

SM a Punishable Offense?

**THE
INNER
CIRCLE**

On April 12th, the Spanner Group Netherlands organizes a forum discussion "SM a Punishable Offense?" at the Amsterdam COC. The discussion focuses on legal and social aspects of active SM participation both in the Netherlands and in other European Countries.

Speakers will include Kellan Farshea, co-founder of "Countdown on Spanner", Frank Stevens (Amnesty International) and Ms. A.J.M. Kaptein (public prosecutor of the Dutch Ministry of Public Affairs) and Betty Paerl (an SM publicist).

They will join Dutch and French SM activists and politicians in a discussion on the legal aspects of SM, the effect of the precedent set by the British "Spanner" case and the position of SM in contemporary society. After the forum a press conference will be held and it will be possible to interview the speakers and other SM activists.

The forum was organized in direct response to the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the so called "Spanner" Case (Laskey, Jaggard and Brown vs. United Kingdom) on February 19th. The Court determined that member states have the right to convict sadomasochists for causing pain to their partners (or for consentin to that pain), even when it is a consensual activity that occurs in a private place for the purpose of mutual pleasure.

The Court came to this conclusion after hearing the complaint filed by three British men against their government. The three belonged to a group of men who were convicted in 1990 for SM activities. The men complained that the intervention of the British authorities into their private lives was unacceptable and had violated their human rights.

In the international SM community, this judgment has led to great concern. The European Court states that "...the State was entitled to regulate the infliction of physical harm through the criminal law..." and that the British authorities were entitled to interfere "...for the protection of public health." Neither the consensual nature of the men's activities nor the absence of injury were arguments deemed convincing by the Court.

The Spanner Group Netherlands, a cooperation of existing Dutch SM organizations, is of the opinion voluntary sexual expression between consenting adults in a private place is not a criminal matter, and can in no way be a threat to public health. Every person in a civilized democratic society has the right to respect to his or her private life; That the consent of the parties involved should at all times be the most important consideration in the legal judgment of any sexual interaction. The State should not and must not prosecute consensual sexual activities between adult citizens that take place in private. The Spanner Group Netherlands therefore, takes on the task of creating more awareness of, and fighting for the improvement of, the legal position of SM practitioners in the Netherlands and the rest of Europe.

For more information:

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SPANNER GROUP NETHERLANDS

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Call For LIL Presenters

Are you an experienced player? Do you have knowledge to share? Do you like to talk to kinky people or show them how to do SM/Fetish play with class and style?

If so, the LIL Workshop Chairs: LR Smithline and Don Bastian want to hear from you! They are looking for some good people to present workshops at LIL XII in Portland this October.

They are particularly interested in getting some new faces on the panels and covering some new topics in addition to old standbys like bondage and whipping.

So if you are interested in being a LIL presenter now is the time to speak up. Presenters who do two or more workshops get a reduced rate registration package and one free dungeon pass.

You can contact the Workshop Chairs by mail at:

NLA: International

3439 NE Sandy Blvd., #155

Portland, OR 97232, Attn. Workshop Chairs;

or E-mail them at: nlaiwrkshp@aol.com.

Be sure to provide your name, contact information, a short resume of your experience, and the subjects you feel you are qualified to present. Please feel free to include any ideas you have for workshop topics.

LR Smithline

Don Bastian

**For your information
Wednesday 18th March 1997**

The European Commission on Human Rights has today announced that it will refer the UK transsexual cases of Kristina Sheffield and Rachel Horsham to the European Court of Human Rights.

In a 15 to 1 decision, the commission have held that the UK's treatment of transsexuals contravenes European Convention Articles:

8 - respect for privacy and the right to found a family

12 - the right to marry

14 - the right not to be discriminated against on grounds such as race, sex, birth etc.

This is a ground breaking decision in that for the first time all 3 articles have been tied together by the Commission, and the majority verdict is the largest ever.

The case will now be sent to the European Court of Human Rights sometime in the next year - unless of course the new UK government (after May 1st) decides to pre-empt the almost certain to be unfavourable decision in the Court.

This case will follow on from the decision in the case of X, Y and Z v UK, which is expected some time in early summer.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear LINK Editor,

Though you may have been inundated about the recent membership problems plaguing NLA: International again. I'd like the opportunity as the Chapter Chairs Committee Representative to the NLA: I E.C. to throw in my two-cents worth. This seems to be a continuing problem in which each time a solution is presented and tried another hitch develops.

First, I'd like to reiterate what has been said over and over again -- this is a volunteer organization [both locally and internationally]. We tried a paid individual with an office space -- this nearly bankrupted the entire organization. Other problems arose from this, but the main roadblock was the finances to maintain such a system. That was solved two years ago, now the organization is back to an ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION ORGANIZATION.

Second, one of the results from the frustrations members had through this period was their lack of a voice direct to the "powers that be," the Executive Council and the organization's officers. Solution: an amendment to the NLA: I Bylaws creating the Chapter Chairs Committee which would be composed of one representative from each chapter with an annual meeting [held during LIL] and the power to elect a voting representative to the Executive Council. The object of the position obviously was to bring the chapters' voices and concerns to the E.C. and in turn take the E.C.'s voices and concerns directly to the chapters. Or as is so quaintly stated: COMMUNICATION. As that elected individual I have continually tried to keep the channels open in both directions. Within 30 days of each E.C. meeting each chapter receives a synopsis of that meeting. I have sent communications out at least twice by first class mail to EACH CHAPTER seeking input problems, solutions and such mundane (but important) information on the chapter, i.e. officers and their personal address/phone/e-mail, times of chapter elections, a current list of the chapters members and request that Chapter Liaison, Viola Johnson, and I be added to the chapters mailing list for chapter newsletters, etc. None of this information was being collected by me for the purpose of Big Brother NLA: I nosing around on its chapters. Its purpose was to speed communication through direct links with chapter individuals and officers. On numerous occasions this helped avert the very problems we seem to be addressing again. I have been able to liaison between the Membership Committee and chapters in solving membership discrepancies between chapters and NLA: I (currently, I'm doing just such a project with NLA: Atlanta).

Third result of the San Francisco Black Hole years: three chapters cornered newly elected co-chair, K.T. and the late Albert. Kraus on a boat in the middle of a lake in Texas to voice their concerns, ask their questions and find out just what was going to happen to NLA: I. Those three chapters were Austin, Dallas and Houston. Albert and K.T. asked for help -- VOLUNTEERS! They were concerned enough and frustrated enough that THEY DID! In Dallas found capable and interested individual to take over the editorship and publication of THE LINK, Houston researched and found an economical means for getting THE LINK printed and took responsibility for bulk mailing it, and Austin continued its roll in the Membership Committee. Chapters, yes...but each chapter was represented by an individual who VOLUNTEERED to take on these responsibilities. Another result from that meeting were individuals from these chapters getting nominated and being elected to the NLA: I E.C. during the last two elections [Sam Jeske, Mark Frazier, Jim Richards and myself].

What I hope this is leading to is VOLUNTEERS to offer their expertise, experience and input to help this ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION!! The nominating process

is Now open for the 1997 general elections -- The Chapter Chairs Committee meets at LIL XII, in October and will be electing a new representative to the E.C. -- send your chapter's representative and voice to participate.

Finally, one of my biggest concerns is just how many NLA: I members who receive this publication read it en tote. This publication has been published consistently for the past year plus and has covered innumerable times the Portland NLA: I address, yet some of our members still think mail goes to Seattle! HUH? Seattle hasn't been a viable address for NLA: I in nearly five years! One of the biggest complaints over the last few years by members was the consistency and relevance of The LINK. Now it is consistent and relevant -- do those same individuals bother reading it, or is the usual--"I'll read it later" and throw it on the coffee table or in a drawer or "I only need to read the article title and/or first paragraph to get the information I need" or "I read it but I forgot what I read since it doesn't apply to me."

Now on a bright note !!

Congratulations and encouragement of support goes to PJ Oda, new adhoc president of the newly forming chapter NLA: Honolulu. The chapter -in-formation (CIF) is on the verge of receiving its charter from NLA: I, the first new chapter in a couple of years. THE CIF has submitted their first draft of chapter bylaws for NLA: I approval. Along with this came nine new member applications to NLA: I which almost meets the minimum 12 required to initially form a chapter. Nore are expected in the near future.

The CFI address is
NLA: I Honolulu (CFI)
PO Box 89-3388

Mililani, HI 96789 email poda@lava.net website <http://www.lava.net/~poda/nlai/>

Chapters please add this new information to your mailing data base, send a letter of encouragement and offer support and friendship to our bothers and sisters in Hawaii. LIL Hawaii???????

Nominations for the 1997 EC elections deadline is May 15. Ballots will be in the July issue of THE LINK. Unlike the special election for female Co-chair these ballots will be printed on letter size paper, this will require they be put in an envelope and mailed back. An address label for the proper recipient of these ballots be stapled to the ballot for your convenience. Ballots must be received by Sept. 15th 1997 to be valid. Remember only current members are eligible to vote. Membership expiration dates are printed on every mailing label on you LINK.

Dean Walradt
NLA: I EC Chapter Rep.
Chair, NLA: I Elections Committee
Distribution, THE LINK
NOTE NEW ADDRESS
3335 Irwindell Blvd.
Dallas Texas 7211-5029
214-520-3248 (unknown if phone will be changed at this time.)

(EDITORS NOTE) AS OF APRIL FIRST I RECEIVED 3 INQUIRES FOR INFORMATION ON FORMATION OF NLA CHAPTERS IN SAN DIEGO, MEMPHIS AND NEW JERSEY. AT THIS TIME ALL HAVE RECEIVED PACKETS AND SAN DIEGO HAS STARTED FORMATION PROCEDURES.

Michelle editor THE LINK

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NEXT ISSUE	JULY	1997

Deadline for submissions for next issue is June 1, 97

Editorial Staff

Editor Michelle Harris NLA: Dallas
Distribution Dean Walradt

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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.

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 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.

Female Co-Chair by K.T.Chase

Male Co-Chair

by Mark Frazier

**FROM THE
NLA-I MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Greetings Fellow members:

Necessary changes have been implemented to improve the way that memberships are being processed. One of them being the way that renewal notices are handled.

If you have received a newsletter with a membership application inside.

It's time to renew your membership.

This change was made to insure that each and every member has the opportunity to renew in a timely manner.

Due to the bi-monthly mailing of the "LINK" some of you may be receiving an application two months in advance.

Your mailing label has information on it that refers to you specifically.

Your **membership number** is in the upper Left hand corner.

Your **expiration date** is in the upper right hand corner.

Fill out and sign your application, **don't forget your membership number.**

Please include the appropriate dues and send it to:

NLA-I

3439 N.E. SANDY BLVD. #155

PORTLAND, OR 97232 (attention Membership)

The new e-mail address: Nlaimbrcom@aol.com

This e-mail address was created for the sole purpose of answering questions about your membership and addressing any changes or corrections that need to be made.

The new membership committee is dedicated to correcting any errors that may have occurred. And process all memberships in a more expedient manner.

Respectfully,

K.T. Chase

NLA-I Membership Chair

National Coalition for Sexual Freedom

We are pleased to announce the formation of the "National Coalition for Sexual Freedom." NCSF is an umbrella coalition of S/M enthusiasts, activists, and organizations who support the rights of adults to engage in safe, sane and consensual sexual activities including S/M, BD, D/s, fetish, cross-dressing, role-playing, and transsexual activities.

NCSF has joined forces with GenderPAC, a not-for-profit Political Advocacy Coalition composed of individuals and organizations, dedicated to pursuing gender, affectional, and racial equality through a broad-based, national movement. GenderPAC seeks to be genuinely inclusive, acting affirmatively to build a national movement that is welcoming and willing to represent all oppressed minorities at the margins.

The defeat of the Spanner case in England has shown the S/M community that our rights must be ensured on a legislative level. The mission of NCSF is to represent the S/M community in national advocacy on issues directly related to gender-based oppression: those ways in which bodies, their identities, desires, and expressions are regulated, restrained, and suppressed. This includes employment discrimination, racism, hate crimes, homophobia, and misogyny.

NCSF will sponsor the lobbying effort on behalf of the S/M community for the National Gender Lobbying Day and ongoing Congressional lobbying. This year's National Lobby Day takes place on May 6th and 7th, and NCSF is calling for volunteers to come to D.C and participate.

It's a great way for us to put a friendly face on S/M, showing politicians and large non-profit gay and lesbian organizations (such as Human Rights Campaign) that the S/M community is organized and asking for our rights to be included and respected in

(Continued on page 7)

I would like to dedicate my space in this issue of the Link to "Issues, Announcements, and Updates".

Elections: We are in the middle of completing a special election for our Female Co-Chair.

The winner of the election should be announced soon. Once again, it is time to start thinking about nominees for the 98-99 terms. The positions of Male Co-Chair, Secretary, Chapter Concerns (one nomination per chapter), and three at large EC members will need to be filled during the election process.

These past few years has been personally rewarding to me. I feel the organization is moving in the right direction. The EC has worked very hard to make the organization a better one. We still have lots to work on. Knowing this, if nominated, I will seek another term. It is my hope that many members run for the open positions. The organization needs to see you are interested in helping guide the organization. We need you and we need your ideas.

Bylaws changes: I will be accepting Bylaw change proposals until the July 1 deadline. Any member who wants to submit such changes can do so. They must be submitted in writing to me (email will do). After the deadline for submission, They will be published in the Link and printed on ballots. The ballots which will be sent out in the general elections and voted on by the general membership. You can read more about the three bylaw change proposals in the 5 - year plan.

LIL: If your chapter or organization would like to be host site LIL XIII, XIV, XV, please finalize your proposals and submit them to me by the July 1st deadline. We must begin planning for future LIL's now.

Membership: Individual, affiliates and commercial members drives are underway. We are trying to increase our membership to a break-even financial point for the organization. I would like to challenge each individual, affiliate and commercial members to help the membership base to grow by to are asking another to join. NLA-I has 6 new regions who are researching or have expressed an interest in forming a new chapter.

~~New procedures have been implemented to help resolve the outstanding issues of our membership base. Members should see a marked improvement in the way NLA-I communicates with her members. This came as a direct result of suggestions from the membership.~~

Ideas and Suggestions: The organization needs your continued input. The EC needs your ideas and your suggestions. Let us (EC) know when we are screwing up. Equally let us know when we have done something good. Personally, I have heard from many members the past couple of years. I have a book full of notes I have taken from our conversations. Many of the ideas an suggestion that were given to me, were submitted to the EC and have been implemented. Please keep them coming.

I continue to publish my phone number, address and email address so members can contact. Feel free to use it if needed.

In Pride and Service.
Mark Frazier
Co-Chair NLA-I
4777 Cedar Springs #6N
Dallas, TX 75219
214-559-3511
lhang@aol.com

**NLA: DALLAS ANNOUNCED
BEYOND VANILLA DATE**

NLA Dallas has announced Beyond Vanilla '97 will be scheduled for November 7,8,9 1997. Location to be announce shortly.

Make plans to attend the 9th Beyond Vanilla, activities are schedule to tempt the taste buds of even the most experienced BD/SM/Leather/Fetisher, and as always the schedule includes panel hosted on a variety of subjects. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

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.

North Dakota Governor Signs Controversial HIV Confinement Bill, Prompting ACLU Inquiry

Thursday, April 10, 1997

BISMARCK, N.D. -- Making North Dakota the first state to confine people suspected of having HIV, Governor Edward Schafer today signed a controversial measure that gives judges the power to detain a person without a hearing, and force that person to take a blood test for HIV.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which is considering a legal challenge, said the law serves no public health purpose, and is a serious violation of due process and the Fourth Amendment's guarantee against unreasonable searches and seizures.

"This law is way over the top," said Keith D. Elston, executive director of the ACLU of the Dakotas. "It completely violates people's most basic rights, while addressing none of the health concerns raised."

Under the measure, a person who believes that another individual has "significantly" exposed them to blood may secure a state court order confining that individual for up to five days, during which time a judge can rule on whether to order a HIV test.

The legislation specifies a "person" as a police officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, health care worker or a patient -- in other words, practically anyone could be detained. The law also allows a person to be imprisoned even though no criminal charges have been filed.

"This measure gives courts the unprecedented power to jail doctors, patients and ordinary citizens for something as unsubstantiated as a hunch," said Matt Coles, director of the ACLU's National AIDS Project.

"Even people accused of the most heinous crimes are jailed only after some official has determined there is probable cause," Coles said. "Then they are entitled to a fair hearing within a couple of days. Surely, the possibility that someone has HIV is not a reason to disregard basic due process."

The law also provides no guidance to courts on how the results of the forced HIV test will be kept confidential, raising important questions about individual privacy, according to the ACLU.

The controversy stemmed from an incident in Minot, North Dakota where a police officer was exposed to blood during an emergency call. The officer later noticed a scratch on his forearm and requested the subject to be tested for HIV. The subject tested positive, but the officer has not.

"The only way that officers and others can know if they haven't been infected is to get tested themselves," Coles said. "While it may satisfy our curiosity to know the other person's HIV status, those results don't tell us anything about our own health."

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 Sadomasochism.

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

EC MINUTES WINTER MEETING JAN 1997

NLA/I EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 12, 1997

(THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES ARE NOT FOR OFFICIAL RELEASE OR DISTRIBUTION UNTIL APPROVED BY THE NLA/I EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT THE SPRING 1997 MEETING.)

CALL TO ORDER

The winter meeting of the NLA/I Executive Council was called to order by Co-Chair Mark Frasier on January 12, 1997, at 12:00 noon, P.S.T. The roll was called: K.T. Chase; Mark Frasier; Spencer Bergstedt; Phil Swenson; Athena Lyons; Dean Walradt; Jim Richards; Jeff Rose; Syd Creighton and, Don Bastian were present. The Chair declared a quorum.

OPEN SESSION

NLA members: Michelle; Jan; and, Barry, joined the meeting.

MINUTES

The reading of the minutes of the fall meeting of the EC were read. M/S/C to accept as presented.

REPORTS

Co-Chair - Mark: No oral report.

Co-Chair - KT: 495 active including 68 from LIL 11, and 200 people who need to renew membership. New members are getting membership packages costing \$.78 cents to mail to U.S. and \$2.00 to Canada.

Treasurer - Spencer: Spencer proposed a 1997 General and LIL budget based on 1996 actual figures. The figures will be revised for the vote at the next EC meeting.

Spencer noted that budget did not reflect the \$ 5K in the General account or the \$ 6K in the LIL account. Nor did it reflect the money in the travel fund.

He also noted that he would propose transferring LIL money into interest bearing account for next meeting. M/S/C to accept the report..

Budget & Finance - No report. Jeff asked to join the B&F committee.

Elections - Tabled for new business.

Publications - Tabled for new business.

Membership - See Above.

Chapter Chairs - Dean confirmed that chapters needed a minimum of 12 members, reported that Chapters were attempting to form in Hawaii, Alaska, and, Delaware.

Policy & Procedures - Jim reported that he continues to work on the Policies & Procedures

OLD BUSINESS

1. Link - Michelle proposed a format change for the Link, she has an over the phone bid \$350 per 1000, 16 page, 8.5" by 11" copies. No written bid yet. She will send past newsletter in new format to EC members. M/S/C. Table to April meeting.

2. LIL Site Selection - Jim stated he was working on the proposal sheet and budget form. and asked for a copy of an old budget.

3. Three Site Rotation - Tabled to April meeting.

4. LIL- Barry - Proposed the following people be confirmed as chairs:

Hotel Liaison - Let travel agent manage.

Security - Ruth Thomas. M/S/C to appoint Ruth.

Staff Whip - AJ Johnson - M/S/C to appoint AJ.

EC MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Special Events/Entertainment - M/S/C to appoint KT.

Registrar - Believes Jeff Tucker will do it again but must get Jeff an assistant. Potential asst: Kevin Roach, and Pat Baile. M/S/C to appoint Jeff.

Dungeon Coordinator - Scott Smith, from Seattle, M/S/C to appoint Scott.

Food & Beverage Coordinator - Boy Bill. M/S/C to appoint Boy Bill.

Publicist - Jeff H eness. M/S/C to appoint Jeff.

Vendor - Per Spencer - Denise Pedro from Seattle. M/S/C to appoint.

Workshops - Tony had asked LR, Don offered to help or chair. M/S/C to appoint LR chair, Don as committee.

5. Canada Incorporation - Syd reported there was no news. She has sent updated By-Laws to Canadian officials.

6. Female Co-Chair Election - Dean -- Ballots being printed and stuffed. Ballot Deadline 4/1/97 for return.

7. Credit Card Account - Mark has talked to BoA but he has not heard back from them. Citicorp said no.

NEW BUSINESS

1. LIL Host Hotel - Barry, will be done with it this week

2. Two Tier Affiliate Membership - Jan moved establish a two tier membership for affiliates at 15 dollars non-voting and 30 voting. M/S/F.

3. 5 Year Plan - Mark made the following proposals for the 5 Year Plan. (Please note text of actual proposals is only attached to the record copy of the minutes.)

Proposal 1.1 - Publicist: 1. M/S/C.

Proposal 1.2 - Confirm Athena as first publicist. M/S/C.

Proposal 1.3 - Historian. M/S/C.

Proposal 1.4 - Confirm Tony Deblase as first Historian. M/S/C.

Proposal 3.1 - Tabled to April.

Proposal 3.2 - Tabled to April.

Proposal 3.3 - Tabled to April.

Proposal 3.4 - Questions/Suggestions Procedure. M/S/C., as amended.

Proposal 4.1 - New Banner Bids and Donation of old banner to the Leather Archives. M/S/C.

Proposal 4.2 - Select LIL sites 3 years in advance. M/S/C.

Proposal 4.3 - Chapter Chair to set up committee for membership drive. M/S/C.

Proposal 4.4 - Action plan by June EC meeting. M/S/C.

Proposal 4.5 - Life time membership for all past Co-Chairs. M/S/C with one abstention.

Proposal 4.6 - Official Travel Agent. M/S/C.

Proposal 4.7 - Tabled to April. Don and Spencer to add scholarship proposal.

4. Resource Center Filing Cabinet - Motion to budget \$70 for the purchase of a filing cabinet for the Resource Center. M/S/C.

5. Mailing Permit - Motion to relocate the Bulk Mail Permit to Dallas, and budget \$170.00 for the permit. M/S/C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jan - Looking for leatherwoman who is member of NOW.

SPRING MEETING

The EC agreed to hold the next meeting on 4/5/96 at 11:00 a.m. pst.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Swenson, Secretary

Treasurer's Report
NLA:I

Spencer Bergstedt
 April 14, 1997

There are some exciting changes happening with NLA:I on the financial front and some rather distressing ones as well.

On the plus side, the EC voted at the April meeting to establish 3 separate bank accounts for NLA:I: General Operating, LIL and Travel/Scholarship Fund.

This won't mean anything different in terms of how funds are tracked through NLA:I, but will mean that NLA:I will have both greater financial control and flexibility with our fund accounts. We also hope to start doing short-term investments with some of our reserve LIL funds.

On the down side, the 1st quarter sees us operating at a loss. In order for NLA:I to operate on the plus side, we need 600+ members. Currently we have just over half that number in membership.....certainly not enough money to fund the organization. I also wanted to take this time to point out that NLA:I EC members donate an extraordinary amount of money each and every year to help keep NLA:I up and running. In coming months, I'll be bringing you reports of what it really costs us to keep NLA:I alive.

We are also sending out a Request for Proposals to CPA's for an audit of NLA:I finances. Depending on the costs of such an audit based on the bids received, the EC will vote on the proposals in the coming months.

Overall, at the end of the first quarter, we have \$4,942.32 in the General Operating Fund; Travel Fund has \$1,509; and the LIL account has \$11,027.4.

Should you have any questions about the finances of NLA:I, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
 Spencer Bergstedt

1ST QUARTER REPORTS

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME:

Membership dues \$1,274.00
 TOTAL \$1,274.00

EXPENSES:

Executive council:
 Supplies: \$ 94.83
 Telephone: \$305.21
 LINK:
 On-line site: \$149.70
 Postage \$ 68.75
 Printing \$649.99
 Membership Committee:
 Postage \$341.24
 Printing \$120.84
 NLA Expenses
 Mail box \$231.00
 Postage:
 Bulk Permit \$170.00
 TOTAL \$2,131.56
 NET (\$857.56)
 Balance of account \$4,942.32

LIL ACCOUNT

INCOME: Registration \$190.00 (repayment of NSF check from LIL XI)
 TOTAL \$190.00

EXPENSES:
 Advertising \$ 750.00
 Hotel:deposit \$500.00
 Refunds:presenters \$ 90.00 (LIL XI presenters entitled to refund)
 TOTAL \$665.00
 Net (\$475.00)
 Fund Balance \$11,027.41

TRAVEL/SCHOLARSHIP

INCOME: \$0
EXPENSES:
 Travel reimbursement: Stacey for title year \$500.00
 Net (\$500.00)
 Fund balance \$1,509.00

Metro New York Gets New Kinky Newsletter

NYC—Leather, SM and fetish are getting more attention everywhere these days. And NYC is getting a new leather, SM and fetish newsletter, called New York Leather/SM.

Published by a small group of scene activists, the bimonthly will cover the activities, organizations and the most colorful personalities of America's hottest leather, SM and fetish community, which has seen remarkable growth in recent years.

"It's been a real challenge for any of us to keep up with this growth," says editor-in-chief Leonard Wolff. "Some of us think the time has come for a publication dedicated to the kinky activities of the metropolitan NY area." Unlike any other publication in the city, New York Leather/SM will be of interest to the gay, lesbian, bi, het and transgender communities. Genuinely pansexual, it will offer something to all leather-folk—from novice to expert—in terms of news coverage, event calendars and resource listings. "You name it, we'll have it," says Wolff.

The David Weinbaum Memorial Foundation has given New York Leather/SM a seed money grant to help the launch of the newsletter. This project of only one of the worthy endeavors that receive funding from the Foundation. DWMF provides grants to support projects that are of service to the SM/Leather/Fetish community. Previous recipients have included the Get Linked Project and Randy Riddle's video project, TLC: Year With a Leather Club.

DWMF can be contacted
 c/o LPN
 332 Bleecker St #452,
 NY, NY 10014 or lpnnyc@aol.com

Initially, the emphasis will be on listings of events and venues, groups and organizations, and other scene resources. Planned to be the most comprehensive of its kind, it will be useful to scene regular and out-of-towner alike. And eventually, with the help of the kinky community, it will serve as a record of the movement of leather, SM and fetish into mainstream society.

Wolff comes to New York Leather/SM after more than three years as editor-in-chief of Prometheus, the quarterly publication of The Eulenspiegel Society, which saw a meteoric rise in its membership during the same time. Contributing editors include scene stalwarts Peter Boots and Lolita, who have each donated their resource lists. Associate editors include Antoinette, who is also co-editor of Black Leather in Color, and Hans Schmidt, a new face in the NYC scene.

New York Leather/SM was inspired, in part, by Jeff Heness's LeatherPride! a newsletter of the Pacific Northwest leather community. Discussion's at meetings of the New York S/M Activists helped shape the project to meet the needs of the community.

New York Leather/SM will be distributed free of charge at many New York area clubs, leather shops and organizations. Subscriptions are available at \$10/year (six issues), with free subscriptions being offered to leather organizations, including NLA chapters. New York Leather/SM can be contacted at:

P O Box 1617
 NY, NY 10159 or nysm_editor@hotmail.com.
 Further information is on the Visit Without Restraint...online BDSM Web Site
<http://www.mcsp.com/smcop/welcome.html>

(Continued from page 3)

bills such as ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would protect an employees right to pursue gender and sexual freedom of expression).

There is no cost for organizational or individual membership in the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom (or in GenderPAC). If you wish to be a part of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom, or help mobilize and create action on a national or regional level please feel free to contact:

Susan Wright - NY Rep, NCSF
 381 Manhattan Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211
 (718) 383-3318
 or at Kbeaton919@aol.com

Riki Anne Wilchins - Executive Director, GenderPAC
 274 W. 11th St., NYC 10014
 (212)645-1753 a.m., (212)270-9439 p.m.
 or at Riki@Pipeline.Com

CAMBRIDGE PASSES HISTORIC LEGISLATION

On Monday, February 24, by unanimous vote of the City Council, the City of Cambridge enacted legislation protecting freedom of gender expression and identity which is the most inclusive, comprehensive, and straightforward of any such legislation passed anywhere. The groundbreaking amendment to the city's human rights ordinance protects the right of all people to express and identify with whatever combination of masculinity and femininity suits them. It also provides for determination of sex, when required for application to same sex housing, to be made on "social and identity roles" rather than anatomy. As such, it is the first legislation to recognize that for some people, gender and social role do not follow anatomy.

The amendment was sponsored by the Cambridge Lavender Alliance, a GLBT political action organization, and introduced by city councilor Katherine Triantafyllou. To the amazement and delight of the measure's proponents, there was no opposition to the amendment at any time during the process of bringing it before the city council, to a public hearing, and then back to the city council again for the final vote. In passing the amendment, one councilor remarked "It makes you wonder why we haven't done this before now."

According to Nancy Nangeroni, author of the amendment, "This isn't about protecting some special interest group. This is about expanding the scope of everyone's personal freedom. It's no infringement on anyone else if I'm more masculine or more feminine, so there's no reason why I shouldn't have that freedom. Any woman who's been harassed because she looks too butch, and any guy who's ever been harassed because he looks too effeminate, is affected and protected by this."

The new law prohibits discrimination against any people on the basis of gender. It is the first gender-protective legislation passed in Massachusetts. It adds "gender" to the list of protected classes, including sex, race, religion, etc. It also adds the following definition of gender:

"Gender" means the actual or perceived appearance, expression, or identity of a person with respect to masculinity and femininity.

Since the Cambridge Human Rights Ordinance provides for the establishment of same sex facilities such as dormitories, the amendment also adds the following definition of "same sex":

"Same sex" means occupying the same social and identity roles as another with respect to being male or female.

The amendment is accompanied by extensive notes which provide detailed explanation of the intent and guidelines for its interpretation and implementation.

NOTES ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE

1) There is no significance to the proposed location of "gender" between "sexual orientation" and "marital status". Any other position within the same list of protected classes would work as well.

2) The definition of gender is intended to provide protection from and recourse against harassment of any individual because they are perceived by others as not sufficiently masculine or feminine, or too much of that which is expected to be opposite to their nature. It is intended to establish and protect the right of all individuals to behave as "masculine" or "feminine" without predisposition or censure because of their particular physiology.

3) The definition of "same sex" is provided as guidance for situations where a person's gender appears in conflict with their physiology, calling into question their actual "sex". Culturally, we tend to determine a person's "sex" by inspection of their gender. However, we are learning that there are significant numbers of persons whose gender is at apparent odds with their physiology. Since we have until now defined sex by physiology, but determined sex by gender, a conflict exists which demands redress. Furthermore, as some persons exercise greater variation of gender expression, there arises greater difficulty in applying conventional standards as a guide to determine if a person is man or woman. Yet there remain those desirous of segregation by sex for the purposes of housing and education, who need a sound basis for determination of a person's inclusion or exclusion.

Thus a means for determining "same sex" is needed. It should provide for the winnowing out of pretenders or others who would take hurtful advantage, while providing for the inclusion of those whose admission brings no harm to others, and

who would be themselves harmed by exclusion.

There are significant numbers of persons whose physiology is opposite to what one would expect for their gender. We need to provide reasonable conditions for their inclusion in "same sex" categorizing in order to avoid their hurtful and inappropriate exclusion. Such persons include the transsexual who has not obtained (and may not intend to obtain) genital surgery. Also included is the intersexual, a person born of mixed male/female physiology, whose identity is often at odds with their apparent sexual polarity or that imposed on them by well-meaning doctors and parents.

The offered definition of "same sex" provides two tests of a person's "sex" for use as an admission test for housing, schools and programs.

The first test is social role. If a person generally and with reasonable consistency relates to others as a member of the "same sex" to which they desire admission, they should be regarded as such. However, it should be noted that relating "as a man" or "as a woman" is subject to a wide range of interpretations, and there is at this time a growing social movement to eschew or confuse such categorization. It is not the intent of this writing to in any way contribute to the exclusion of persons who blur their apparent male/femaleness. However, this writing does intend to protect the right to exclude from same sex categorization for the purposes expressed in the commission document a person who currently appears sometimes as a man and sometimes as a woman. At the same time, a person's past appearance should not be used as a basis for exclusion.

The second test, identity role, allows for the buttressing of a person's claim to be "same sex" by virtue of their professed identity. A woman may appear as manlike as she wish, however, if in her mind she is clearly a woman, she should be allowed admission to women's "same sex" facilities. Thus the test of identity allows for changing expression of gender, including transgression of an established norm. Should this same person feel herself - himself, in this case - to be, in fact, a man, then admission to men's "same sex" facilities would be more appropriate. Likewise, a man may appear as feminine as he wishes, without giving up his claim on manhood, but one who identifies as a woman and interacts as such, may not be categorized as a man despite physical characteristics which would appear to contradict.

The intent of this definition of "same sex" is to protect those transsexuals, intersexuals, and others who do not "pass", that is, they are regularly perceived as opposite to their self-image and identity. For example, a person born with a penis but identifying as a woman may be possessed of an appearance which is "unmistakably male", such as coarse facial features, facial and body hair, broad shoulders, deep voice, narrow hips, etc. When such a person identifies as a woman, and makes obvious attempts to be perceived as such, however ineffective, it is generally hurtful to categorize such a person as other than a woman, whereas categorizing this person as a woman does not in and of itself hurt others. Rather than traumatize the individual by exclusion, it is intended that we honor their obvious visible attempts to be womanly, and their self-identity as a woman, despite our expectations of how a woman should appear. The same is true for the similar but opposite case of a person born with female genitals but identifying as and making an obvious effort to be perceived as a man. We should regard such people for all intents and purposes as men. This approach is recognized and supported by leading medical and psychological experts in the gender field.

4) It is implied by this proposal that the gender appearance, identity, or expression of any individual should by itself warrant no presumption of unhealthy deviance, guilt or malfeasance whatsoever.

Nancy Nangeroni, GenderTalk Host & Exec. Producer
nrn@GenderTalk.com Web site: www.GenderTalk.com

NIH WARNS ABOUT PIERCING & TATTOOING

The National Institute of Health has sent out a release stating that "unsterile body piercing and tattooing" are leading causes for the spread of Hepatitis C.

To find out more about this, contact Allen Falkner at obscure@airmail.net

People, Places and Things

Places to go

Chicago Leather Alliance for Women (CLAW), a new BDSM discussion and social group for women of all orientations is now holding meetings.
Info: <mailto:MLR3@aol.com> or (312) 276-6090

Philly Munch Info: <mailto:squirrel@noc.ocs.drexel.edu>

Central PA Munch Info <mailto:acorn@copland.udel.edu>

Nashville Munch. Info: <http://users.accessus.net/~bdteech>

Points of Interest

Website: The NOW-S/M Policy Reform Project has established a website:
<http://members.aol.com/NOWSM/Home.html>

NOW-S/M Workshops: The New York City Chapter of NOW will be sponsoring a NOW-S/M Policy Reform workshop at their September 18th Membership meeting, the third Thursday of the month.

BETTIE PAGE

Boudoir Noir reports that Christine Sovich of Curtis Management Group in Indianapolis told them "CMG contacted Mr. George Giouris at Northbound Leather earlier this year in regard to the unauthorized use of the Bettie Page name and likeness in connection with the various social clubs in Canada. Again, we are close to finalizing a settlement whereby Mr. Giouris will no longer utilize the name and/or likeness of Ms. Page, and will also pay a past unauthorized use fee."

KINKY TALK SHOW DEBUTS ON CENTURY CABLE

A new cable-access talk show, "The Leather Report," debuted this May on Century Cable, channel 3, Los Angeles-Santa Monica. Host Jim Pfanner will be interviewing provocative and important people in the Leather/SM/Fetish/Kinky community. The first show aired Friday, May 2nd at 9:30 pm. Los Angeles based psychotherapist and author ("Ties that Bind") Guy Baldwin will be the guest. Baldwin is a much-respected professional who works primarily with clients having interest in, or issue with, the leather/fetish erotic styles of sexual expression.

The second edition of "The Leather Report" will be broadcast Friday, June 27th at 9:30 pm with International Mr. Leather 1996, Joe Gallagher, as the guest. Check your cable-listings for future broadcasts. Info: <mailto:leathereport@webtv.net>

BLACK ROSE MOVED

The Black Rose Socials have moved New Location: The Edge at 56 L St., SE. And Moving back to the 4th Tuesday of every month. BR Socials are open to BR partycard holders and members of affiliate groups only.

BR weekly meetings have moved to the Haytt Hotel at 400 New Jersey Ave., NW in the Yellowstone room. Find it by entering the hotel, going down the escalators, making a sharp right turn to the elevators, going up to the second floor and going right to the room. Discreet signs will be up for you to follow.

And don't forget BR10, Black Rose Tenth Anniversary Celebration, November 14-16. Info: <mailto:BR10@br.org> or <http://www.br.org/>

"HOUGHTONS" GET CHILDREN BACK

The Houghton kids are finally back at home, perhaps for good. A New York State Appeals Court judge on March 21 stayed the order of the family court judge, who last week delivered a blow the Houghtons by ordering that the children remain in foster care.

When the family court decision was announced late last week, the Houghtons' attorneys -- funded by more than \$25,000 in contributions from individuals and organizations in North America's leather-fetish-consensual SM community -- launched an immediate appeal. In three days, the Houghton attorneys accomplished with this Appeals Court judge what they had been unable to do for 14 months in family court -- the return of the Houghtons' two children, a 7-year old boy and a 12-year old girl. The formal appeal will be heard by the full Court of Appeals in May.

MID-SOUTH BDSM MAIL LIST

An E-Mail discussion/social/support mailing for the Mid-South region (KY, TN, ETC). is being formed. All info will be confidential, a blind CC listing will be used, so your name/email address won't show up unless you want it to.
Info: <mailto:swagner@usit.net>

People to meet

TORONTO LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE WEEK

The city and location of our pride event:

Toronto, Ontario, Canada (the largest city in Canada; the south end of the middle province in the country). Latitude: 43 degrees, 39 min. North Longitude: 79 degrees, 20 Min. Time Zone difference is +5 hours. Day Light Savings time of +1 hour in effect during the winter.

For more information: Web Site: <http://www.gaypride.org/>

Toronto's Lesbian & Gay Pride is an annual cultural festival that occurs the last week of June, always just before Canada's birthday on July 1st.

This year is from Monday, June 23rd to Sunday June 29th, 1997. The event has a different theme and logo each year and is known by the locals as "Mollywood".

The theme for the parade and banners for 1997 is:

"Queer by Nature". An art contest has been announced for the 1997 logo, with submissions due by Fri., March 7th, and chosen publically on Tue., March 11th, 1997, 7:30 pm at the 519 Church Street Community Centre in downtown Toronto.

ANNOUNCING SOUTHEAST LEATHERFEST, '97

Southeast Leatherfest, '97 will take place in Atlanta, Georgia, June 13-15, 1997, at The Ramada Inn Downtown. A special rate of \$69.00 per night has been established for Southeast Leatherfest, '97 attendees. In addition, arrangements have been made with United Airlines for discounts off their regular fares. Hotel reservations may be made by calling 1-800-2RAMADA.

The weekend packages (\$85.00 for deluxe and \$65.00 for regular) will include entrance to both the Mr. & Ms. Georgia Leather Contest, as well as the Southeast Preliminary Drummer Competition, a play party, bar tours of Atlanta's hottest leather/fetish bars, with transportation provided, workshops/panel discussions, and a vendor fair.

This year, PAT CALIFIA, author of books such as "Macho Sluts," "Sensuous Magic," and "Public Sex," will be leading two workshops/demos during the Southeast Leatherfest, '97 weekend.

Corporate sponsors for Southeast Leatherfest, '97 include The Sanctuary of a Dark Angel, The Atlanta Eagle, Brushstrokes, The Chamber and The Heretic. Judges for the contests include Dave Rhodes of The Leather Journal, Jill Carter, Joe Gallagher, Kyle Brandon, Sarah Humble and Glenda Ryder, Duncan McLaughlin, Leonard Sewell, Khiki, Jeff Gilles, and Randie Saxxon. In addition, Shan Carr will provide entertainment for the Mr. & Ms. Georgia Leather Contest.

A special ceremony will open the weekend, dedicating Southeast Leatherfest, '97 to Jack Stice, International Master, 1995 and Pantheon "Man of the Year", 1997, who passed away on April 7, 1997.

For packet information, call toll-free: 1-888-285-1955, or write Southeast Leatherfest, '97, P.O. Box 78974, Atlanta, Ga., 30357-0894, or e-mail kyle@crl.com. This year's Southeast Leatherfest promises to be a fun and exciting weekend, so make your reservations now!

EXILES FIND HOME IN SAN FRANCISCO

It has been announced that a new social and educational group for S/M women has been formed in San Francisco. To be known as The Exiles, organizers describe it as "a more accessible and dynamic version" of the recently dissolved Outcasts.

The Exiles plan to hold monthly programs featuring educational demonstrations on topics of interest to leatherwomen and fetishists will all levels of experience. Although The Exiles is a membership organization, programs will be open to all women over 21 who are interested in S/M between women. These and other events will be designed to provide a safe place for women to meet, explore and share experiences and information about safety, play techniques, resources and the "leather scene".

Exile members will receive a monthly newsletter filled with announcements of upcoming programs, calendar of local and national S/M community events, news from the S/M scene, and hot fiction written by members; discount admission to programs and events; access to similar groups around the country through reciprocal agreements; discounts at selected leather stores and merchants; and more.

For membership information contact:

The Exiles (formerly Outcasts)
POB 31266
San Francisco, CA 94131-0266 or voice mail at 415-487-5170

New Group Formed

Chapter Happenings

Gleaned from the various newsletters I received, here are some of the goings on at other NLA chapters.

NLA:NE, The date for the next Fetish Fair Fleamarket will be July 26, 1977, 12 noon - 5pm. FFF8 which was held in Dec. 96 at the Boston Center for Arts Cyclorama saw over 1200 attendees and almost 50 vendors from as far away as Toronto, Chicago, and Virginia. Besides Vendors there were other activities from spanking booths to raffles. It was followed by the "Instant Gratification" play party. ~~Make plans on attending the next FFF if your in the Boston Area.~~

June 7th Boston Pride Parade and Festival is scheduled.

NLA:Toronto, Co-Chairs Ian and Sailor Kim were recently interviewed by Sue Reynolds, on CIUT FM Radio. They spent time discussing the NLA Toronto Chapter, the educational seminars they hold at the TOOLBOX and other events. They were a hit with the producers of the show and will probably be invited back to discuss other issues and events.

NLA:Columbus, Saturday, June 7th and Sunday, June 8th, tentatively. A two-day seminar featuring Bay Area sex educators Carol Queen and Robert Lawrence. We know this is a conflict with the Roy Rogers Convention and shoelace factory tour in Portsmouth; final dates to be announced.

June is Pride Month! We will have a table at Bicentennial Park on June 29th and also a 101 during the week at Stonewall. Be looking for further details of the Pride Week leather events. See John Waters on Pride Day!

Saturday, July 11th, 10 PM at Exile is NLA "Crossdressed Night" with a contest. Get your leather/levi outfit together and see what it is like to be on the other side. There will be a place there to dress and people to help you (Maxine and Linda). Exile is on North Fourth St. between 1st and 2nd; the sign says Patrick's. This is also Vulcan bar night. Judges will be WEBE Production members Jimmy and Miss C; also Sharon D. and Rusty.

Sunday, July 13th, rubberwear and fire fighter's gear. Also, nominations for officers.

Rep Hoekstra At It Again?

Rep. Pete Hoekstra of Michigan says that he "presumes" that all U.S. taxpayers would be offended by the content of a book called S&M, produced with the help of a NEA grant of \$25,000 during 1996. Hoekstra was mentioned in March's newsletter in his attacks against the use of NEA funds used to promote award winning lesbian films such as Watermelon Woman, to be shown in Columbus on Saturday, April 12 at 7 pm at OSU's Wexner Center. He explained that his subcommittee found the material and that of three other books an offense to the senses, and that he believes that everyone else will, too. Curt White, director of one of the presses, FC2, has said that its books are meant to make people think about sexuality in our culture, and thus do include sexually explicit content. The press has been in operation about 22 years and has its roots in experimental literature and has published writers who are women, minority, gay, and lesbian; its reputation, according to the National Endowment for the Arts, is as a "hyperliterate publisher whose texts are used in many college courses." The title that Hoekstra does not like is by Jeffrey DeShell and is called S&M. Reviewers have called it one of the "funniest, smartest, sexiest works of American fiction" that has been published in a long time. Hoekstra also does not like some other art produced with help from the NEA, including some independent films (mentioned previously in this newsletter). He also does not like the partially NES-funded web site of the literature department at Illinois State--which is not even up yet, but Hoekstra says that its developers plan to put obscene literature on it (which its developers were surprised to hear). Further, he plans to examine the school's art

GOOD NEWS!

BY VI Johnson

We did not receive an article from Vi this issue.

Poetry of a Different Taste

A woman on her knees - Love only knows
What service she attends - to heaven shows
The artless epic of her shining seat.
Beauty's clear mirror, where she loves to gaze,
See and believe herself. O woman's arse,
Roundly defeating man's in every class,
O arse of arses: Glory! Worship!
Praise!

From A Brief Moral
Paul Verlaine (1844-96)

We two boys together clinging,
One the other never leaving,
Up and down the roads going,
North and South excursions making,
Power enjoying, elbows stretching,
fingers clutching
Arm'd and fearless, eating, drinking,
sleeping, loving...

From Calamus
Walt Whitman (1819-92)

'Did you miss me?
Come and kiss me.
Never mind my bruises,
Hug me, kiss me, suck my juices
Squeezed from goblin fruits for you,
Goblin pulp and goblin dew,
Eat me, drink me, love me;
Laura, make much of me:
For your sake I have braved the glen
And had to do with goblin merchant men.'

Laura started from her chair,
Flung her arms up in the air,
Clutched her hair:

'Lizzie, Lizzie, have you tasted
For my sake the fruit forbidden?
Must your light like mine be hidden,
Your young life like mine be wasted,
Undone in mine undoing
And ruined in my ruin,
Thirsty, cankered, goblin-ridden?'

From Goblin Market
Christina Rossetti

Now-S/M Policy Reform Statement:

The NOW-S/M Policy Reform Statement supports the rights of adults to engage in any safe, sane and consensual sexual expression that they so chose, including s/m. This policy reform statement will overturn the outdated 1980 "Delineation of Lesbian Rights Issues," which states "Somasochists seek to legitimize and provide premeditated structure for violence." A large body of evidence (from psychiatrists, the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistic Manual, the Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, and legal precedents) is presented in support of the policy reform statement that s/m is not violence nor is it detrimental to a woman's mental and physical well-being.

Plan of Action for the Now S/M Policy Reform Project:

1. We need more supporting evidence! Please send any quotes or statements supporting the NOW-S/M Policy Reform Statement that S/M is not violence nor is it detrimental to a woman's mental or physical well-being. In particular, we are looking for support from NOW members on the local and national levels, feminist-S/M authors, and professionals in law, medicine, and psychiatry. Please send suggestions or supporting material (along with copyright info) to: NOW-S/M Project at Kbeaton919@aol.com, or mail c/o Susan Wright at 381 Manhattan Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211.

Jan Hall is working with Susan Bader (active in NOW in Columbus, Ohio) to produce a video in support of the NOW-S/M Policy Reform Statement. This educational video will feature information on the late Holly Featherstone, active in NOW on a national level and also an "out" S/M dyke (Holly helped produce a workshop in DC on NOW & S/M during the '93 March on Washington).

We need volunteers who can help set up and/or maintain the existing NOW-S/M website. We would like to add a signature line under the NOW-S/M Policy Reform Statement so that individuals and organizations can easily log their support. Other websites have also offered links to the NOW-S/M website, or a page for NOW-S/M Policy Reform information (such as Different Loving which receives 2,000+ hits a week) To help, please contact Kbeaton919@aol.com

2. NOW members must work with their state and local chapters to get the NOW-S/M Policy Reform Statement approved. This means: a) contact the head of the Lesbian/Bi-sexual Committee or anyone who is s/m-positive in the chapter; b) educate the leaders of the chapter using the supporting evidence provided by the NOW-S/M Project; c) educate the chapter by proposing and conducting panel discussions on the rights of adults to engage in safe, sane and consensual sexual expression. To receive a copy of the NOW-S/M Policy Reform organizing packet and supporting evidence, contact the NOW-S/M Project at Kbeaton919@aol.com, or mail c/o Susan Wright at 381 Manhattan Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211.

3. Once there is sufficient chapter support for the NOW-S/M Policy Reform Statement to win approval at NOW state conferences, the S/M-NOW project will present the evidence to NOW's President Conference, attended by heads of NOW state chapters from around the country. Then we will educate the membership of NOW by proposing and sponsoring panel discussions at the annual NOW national convention. Then the membership of NOW will vote on the Policy Reform Statement.

NLA Chapter events

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

June 13 - 15 '97
Southeastern Leatherfest '97

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

No current information Provided

email nla.houston@juno.com

NLA: Austin
PO Box 49801
Austin Texas 78765
(512)703-8927
WWW.io.com/~austinla/
austinla.htm

May 1-4 Texas Leather Pride
General meetings May 26th
General meeting June 23rd

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

No Information Provided

NLA: Columbus
PO Box 2763
Columbus Ohio 43216
email nlaohio@aol.com

May 11 Tales from The Mine Shaft
June 7-8 2 Day Seminar
June 29th Table at Bicentennial Park
July 11 Crossdressing Contest
July 13 Rubberwear and Fire Fighters Gear

NLA: New England
831 Beacon St. #9100-164
Newton Center, MA. 02159-1822
www.circlet.com/puc/u/ctan/
nlanc.html

May 17, 1997 Siskel&Ebert Night. Rate S/M
videos with us.
June 7, 1997 Boston Pride Parade & Festival
June 21, 97 Taste Test a smorgasbord of imple-
ments.

NLA: Dallas
PO Box 7597
Dallas Texas 75209-7597
(214)521-5342 ext.820
www.nla-i.com/dallas.htm

May 6 Tops & Bottoms: Lets Talk!
June 3 Flogging: How do I Beat Thee?
July 1 Role VS Reality

NLA: Portland
PO Box 5161
Portland Oregon 97208
(503)727-3148

No Information Provided

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

No Information Provided

NLA: Toronto
Box 98, 268 Parliament Str.
Toronto, ON. M5A-3A4 Canada
(416)604-4882

May 24 Electricity: The shocking Truth
June 28th SM & The Internet
July 26 Fisting

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

No information Provided

NLA: International
3439 N.E. Sandy Boulevard #155
Portland, Oregon 97232
www.nla-i.com

Current projects
NLA-I Law Project
NLA-I Resources on-line
LIL XII 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.

LIL XII

Oct. 9 - 12 1997

Portland Ore.

is just around the corner!!

registration applications

are now available on the

website!

<http://www.nla-i.com>

THE LINK May 1996

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
Dallas TX
Permit # 2084

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

402 9/1/97
Jan Hall
1796 Bedford Rd.
Columbus, OH 43212

DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED