

THE LINK

It's that time of year again when we must elect the new officers and members of the executive council.

This is one of the benefits of being a member of NLA:I - you have the opportunity to help create the vision and focus of NLA:I by nomination, and then voting on the membership of the executive council.

The executive council is charged with the care and oversight of NLA:I. Participation on the council is a great way to meet new people, gain new skills, share your talents with an international organization and actively help create the kind of leather community that will last long into the future.

Right now, NLA:I is accepting nominations for the female co-chair, treasurer and 3 members at large positions. Existing EC members can be re-nominated, you can nominate yourself or anyone else of your choosing, so long as the nominee is a member of NLA:I. You'll find a nomination form on page 11 of this issue of THE LINK. Please fill it out and return it the the address shown before MAY 30, 1996. After all nominations are received each of the nominees will be contacted to inquire as to whether they accept their nomination and to ask them for a biography. Please make sure you include the nominee's name, address and at least one phone number where they can be reached.

Official ballots will be sent out June 15th, 1996, and must be returned no later that July 30th, 1996. Election results will be published in the September issue of THE LINK and the new executive council members will take their seats in October at LIL X in Portland.

Remember that nominees must be members of good standing in NLA:I. If you have any questions contact; Spencer Bergstedt at 206-783-5339 or email at MSTRSPENCE@AOL.COM.

Currently the Executive Committee Council consists of:
Mark Frazier, Male co-chair
KT Chase, Female co-chair (seat expires 10/96)
Phil Swenson, Secretary
David Hofenbacker, Treasure (seat expires 10/96)
Spencer Bergstedt, member at large (seat expires 10/96)
Bill Costomiris, member at large (seat expires 10/96)
Tony DeBlase, member at large (seat expires 10/96)
Don Bastian, member at large
Syd Creighton, member at large
Jan Hall, member at large
Viola Johnson, member at large
Dean Walradt, chapter chairs representative
Jim Richards, immediate past co-chair (voted in by EC to finish term of deceased Albert Kraus)

TIME LINE:

Nominations must be received by : May 30th, 1996
Ballots sent out : June 15th, 1996
Ballots returned by : July 30th, 1996
Elections results published : September LINK
New Members take their seats: October, 1996

You will find nomination forms on page 11 of this issue of THE LINK. You may make nominations for any or all of the seats coming up for election but please make copies of the form and send in a separate form for each nomination.

To expedite the process try to make sure the person your nominating is willing to run for the seat nominated for.

Remember it is perfectly OK to nominate yourself for a seat.

A person may be nominated for more that one seat but may only run for one.

IS YOUR NLA:I MEMBERSHIP MISTAKENLY 'INACTIVE'? CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL!

By Dean Walradt

Is there an orange stripe on your LINK mailing label? If so check the label in the lower right hand corner; top numbers are your NLA:I membership expiration date (8/1/95). The next number is your NLA:I membership number (2345). If our label indicates that your membership is "inactive" and this is an error, please write NLA:I at the address below.

Include your mailing label or NLA:I membership number and date listed. Also include any documentation you may have that establishes your correct membership date. Be sure to include a phone number and good contact time so the Membership Committee Chair can call you for more information if needed.

If you are an "inactive" member and would like to renew your membership, please fill out the individual membership application and send it to the address below. Please type or print clearly and include your legal name and your NLA:I membership number. Make check or money order payable to NLA:International. Expect your membership card within 30 days of returning your application. THE LINK will be mailed every 2 months ( January, March, May, July, September, November)
NLA:I is on the grow again, be a part of it!

NLA: International
3439 NE Sandy Blvd. #155
Portland, Oregon 97232

NEW web page to announce
NLA:Austin is at
http://www.io.com/~penn/nla-austin/
and Texas Leather Pride is
http://www.io.com/~penn/nla-austin/tlp/tlpv.html

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# Chapter Profile NLA : Houston

NLA: HOUSTON APRIL 1991 - APRIL 1196  
 NLA: HOUSTON A brief history

April 1991 received chapter for NLA as 18th chapter

1992 - Recipient of the Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus Service Award

1992 - Recipient of the Pride Trophy, Dallas' Alan Ross Freedom Parade

October 1993 - Host chapter for 1994 Pantheon of Leather's "Club Event of the Year" winner, NLA: International Living in Leather VIII

March 1994 - Host for Pantheon of Leather Awards IV Weekend

In five short years (NLA: Houston celebrated its fifth anniversary the second week of April with a run/celebration, "Spring Iniquity V) the chapter has established itself as a respected member of the Texas and Houston leather/BDSM club and organizational community. One of the most successful and on going projects held each Christmas for the last 5 years is the "Annual Toy Drive for Kids with HIV/AIDS." Through this holiday benefit toys, diapers and funds are raised and collected between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many leather and leather-friendly businesses in the Houston Montrose area participate. Last year over 1500 toys and \$750 was raised for Community Visions Inc., a 501c3 respite facility.

Over the last five years during parade weekend of Houston's Gay & Lesbian Pride Week Celebration, NLA:Houston has hosted Leather Pride Weekend. This year's Leather Pride Weekend is June 21-23. Opening on Friday with "Houston's Hot VIII: A Night in Black Leather" which has become a premier Leather/SM/Fetish party drawing in excess of 600 partiers to the chapter's home bar, Venture-N. Saturday the chapter hosts 2 - 4 hours of seminars on some aspect of the leather/BDSM/fetish lifestyle. Sunday, parade day, sees a growing leather contingent marching. This is followed by a joint party/ dance celebration, "The Loading Dock '96 Party" co-hosted by Pacific Street and NLA:Houston (The Loading Dock was one of Houston's major leather bars in the early 80's.)

NLA:Houston and its members support and participate with many of the Imperial Court Chapters in Texas, in particular Houston's Court. Several members are involved with the Houston's Pride Committee and it's board of directors. Members have both participated and/or helped with certain aspects of both NLA:Austin's Texas Leather Pride and Dallas' Beyond Vanilla. Most recently NLA:Houston has followed in the footsteps of NLA:Austin & NLA: Dallas by implementing an aggressive educational program. It's most recent was a highly successful workshop given by and for submissives, "Submissive: being a good boy or a good girl."

NLA:Houston. five years and growing.

(continued on page 4)

## LETTERS FROM THE CHAIRS

### At Your Service

by K.T. Chase

Greetings fellow members,

The second quarter of the year has started, which means the time is approaching for out annual elections. The following seats will be vacant: Female Co-Chair, Treasurer and four Member at Large positions. All of these are two-year terms. As this is a volunteer organization, all of these positions are open to the membership.

Every board of directors needs to have new people brought in to mix with the experienced current board; otherwise, it could stagnate and become non-productive. I personally encourage anyone who has the time and energy to get involved, to nominate themselves or someone they know. We need people who are enthusiastic and committed to the further advancement and growth of our organization.

These positions are not about power. They are positions of service and responsibility, with the main focal point being directed towards the needs of our organization. We all have a voice and a vote.

As your Female Co-Chair, I will not be running for re-election. I am flattered by the entreaties of those who have approached me to do so, but there comes a time when it is necessary for anyone who has been as involved and committed as I have been to step aside and make room for others to have this opportunity to serve. I do not want to repeat what I have observed in other individuals in volunteer organizations who have served past their time. They create a "burn out" situation which invariably has a negative effect on their leadership abilities. It has always been my concern that this organization be led by competent and energetic individuals.

As for the remainder of my term, I will continue to be committed and responsible to my duties as your Co-Chair. My wish at this point is for a ballot full of options, providing our membership strong, creative choices to carry us all to the bring of the 21st century.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 K.T. Chase  
 Co-Chair

### Making a Difference

by Mark Frazier

Since becoming a member of our Executive Council, I have encouraged member past and present to communicate with me, to let me know their questions and the reservations and help in the process of making a difference. It is my sincere hope that you have questions or reservations, that you will feel free to contact me. My address phone number and email address will be listed at the bottom of every issue of THE LINK as long as I am a Co-Chair of this organization.

Over the past few months, I have been gathering and reading some of our historical data, such as the original by-laws as drafted by the Conference in 1986. I read most of the notes of every Co-Chair that I have found as well as other prominent figures past and present from our organization. Some of the proposals that were submitted were drafted into our policies and procedures, some weren't. These proposals helped shape our organization into what it is today. Some of the original proposals are still applicable and some no longer fit due to time, growth and education.

Why am I telling you this? Because I want to help you shape our future. We need your ideas, we need your criticisms and we need your physical being. There are numerous projects which NLA-I can become involved in but available manpower limits this. There are many organizations we need to be represented in, but again available manpower prevents this.

The elections of the new EC is less than 6 months away, I encourage you to run for position on the EC. The membership needs YOU.

Affiliates and businesses: NLA-I is starting a project to reach out and reaffirm our connections in the SM/Leather/Fetish tribes in each community. We need your help and input. Five years ago we had over 100 affiliates and businesses who were members of NLA, now we have about 1/2 dozen. Again we need your help and involvement to reach out to these groups. Volunteer to help your organization.

Approved Proposal for Affiliates and Businesses:

Each business and organization that joins would get a free line advertisement in each issue of THE LINK.

Each organization or business that joins will receive one vote per organization or business on elections matters. The person casting the ballot would be appointed by the organization or business. That organization or business must let NLA-I know who the person would be and it must be in writing.

All businesses and organization will receive one copy of each issue of THE LINK sent to their base address.

A volunteer staff of three or four will be responsible for the initial contact. All correspondence will be returned to the Portland address. All incoming monies would be sent to the Portland address to be processed in the same manner as membership monies. A separate data base must be used to track these establishments.

Membership will send a membership card to the organization or business.

I will oversee the initial startup of the proposal.  
 Capital outlay = Postage only

Phil will redesign the application.

I look forward to working with each and every member so we can continue to help NLA-I make a difference.

In Service  
 Mark Frazier  
 Male Co-Chair NLA-I  
 4120 Bowser Ave. #A  
 Dallas Texas 75219

Phone 214/559/3511  
 Email lhang@aol.com

### NLA: Dallas Announces Beyond Vanilla 96 Saturday August 3rd 1996

The Texas summer will be heating up even more as NLA: Dallas presents its day-long, intensive educational/informational program "Beyond Vanilla" on Saturday, August 3. This will mark the eighth time that an educational event of this magnitude has been offered to the Dallas/Ft. Worth communities and to the many friends of NLA: Dallas from around the country. We are very pleased to announce that the featured presenter will be Race Bannon, a nationally recognized expert in S/M sexuality and author of "Learning The Ropes - A Basic Guide To Safe and Fun S/M Lovemaking". Race will also be conducting a book signing on Friday evening, August 2 at the Dallas Eagle.

Beyond Vanilla will offer over 15 program topics ranging from novice to advanced that will include the physical, psychological, spiritual and social aspects of safe, sane and consensual leather/SM/fetish activities.

For more information, please contact:  
 NLA: Dallas  
 PO Box 7597  
 Dallas, TX 75209-7597.  
 e-mail requests may be sent to JacksonRog@aol.com.

**IT'S OFFICAL**  
**NLA:BC has changed its name.**  
**This organization is now: The Other Side**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

No letters to the editor were received for publication, so I am going to make this a letter FROM the editor.

To the members of the various NLA chapters,

While I have not received any letters for publication, I have over the past month received several comment both verbally and via email. Some read "THE LINK looks good", while others complained that there was nothing listed about their respective chapters, still others made comments on the typos contained in the last issue of THE LINK. I am going to address each of those issues in this letter.

To the "Looks Good" comments: thanks.

To the no chapter news comments: if there is no listing in this month's issue under Chapter events for your chapter, it is because your local EC has not replied to my written request of a list of events, being added to your mailing list for newsletter and announcements or my request for a chapter biography. It's up to you to find out why. This newsletter is for the sharing of information from the EC to the chapters and between the chapters. If it is to be successful, input has to be received from each individual chapter.

A lot of time, effort and expense has gone into this publication and the setting up of the NLA:I web site. This is your NLA:International membership fees at work for you the members, lets not waste the expense nor the opportunity it affords us to share information.

To the comments on the typos: We were putting in final articles and doing editing at 2am the morning THE LINK was suppose to be mailed to Houston. Along the way a final spell check was not done. Besides, I never claimed to be a professional editor; I'm still learning. What's that saying about an old dog and new tricks? Never mind.

Finally a bit of news from me. Last month I invested in a new Pentium w/ Windows95 (which I hate), a new laser printer, and a flatbed scanner. So the quality of THE LINK will be much improved as well as I now have the ability to scan in pictures for both the newsletter and the website. Black and white pictures with good contrast are preferred. Pictures will be only be published when is space available. Please be aware that if you send pictures in for possible publication without a SASE for their return, you won't get them back. All pictures used or not will be discarded if no SASE is supplied.

Yours in Leather,  
 Michelle

**THE LINK** MAY 1996  
**NEXT ISSUE** JULY 1996  
 Deadline for submissions for next issue is June 1st 1996.

Editor Michelle Harris NLA: Dallas  
 Co-Editor Ron Hertz NLA: Dallas  
 Printed and Distributed NLA:Houston

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Unsolicited manuscripts, art works, and photographs sent to THE LINK will be treated as material offered unconditionally for publication. THE LINK does not pay contributors and reserves the right to edit and comment editorially on all material offered for publication. Anyone may make a submission under a "pen Name" but the editors must have a full name and phone number to verify authenticity.

All material for publication should be sent to one of the addresses below. Email: please attach only 1 article per message.

THE LINK or leatherrose@intex.net  
 C/O LRS subject: NLA Link  
 POB 223971 please send in plain text  
 Dallas Texas 75232 UUencoding if possible.

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.

The opinions expressed in THE LINK are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NLA:International or its membership.

# Statement of Purpose

To establish and maintain a worldwide communication, information, education and support network for sisters and brothers of the Leather/SM/Fetish community.

To promote with power and pride the right of all adults to engage in Safe, Sane and Consensual sexual expression.

To increase communication and understanding among women, men and transgenderals of Leather/SM/Fetish interests and lifestyles.

To facilitate political activism, visibility and education in order to destroy stereotypes, misconceptions, and media misrepresentations about the Leather/SM/Fetish family in the community at large.

To provide, through our publications, educational material and *LIVING IN LEATHER* conferences, a forum for sharing of knowledge, viewpoints and practices of a diverse group of men, women and transgenderals.

To build, strengthen and defend individuals, organizations, publications and businesses within our community, especially against threats to their freedom of expression, freedom of press, right to free association and right to equal protection under the law.

To develop outreach to women, those people of color, transgenderals, the hearing impaired, those physically challenged and other minorities who have been traditionally discriminated against or poorly represented in the Leather/SM/Fetish community.

To develop fund raising for deserving projects, clubs, organizations, defense funds, and/or other charities which have given or are giving direct service to the Leather/SM/Fetish community.

To fight for the decriminalization of all sexual acts between consenting adults.

To preserve a record of our history, traditions and culture.

## Where we will be in May & June Dean Walradt & Viola Johnson

IN the interest of keeping the NLA: International membership and chapters informed of what is happening in their parent organization the Chapter Liaison, Viola Johnson (NLA: I EC Member at Large) and Dean Walradt, newly elected Chapter Chairs Committee Representative want to let you know part of their travel plans for May and June 1996. If you or you chapter officers are attending any of these events please contact Dean at:

710-A Fairview  
Houston Texas 77006-2806  
to arrange a possible meeting during the event. If you wish to meet with Viola please contact Dean and he will pass the message along and have her get back to you, since she has recently relocated and is still settling in.

May 2 - 5 Austin TX. NLA: Austin's Texas Leather Pride

Dean & Viola

May 24 - 27 Cameron TX. TCC Landsight, Lonestar 11

Dean

June 13 - 16 Atlanta GA. Atlanta Leather Fest

Dean & Viola

June 21 - 23 Houston TX. Houston's Lesbian/Gay Pride Week

Dean

June 27 - July 1 Toronto ON. Toronto's Pride Week celebration

Dean

(continued from page 2) Profile

NLA: Houston Board of Directors  
President (Nov '94 - present) Mike Geinzer (Texas Conference of Clubs Independent, Associate member of Dallas Leather Knights, Texas Rider's of Houston)

Vice President (95/96) Brian Keever (Empress X, Imperial Court, R.S.C.S.S., Honorary member Texas Renegades, Associate member of Texas Leather & Lace, Texas Riders, Atlanta Panthers L/L, Board of Directors Pride Committee of Houston, NLA: Houston Charter member)

Treasurer (94/96) Michael White (Prince XII, R.S.I.C.S.S., member Lords of Leather New Orleans, past NLA: Houston Secretary)

Secretary (94/96) Dean Walradt (Past Co-chair, past President, and Co-founder NLA: Houston, Director LIL IX & X, Chapter Rep. NLA: I EC, Associate member of Texas Leather and Lace, Texas Renegades, Texas Riders, Firedancers-Texas, Atlanta Panthers L/L, Dallas Leather Knights, Secretary of Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week '96 Committee, recipient of 1995 NLA: I Order of Merit, 1996 Pantheon of Leather's South Central Regional Award, 1996 Contest Director of NLA: Austin's Texas Leather Pride V, and first Mr. Texas Drummer 92/93)

Member at Large (95/96) Jeffery Lang (Member Heart of Texas Bears, Austin)

## STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NLA International (NLA: I) has called on the Leather/SM/Fetish community to take the lead in reducing domestic violence through education.

**NO GROUP IS FREE OF DOMESTIC BATTERING AND ABUSE, BUT FEAR, DENIAL AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE HAVE SLOWED PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THIS SERIOUS SOCIETAL PROBLEM.**

NLA: I is committed to reducing this violence by attempting to:

1. Show that community action can reduce domestic violence;
2. Hold batterers accountable for choosing to be violent; to encourage victims to take legal action; to deny drug or alcohol abuse excuses battering; and to encourage the batterers to seek treatment, and the victim to seek support;
3. Listen to and support those who have had the courage to tell us; to help them end their shame and isolation;
4. Educate the legal and social service systems about the difference between consensual SM and domestic violence, and to encourage their appropriate intervention;
5. Take responsibility for educating our community about the forms of domestic abuse and their extent and severity, and
6. Promote information and where to get help.

Domestic abuse takes many forms: physical violence, isolation, outright and subtle psychological or emotional abuse, economic control, sexual abuse and the destruction of personal property. Non-consensual manipulation, terror and assaults are not part of Sadomasochism.

NLA advocates relationships and friendships based on personal responsibility, honesty and integrity in which power and pleasure derive from mutual respect.

## Estate Planning for Player by A. Spencer Bergstedt, Esq. Attorney at Law

As the saying goes, two things are inevitable, taxes and death. While most folks take their tax planning seriously, few take the time to plan for health and/or death.

You can never plan too early-only too late. Yet every day, I see people in my practice who wait till a health issue arises or until they are elderly to take care of their estate planning needs. A well drawn estate plan will save you money and stress in the long run. It will make things much easier for your friends and family to assist you in the case of an illness or accident and will help them move forward in the event of your death.

In the S/M community, planning can be even more important given the familial relationships we are creating and each of us wanting recognition for those family ties. Further, many leatherfolk have strained relationships with blood relations and don't want interference from those people. No matter how great your relationship may be with friends and family, you may not be out of to them about your involvement in S/M and you'll want to ensure that your toys and equipment are dealt with discretely.

Estate planning should be done before signing a Master-Mistress/slave contract to help avoid charges/challenges by blood relations after death that the slave was "coerced" or "unduly influenced" to sign the documents and that therefore they should be considered invalid.

### PLANNING AHEAD

When a client comes in to see me about estate planning, I generally recommend the following documents to them:

- 1 Will
- 2 Directive to Physicians
- 3 Future Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
- 4 Future Durable Power of Attorney
- 5 Hospital Visitation Form

You can prepare any of these documents by yourself. However, I recommend that you DON'T. Each state has different rules related to estate planning which can relate to appropriate language, how to sign and have the documents witnessed as well as estate tax issues of which you should be aware. A competent attorney can help you with all of these aspects of planning your estate.

### WHY YOU NEED A WILL

Most people need a thoughtfully prepared will. You will need a will regardless of your age, health, marital status or amount of property you own. A will can provide peace of mind that your wishes will be carried out upon your death.

Gays, Lesbians, Unmarried Transsexuals/transgenderals and Unmarried Het's in particular should take the precaution of explicitly stating our wishes in a will. A will is one of the ways to ensure that our values and desires will be perpetuated after our death, and that the people and causes we care about will receive our property.

A validly execute will can prevent people that you don't want receiving all or part of your property, like estranged parents or other family members.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT WILLS

Q. What is a will?

A. It is a written document signed by you in accordance with legal requirements in which you state how your property (estate) should be distributed upon your death.

Q. Does a will need to be witnessed?

A. Yes. All states require witnesses. In Washington, where I practice, two witnesses, who are not beneficiaries under the will must witness your signing the will. You should check with your attorney to see what your state requires.

Q. May I change the terms of a will after it has been executed?

A. Yes. A will is not effective until your death and therefore may be changed by an amendment called a codicil or by execution of a new will.

Q. How do I revoke my will?

A. By executing a new will; by destroying an old will with the intent to revoke it; or if you marry after execution of a will, unless you expressly state that it remains in effect after the marriage. A divorce revokes the will with respect to the ex-spouse.

Q. What property is included in the estate?

A. Your one-half share of community property if you're married and all of your separate property. Property held as joint tenants with right of survivorship and death benefits (IRA's, pensions, life insurance) payable to beneficiaries are not included in the probatable estate.

Q. My partner and I own everything as joint tenants with right of survivorship. Should we still do wills?

A. Yes. There is always the chance that you might die together and you should make provisions for a secondary beneficiary. A will can also contain provisions about your funeral/burial wishes and organ donation directives.

Q. What is probate?

A. Probate is the court process that ensures that the provisions of your will are followed and your estate is distributed as directed in your will.

Q. Can probate be avoided if I do not leave a will?

A. The necessity for probate depends on a number of factors, including the value, nature, and registrations of assets, and the relationship of the survivors to the deceased. E.g., just because you have a trust in place does not necessarily mean that probate will be avoided.

Q. Why should I go to the trouble of having a will prepared if my state's law provides that my property be distributed where I want it to go anyway?

A. A will lets you decide a number of things beyond designation where your property will go. Some of these are:

- Naming your personal representative (executor/executrix)
- Directing for what assets death taxes will be paid
- Authorize your personal representative to continue your business
- Place restrictions on certain gifts
- Name a guardian for your children
- Establish a trust for your beneficiaries

Q. How long does probate last?

A. A minimum of 5 to 7 months should be expected; longer if there are taxes to be paid or litigation.

Q. Will the presence of a will prolong the probate or result in more cost?

A. No. A well drawn up will can speed the process and save administration costs.

Q. What is the difference between an executor, administrator and personal representative?

A. An executor is the person you name in your will to administer the estate. If you do not name one the court will appoint an administrator to carry out those functions. In Washington, either of these are given the title "personal representative".

Q. Does the personal representative have to live in my state?

A. No.

Q. What does the personal representative do?

A. The personal representative is responsible for the administration of your estate in accordance with the terms of your will and the procedure created by law of the State of Washington. Amongst other things the personal representative will:

- Present the will for probate
- Assist in making interim household and financial arrangements
- Examine the decedent's records to discover the assets and debts of the estate
- Give notice to and deal with creditors
- Make an inventory of the assets and debts
- Execute and file any tax returns due
- Distribute the estate in accordance to the terms of the will.

Q. How will my creditors be notified?

A. Any known creditors should receive a Notice of Pendency of Probate. Washington law for example also requires that a Notice to Creditors be published in a local paper.

Q. How will my creditors get paid?

A. Your personal representative will determine which creditors claims to pay and how much to pay each creditor based on the assets of your estate and the total amount of debt to be paid.

Q. What fees will be due the Personal Representative?

A. Reasonable compensation is allowed under state law. Fees are not regulated by law, but may require court approval.

Q. What qualifications should the Personal Representative have?

A. Permanency. Financial Responsibility. Experience. Group Judgment through the use of other professionals such as accountants, appraisers and attorneys.

Q. Who should prepare my Will?

I won't be discussing trusts in this article - they are a much more complex issue and you should consult with an attorney if you think a trust is for you. However, before you buy something you may not need, consider that the federal estate tax doesn't take effect unless your individual estate exceeds \$600,000 in value.

(continued on page 10)

# Executive Committee Spring Meeting Minutes

## CALL TO ORDER

The winter meeting of the NLA/Executive Council was called to order by Co-chair, K.T.Chase on January 27, 1996, at 12:00pm, P.S.T.

The roll was called: K.T.Chase; Mark Frazier; Phil Swenson; Tony DeBlase; Jan Hall, Syd Creighton; Don Bastian; Spencer Bergstedt; Bill Costomiris; Dean Waldradt and Viola Johnson were present. The Chair declared a quorum.

The Chair requested a closed session.

## CLOSED SESSION

The EC went in to closed session at 12:10 p.m., at the Chair's request.

The closed session was adjourned at 12:25p.m.,

## OPEN SESSION

The EC returned to open session at 12:25p.m. NLA members: Jim Richards, Michelle and LR joined the meeting.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the fall meeting as submitted by secretary, Phil Swenson, were presented to the Council. The EC members reviewed the minutes.

The following changes and amendments made:

1. Page 1, Call to Order, ¶2 Tammerlyn von Hohenrollern was deleted from the roll call.

2. Page 4, new Business, Reimbursable Expenses, ¶2: The word "laminator" was changed to "laminated badges", and, the word "machines" was changed to machine

3. Page 4, New Business, Reimbursable Expenses, ¶3: The word "laminator" was changed to "laminated badges", and, the word "machines" was changed to "machine".

4. Page 4, New Business, Reimbursable Expenses, ¶4: The name "Tony" was changed to "Jan" The word "passed" was changed to "failed"

Tony, moved to approve minutes as amended. Second, Mark. The minutes were approved as amended. The question was called, and the council voted. Passed, by unanimous voice vote.

## CHAIR ITEMS

The Chair stated she would entertain a motion out of order.

Dean moved that we adopt the name "Wisdom Keeper Chair" for the retired Co-chair's EC seat and that we invite retired male Co-Chair, Jim Richards, to fill the vacancy left by the death of Albert Kraus. Second, Vi. Discussion. The question was called and the council voted. Passed, by unanimous voice.

The Chair announced the appointment of Syd to act as council parliamentarian.

## REPORTS

Co-Chair-Female-K.T. submitted a written co-chairs report (Exhibit 2 attached hereto) to the EC. The report was approved.

Co-Chair-Male-Mark stated that the Link editorial staff was complete; the LIL 10 accounting was complete. He suggested that we consider the website; he also suggested that we lower the rate of affiliate dues to \$30 and that we offer a free business card ad with their membership.

He further suggested that we set up a rate sheet for display ads in THE LINK. He further stated that there might be a new chapter forming in Shreveport LA.

Discussion.

Treasurer-David submitted a written treasurers report (Exhibit 1 attached hereto) to the EC.

Phil, moved to approve treasurers report as submitted. Second, Spencer. The question was called, and the council voted. Passed, by unanimous voice vote.

Budget & Finance -K.T. asked when next years budget would be ready. Mark, David, Bill stated they would get together in the next 30 days and that a proposed budget would be submitted at the Spring meeting.

Elections-Spencer reported that Dean had been elected the Chapter Chairs Representative in special election. She reported that there had been a complaint about the quickness of the election, that she had responded to indicating that we had learned a lesson about quick elections. She further reported information for the 1996 elections was ready to go and that a time line was in place, and that the election would be complete in September 1996. She also stated that she was still working on ballot security.

Discussion. The council noted that this will not happen in the future due to the fact that this chair will become part of the regular election process.

Publications- Michelle reported that she had put together an editorial staff, and THE LINK would commence publishing again with a March 1, 1996 issue, and would be published every 2 months thereafter, submission deadline would be 1 month prior to publication date. She reported that THE LINK would be printed and mailed in Houston. She was in the process of preparing the next newsletter which would be mailed in February. She also reported that she had investigated the possibility of distributing THE LINK online from our own website and found that costs vary from \$9 to \$30 a month, with the high end providing us with our own domain name, "nla.com."

Scott and that they indicated there was some problem with processing the memberships at LIL. He also reported that he was updating the chapter address list.

Syd requested that the EC consider lowering Canadian due to \$30.00 in light of the fact that the Toronto chapter had assumed the responsibility for distributing THE LINK to Canadian members. The matter was referred to new business.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. LIL X- Mark submitted a written Income & Expenses statement for LIL X (Exhibit 3 attached hereto) showing that NLA/I made a profit at LIL for the first time in many years. Mark noted that \$4,249.00 of profit was used to retire outstanding LIL IX debt, the brokerage fees and D. Scribner LIL expenses.

2. NLA:BC - Spencer reported that BC had disaffiliated from NLA/I sometime ago but was still using the name NLA/BC. She indicated that there was some dissension in Vancouver. Syd read a letter from NLA:Toronto, Female Co-Chair, Paris Sea, indicating concern the former NLA/BC chapter use of the name NLA:Canada and the lack of Canadian protection for the NLA name; she requested EC action. Mark stated that the BC people had indicated to him that they were going to change their name in February.

Discussion. The Co-Chairs directed Spencer to send BC people a cease and desist letter concerning the NLA name.

Tony moved that EC support plan as outlined in the Toronto letter and to appoint Syd and Spencer as the incorporation committee. Second, Don.

Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote one abstention. Syd and Spencer stated they would report back at the next meeting.

Tony moved that the council authorize the appropriation \$300 US to be used for name search and incorporation in Canada. Second, Dean.

Discussion. Question called. Motion pass by unanimous vote.

3. Tri-States Chapter in Formation-Bill moved to reject the application to form a new chapter in the New York area to be known as the Tri-States Chapter. Second, Syd. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The secretary was directed to send a notification letter.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Policies & Procedures- Jim submitted written copies of the existing due waiver policy and procedure and a proposed revision thereof (Exhibit 4, A&B, attached hereto). Jim moved to adopt the proposed policy and procedure entitled "Policy and Procedure for Dues Waiver - Individual Request". Second, Tony. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Travel Motion Jan requested that: Whereas gender parity is fundamental to NLA/I leadership I move that Co-chairs of NLA/I are always offered free travel and tickets to LIL (and back) in that year (or what ever year money is available). Discussion. Tony moved that the travel motion be accepted and that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee for implementation based upon our financial condition. Second, Vi. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Code of Ethics-Jan requested that the proposed "Code of Ethics" be published in the Link for review and comment. The Council agreed.

4. NLA Florida-Vi sent a letter offering to help chapters at end of year. On 1/5/96 NLA/FLA called. They never received confirmation of status or any other information from NLA/I and are holding NLA/I dues in escrow. This is first contact with NLA/FLA and she is worried that there maybe other chapters in the same boat. She suggests that the information book be sent out to new chapters within 30 to 45 days of acceptance. The officers agreed to send a letter of apology to FLA.

5. Chapter Formation Book-Dean. Sent handbooks to all EC members, and has received some additions from Toronto and Spencer. Estimated printing cost 20.00. Tony moved to approve chapter handbooks subject to review by publicity and policy and procedures committees. Second Bill. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. AOL Proposal-K.T. requested that the Council consider her proposal for going on-line to facilitate intra-council communication. Bill moved that NLA/I appropriate sufficient funds to pay the basic subscription cost for each EC member at the rate of 9.95 per month. Second, Jan. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Web Site-Don moved that NLA/I to establish Website with the domain name, "NLA.com" at cost \$29 a month. Second, Jan. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote with 1 abstention.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

8. Canadian Dues-Syd moved to lower NLA/I dues for Canadian members to \$30.00 and to reimburse Canadian members who had overpaid their renewal dues with a credit for next years dues to be granted on the production of a receipt showing an overpayment of this years dues. Second, Tony. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Anniversary of TES to be delivered to TES during the anniversary conference, and that \$50.00 be appropriated for the purchase price. Second, Vi. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

## IO. LIL XI

A. Date Problem - K.T. reported that due to an error in communication the Conference Center reserved the venue for the first weekend in October rather than Columbus day weekend. After discussion the EC concluded that even though the present date conflicted with Delta we had to go ahead on that date as the only other choice was to cancel LIL entirely.

B. Change in Format- K.T. reported that the LIL package would provide Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner. The Saturday dinner would be combined with an awards and entertainment show. An early arrivals dinner would be offered Thursday for an additional cost, and the Sunday brunch would be canceled.

Jim moved to accept K.T. recommendations for the LIL format. Second, Jan. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

C. Proposed LIL budget - K.T. reported that she had not completed work on the LIL budget. The matter was tabled until the Spring meeting.

D. Open LIL Committee Positions - The EC discussed the open LIL chair positions requiring EC approval.

Tony moved to confirm the appointments of: Jeff Heness as LIL Publicity Director; Irwin Kane as DungeonMaster, with Kelly and Elaine as his local assistants; and Don Bastian as entertainment chair. Second, Bill. Discussion. Question called. Motion passed by unanimous vote with one abstention.

E. NLA Titleholders - The EC discussed question of whether or not the Mr. & Mrs. NLA/I should be scrapped due to an apparent lack of interest. Several alternative ideas were discussed, no formal motions were made. The matter was tabled for further action at the Spring Meeting.

## Comments & Announcements

Tony suggests that NLA/I send a letter to all former NLA/BC members and all western Canadian members explaining what happened in BC, he also suggested a special press release to all leather groups in Canada containing the same explanation.

Spencer stated she would investigate trademarking the NLA name in US.

Tony stated he had discovered several roll of undeveloped film in his NLA files and was directed by Chair to have them developed.

Bill Schmeling and Janet Ryan were suggested as potential coordinators of a LIL art show. K.T. and Jan said they would contact and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Tony reminded the Council that it needed to select a keynote speaker for LIL, and that it should think of someone who is a dynamic speaker that the members will want to hear. Pat Califa and Kelly Beaton were suggested.

Dean asked the Council members to keep him apprised of their travel plans so he could notify local chapters.

## NEXT MEETING

The spring meeting was scheduled for April 13, 1996 at 12 noon PST. Deadline for agenda items and nominations is set at March 15, 1996.

## ADJOURNMENT

K.T. moved to adjourn the Winter meeting, Second, Bill. Question called. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM. PST

Respectfully Submitted,  
Philip Swenson, Secretary

## POTENTIAL CHAPTERS SPRING UP!

There may be a new chapter or two or there or more in the next several months. If you are in one of the following areas that does not have a chapter and would be interested in getting involved in the formation and organization of a new chapter contact Dean Waldradt, Chapter Chairs Committee Representative at: 710 -A Fairview Houston Texas 77006-2806 with your name and contact information. He'll forward it to those organizing the potential chapter or contact you with information.

Since October Viola Johnson, Chapter Liaison, and Dean have fielded requests for information on forming chapters and/or are working with individuals in the following cities to form chapters. Those cities include Anchorage, Alaska; Colorado Spring Colorado; Cincinnati, Ohio; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Palm Desert, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; San Jose, California and Seattle, Washington.

Word is also out that NLA: Indianapolis is re-organizing.

NLA: Los Angeles just went through major reorganization and is coming on strong.

Good information is coming out of NLA: New England and Florida. Expect big thing from these two chapters in the near future.

NLA: Atlanta is deeply involved in the planning of Atlanta LeatherFest being held Jun 12 - 16. It will include the 1996 International Masters and slave contest and Mr. Southea Drummer/Drummer boy Contest. Also planned are workshops and seminars.

NLA: Austin has pretty well tackled the NLA:I membership data base with only a few remaining glitches that seem to spring up every once and a while.

NLA: Portland is deep in the heat of LIL XI plans (it's set for Oct. 3-6).

NLA: Dallas members have taken on the editorship of this very publication while NLA: Houston is in charge of printing and distribution for all US and International members while NLA: Toronto is in charge of printing and distribution to all Canadian members.

NLA: Columbus is developing a data base for the NLA: International Speakers Bureau (Speakers Bureau is a list of names, contact information and areas of knowledge and expertise of members who are willing to speak at events, seminars, workshops, colleges and other forums in relationship to the BDSM/leather community and lifestyles. Chapters should assemble their own list and submit them to NLA: Columbus ASAP.

Finally; the LIL X registrations with NLA:I memberships included on them have been located and memberships are being processed by NLA: Austin. Those who joined NLA through their LIL X membership received the last newsletter as well as this one and by May 1 if not before will have confirmation of their NLA:I membership (membership cards)!

NLA chapters are growing, NLA: International is growing and I'm excited. Please contact Viola or myself with information on your chapter and be sure to put both of us on your chapter's mailing list including newsletters.

Dean Waldradt  
Chapter Rep.  
NLA: I EC

## Treasurer's Report

The link staff did not receive a treasurer's report from David Hofenbacker. Next issue will have both reports in it.

Michelle

THIS ARTICLE IS A COMPILATION OF POSTINGS ON THE MAILING LIST NLA-FRIENDS.

Unfortunately we go to press before the next court date, if you would like to keep up with this and have Internet access there are web sites listed in the article where you may get current updates.

NOTE: Because the fate of the children is still uncertain, the names of the parents, their friend and the police detective in charge of the case have been changed and the location is being withheld at their lawyer's request. The names of the sponsors have not been changed.

THE SITUATION...

Selina and Steven Houghton's two children were taken away by a county child protection agency in early January and the couple was falsely accused of child abuse because of an SM video tape stolen from their home.

An ex-friend with a grudge against them broke into their home and stole a video tape and pictures showing Steven playing with Selina on a St. Andrews cross. Although the children were not in the video or the pictures, the tape, the pictures and false allegations were given to the local police.

Lieutenant Bernard, the detective in charge of the investigation, recently prompted the prosecution of another man being falsely accused of sexual child abuse. The man was acquitted of all charges, but his life as a teacher in the community was destroyed and he was forced to move away.

Upon viewing the Houghton's tape, Bernard made a series of searches of the couples' home, each time pushing the county's child protection agency to remove the two children, a twelve year old girl and a six year old boy, from their home.

One of the involved case workers for the child protection agency reported that they found no evidence of child abuse and recommended that the children be returned to their home, but Bernard made threats about creating negative publicity for the agency and the agency management caved in to his demands. Recent bad press and allegations of child protective agency neglect in New York City prompted this agency to be unusually sensitive to the detective's pressure. Though the agency's subsequent investigation and counseling sessions with the children revealed no child abuse and they have repeatedly reported the Houghton's home as being a stable, caring environment, the couple's children remain in foster care after three months.

Having completed their investigation, the child protection agency tried again to return the children to their home in early March. On the day the children were to be released, a close family friend, whom we will call Tom Davis, with Robert Dante (publisher of Boudoir Noir magazine), his wife Mary Dante (1995 Ms. NLA-I title holder and recipient of numerous awards by the leather community), Philip Miller and Molly Devon (authors of "Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns") were on hand to support the Houghtons and offer testimony about the SM lifestyle, if necessary. But Lt. Bernard surprised the group as they walked out of the elevator in the courthouse, arresting the Houghtons and charging them with misdemeanors.

Selina and Steven spent the day in jail while their friend, Davis tapped his every financial reserve to obtain bail money. The Dantes, Miller and Devon worked to contact attorneys and seek advice. At the Bernard's prompting, bail was requested at \$7,000. He knew of the couple's financial problems. Clearly, he wanted them to stay in jail. Bail was reduced to \$4,000. This is still an unusually high figure for misdemeanors; another municipal judge had advised that bail might be set as high as \$1,500. Fortunately, Davis had raised sufficient funds to cover the bail and the Houghtons were released that night.

Lt. Bernard is obviously determined to bury Selina and Steven, even at the expense of their children. He had secured a warrant for their arrest over a month before their court date, but chose that day in order to stall the children's release. Davis handled a heartbreaking phone call from the Houghton's daughter, explaining that her parents had been jailed and that she would not be allowed to come home.

Bernard tried unsuccessfully to remove the prosecutor from the case because he had recommended the release of the children. However, further pressure from Bernard may force the children to endure another year separated from their parents, home and friends. Juvenile detectives are given considerable power in these cases. Clearly, Lt. Bernard has abused this at every turn of the case.

The false accusations have devastated the Houghton's life. Because of them, both lost their jobs, they've been thrown out of their home and have had to sell everything they owned in order to pay for their defense. They are looking for jobs in a hostile environment and are scraping to get by.

Still, their further defense in court will cost thousands.

UPDATE: POLICE SEIZE HOUGHTONS' BOOKS AND VIDEOTAPES...

Three detectives served a search warrant on the Houghtons' home in New York State on April 4 and seized books, magazines and videotapes to buttress their charges that the Houghtons assaulted and neglected their children and subjected them to reckless endangerment.

The search warrant stated police were looking for "SM videos, paraphernalia and photographs." The seized items were: two issues of Boudoir Noir, one copy of "Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns," one Heavy Metal magazine, one copy of "Claiming of Sleeping Beauty" by Ann Rice, one copy of "Different Loving," one copy of "Women's Rites," one copy of "9-1/2 Weeks," and 87 videotapes (mostly their children's videos, including several Disney titles, and one locally rented adult videotape titled "Striptease"). Police went through all of the Houghtons' photographs of their children, but no photographs were seized.

the initial laying of charges. This action indicates this police department may feel that if you have a sex life, you are unfit to be parents. None of the seized material is illegal. None of these SM-specific material taken (except for Ann Rice's Beauty book and "9-1/2 Weeks best-sellers from major publishing houses) shows anything other than safe, sane, mutual consensual SM/fetish practices. All the material is easily available at any well-stocked magazine or book store.

The threat is very real and very deadly! Any of us could have to face the same horrific experience. Another family in Dade County, Florida is coping with a similar situation; the father there continues to serve an eight year prison sentence, though his accuser has repeatedly tried to recant her testimony. Society is suffering under a "where there's smoke, there's fire" delusion that defines SM as one partner abusing the other, therefore the must be abusing their children, as well. We cannot let an ignorant and uncaring system destroy this family without inviting the same abuse of our own rights.

UPDATE: APRIL 15, 1996

The Houghtons were told today the original prosecutor in their family court case has been replaced by a new prosecutor due to pressure exerted by the arresting detective.

Lt. "Bernard," a detective in a city's juvenile department, intervened at the county level the Houghtons were told, because he felt the original prosecutor had not pursued the case correctly since a plea bargain had been offered to the Houghtons (before they could either accept or reject, they were arrested on criminal charges by the detective).

They have further been told the detective intends to testify against their fitness as parents at their family court hearing on May 1, when custody of the children will be decided. The children have been in foster care for four months.

The Houghtons have not been charged with child abuse, and the only evidence for their criminal charges (negligence, reckless endangerment and assault) are based on a home made videotape of the Houghtons (both consenting adults) playing at a dungeon party in another state. Their children are not in the videotape.

The Houghtons will be in court to answer the criminal charges on April 23. Robert and Mary Dante (Boudoir Noir's co-publishers), Philip Miller and Molly Devon (co-authors of "Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns"), and George Morrell (president, Tri-state Couple Club) will be on hand to observe the proceedings and to offer support to the Houghtons.

BOUDOIR NOIR ORGANIZES LEGAL DEFENSE FUND...

You can send donations to the following address:

THE BOUDOIR NOIR DEFENSE FUND  
Box 5, Stn. F  
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2L4

Make checks payable to "Boudoir Noir Defense Fund"; an accounting of all donations and disbursements will be provided on request, with the names of individual donors withheld for privacy. Companies' names will be made available. BOUDOIR NOIR Defense Fund now dedicated solely to the Houghton's legal fund. All donations go directly to the attorneys and will be indicated on our web site with a running tally. Please indicate if you wish to be identified by name, otherwise "anonymous" will be used.

An updated tally of donations to the legal defense fund will be kept on BOUDOIR NOIR World Wide Web Site at <http://www.the-wire.com/boudoir.noir>.

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN SEXUALITY JOINS THE FRAY...

Society for Human Sexuality is also collecting donations to assist the Houghtons. If you would like your donation to be in the name of SHS (so our whole organization can show its support), then mail a check made out to "Society for Human Sexuality" to the following address:

University of Washington  
Society for Human Sexuality  
SAO 141  
Box 352238  
Seattle, WA 98195

Be sure to enclose a little note saying that your contribution is for the Boudoir Noir Defense Fund, so we don't think that it's a donation to Society for Human Sexuality instead. We'll donate all money received with such a note directly to the Boudoir Noir Defense Fund described above.

Society for Human Sexuality is planning several fund-raisers of its own, so stay tuned to the Society for Human Sexuality electronic mailing list and WWW page at: <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~sfps/> for announcements.

PUBLIC FIGURES RALLY...

Support is coming in from all over the U.S. and Canada. Joining Robert and Mary Dante in Toronto, Philip Miller of New Jersey and Molly Devon of Connecticut as supporters of the Houghton's defense effort are:

(Continued from page 8)

GUY BALDWIN, MsW of San Francisco, author of "The Ties That Bind" and counselor in the leather community

RACE BANNON of San Francisco, author of "Learning the Ropes," and well-known leather community activist

JOHN WARREN, Ph.D. of Boston, author of "The Loving Dominant" and "Safe, Sane, Consensual and Fun" and sysop of the Boston Dungeon Society BBS

CHARLES WALKER of New Jersey, sysop of The English Palace BBS

COMMUNITY LEADERS WEIGH IN...

"There is nothing uglier than a personal vendetta being played out in a public court—at the taxpayer's expense!—unless it's when a small-time prosecutor seeks to profit politically from that ugliness. To separate parents from their children in the name of morality is the grossest form of hypocrisy. To claim that people who are sexually different make unfit parents is pure ignorance."

— Gloria Brame, author of "Different Loving," former university professor, journalist (Cosmopolitan, Working Woman)

"Thanks for posting information about vindictive police harassment of SM parents. Sounds like a case on which to clarify for the public as well as police and judiciary some facts-of-life about responsible SM lifestyles. I trust your fund will provide necessary cash to fight and win against pseudo-moralistic ignorance and prejudice."

— Jim Stewart, owner of Fetters, international author and playwright

"I am shocked and outraged that this persecution on the basis of consensual sexual behavior would take place in a country that holds itself as an example of personal freedom to the rest of the world."

— John Warren, Ph.D., sysop of BDS BBS, author of "The Loving Dominant"

"Who could have guessed that the price of other people's fear about human sexual expression might include losing one's children?"

— Guy Baldwin, MsW., former leather title holder, author

"How many Lieutenant Bernards are out there looking to make a name for themselves by capitalizing on society's fears? Winning cases like the Houghton's will help us stop these witch hunts."

— Molly Devon, co-author "Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns"

"The night the Houghtons were released from jail, Selina could barely speak, yet her face told me more than I wanted to know. Wherever she looked she found anguish and loneliness had replaced her children. Even looking at her husband offered no solace, reminding her that she may soon lose him to prison. I could not help but think of my own family. I've never felt more powerless, more angry nor more deeply touched by anything in my life."

— Philip Miller, co-author "Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns"

CURRENTLY PLANNED FUND-RAISERS...

The Houghtons will be at The Vault in New York City April 20 to talk about their case. The English palace BBS is sponsoring a Fetish Flea Market to help the Houghtons raise money for their legal defense.

John Warren, Ph.D., sysop of the Boston Dungeon Society BBS, will have a fund-raiser on May 4. For information, write to POB 35737, Brighton, MA 02135; or Telnet to 206.119.103.1; or just phone (617) 787-7426; or visit their web site at WWW: <http://bdsbbs.tiac.net>

Boudoir Noir will sponsor two video showings in May at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto to assist the Houghtons. Details will be posted in a few days.

Special note to clubs -- if you are willing to sponsor a fund-raiser for this cause, BOUDOIR NOIR will donate copies of its magazine and 8x10 glossies from the centre photo spread. Call (416) 591-2387.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Philip Miller, (908) 291-9213 - E-mail [brother@palace.com](mailto:brother@palace.com)  
Robert Dante, (416) 591-2387; Fax (416) 591-1572  
or...

BOUDOIR NOIR, non-fiction Leather-Fetish-Consensual SM Magazine. Box 5, Stn. F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2L4. Ph. (416) 591-2387; Fax (416) 591-1572; E-mail [boudoir@the-wire.com](mailto:boudoir@the-wire.com). Member Canadian Magazine Publishers Association. World Wide Web Site at <http://www.the-wire.com/boudoir.noir>.

For complete background information, see web page at: <http://www.the-wire.com/boudoir.noir/fund>

A link to it has added to the Unofficial TES Home page: <http://www.mcsp.com/tes/toc.html>

The Web Page also announce another fund-raiser in Boston for May 4. Contact John Warren at the Boston Dungeon Society for details. (617)787-7426 or visit their web site at: <http://bdsbbs.tiac.net>

NLA: Columbus (Ohio) does plan to be financially supportive of the parents in the NY case. We meet 4/13. Jan Co-chair

As regards the NLA New England stand on the case, I have forwarded the information to our board and will bring it up before our chapter meeting April 20th. I have also written to Robert Dante in hopes that we may coordinate our July Fetish Fair Flea market (the largest leather/SM/fetish event in New England) with a fund-raiser. We are all personally outraged and saddened by the events, but even sadder to say, I don't fit myself surprised to hear it.

Beyond raising money for the Houghtons, what other steps can we take? As many of you know, we recently had a case here in Cambridge, MA of a mother's custody of her child being threatened by nude photos she took of him for a class project at Harvard. We were unable to do much in that case (in the end she was convicted not for anything relating to child pornography but for resisting arrest and damage of property that resulted when she fought the detectives who tried to separate her from her child). What can we do here?

Some ideas:

- 1) We can educate our members about the case.
  - 2) We can research the legal status of s/m and previous case law in our respective state and local areas and share that information with our chapter members.
  - 3) We can continue to spread the idea to the general public that S/M is not abuse, that it is part of a healthy sex life and not a threat to a child's well-being.
- ctan

TPE has several fund raising ideas. We are thinking of holding a fund raising luncheon with matching funds, of donating a portion of each subscription sold for a period of time, and of auctioning items at the next TPE party. If anyone has items to donate towards the latter, please contact [carol@tpe.com](mailto:carol@tpe.com) or [sparkle@tpe.com](mailto:sparkle@tpe.com). The next party a fashion show theme, so fetish wear would be best, but anything scene related would be welcome. You can choose to donate all or a portion of the proceeds from auctioning your donation, which will also be modeled before sale.

NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL EC OFFICIAL RESPONSE

The National Leather Association International is outraged by the actions taken by both Child Protection Services and the detective involved in the Houghton case. NLA is strongly committed to defending individuals within our community whose freedom is threatened because they are expressing their right as consenting adults to engage in leather, s/m, fetish activities. In our opinion from the evidence presented, the Houghton's civil liberties have been violated. NLA-I demands that the courts return the Houghton's children to them, all pending charges be dropped and the state make financial restitution to this family whose life has been ruined.

We call on local Chapters, Leather S/M, Fetish Organizations and individuals to unite and send a strong message that our community will no longer be victimized by the legal system. We will not tolerate the use of storm trooper tactics by police to intimidate and ruin the lives of innocent law-abiding citizens. Our message must be clear that when one member of our leather, s/m, fetish family is unlawfully attacked, the response from the community will be immediate. Keeping with our Statement of Purpose, NLA-I will facilitate fund raising for the legal defense fund established to assist the Houghtons. We ask every member of the leather S/M Fetish community to become involved in this endeavor in their own city.

NLA: International

# NEWS FROM TORONTO

# NLA Chapter events for May and June

Reporting on NLA:Toronto events is like picking which stars get to be constellations. When I and fellow co-chair Ian Turner went on the air for CIUT, the University of Toronto radio station, it was clear that amid the many lights of Toronto's expanding scene, the Chapter is growing very bright. Besides our general meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month (at the 519 Church St. Community Centre) we have a broad array of other activities as part of our commitment to outreach and activism.

The Chapter is continuing its free public educational workshops on the fourth Saturday of every month. In January, we shared tips on "How to Plan a Successful Play Party". A panel discussion in February on "Moral Dilemmas" opened avenues for exploring controversial topics from a variety of perspectives. "Ropeless Bondage" was an off-the-cuff and on-with-the-cuffs presentation in March with lots of audience participation. Workshops on "Play Party Etiquette", "Temperature Trips", and "Taking the Plunge" (Coming out and getting into the Leather/SM/fetish network) will lead our community from spring into summer. Workshops are held at The Toolbox, 508 Eastern Avenue.

Spring and summer will have most members moving more outdoors. We'll be playing Qzar (tag with lasers) in April, and hosting a dinner May 5th. Pride celebrations will take place the last week in June, culminating with the parade Sunday, June 30. NLA:Toronto welcomes all leatherfolk visiting from around the corner or more distant parts to join our contingent. Later, on July 14, we're heading to Toronto Island for fresh air, a picnic lunch, and lots of space for the whip handlers among us.

The Chapter has been extending its hands to other groups in our area. On a political front, we continue to be a member of the Coalition to Reform the Bawdy House Laws - laws which leave us vulnerable in Canada to being arrested if undefined "acts of indecency" are carried out in our bars, our playspaces, and even our homes. We've also

donated \$100 toward the Aids Committee of Toronto's Safer SM Workshops. Each month our own newsletter, The Flogger, spreads word of our activities to our members and friends throughout the NLA.

Perhaps the brightest accomplishment recently has been working with member Duncan McLachlan, Mr. Leatherman Toronto 1996, to bring Guy Baldwin for a weekend of events, March 29-31. NLA: Toronto co-sponsored two workshops on relationships; the first explored Kinky Relationships and the second focused on Master-Slave Relationships. The weekend continued with a brunch in Guy's honour at The Toolbox, and his presentation, with the Safer SM Project, of Whip Dynamics. Few would not agree that this workshop surpassed the level of a demonstration and opened up an unprecedented intimacy in the Toronto community. The fellowship of Guy was a most appreciated gift, and the whole Chapter extends its thanks to Guy's master for his generous loan of his wise and talented slave.

NLA: Toronto can be contacted by calling : (416) 604-4882

or writing to:  
Box 98, 268 Parliament Street,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5A 3A4.

We welcome visitors of all safe, sane, consensual perversions!  
Paris Elizabeth Sea  
Co-Chair, NLA: Toronto

NLA: Atlanta  
PO Box 7941  
Atlanta, Ga. 30357-7941

Atlanta Leatherfest 96  
June 12th - 16th  
for info contact  
Jack Stice 1-800-841-0178

NLA: Houston  
PO Box 66553  
Houston, Texas 77266-6553

Guest bartender at Venture N May 10th & 24th  
Workshop, guest bartender, Pacific St. May 18th  
Guest bartender at Venture N June 7th  
Leather Pride Weekend June 22

NLA: Austin  
PO Box 49801  
Austin Texas 78765

Texas Leather Pride (May 2nd - 4th)  
Meeting/Program May 20th  
Meeting/Elections June 17th

NLA: Los Angeles  
7985 Santa Monica Blvd. 109-217  
West Hollywood California 90046

No information submitted

NLA: Columbus  
PO Box 2763  
Columbus Ohio 43216

No information submitted.

NLA: Metro New York  
PO Box 488 Triborough Station  
New York, New York 10035-0488

13th Annual Leather Pride Night  
June 22nd

NLA: Dallas  
PO Box 7597  
Dallas Texas 75209-7597

Meeting/Program May 7th  
Meeting/Program June 5th

NLA: New England  
831 Beacon St.  
Newton Center, MA. 02159-1822

No information submitted.

NLA: Deaf International  
PO Box 30286  
Columbus Ohio 43230

No information submitted.

NLA: Portland  
PO Box 5161  
Portland Oregon 97208

No information submitted.

NLA: Detroit  
PO Box 2844  
Southfield Michigan. 48037-2844

No information submitted.

NLA: Toronto  
Box 98, 268 Parliament Str.  
Toronto, ON. M5A-3A4 Canada

Dinner May 5th  
Meetings May 8th & June 12th  
Workshops May 25th & June 22nd  
Pride week June 17th - June 22

NLA: Florida  
PO Box 4911  
Ft. Lauderdale Florida 33338-4911

No information submitted.

NLA: International  
3439 N.E. Sandy Boulevard #155  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Current project  
LIL XI set for October

If any of the above contact information is incorrect or incomplete please send updated information to the editor. Also if you have a phone # or Email address please forward that information also.

## GOOD NEWS! BY VI JOHNSON

GOOD NEWS...

GOOD NEWS...The NLA chapters in the state of Texas are really jumpin'. NLA:Dallas has recently signed up 20 new members. NLA:Austin is working hard on their up coming premier event...Texas Leather Pride. NLA:Houston is preparing for leather fun in April with Spring Iniquity. What a state...

GOOD NEWS...The first anniversary dinner of the Seattle Eagle is coming up in June. All those who can, should stop by and say hello.

GOOD NEWS...Our Female Co-Chair is one of the nominees for the Leather Emerald Awards given by Washington State's leather community. Good luck K.T. and speaking of awards...

GOOD NEWS...The NLA was well represented at this years Pantheon of Leather Awards. The list of nominee's read like a "Who's Who" of the national and international leather community. Among our proud winners...Bill Costomiris and Jack Stice, South East regional. Dean Walradt, South Central Regional. Jan Hall, Midwest Regional. Paris Sea, Canadian Regional. Aubrey Hart Sparks, Community Service Award. Our former Co-Chair Judy Tallwing McCarthy, Forebearers Award. (forgive me pleaaaase, if I left anyone out)

GOOD NEWS...Some gorgeous men from the very large (sorry Texas) state of Alaska are talking about forming a chapter of NLA in Anchorage.

GOOD NEWS... Some folks from Palm Desert, Calif. are talking NLA out there.

GOOD NEWS...The folks from NLA:Toronto are not just raising money for worthy causes, they are raising awareness as well with their well attended seminars. Way to go folks.

Send me those newsletters. Drop me a line with GOOD NEWS...

VI

(Continued from page 5)

A. An attorney should prepare your Will. You should know the objectives you wish to have carried out by the terms of your Will before you meet with your lawyer.

### DIRECTIVE TO PHYSICIANS

Sometimes these are also called "Living Wills". The purpose of this document is for you to make known your desires regarding medical care if you should become terminally ill or injured. It will cover what types of treatment you will and will not accept, what life extension methods you prefer and in what circumstances you wish to have life support systems removed.

### FUTURE DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

This document allows you to designate who will make medical decisions for you in the event you become incompetent or incapacitated. It stays in effect only for the period of time that you are incompetent or incapacitated.

### FUTURE DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

This document will ensure that your chosen family will be the one(s) to make crucial financial decisions and asset management for you if you become incapacitated or incompetent.

Furthermore, the Power of Attorney will give you the opportunity to nominate a guardian of your person and estate should a guardian ever become necessary.

### HOSPITAL VISITATION AUTHORIZATION

Many people in the SM community are creating family in new forms and those forms may not be recognized by service providers like hospitals. A hospital visitation authorization can make clear who you want to be able to visit you in the hospital under any circumstance and also, who you wish to exclude from visitation.

Last but not least - leatherfolk are notorious for having lots of toys, equipment and clothing. Ensuring that these items are taken care of and properly distributed can be of vital importance to you. You may not want parents or siblings seeing these things or disposing of them. I suggest to clients that they find someone they trust completely, give that person a written list of instructions in the event of illness, accident or death about how the toys/equipment/clothes are to be dealt with and make sure they have access to the toys/equipment/clothes.

Don't delay in taking your estate planning seriously. It needn't be a cumbersome process but it can help ease things for your family in the event of illness, accident or death.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Female Co-Chair [ ]

Treasurer [ ]

Member at Large [ ]

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Biography (50 words or less) \_\_\_\_\_ Please send nominations to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SPENCER BERGSTEDT  
6711 12TH NW  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98117

Remember all ballots must be received by May 30th 1996

3439 NE Sandy Blvd # 155  
Portland, Oregon 97232

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**DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED**