

Special Elections and Chapters news.

**THE
LINK**

Special Election for Female Co-Chair

Dean Walradt, Chapter Rep./ Elections Chair

As announced in the last issue of THE LINK, the EC called a special elections to fill the position of female Co-Chair. The 1996 election of NLA:I officers found the position without a candidate. KT Chase, out-going Co-Chair agreed to remain in the position until a replacement could be elected. The winner of the special election is expected to take office at the spring EC meeting (yet to be scheduled).

Nominations were closed December 15th, with two candidates nominated. Both individuals have met all requirements to be a candidate. Nominated were Jan Hall of Columbus, Ohio and Michelle Harris of Dallas, Texas (see candidates biographies on page 2 of this issue of THE LINK). The two individual members making the nominations also met all requirements of membership.

The Elections and Credentials Committee is composed of Glenn Scott, Membership Chair, Mark Frazier, male Co-Chair and Dean Waldradt, Elections Chair. Ballots (enclosed in this newsletter) are due back to the Elections Committee (a self-adhesive address label is stapled to the ballot for your convenience) by April 1, 1997. Attach the mailing label to an envelope, add correct postage, enclose completed ballot and drop in mail. Ballots should be mailed to:

Elections Committee
C/o Mark Frazier
4777 Cedar Springs Rd. #6N
Dallas, Texas 75219

Mark Frazier will count the number of ballots received, then forward them unopened to committee member Glenn Scott who will open and complete the first tally of the votes. Ballots will then be forwarded to to Committee Chair who will complete the final tally, confirm number of ballots received with the other committee members and notify the EC via NLA:I EC secretary, Phil Swenson of the results. Candidates will be notified by the Committee Char of the results by both telephone and mail. All ballots will then go to the secretary for the archives.

If you did not receive a ballot in your copy of THE LINK, please check your mailing label. If your NLA:I membership date (date above your name on the label) shows an expiration date of anything prior to 1/1/97 you did not receive a ballot. Instead you received an Application for renewal of membership to NLA:I. If your records show that the date is wrong, please contact Committee Chair Dean Walradt ASAP by phone/fax at 1-214-520-3248. You may be asked to mail or fax verification of your correct membership (canceled check, etc.). Once the correct date is verified by the committee a ballot will be mailed to you. We apologize if this causes any inconvenience, and thank you for your patience and cooperation. Mailing labels were produced around December 12th with the latest information available at the time.

**Meet your Chapter Rep.
Dean Walradt**

The Father of a 21 yo daughter and 22 yo son, Dean had resided in Houston TX. for 19 year till his move to Dallas the latter part of 1996. For 13 years he was a manager of McDonalds restaurants. He came out as a gay man in 1982, divorced and settled down with a first lover for 9 years. His venture into leather started with a leather baseball cap, then chaps, then a part-time job at Leather by Boots' Ripcord bar shop one night a week. His venturing into leather in early 1991 coincided with the ending of his relationship and receiving custody of his children.

Summer 1990, the first forming meeting of an NLA chapter in Houston took place followed with chapter status granted in January 1991 and charter issued in May 1991. His whole intent in starting a chapter was to counter the negative stereotypes that were generating around an existing men's heavy BDSM play club. LIL VI in Chicago was his first ever. He went as staff volunteer and competed in the Mr NLA contest. It was his first exposure to some of the legends of the leather community including Viola Johnson, a judge for the contest that year. By the time he returned to Chicago for LIL VII as a vendor for Leather By Boots, NLA:Houston had 55 members and was the largest chapter. As an active chapter interested in hosting LIL VIII, the wheel was set in motion for 1993.

In July 1992 he won the first Mr. Texas Drummer contest, a preliminary to Gulf Coast Drummer. Against 7 contestants he carried away he first title and sash. Though he didn't win Gulf Coast in 1993 recognition came quickly as Host Chapter Committee Chair, Staff Whip and unofficial Assistant Direction for LIL VIII, named "Club Event of the Year" at the 1994 Pantheon of Leather Awards Weekend. In January of 1994, he was offered the position of Director of LIL IX set for the first time outside the US in Toronto, Canada.

1994 saw Dean as the point person for Pantheon of Leather held in Houston, a judge for the International Mr. Leather contest, and Dean with husband of one year Glenn, attended their first IML making a side trip to Toronto for a preconference visit.

(Continued on page 8)

CHAPTER UPDATES

For good news individuals in Alaska and Hawaii are in the process of forming chapters. Look for both groups to attain chapter -in-formation status the first of the year. Both groups have some dynamic individuals involved in their organizing and I look forward to some great things happening.

For the 6th year in a row NLA:Houston's project "Toy Drive for Kids with HIV/AIDS" wrapped up with an increase in both toys and funds collected. Toy Drive Chairman "kneel" NLA:H Presidents Mike Geinzer's slave, reported \$1200+ was collected through collection jars and 2 shows put on by The Royal, Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star. The Court has been a strong supported of the drive since 1991. Contributions also came in from the Rainbow Rangers and the Lady Victoria Lust Holiday PWA Fund. Benefactors of this years drive were the Loving Arms Foundation and Houston's PWA Coalitions.

NLA:Dallas has announced a terrific educational program calendar for 1997. Hats off to Program Chair Mike S. for his work on the schedule (see page 11 for details). Under the Chairship of Hardy Haberman and Lynda Blakeslee it looks like the NLA:Dallas chapter will continue to grow and prosper.

inside...

**Houghton case update
Statement from the Co-Chairs
NLA:I EC minutes
Good News**

page 2

**page 3
pages 6-7
page 10**

Houghton Criminal Case Over

The criminal case against Steve and Selina Houghton is over.

The Houghtons, facing five charges including two assault charges, accepted a desperate offer made by the District Attorney in which Selina Houghton pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct (without specifying what it was), and Steve Houghton pleaded guilty to one count of endangering the welfare of a minor, a Class E misdemeanor, also without defining the specifics of the charge.

The judge stipulated on the record that neither parent would receive jail terms. The Houghtons' attorneys said Selina will probably receive a small fine and Steve will probably receive a fine and community service. Both parents were ordered to continue to receive family counseling. Formal sentencing was Dec. 20.

The Houghtons' two children were removed from their home last January after police received a copy of a videotape showing Steve and Selina Houghton engaging in consensual SM at a dungeon party. The tape, made in a bordering state, did not show the Houghtons' children, who were at home with a family member baby sitting. Police and the Child Protection Services removed the children solely because the parents were seen as people who enjoyed SM with each other.

The resolution of the criminal case clears the way for the Houghtons to continue their fight to regain parental rights in family court. Attorneys planned to file custody petitions immediately, Steve Houghton said.

In family court recently, the judge appointed a second law guardian for the children. In court, the two children's second law guardian was critical of the behavior of the first law guardian and expressed her belief the children would better served by returning them to their parents.

A Children's Protective Services representative also was highly critical of the way the case was pursued, noting for the record that the children would probably need therapy after being removed from their home for nearly a year. Several psychologists have already testified that the Houghtons are loving, capable parents and that their two children, ages 7 and 12, should be returned to them.

Steve Houghton said he ironically did endanger his children by asking a family member to baby-sit them while he and his wife went out of town for three nights. It was on this trip that the daughter was shown pictures from the stolen videotape in which Steve and Selina were filmed playing at a dungeon party the year before. She was told this was evidence her father was abusing her mother nonconsensually on a regular basis.

As part of the plea bargain brokered by his attorneys, Steve was permitted to read the following statement into the court records: "On or before 1993, I made a sexually explicit adult video. This video was kept in a locked, secure box. At some point, this security was compromised and the tape and other items were removed. I was in no way responsible for either of my children being exposed to such material. However, I must accept responsibility for it being in my house. My daughter has repeatedly stated that two family members and a former friend led her to, showed her or told her about sexually explicit material, such as videos or pictures. I would like to add that the participants in this video, or any of the pictures, were consenting adults, and there is no reference to, or mention of, children."

The children have been in foster care since the beginning of the year. The Houghtons recently were granted weekend visitation rights, based on counselors' reports.

The Boudoir Noir Defense Fund, which coordinated donations to the Houghtons' legal bills, collected \$24,754.82 from individuals, support groups, gay and straight SM organizations and leather clubs. Without these generous donations which allowed the Houghtons to hire competent legal counsel, the Houghtons would have lost their parental rights in the first few months of their struggle and they would probably have both received jail sentences.

"We started this alone in January 1995, afraid, scared and hurt," Steve Houghton said. "We found from then until today we have more friends and more support and more people who care than we ever thought possible. Every person who sent a card, made a donation or offered to listen has made it possible for us to be where we are today."

While they are preparing for their day in family court, the Houghtons have restated their intention to share their experience with a larger audience in the mainstream media after they regain full custody of their children. Speaking engagements continue to be planned.

Biographies of Nominees for Female Co-Chair

Jan Hall

Jan Hall is a Midwestern sadomasochist, active in NLA:I since the early days of the SCCA (1998). She has served on NLA:I's EC and as Co-Chair of NLA:I Columbus. Her work has included domestic violence awareness, Spanner, anti-censorship, health issues, the NLA:I treasury and phone, LIL workshops, logistics for the '93 March on Washington's SM conference, education and support, outreach, and the archives.

Michelle Harris

Michelle came out into the BDSM community in '93. Since that time she has become quite active in several venues. She is Co-founder and owner of The Leather Rose Society a BDSM/Leather/Fetish Social Club in Dallas Texas, now into its 4th year. Co-produced, and Co-wrote the handbook, for The Basic Skills Course a day long set of panels geared towards the inexperienced player. She is a member of NLA: Dallas EC as member at large, presenter of workshops at the last 3 Beyond Vanilla's, facilitator of several fund raising events in Dallas, currently holds the Publication Chair of NLA:I EC, editor of THE LINK, presented several workshops at the last LIL, and hosted or participated in several education, support and outreach programs in Dallas.

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Deadline for submissions for next issue is Feb 1, 97.

Editorial Staff

Editor Michelle Harris NLA: Dallas
Printing and distribution NLA: Houston

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Photographs sent for consideration will not be returned unless accompanied by a SASE.

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

THE LINK
C/O LRS
POB 223971
Dallas Texas 75232

or

leatherrose@intex.net
subject: NLA Link
please send in plain text
UUencoding if possible.

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Female Co-Chair by K.T.Chase

Due to a tight schedule on a commission of KT's, the Female Co-Chairs report will not be available this issue.

Visa/MC put on Hold

by Mark Frazier

I have some bad news to report. After studying the Visa and Mastercard application, I felt that we were going to get screwed. After talking to KT she agreed.

The reason we will not continue negotiations with this company is:

1. A binding contract for 48 mths at 39.00 per month (1840.00)
2. Additional cost of insurance must be purchased.
3. 100.00 charge for our change of address
4. 10.00 chargeback fee for any questionable item in addition to the amount in question.
5. 4% charge for a document retrieval.
6. Min monthly charge of 25.00 (in addition to the 39.) for processing.
7. ****Sales can not exceed 1500.00 per month (what about during LIL)
8. 25.00 additional charge if chargeback is made to our account and the money is not present.
9. 2.00 per page duplicate statement copies
10. 2.5 % of all credit cards processed.

If you have any questions/concerns, please direct them to KT or myself. Talk to you all soon. This search for a CC company will continue. KT and I are looking at other options. Will keep you informed.

Mark

Chapter Announcements

NLA:Austin is pleased to present their first-ever Austin Leather Calendar.

Featuring photography by Dan McCollum with shots of several local Austin GWNN and NLA:Austin members.

Proceeds from sales of this calendar go to fund-raising for the NLA:Austin's annual convention, Texas Leather Pride, which will be held in early May, 1997.

NLA: New England now has a web site, located at <http://www.circler.com/pub/u/ctan/nlane.html>

Please make links to our site. If you would like me to add a link back to you, please e-mail me the URL at the address ctan@circler.com. I would like to have links to other NLA chapters, other resource groups, and so forth.

The site is bare bones right now, no fancy graphics or layout, but it is a start. Let me know what you think!

-ctan

Male Co-Chair

by Mark Frazier

Reflecting on 1996 and Welcoming 1997

1996 was a very eventful year for NLA-I. The year brought both happiness and sadness.

The happy times were highlighted by an EC who worked together, communicated well and harbored no personal agendas. It was the first of my two year term as Male Co-Chair. Ironically the EC that brought me much joy to work with also brought mixed feeling when these long time service members decided to step aside when their terms expired. The newly seated EC is just a energized and I count it as a blessing to NLA-I to have such dedicated members.

Last year we once again were financially sound, we produced an outstanding LIL, the chapters (our lifelines) were outstanding. Members communicated with the EC no matter if it was good or bad.

Not all the happening were good in 1996. Members continued to loose battles in life and liberty. We lost a couple of chapters because there wasn't the support in communities. Some communities had others venues to meet their needs. We may have lost a couple of chapters but we retained some of it's members because of the realization that their is belief and commitment in what we are trying to accomplish.

As we start 1997 I would like to share with you some the ambitious undertakings of the organization.

1. Election of the new female Co-Chair. We have two very qualified candidates vying for the position. Each brings with them new ideas and energy. I welcome the opportunity to serve with them. I would hope that the membership casts their votes. It only takes a minute of your time to vote.

2. Appointments and confirmations for Chairs and LIL positions

3. Submission of a five year plan. I will propose such a plan in the Jan. EC meeting. NLA-I can not continue to live year to year. We must look to the future. The purpose for the ideas and proposals is to help with our continued growth and prosperity. I can assure you that not all the ideas I propose will be generally accepted. Some are bold and would require bylaw changes and approval by the general membership. I would hope that after the proposals are submitted that you read them (it will be published in the Link following the Jan. EC meeting) and look at the reasoning behind some of the proposals. Give me your feedback.

4. Budget submission for the next year, 1998. Expenses will continue to be scrutinized. We must never allow ourselves into the financial situation that almost spelled our demise back in 1995 when I was elected Treasurer. The ENTIRE EC worked long and very hard to resolve these disasters in a favorable manner.

5. Selection of LIL sites for LIL IX, XIV, and XV. Again, we can live from year to year. We must plan for the future.

6. Elections for the Outgoing EC. Election will be held in Aug./Sept. 1997. This is a way to serve an organization which works very hard to serve you.

7. LIL XII, Columbus Day weekend 1997, the Portland Conference Center.

NLA-I will continue to be involved in numerous projects. We will make a concerted effort to increase our Membership base, reach out to our Brother/Sister Organizations and try to build and re-enforce our unity through affiliate and business memberships.

1997 will be another good year for NLA-I, I have no doubt, but we can not make this happen without you.

We need your input, we need you to volunteer and we need you to continue to give us feedback.

If you need to communicate with me, I will as in the past continue to post my name, address (note this is a new address), my phone number and my email address. I am at your service.

In Service,

Mark Frazier
Co-Chair NLA-I
4777 Cedar Springs Rd #6N
Dallas, TX 75219

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 transgenerals 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 transgenerals.

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, transgenerals, the hearing impaired, those physically challenged and other minorities who have been traditionally discriminated against or poorly represented in the Leather/SM/Fetish community.

NLA:Columbus News

All meetings at 2 pm, NW corner of Parsons and Columbus (new location).

January 12th meeting, Playing SM Trivia.

Feb. 9th meeting, Couples doing their hottest scenes.

Weekend of Feb 14th--Anything for Love conference at downtown center.

Weekend of Feb 21st--Field trip to Freeze & Sleaze in Indianapolis.

March 9th meeting, Quick and easy bondage, by Lord Vile.

Current projects:

Athena is our representative to CUFF, an umbrella group of Columbus clubs.

Jerry and Jason are preparing a booklet for NLA:I distribution on playing with the hearing impaired, with consultants Bob D. (former Mr. Deaf Leather), Daniel S. (current Mr. Deaf Leather), and Mike D. (current International Drummerboy).

Tony is working on getting the city's main library (who banned Rice's Beauty trilogy) to stock several basic nonfiction books about sm.

Art and Jerry offered violet wand treatments for cash donations at an all-city-club charity drive for Children's Hospital.

Diane, Athena, Art, Jerry, and Jan gave a 101 to Antioch College students, at their request.

Art presented a workshop on SM at an Ohio pagan festival, at their request.

Jan and Keith provided set-up assistance at the local lesbian health conference, where Jan taught safer sex techniques and provided information about lesbians and AIDS, domestic violence, and female-to-male networking.

NLA:Cols. provided monetary assistance to the conference and continues to print (at no cost) the national monthly newsletter, Lesbian Health, News, as our contribution to women's health issues.

We recently were featured on a half-hour cable TV show that aired four times. Athena promoted our club, and Molly and the late Philip Miller did a 101.

For the second year, we provided new items to be used in holiday baskets for the needy with AIDS, via AIDS Service Connection.

Jan spoke about domestic violence education at an event sponsored by the local shelter and the local assistance organization, BRAVO; also at an event with the Toronto chapter.

Jan and Kent from the Toronto chapter are writing a new brochure for the NLA Domestic Violence Education project, on practical safety when meeting others, traveling, walking to bars, etc.

We are setting up a resource center for members and chapters about SM topics, which will include a speaker's roster.

Current officers are Jerry and Jan, Co-chairs; Athena, secretary; Carlene, treas. We can be reached at 614 470 2093, PO Bx. 2763 in Columbus, OH 43216, NLAohio@aol.com

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.

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; to encourage the batterer 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 Sadoomasochism.

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

The Passing of Friends

State of the Checkbook

In Memoriam: Barry Douglas (1949-1996)

Barry Douglas of New York City died this morning, Tuesday, November 12, after several years of increasingly ill health due to HIV disease. As he had wished, the end came at home in the company of his lover and life partner, Bruce Marcus.

Barry will be remembered with affection -- or irritation, and often both -- by many in the s/m-leather-fetish communities as one of the most tireless and effective leaders in our struggle for acceptance and equal rights. He rose to prominence through his involvement with Gay Male S/M Activists (GMSMA) in New York, which he helped build into the world's largest and best-known gay s/m organization, serving four years as chairman of its board and for a longer time as chairman of its Community Involvement Committee (read: the "activist" stuff most people don't want to be bothered with). In GMSMA Barry was known for his concern with the wider political context of our sexual expressions, and he was a consistent voice for cooperation -- not assimilation -- with other s/m and civil-rights organizations representing lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual, and transgender people.

Barry was most proud of his service on the steering committee for the 1987 March on Washington, the executive committee of the 1993 March on Washington, and the board of the international Stonewall 25 commemoration in New York City in 1994. In part because of his efforts, each of these huge events was marked by a large, visible, and proud s/m-leather-fetish contingent. Each was the occasion for national networking and community-building among us on a scale that had never been seen previously.

They were also, of course, occasions for fractional squabbling and backbiting on an equally large scale, and Barry made enemies as well as friends. He also made his share of mistakes. But no one, I think, could deny the depth of his commitment to equal rights, the importance of his efforts in getting our tribe a place at the table, or the power of his inspiring speeches at the coinciding national s/m-leather-fetish conferences in Washington in 1987 and 1993 and in New York in 1994. And no one who had seen him in action at Inferno or at a GMSMA demo could doubt that he was a real leatherman or a master artist of pain and pleasure. The upcoming generation of leathermen is leavened with "Barry's boys," men he brought out or trained.

Barry was a quintessential *macher*, as fellow Jews in New York or Hollywood would say -- a mover and shaker, someone who Gets Things Done. He was also a good bit of a politician, and his dealings with people were sometimes calculated. But it was his business, as a theatrical agent, to make deals, and he knew that in the long run, the best deal is one both parties are happy with. He was determined to make a difference in the lives of gay leathermen, to leave a world more hospitable to us than the one he faced when he came out more than two decades ago. And despite everything, including AIDS, that still challenges us, the bottom line is that he succeeded: Our corner of the world is a better place because he lived in it.

It was a privilege to have known him and to have worked with him. He will be much missed.

David Stein

In Memoriam: Michael Felts

Michael Felts was a member of NLA International, an early member of NLA-Dallas and the founder of the NLA-I Chapter for the Deaf. He also Co-founded Deaf Aids Action in Washington DC., and the first HIV prevention program for the deaf in Dallas Texas. Michael was also involved in the Mr. Deaf Leather contest.

Michael died November 16 in Washington DC.

Jim Richards

In Memoriam: Phil Koch

Phil Koch, long-time GWEN and NLA:Austin member, passed away December 7th, in his home from a heart-attack. Phil was very active in NLA:Austin, holding down an officer's position and editing the newsletter. Phil is survived by a daughter and his long-time partner and best friend, Penn Collins.

In Memoriam: Phillip Miller

Phillip Miller Co-author of "Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns," passed away on Nov. 18 at his home in New Jersey. According to co-author Molly Devon, Miller was found lying on his bed by his son. He had apparently died a few hours earlier.

Treasurer Report

Good news for NLA:I continues. The EC will be considering some new financial proposals for 1997 at the next meeting which I think will bring NLA:I to an exciting new era as it moves in to its second decade of operation. Financial report as of December 11, 1996.

General Fund	
	Total receipts: \$13,352.00
Expenses:	
Co-Chairs:	
Duplicating	
Travel	\$ 457.00
Committee:	
Phone	\$ 164.00
Exec Council:	\$ 26.88
General operating expenses	\$7,384.00
LIL X Expense	\$ 237.00
Link production and postage	\$2,560.05
Misc. Office	\$ 134.15
VISA Account	\$ 188.00
	Balance in account \$2,197.92
Travel Fund	
Starting balance	\$ 934.00
Auction income	\$1075.00
	Balance \$2009.00

LIL XI

Income	
Donations	\$ 2,500.00
Dungeons	\$ 6,280.00
Program Sales	\$ 1,630.00
Registration	\$ 28,988.00
Saturday dinner	\$ 185.00
Thursday dinner	\$ 1,610.00
Vendors	\$ 5,135.00
	TOTAL \$45,185.00
Expenses	
Advertising	\$ 250.00
Awards	\$ 755.00
Conference site	\$15,400.00
Director	\$ 500.00
Dungeon	\$ 564.93
Dungeon: NLA:PDX share	\$ 1,143.00
Entertainment	\$ 824.20
Food & Bev	\$11,079.05
Insurance	\$ 565.00
Misc. office	\$ 1,069.88
Printing	\$ 1,030.00
Refunds	\$ 590.00
Registration office	\$ 276.00
Security	\$ 480.00
Staff Catering	\$ 128.41
Vending	\$ 199.00

NET INCOME	\$11,476.88
DEPOSIT PAID ON 1997	5,000.00
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 6,473.88

Submitted by Spencer Bergstedt NLA-I Treasurer

MINUTES NLA: INTERNATIONAL EC MEETING

NLA/I EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 1996

(THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES ARE NOT FOR OFFICIAL RELEASE OR DISTRIBUTION UNTIL APPROVED BY THE NLA/I EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT THE WINTER 1996 MEETING.)

CALL TO ORDER

The fall meeting of the outgoing NLA/I Executive Council was called to order by Co-Chair Mark Frazier on October 3, 1996, at 8:30 p.m., P.D.T. The roll was called: K.T. Chase; Mark Frazier; Tony DeBlase; Jan Hall; Bill Costomiris; Spencer Bergstedt; Dean Walradt; Jim Richards; Viola Johnson, were present. The Chair declared a quorum.

OPEN SESSION

NLA member: Michelle joined the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the summer meeting as submitted by secretary, Phil Swenson, were presented to the Council. The following changes and amendments made:

- Pg. 2, change LIL 12 to 13;
- Pg. 3, change Cane to Kane

M/S/C to accept the minutes as amended.

CHAIR ITEMS

K.T. thanked the EC for being the best one she ever worked with.

REPORTS

Co-Chair - Mark: None.

Treasurer - Mark: Mark reported that the General Operating Fund had a balance of \$4,452.00. He also reported that LIL had been paid for other than for incidental expenses, and that he projected a profit of \$5,320.00 not including parties and day passes etc.

Budget & Finance - Tabled to incoming EC meeting.

Elections - Tabled to incoming EC meeting.

Publications - Tabled to incoming EC meeting.

Membership - Tabled to incoming EC meeting.

Chapter Chairs - Dean - No chapters in formation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Policy & Procedures - Jim presented amended versions of the following additions to the Policies & Procedures Manual:

A. Refusal of Membership - The P&P was amended to require a 2/3 vote of the EC.

M/S/C to accept the P&P for Refusal of Membership as amended.

B. Refusal of Renewal - The P&P was amended by changing the word "Committee" to "Council" wherever it appeared.

M/S/C to accept the P&P for Refusal of Renewal as amended.

C. Revocation of Membership - The P&P was amended by changing the word "Committee" to "Council" wherever it appeared.

M/S/C to accept the P&P for Revocation of Membership as amended.

2. NLA:Canada - Spencer reported that the Canadian Minister of Corporations had returned our paperwork requesting a new name as "NLA:Canada" had been registered four years ago by an individual.

We are trying to track the person down in hopes of obtaining a release letter.

3. Spanner - Jan reported that check had been delivered to the Spanner Committee in England.

4. Interim Co-Chair - M/S/C to appoint K.T. Chase as interim Female Co-Chair until 1/1/97 or position is filled by a special election.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Polices and Procedures - Jim presented the following new Policies and Procedures for consideration:

A. Appeals Committee - Tabled by agreement after discussion.

B. Appeals Committee Job Descriptions - Tabled by agreement after discussion.

C. Dungeon Policies and Procedures - M/S/C to accept the Dungeon Policies and Procedures as presented.

D. Dungeon Job Descriptions - M/S/C to accept the Dungeon Policies and Procedures as presented.

E. Elections & Credentials Committee Job Description - M/S/C to accept the Elections & Credentials Committee Job Description as presented.

2. Ambassador Program - Don suggested that the Ambassador program be put on hold until next year so that we could push it to the chapters.

3. LIL 12 Site - M/S/C to hold LIL 12 in Portland and solicit proposals from the chapters for LIL 13 and 14.

NEXT MEETING

The Council agreed to hold the incoming EC meeting on Sunday, October 5, 1996, at 10:00 a.m.

P.S.T.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The officers thanked Tony DeBlase, Jan Hall, and, Bill Costomiris, for all their time and effort on behalf of NLA:I, and wished them well in their new endeavors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. P.S.T.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Swenson, Secretary

NLA/I EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 1996

(THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES ARE NOT FOR OFFICIAL RELEASE OR DISTRIBUTION UNTIL APPROVED BY THE NLA/I EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT THE WINTER 1996 MEETING.)

CALL TO ORDER

The fall meeting of the incoming NLA/I Executive Council was called to order by Co-Chair Mark Frazier on October 6, 1996, at 10:00 a.m., P.D.T. The roll was called: K.T. Chase; Mark Fresher; Spencer Bergstedt; Phil Swenson; Athena Lyons; Dean Walradt; Jim Richards; Don Bastian; and, Viola Johnson, were present. The Chair declared a quorum.

OPEN SESSION

NLA members: Michelle; Glen; Jaime; and, Queer Scout; joined the meeting.

MINUTES

The reading of the minutes of the fall meeting of the outgoing EC were tabled until the winter meeting.

REPORTS

Co-Chair - Mark: Mark welcomed Athena, Sam, and Jeff to the EC, and announced the formation of a Big Brother/Sister Program for the new EC members. He asked Dean to team up with Sam; K.T. to team with Jeff; and, Jim to team with Athena. All agreed.

Co-Chair - KT: New members are getting membership packages costing .78 cents to mail to U.S. and \$2.00 to Canada.

Treasurer - Spencer: Spencer reported that his preliminary review of the accounts showed the General Operating Fund had a balance of \$5,081.00 and that LIL Operating Fund had a balance of \$15,120.00. He also reported that he was investigating money market accounts for the LIL funds in order to earn the maximum interest on the fund until the money was needed for next years LIL.

Budget & Finance - No report.

Elections - Tabled for new business.

Publications - Tabled for new business.

Membership - No report.

Chapter Chairs - Dean - Nothing to add to 10/3 report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Policy & Procedures - Jim presented amended versions of the following additions to the Policies & Procedures Manual:

A. Annual Election Process - M/S/C to accept the P&P for Annual Election Process as amended.

B. Appeal Committee - M/S/C to accept the P&P for the Appeal Committee as amended.

~~C. Appeal Committee Job Description - M/S/C to accept the P&P for Appeal Committee Job Description as amended.~~

2. Houghton Case - Charges have been dropped as low as they can go. Dismissal or plea bargain imminent. Family Court matter continues, but Houghtons have obtained weekend visitation rights with children.

3. Special Co-Chair Election - The EC agreed that it wanted to run the special election for Female Co-Chair as soon as possible. M/S/C to close nominations on 12/15/96, mail ballots on 1/1/96, and, set 3/1/96 as the close of balloting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee Chairs - The EC discussed the various standing committee assignments and the following assignments were made:

Budget & Finance - Phil

LIL Site & Bid - Jim and Athena

Election - Dean

2. 3 Site Rotation Proposal - The EC appointed Viola & Dean to review and report on the proposal to establish 3 permanent sites for LIL and rotate between them.

3. LIL 12 - KT reported that the deposit for LIL 12 would be paid next week, and that she was going to discuss the parking situation with the Conference Center as there had been several complaints.

Barry Burns was nominated for the position of LIL Director. M/S/C to accept Barry as Director.

4. Link Proposal - Michelle proposed a change in the Link publication schedule and format of the newsletter. M/S/C to table for the winter meeting in order to obtain more information concerning cost and samples.

5. Ambassador Program - Don suggested that the Ambassador program be put on hold until next year so that we could push it to the chapters.

DISCUSSION

The EC discussed the proposed Ambassador Program and the proposed Scholarship Program.

NEXT MEETING

The Council agreed to hold the winter EC meeting on Saturday, January 11, 1997, at 12:00 noon, P.S.T.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon, P.S.T.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Swenson, Secretary

THE LINK January 1997

Page 7

NLA:I By-Laws part 2

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The officers of The Association are: a Male Co-Chair, a Female Co-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

The Standing Committees of The Association are:

- 1) Membership Committee
- 2) Elections Committee
- 3) Budget and Finance Committee
- 4) Chapter Chair Committee
- 5) Additional Committees as may be established by the Executive Council

ARTICLE X MEETINGS

SECTION A: ATTENDANCE

All meetings of The Association shall be open to any member in good standing, except when meeting in Executive Session. No decision may be made in Executive Session.

SECTION B: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

- 1) The General Membership meeting of The Association shall be held annually.
- 2) A Quorum is fifty (50) members or ten percent (10%) of the General Membership, whichever is smaller.
- 3) Additional meetings of the General Membership may be called by either the Executive Council or by petition of one hundred (100) members or ten percent (10%) of the General Membership, whichever is smaller. Written notice of the meeting, including date, time, location and the proposed agenda must be published at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

SECTION C: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern The Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any POLICIES AND PROCEDURES The Association may adopt.

ARTICLE XI INITIATIVE AND RECALL

SECTION A: INITIATIVE

Any member of The Association may petition the Executive Council for action.

SECTION B: RECALL

A petition for Recall of any Officer or other member of the Executive Council may be presented by one hundred (100) members or ten percent (10%) of the General Membership, whichever is smaller. Recall must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Mail Ballots returned by the General Membership.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

SECTION A: PROPOSAL

- 1) Any member may request in writing a By-Law change to the Executive Council.
- 2) Amendments to these By-Laws shall be proposed by the Executive Council, or by Petition of one hundred (100) members or ten percent (10%) of the General Membership, whichever is smaller.

SECTION B: PROCEDURE

- 1) The proposed Amendment and Ballot must be mailed to the Membership.
- 2) The returned Ballots must be postmarked no later than sixty (60) days from the date of mailing.
- 3) These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Mail Ballots as certified by the Elections Committee.

ARTICLE XIII DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of The Association, the Executive Committee shall:

- 1) Pay or make provision for payment of all liabilities of The Association
- 2) Dispose of all assets of The Association in such manner and to such organization(s) which are sympathetic to the Statement of Purpose of The Association and are organized as a not for profit organization.

(Approved and current as of September 30, 1995)

(Continued from page 1)

LIL IX in Toronto saw the greatest onslaught of mainstream press every experienced by NLA:I. Dean was interviewed by several papers and 2 different television shows. All press came out positive and non-judgmental, and did not result in any negative reactions from the citizens of the city.

In Sept. 1994 after a short illness Dean retired as production manager for 2 1/2 years at Leather by Boots whom he has joined after leaving McDonalds for a less stressful life. He devoted most of his free time after that to his many involvement's in the leather and gay/lesbian communities.

Dean again accepted the position of Director for LIL X schedule for Portland Or. in 1995. Pantheon of Leather V brought the honor of the Publisher's Award from David Rhodes, and at LIL X Dean was honored with the NLA:I Order of Merit bestowed on him by Co-Chair Albert Kraus, his close friend and mentor.

With 3 LIL's under his belt he was nominated for NLA:I EC Secretary, but lost by a narrow margin, but bounced back to win a special election to fill the newly created Chapter Chairs Committee Representative (Chapter Rep. for short) . At Pantheon of Leather VI in New Orleans in 1996 he won the South Central Regional Award.

Through out his life in the leather community Dean has networked and reached out beyond the leather community by being involved with the Imperial Court of Houston (Grand Duke in 1994). In 1991 he joined the Pride Week Committee as Fundraising Chair and continued on in that position of 1992 and was Parade Co-Chair in 1993.

On the home front he and husband Glenn recently moved to Dallas after Glenn received an offer and accepting an offer from a TV station there. They recently observed their 3rd anniversary. Dean can also add granddad to his list of achievements when he was presented a grandchild by his daughter who is stationed at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas as an Airman First Class Specialist.

NLA I Titleholders 1996

STACEY

MS NLA INTERNATIONAL 1996, is a long time activist in N.O.W. and Human Rights. Stacey brought her experience and enthusiasm to the Leather/ SM/ Fetish Community when she was chosen MS NLA International last October, 1995. What she freely admits she "does not have" is much experience as a "player" herself. She began her exploration in 1994, after being invited to an LSM party, and has wisely selected mentors and friends to help guide her journey (member of LSM, TES and works with GMSMA).

Stacey has spent the past year traveling the globe representing the Leather/SM/Fetish Community. Australia, Amsterdam, California, Oregon, Washington State, Texas, Louisiana, Indiana, Michigan, Chicago, Georgia, Philadelphia, and Upper New York State were among the many exciting places visited during her reign. Several other visits are on Stacey's agenda after her "Step-Down" in October, 1996. Plans to travel to events in New Mexico, Amsterdam, Washington DC and Florida are on the itinerary.

Stacey states, "I have enjoyed every moment representing the Leather/SM/Fetish Community as MS NLA International 1996. It is extremely difficult to think of my stepping down in October. There are so many political issues that must be brought to the fore regarding the Leather Community. The issue of domestic violence vs. safe, sane and consensual is number one on my list of priorities. My second issue is the acceptance of all Tribes, by the Leather Community if we expect the outside society to open its arms to us.

I look forward to continuing as an Ambassador for the Community wherever I travel."



DAVID HOFFENBACKER

MR NLA INTERNATIONAL 1996 Greetings to this years LIL conference. It has been a busy year for me with much change. First and foremost, the new life I have started with a wonderful man that I am very grateful to have found. It's difficult enough to have a successful relationship on its own, but to find some-

one to mutually explore a "leather" relationship is indeed something to cherish. Phil, I love you with all my heart.

Three days before taking the title last year, I moved to Portland, and my transplant has yielded many friends that I would like to wish my love and thank for making things so nice.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank K.T. Chase and Suzy Shepherd for everything you've done for me. I know time for me has been at a premium but I want you both to know I love you like sisters.

Ahh, then there's my "counterpart" Ms. NLA-I 1996, Stacey. You have been a light at different events. You're definitely one of the high points and I know my life is richer because of our special relationship this past year.

All of you should know by now how fantastic of a man is our Co-Chair Mark Frazier. I would like to let him know how much I value him and am glad to see that the honor I initially was attracted to in those of the leather community, is alive and well in Mark. I admire you greatly.

There are so many others I would like to mention personally but my space is limited. You all know who you are and I would like you to know how much I appreciate you. Thanks for your love and support.

Please treat all of our leather family well and have a wonderful weekend.

With respect, **DAVID HOFFENBACKER**

NEWS FROM TORONTO

The social and educational activities of NLA: Toronto continue to help unite the community and highlight our Statement of Purpose. We were pleased to participate in the Beyond Leathersex educational forum, which was organized by Mr. Leatherman Toronto 1996 Duncan MacLachlan, in conjunction with the Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition. Several members of the Chapter were present on the various panels, and participated in other events throughout the weekend. All in all, they highlighted the diversity within our community and the willingness to share experiences and insights. The Chapter thanks Duncan for all his hard work as a titleholder and as a member of NLA: Toronto. We also congratulate the contestants, especially Robert P. Tomas, the new Mr. Leatherman Toronto. Robert will be receiving a copy of our newsletter, The Flogger, each month of his title year.

Our regular educational workshops proceeded as usual: Jan Hall joined us to discuss "Domestic Violence - Drawing the Lines in the SM Community" in October. Members collaborated in a twisted show and tell for the November "Pervertables" workshop. In December we invited participants to wear and share their fantasy best at the "Costume Dressing" workshop. The line-up for the January, February, and March is: "Fire Play", "SM Without Pain", and "Crossing the Border - travel and play outside of Canada".

We are pleased at the news that Syd Creighton and Paul Dunn will be continuing as editors of The Flogger. They have worked very hard to stabilize the production of the newsletter and still keep it informative and inventive. Thanks to you and your volunteers for your teamwork!

In the social vein, the Chapter held its holiday party at the Toolbox, with some astonishing entertainment, games, a fabulous turkey dinner, and a charitable purpose, too. Proceeds go to the Church St. Christmas Dinner, which is an annual event organized by the leather community - notably the Ms. Leather Toronto Committee and NLA: Toronto. The aim of the Church St. Christmas Dinner is to provide a free dinner on Christmas Day for anyone who wants to spend the day with other people in their community. From all walks of life, income levels, gay or straight, leather or not, homeless or just alone on Christmas Day - everyone is welcomed. This is the seventh year the dinner has been provided, and NLA: Toronto thanks all those who made donations, ran errands, publicized the event, and volunteered, especially Gill Layne, Ms. Leather Toronto '96.

Elections will be held at our January meeting. Nominations for Female Co-Chair, Treasurer, and Member-At-Large are open. All Full Members are eligible to run, nominate, and most importantly, vote!

As always, we welcome everyone to attend our general meetings, held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the 519 Church St. Community Centre, starting at 8pm. Contact us for more info at (416) 604-4882.

GOOD NEWS! **BY VI Johnson**

GOODNEWS

Hi everyone: I've had a few rough months, but I'M BACK. I want to say thank you for all the love and support shown to Jill and me these past three months. Now on to GOODNEWS...Just a few days ago there was a wedding. Leonard and Michelle of New York City, tied the knot. Or should I say jumped the broom. Their commitment ceremony was just beautiful. CONGRATULATIONS. May you have many years of happiness. GOODNEWS...NLA Columbus will have a spot on their cable TV (Ch. ACTV) during the month of December. Way to go Columbus. Keep up the positive images. GOODNEWS...NLA Atlanta will be sponsoring a fund-raiser called "Friends don't let Friends wear dirty leather" I'm not sure how this one goes, but it sounds like a beneficial project and a great way to raise money. Hey guys...can I get mine cleaned too? P.S. Hang in there Atlanta...I for one am looking forward to Atlanta in '98. Yours is a beautiful city full of southern hospitality. GOODNEWS...While I'm talking about Atlanta...there are some wonderful men and women who have a great playspace called the Sanctuary of the Dark Angel. If any NLA members are traveling through the Peach state, stop in and say Hello to Master Ward, rocky, and all of the folks down there. GOODNEWS...I can't seem to get off the topic of Atlanta. Rumor has it that Master Jack Stice and tom are going to be adding to the list of great leather places with a new bar. It's supposed to be opening sometime after the first of the year. I think they are going to call it JACKHAMMER. Way to go. GOODNEWS...The men and women of NLA Houston are collecting last minute toys for their annual toy drive. The work that the Houston chapter does in their community deserves praise. They stand out as a chapter to be emulated. GOODNEWS...More Texas news. Two new members to the executive board are also from great state of Texas. Jim Richards of Dallas, and Sam Jeske of Austin have been elected to at-Large positions. Welcome guys. GOODNEWS...The Pantheon of Leather Awards Ceremony is coming up in New Orleans on the 2nd of February. The NLA members who have made that list would take half a page to print here. The number of NLA chapters up for the club of the year award is AMAZING. We should all be proud of the work that is being done by the individual members and chapters of this organization. KEEP IT UP.

To all of the members of this great tribe ...
Love and Joy come to you. And a Happy New Year.

NLA: Toronto Events: 1997

WORKSHOPS		MEETINGS
January 25	Fire Play	January 8
February 22	SM Without Pain	February 12
March 22	Crossing the Border	March 12
April 26	Water Sports	April 9
May 24	Electricity	May 14
June 28	SM & The Internet	June 11
July 26	Fisting	July 9
August 23	Adult Babies	August 13
September 27	TBA (Anniversary Weekend)	September 10
October 25	Writing Erotic Stories	October 8
November 22	Erotic Servitude	November 12
		December 10

Columbus Events

Meetings are 2nd Sundays at 2 PM at NW corner of Parsons and Columbus.
NLA:C meeting topics are, as of 12/11/96:

- Jan. play SM trivia; discuss chapter. logo
- Feb. couples doing their hottest scenes for Valentine's Day
- March quick & easy bondage by Lord Vile; also, Rusty R. and Maxine Truck offer crossdressing tips
- April taste test (and the Sat. night prior, at Exile, a crossdressing contest)
- May TBA
- June Robert Lawrence & Carol Queen present workshops Sat. & Sun.

Dallas Events

All programs are preceded by a short business meeting. Meetings are the 1st Tues. 7pm at DGLA Community Center 2702 Reagan(at Brown St.).

- January 7 Medical Play: Learn how to create erotic medical fantasies.
- February 4 Sensory Play: Discussion and Demonstration on Sensory play and deprivation.
- March 4 S/M & Spirituality: A panel discussion on SM spirituality.
- April 1 Love my Knots: A hands-on workshop on rope work.
- May 6 Tops & Bottoms: A lively discussion from these different perspectives.
- June 3 Flogging: Bring your flogger and learn various techniques.
- July 1 Roles VS Reality: Learn how kinky couples manage the differences between play and everyday.
- August 5 Pervertibles: S/M on a budget, looking at tack shops, hardware store etc. in a different light.
- Sept. 2 Those Kinky Things You've Always Wanted to Know but...A panel/audience participation forum.
- October 7 Playclothes: Dressing for pleasure and pain, join us in your favorite fetish wear.
- Nov. 4 Edge Play: Players at all levels of experience will benefit from this.
- Dec Annual Christmas Party: Date and location TBA

NLA Chapter events for Jan and Feb

NLA: Atlanta
PO Box 7941
Atlanta, Ga. 30357-7941
404-624-1676 kyle@crl.com

Weekend Fund-raiser "Friends Don't let
Friends Wear Dirty Leather"
January 19 Membership meeting and Elec-
tions

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

NLA: Austin
PO Box 49801
Austin, Texas 78765

No Information Submitted.

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

No information submitted

NLA: Columbus
PO Box 2763
Columbus Ohio 43216

Jan 12, SM Trivia, discuss chapter logo
Feb 9, couples doing their hottest scenes
for Valentine's Day
March 9, Quick and Easy Bondage

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

No information submitted.

NLA: Dallas
PO Box 7597
Dallas Texas 75209-7597

Jan 7, Medical Play
Feb 4, Sensory Play
March 4, S/M and Spirituality
EC meetings Jan 28, Feb 25, March 25

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

Workshop Jan 25, Fireplay
Workshop Feb 22, SM without pain
Workshop March 22, Crossing the Border
Meetings Jan 8, Feb 12, March 12

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

No information submitted.

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

Planning LIL XII
October 9-12 1997
Portland Or.
Registrations forms now available

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.

Chapter Announcements

(Monday 11/4) at a General Meeting called for the purpose of deciding on the future of the Chapter. The members of NLA Metro NYC voted to begin the process of dissolving the chapter.

After final expenses are determined and paid any moneys left over will be donated to the Leather Archives.

Change of Address Form

Name _____

Old Address _____

New Address _____

Send to:
Membership Committee
C/O NLA International
3439 NE Sandy Blvd. # 155
Portland, Oregon 97232

3439 NE Sandy Blvd. # 155
Portland, Oregon 97232

Bulk Rate
US Postage Paid
Houston TX
Permit # 9972

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

1946 10/11/96
Chris Zimmerman
1608 White Road
Wilmington, NC 28405-7727

Exp

DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED