software, have access to MajorNet fo-

## Book Review

### A Breviary of Torment by Thomas Caset

Review by Bill Brengetto

Torture; historic and religious figures; mind control — not the combination of subjects one would expect to find while perusing the poetry section of your neighborhood book seller. So imagine my surprise at finding "A Breviary of Torment" by Thomas Caset.

This surprising volume of poetry is an assembly of offerings concerning flogging, branding, dominance and submission, among other subjects. Caset, a Dutch academic, has penned an uneven if adventurous collection of poems, many concerned with the history of torture. The Marquis de Sade, the Aztec God Xipe Totec, Torquemada and 13th century Flagellants are featured. While these pieces are enlightening, (including historical notes) they remain intellectually interesting but lacking in emotion.

Caset fares much better with his poems on flogging and submission. Written with a passion and insight only a devotee can possess, the author clearly and succinctly describes the feelings of dominance and submission, the beauty of release and the empowerment of control.

In "Ecstatic Confessions", Caset describes the perfect flogging scene from the bottom's perspective. He takes the reader on the mental and physical journey a submissive takes through pain to ecstasy:

"Cravings accrue with every weal;  
Hunger for flogging draws bliss in it's wake;  
Lust for the lash is intimate and real.  
The germ of ecstasy will not forsake  
Him; it may to the experienced reveal  
Mystical Joy of ancient make."

"A Breviary of Torment", in sum, is an intriguing and bold collection. The writer shines when he adheres to clean, simple language and addresses his subject directly. If the reader is willing to wade through turgid historical references and wording, there are gems to be found.

Caset has provided the serious S/M player with a unique perspective on many of our practices and a way to express feelings not readily understandable by the community at large. Absorbing and intellectually challenging, this volume is for serious-minded players only. But then, torture is only for the few.

A Breviary of Torment by Thomas Caset

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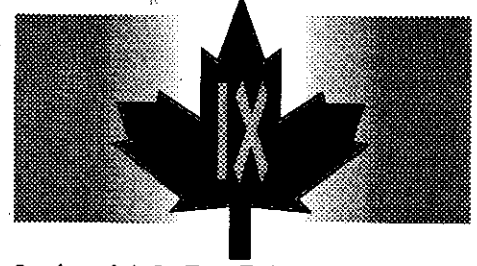
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**OCTOBER 7 - 9, 1994**  
**THE WESTBURY HOTEL**  
**TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA**

# WE'RE HERE!

The NLA International Office is in Toronto for the weekend of Living in Leather. David has packed up the computer system and set up a full-function temporary office in a room at the Westbury Hotel from Thursday, October 6 through Monday, October 10. If you have any questions about your membership or other issues please feel free to contact him. The Suite number and Office Hours are posted in the Registration Area.

For any Chapter Officers that are attending LIL, David will be available to go over your Chapter membership lists and print out new ones during this weekend. All current members that are attending this year's LIL will receive new membership cards in their registration package.

## From the Hotseat —

Continued from Page 2

truly international event.

### LIL X

Now is the time for a Chapter or Affiliate to put together a bid to host LIL in 1995. We are also accepting applications for the position of Director. The Director does not need to live in the host city. We would like to announce the site for LIL X at this year's conference.

### LIL XI

Is next year too soon to host LIL? Then start planning for 1996. This would give your Chapter or club the opportunity to apprentice with the LIL X crew. A strong affiliate or partnership of Chapters and Affiliates could work together to create an extraordinary conference.

### Communications

One of my primary objectives as Co-Chair is to open the lines of dialog between the members and the International Officers. This is your organization; we work for you.

This year I had the opportunity to meet with a number of Chapter leaders from around the country. Working together we can identify your needs and address the issues that are important to you. During LIL you will have ample time to directly interact with the members of the Executive Council. The following is a listing of these opportunities which have been arranged:

1. EC Meetings. The last meeting of the current EC will be held at 6:00 PM, Friday, October 7, 1994. The first meeting of the new EC will be held Monday at 10:00 AM.

These meetings are open to all members of NLA I.

2. Co-Chairs Roundtable. This open discussion workshop is scheduled for Friday at Noon. This is your best opportunity to have direct access to the leadership of NLA I. Bring your questions, comments and ideas for the future direction of the organization. We welcome your input and sincerely hope that many of you will choose to attend this important meeting.

3. Private meetings. Last year during LIL I held a series of meetings with various Chapters and Affiliates; we will offer this opportunity to meet again this year. Chapter members or Chapter or Affiliate leadership are encouraged to arrange a time to meet, in private, with the Co-Chairs to discuss your concerns. Please call the NLA I office to schedule a meeting; or catch up with us at LIL, and we will fit you into our schedule.

### Annual Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting is your time. This is your opportunity to directly affect the policies of NLA I. The meeting is scheduled for 12:00 Noon on Sunday, October 9 (during LIL). You will hear reports on last year's efforts. Also the election results will be announced and the new EC will be installed.

If you have an issue you would like to place before the membership, please let me know as soon as possible before the meeting. It can then be placed on the agenda. We hope that the members of NLA I take this opportunity to become involved in the workings of the organization.



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Spotlight on NLA:Portland NLA Chapter of the Year

### Mr. Portland NLA 1995

In dark corners of remote dungeons it is whispered that, occasionally, bottoms do win leather titles. In some quarters this is viewed as a sad but inevitable fact of life, like crabgrass and the heartbreak of psoriasis. On August 14th the title of Mr. Portland NLA 1995 was conferred to me, a confirmed bottom who goes by the seemingly incongruous name of boy brent.

A very wise engineer once told me that there are only two really controversial topics: "What shall we name it?"; and "What color should we paint it?" And so i came to my first Great Crisis as a titleholder. Should i be true to myself and go by "Mr. Portland NLA, boy brent", or suppress my bottom nature and go by my legal name to be "Mr. Portland NLA, Brent Capps", even if it's an inaccurate and somewhat closety description of how i view myself?

In an effort to come to grips with this weighty problem i cracked open my dusty old dictionary:

*mister: n. A courtesy title preceding a man's surname or title of office: Mr. Secretary. (<MASTER)*

Well, so far so good. Mr. in this instance clearly derives from its formal usage as a title of office. A sash confers an office, not a role in scene. Seeing that "mister" derived from "master" piqued my curiosity, though, and i decided to delve further:

*master: n . . . A title preceding the name of a boy too young to be addressed as Mister.*

[Gears slowly turn in the boy's mind — No, that will never do]

To my mind, this whole issue really comes down to what it means to be a proud bottom and submissive in our community. Dominance and submission are yin and yang: one cannot exist without the other. Things in nature exist in harmony only when these respective energies are mixed in the proper proportion. It is time for us to rise above the arbitrary, if unspoken, presumption that titleholders should preferably be Tops. Leather pride means being proud of who we are in scene, whether Top or bottom, dominant or submissive or switch. To expect a bottom to suppress his/her expression of who he/she is simply because of arbitrary expectations that a titleholder should be a Top runs directly contrary to this spirit of pride.

With that in mind, the 1995 recipient of the Mr. Portland NLA title is boy brent.

### Ms. Portland NLA 1995

Hi, I'm AJ, Ms. NLA Portland 1995. I am truly honored to have been selected for this title. I owe thanks to so many people for their support. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the members of NLA I.

I lived in Colorado Springs for a long time. I was unable to find a leather/SM/fetish community there, and let me tell you, I looked. I moved to the west coast, began looking for that community and found it here in Portland.

Now that I have this title, you must all be wondering, "Who is this person, and what will she do for the community?" I have many ideas and goals that I would like to accomplish through the year. This is a great opportunity for me to return to the community some of what you have given me.

One concern I expressed in my acceptance speech and would like to address briefly is SEPARATISM. It can destroy our community. We are a diverse group within this pansexual organization. These diversities include religion, race, color, age, physical challenges, politics, sexual orientation and many more. We spend a lot of our time expecting people outside our community to accept us as equals, yet we do not do this ourselves. We need to present a unified front with respect, acceptance and tolerance toward all to be able to stop some people from making laws that interfere in our lives. We need to be able to work together. My motto: You cannot fight violence with violence, and you cannot fight hate with hate.

You can help me by making every effort to respect and tolerate the differences within our community. I hope to educate and re-educate those around me, including myself, to be more accepting of all diversity. Thank you for your support and thanks also to those of you who are in support of the leather/SM/fetish lifestyle. Have a great year. Hope to see you during this coming year.

## NLA:Portland Celebrates Leather Pride Week

By Owen Hatch

An international collection of Leatherpeople descended on Portland to celebrate the beginning of Leather Pride Week. NLA:Portland kicked-off the weekend with a "Meet and Greet" for our out-of-town friends and the contestants for the titles of Mr. and Ms. NLA:Portland '95. Mark Frazier, Mr. NLA International '94, and Artemis Silverowl, Ms. NLA International '94, conducted a benefit auction for the NLA International Travel Fund. Former and current titleholders and a contingency of leather-lovers were seen in the overflowing crowd.

Mr. Portland Leather '93 Jeff Rose with assistance from the entire NLA:Portland Board of Directors planned and masterfully executed the week's activities. The community-wide picnic was a success because, in part, believe it or not, we had NO RAIN! The entire weekend was beautiful! Don't believe everything you hear about our weather. The sun

# Spotlight on NLA:Portland NLA Chapter of the Year

## PORTLAND

### LEATHER PRIDE —

(Continued from previous page)

DOES shine in Portland, so get those leathers out and come visit!

Prejudging was TOUGH on the title contestants. The judging panel included: Mark Frazier; Artemis Silverowl; Albert Kraus, NLA International Co-Chair; Tony DeBlase, Curator of The Leather Archives and Museum, and member of the NLA International Executive Council; Jeff Tucker, International Mr. Leather '94; Anne Bergstedt, International Ms. Leather '94; Kelly Farris, Mr. NLA:Portland '94; K. T. Chase, Ms. NLA International '93 and President of the Portland Chapter; Babalou, Emperor XX, Sovereign Rose Court of Portland. The contestants survived the interview process and prepared for the two main events on Sunday — a "Tasting" and the contest.

You might be wondering, "What is a 'Tasting'?" It is an opportunity to have new experiences in a safe and open environment. The Panorama, a local club, hosted the event which allowed novices and experienced practitioners alike to share exotic secret fantasies which they would not feel comfortable doing in a one-on-one situation. Produced by Kelly Farris and Pauline Miriam, the workshops and their guides included: Mumification—Artemis Silverowl; Shaving — K. T. Chase and Roland Bynum, Portland Leatherman '91 and Executive Producer of RB/H Productions; Play Piercing — Anne Bergstedt and Pauline Miriam; Candle Wax — Kelly Farris; Using Clothespins — Doug Neville; Bondage Art — Tony DeBlase (who built a human bondage tent that was fantastic); Hair Play — Jeff Tucker; Chinese Cupping — Devioune Daviau; Electricity — Albert Kraus and Mark Frazier. Also on hand was yours truly selling memberships, advertising for THE LINK and lots of Leather Pride necessities.

Talk about an electrified, bound & gagged afternoon! It was exciting just to be in the room!

Sunday evening was an extravagant affair that should be on your list of "must be there" activities for next year. Bill "THE HUN" Schmeling (need I say more?) 'artist extraordinaire' produced the logo for this year's contest. Jeff Rose, Mr. Portland Leather '93 and company gave the standing room only "leather-hungry" crowd what it desired — a breathtaking opening number! The crowd went wild as Jeff presented his many alter egos, which were displayed by local personalities including Darcelle XV.

The evening ran smoothly and flowingly. Our hosts for the evening, Roland Bynum and Pauline Miriam, were entertaining and skillfully prepared. It was the best contest this reviewer has ever attended. During the breaks, we were impressively entertained by K. T. Chase who has finally returned to the stage with her dangerously loving voice; Misha, Regional La Femme Magnifique; and Laurel, an exotic stripper who made all pants in the room moist. In addition, International Mr. Drummer '93 Graylin Thornton (with assistance from IML '94 Jeff Tucker) conducted an auction for the opportunity to take off his tightly packed leather jock strap to benefit local charities. It was truly a pleasure for Portland to see Graylin in all his glory (and I do mean all!). Thank you Graylin!

A bondage contest was our entertainment during intermission. The winner, Jeffy, local business owner of The Pet Spa, donated her winnings to charity. Following that demonstration, the contestants presented a new facet of the local contest — fantasies. When the fantasies were finished, the audience was worked up for the announcement of our new representatives. In the end, the titles were presented to A. J. Johnson and boy brent (Brent Capps).

Congratulations go to both and wishes for a successful year. They have an arduous job but also have a hard working Board of Directors standing with them to make 1995 a stellar year!

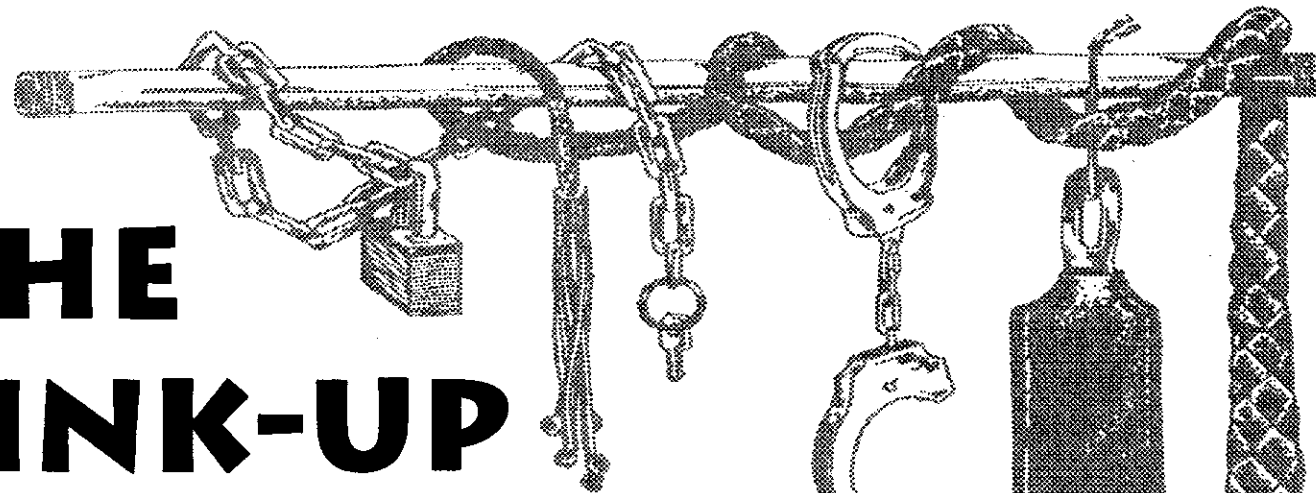
What an evening! Many people helped make the event a colossal success. NLA:Portland would like to thank everyone who helped out for their time, financial assistance and just plain old hard work. We especially say thank you to Jason LaFrenz and Nick Lampropoulos, managers at Panorama and The Brig.

So, we got through an exciting weekend and prepared for the remainder of the Celebration of Leather Pride Week! We gave everyone a couple of days to recover and then enjoyed an extremely fun backyard barbeque at KT and Susie's new home. This evening in the twilight was magnificent. We had some great cooks in attendance who prepared everything from steaks to salads. Don Syrotuck (our local hunter) provided us with baked wild pheasant, grouse and fresh duck. A special salute goes to Susie Shepherd for being a wonderful slave to the family members in attendance.

As you can see, the Pacific Northwest has lots to offer visitors. We welcome our friends to Portland. As I always say, "YALL COME." ◊

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# THE LINK-UP

## SEEKING MEN

### Erotic Correspondence

Leatherman seeks others for fantasies by mail. Tell me how you want me to hurt you, beat you, tie and torture you. I will fulfill your fantasies. Interrogations, kidnapping and prison scenes make me hot. \*\*BOX 7

### Hot Hunky Man

blond hair, blue eyes, 6', 170 lbs, swimmers build looking for same. Into deep toy play. \*\*BOX 10

### Dyke Daddy & Evil Girl-Boy

seek boy into CBT, TT, piercing and whipping. Explore your need to submit to a woman. Pain is pleasure for the right boy. \*\*BOX 3

### Infamous Slut Boy

Looking for anonymous Daddy to rape, plunder & use voraciously hungry hole. Only Men who are up to the challenge need reply. \*\*BOX 8

## SEEKING WOMEN

### Creative Master

Women 25 to 45, get on your knees and write me. If you are willing to completely submit to a creative master, then write. Try 'Tentacle Sex', if you dare. I will train you by mail, until you are fully ready. Only those who dare will know complete submission. My first command, submit and write the creative master. The rewards are endless.

### Hungry Hole

aching to be filled; no waiting necessary. You and your friends will be serviced with a smile. This heavy bottom awaits lipstick butches. Willing to travel. \*\*BOX 5

**MORE ADS ON NEXT PAGE**

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**ADVERTISING GUIDELINES**  
In placing an ad, you must not use names, telephone numbers or street addresses. Ads can not imply an exchange of sex for money. We reserve the right to edit ads. While we understand the difference between preference and discrimination, ads must not reflect negative portrayals of any racial, ethnic or religious group. If your ad does not fall within the stated guidelines, we may notify you and allow you to make necessary alterations. We reserve the right to reject any ad whatsoever.

# SM In Cyberspace —

Continued from Page 6

rooms, which are a tiny version of the Internet forums that are linked to and read by people all across the country and as far away as The Netherlands and Japan. The MajorNet forum generally known as Extremes is where Mastercat and I have spent most of our time. We've had incredible discussions of play parties, been involved in the usual feuds about safe words, shared our experiences and learned from the experiences of others. Other systems have their own networks like ThrobNet, FidoNet, RimeNet, AdultNet, StudNet, and GayNet, to name just a few. Some boards have even expanded into virtual play.

Many boards host play parties for their members, and all the boards that we've seen, with very few exceptions, are truly pansexual and welcome leather folk of all persuasions.

In future articles I'll discuss getting linked into the leather/SM/fetish community, share some on-line debates and explain "virtual play." If you have specific topics you would like addressed, write to me C/O THE LINK.

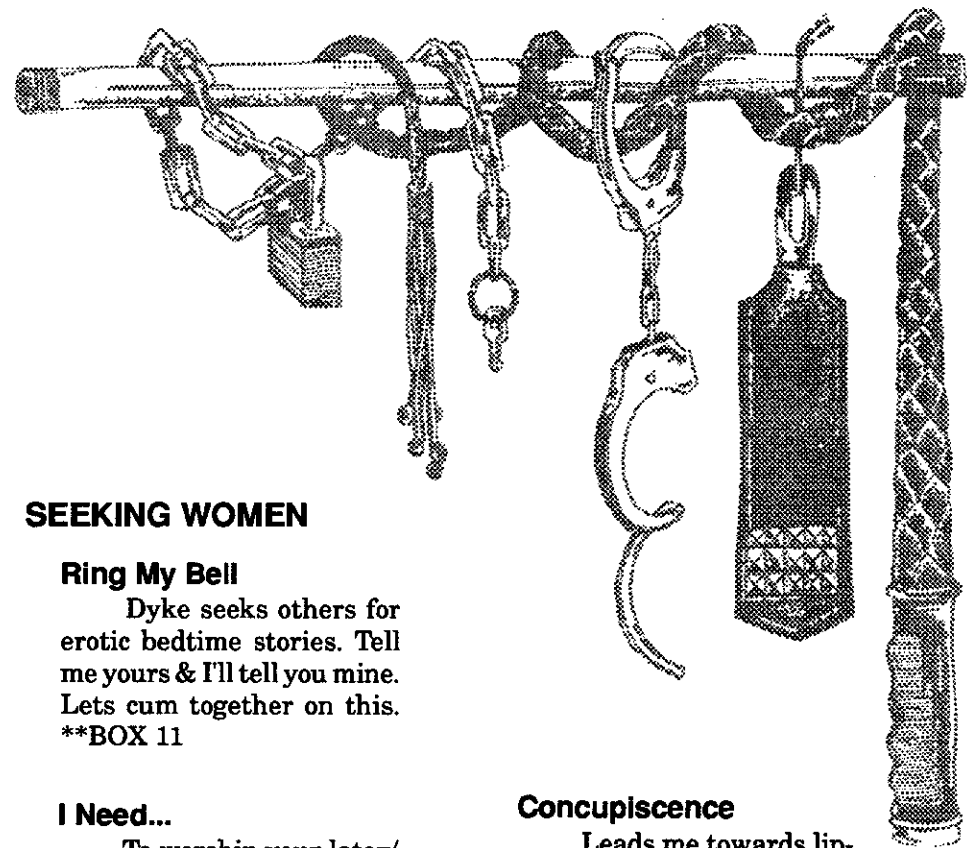
Buying a computer and modem is not the great expense it once used to be, and the rewards for the Leather Community are many. There are people out there in Cyberspace who long to hear of your experience, to learn from you and to share their own experiences and kinks with you. Because in Cyberspace, everyone can hear you dream.

**NLA I is on the Internet!!!!**

[nlaintl@netcom.com](mailto:nlaintl@netcom.com)

**If you have an E-mail address, please send it to us!!!!!!**

## THE LINK UP CONTINUES . . .



### SEEKING WOMEN

#### Ring My Bell

Dyke seeks others for erotic bedtime stories. Tell me yours & I'll tell you mine. Lets cum together on this. \*\*BOX 11

#### I Need...

To worship your latex/PVC/leather to its full beauty...to cook your meals and sit at your feet as you enjoy them...to feel your strong hands all over my body as you treat me as the sex slave I am...you to respect my intellect as well. \*\*BOX 1

#### High Maintenance Top

Sought by high maintenance bottom. I humbly beg for the privilege of servicing your whims, to feel your heel digging into my breast, to have my ass up in the air for your use. Wit, humor, and compassion are highly prized by this sex slave, blood whore and kitchen wench. \*\* BOX 12

#### Concupiscence

Leads me towards lipstick dykes, sensory deprivation masks, skin gameshot & cold, blood flowing from my body back into my mouth. Reach in with your fist and grab my heart. \*\*BOX 2

### SEEKING EITHER

#### House Boy Wanted

Daddy, boy and dyke roommate seek experienced houseboy (male or female). Comfortable cleaning biker boots and high heels? House cleaning, leather polishing, and full subservience. Your needs to be negotiated in return. SF Area. \*\*BOX 6

COMPLETE A LINK UP FORM  
(Page 9)  
And MEET YOUR MATCH

## Update on Action in Ontario

by Andy Anderson

In the last issue of THE LINK, I wrote about the battle for gay and lesbian rights taking place in Ontario. The demonstrations have subsided, and the politicians have gone on holiday, but significant progress has been made.

#### Action Taken

I spoke with the Speaker of the House and the Sergeant-At-Arms of the Provincial Parliament regarding the use of latex gloves by the Parliamentary Security Forces who cleared the public galleries of protesters after the vote. I was informed that this was the venue of the Solicitor General and the Minister of Correctional Services, with whom I next spoke. After numerous phone calls informing the Ministry that this complaint would not go away, I received a phone call from the second highest officer in the Ontario Provincial Police (our version of the State Troopers), the Deputy Commissioner.

I met with the Deputy Minister, the medical advisor to the ministry and the leader of the detachment at Queen's Park. They admitted that homophobia is rampant among their forces and stated that it is time to correct this matter. They agreed that a homophobia training is needed in the service. Through letters, phone calls and subsequent meetings a plan was attained.

One week after LIL IX the first-ever anti-homophobia training for the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will take place. It will include sensitivity toward people with AIDS, taught by a physician from Wellesley Hospital, an overview of the Human Rights Code of Ontario with emphasis on sexual orientation, and anti-homophobia/heterosexism training. A member of the OPP training college will attend to see if the course content will fit into their standard course offerings.

#### How Is NLA Involved?

I will be a member of the selection committee charged with choosing a facilitator for the trainings. The committee includes: Louise Stuart, provincial coordinator for the Campaign for Equal Rights; a representative from the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario; a representative from the Toronto Lesbian and Gay Counseling Centre; and a representative from NLA:Toronto. NLA:Toronto and the leather/SM/fetish community are being included to "properly represent the diversity of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community."

Syd Creighton, Co-Chair of NLA:Toronto, will serve as this representative.

This is the very first time that a open member of the leather/SM/fetish community has been asked to take part in such a venture to ensure that our views, attitudes and needs are addressed. We look forward to seeing the results of this training in action and to forming a true working coalition with the non-leather community so that we may all be treated fairly. ●

## THE NLA NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Office is looking for volunteers with expertise to help this organization grow.

First, we need the help of a **marketing/membership development** person(s). We would like to develop a membership campaign along with supporting materials. This campaign should be aimed at recruiting new members and encouraging renewal of current memberships. Prior to this time, we have operated on a passive membership system of attraction rather than promotion. As we reach our tenth anniversary, it is time to really aggressively recruit new members while we work hard to retain our current membership. In order to work more effectively in promoting and fulfilling our Statement of Purpose, we need to enlarge our membership base.

Second and just as important, we are in desperate need of a **database programmer/developer** to rework our membership database, which we are outgrowing. We need to move from FileMaker Pro into a custom relational database that will be able to track LIL attendance and payment along with memberships, be able to automatically ZIP+4 our mailings to speed them up and reduce postage rates and automatically print out membership cards, second renewal notices, etc.

If you have the experience/expertise in either of these areas, please contact David Scribner at the International Office.

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