

# THE <sup>2ND</sup> LINK

ISSUE #142 SUMMER 2021



## Power. Leather. Glory

Getting to Know the Disciples of  
Leather



Featuring the art of Etienne (Dom Orejudos)



Leather Archives & Museum™  
**LA & M**

Making leather, kink, BDSM, and fetish  
accessible through research, preservation,  
education and community engagement.

Visit us in Chicago, or online  
at [leatherarchives.org](http://leatherarchives.org)



# NLA-INTERNATIONAL

The NLA International is a fraternal organization of leather women and men with a common goal and a common mission.

The NLA International is a Pansexual group of people dedicated to the progress of BDSM and fetish around the world.

Join our family and become part of our legacy.

Est. 1986

[www.NLA-International.com](http://www.NLA-International.com)



PHOTO BY COOKIE ANDREWS-HUNT

Our Founder Steve Maidhof & first female Co-Chair Vik Stump

## NLA-International: Taking Steps to...

Establish grassroot Leather Clubs around the world for over 30 years.

Educate the difference between abuse and BDSM for over 20 years.

Recognize people that make change, writers that inform, and artists that inspire for over 30 years.

Contribute to the future generations of Leather through education.

## Let us help you...

Create the Leather Club you want for your city.

Know the difference between abuse vs BDSM.

Recognize your community writers, artists and activists.



Join us today!

MEMBERSHIPS

AS LOW AS

**\$25**

NLA-International is a fraternal nonprofit 501(c)7, registered with the IRS.

They are the managing organization of Living In Leather LLC, a nonprofit 501(c)3 charity registered with the IRS.

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
President	Sir John	president@nla-international.com
Vice President	boy david	vice-president@nla-international.com
Secretary	Lady Jeanna	secretary@nla-international.com
Treasurer	Bri Guy	treasurer@nla-international.com
Wisdom Keeper/Education	Sir Robert Helms	Wisdom-keeper@nla-international.com
Member At Large		
Houston	Sir Robert Conn	rnbear@gmail.com
San Antonio	girl christen	phatgirlntx@gmail.com
OKC	slave girl marion	slavegirlmarion@gmail
Awards		awards@nla-international.com
Publications	girl alayna	publications@nla-international.com
Domestic Violence Project		dvp@livinginleather.net

## **LIVING IN LEATHER COMMITTEE**

Sir John	Robert Helms	Joseph
boy david	Lady Jeanna	girl alayna
Vince Andrews	Bri Guy	





Strengthening and Unifying Leather People  
and Cultures

LEATHERLIST.ORG

THE  
**LIVING IN LEATHER PROJECT**

A GRASSROOT PROJECT CELEBRATING LEATHER CULTURE



AWARDING WRITERS, ARTISTS, AND PEOPLE  
WHO MAKE CHANGE!

JOIN US!



OVER 30 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITIES



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Members,

Happy Pride Month!

Let's remember how we are here, and thriving, due to LGBTQ+ history at Stone Wall. Around this time of year, there are individuals who do not want Leather and kink to be present at Pride Parades. This is a slippery slope, as this can cause normalization of an event in history which fights and celebrates our differences. There have been many Leather friends who attest this. We need to stay united to keep our history. Leather and kink belongs at Pride!

To celebrate our essence, Living In Leather 35 (LIL XXXV) is approaching! This year, it will be held on Saturday August 14, 2021 at 4pm EDT via Zoom. We have an exciting agenda! There will be demonstrations, Literature Awards, Activist Awards, and opportunities for artists! Our Lifetime Achievement Award winner will give us a Keynote speech! Your presence is recommended.

National Leather Association – International will have a float in the Atlanta Pride Parade 2021 on Sunday October 10, 2021. If you are in town, please let me know. We would love for you to join us on our float!

We have a Member-At-Large and Domestic Violence Project (DVP) Chair positions that need to be filled. Please email me at [president@nla-international.com](mailto:president@nla-international.com), if you're interested.

I hope to see you all on Zoom for Living In Leather 35!

In Leather,

Sir John

NLA-International President



# THE PERSPECTIVE

## TRAFFIC STOPS

By Melinda Agaton

### **What are My Rights on a Traffic Stop?**

I have seen a few people take a minor situation and escalate it to him/her being placed in handcuffs on a simple traffic stop.

As an ex-cop, I'll break it down and hopefully prevent one or two people from going through an unnecessary ordeal.

### **Traffic Infractions**

Speeding, improper lane changes, improper turns, faulty equipment, etc. are lawful reasons to stop a motorist. It is also lawful to ask for a license, registration, and proof of insurance from the driver. However, if an officer asks you questions other than an apropos question about any of those items, you do not need to respond. For example, an officer may ask, "Is the address on your license current? Is this vehicle registered to you? Is your insurance up to date? etc.;" a driver is required to answer those questions. Those questions are related to the infraction, which is not criminal and may only incur a fine or a court appearance (if you choose to dispute it.) When the conversation transitions to, "So, where are you going? What are you doing? it is ok to simply respond with, "I don't wish to answer that question." Some cops will just shrug it off. Some cops will say, "ok." Some cops will continue to question, but just respond politely and calmly, "I don't wish to answer any questions." Some police will try to get you to admit guilt to the infraction by asking, "Any reason why you were going 52 in a 35 zone?" DO NOT argue or raise your voice!

Just calmly and respectfully say, "I'm sorry, but I don't think I was." No matter what, be polite and have a calm voice. Officers are trained to deescalate, but there are no shortage of officers who will feel challenged and demonstrate their power to escalate a situation. Even though we all wish for perfect police officers with 100% professionalism, there are always some ego driven bad apples in the bunch. Also, sitting parked alongside a road with a traffic cop is not the time to make political statements or start a fight. Right or wrong in the situation, you won't win. I promise you. Furthermore, traffic stops, consensual encounters, public interactions, etc. are all on video now. Let the police officer make him/herself look bad, not you. Let them be the one to get loud or escalate. If you stay calm and polite, it will always pay off. Also, you do have to sign a traffic ticket.... Yes! Please, please sign the ticket! It does not mean you are admitting guilt; it means you received the ticket and will take care of it! And yes, if you refuse to sign a ticket, an officer can call for back up and they can physically remove you from your car and arrest you for NOT signing a ticket. I have seen it happen many times and it is simply NOT worth it!

### **Search and Seizure**

Many people have asked me about unlawful search and seizure as it relates to traffic stops. Again, let me break it down...first off, if a police officer asks you for permission to search your vehicle, say NO! If they must ask you, it means they don't have any reasonable suspicion or probable cause. Since they don't

have any, they are hoping you will just give permission and they can find something. In that situation, an officer may feel that he or she has a “gut feeling” or a “hunch” that you might have something nefarious in your possession but can’t yet prove it. Therefore, they become hopeful that you will submit to the pressure of being asked permission to search.

Here’s where people can get it twisted...Yes, a police officer CAN SEARCH your vehicle without a search warrant! If there is a combination of certain circumstances, no, an officer does not need to secure a search warrant. This practice goes back to 1925 under the Carroll Doctrine. That case happened during the days of Alcohol Prohibition. The officers observed a car they believed was transporting alcohol. Upon observation, they saw a liquid leaking from the vehicle. Upon further investigation, they could clearly see and smell it was consistent with alcohol. Valuable evidence would have been lost if the officers had needed to secure a search warrant. Therefore, the search and seizure were lawful. We are long past the days of Prohibition, but in the current day, the same principle exists. For example, an officer pulls over a car for a license plate tag not working. As the officer approaches the car, they observe copper Brillo scrub pieces and Brillo boxes laying in the back seat (which is a legal observation because it’s in plain view of the officer). As they approach the driver, they observe small wax looking pieces on the dashboard and a glass pipe in the side pocket next to the driver. The driver appears agitated and anxious by clenching his/her fists and sweating profusely. If you add up all those circumstances, a reasonable person would believe there may be drugs in that vehicle. In that instance, an officer would be able to swear in Court of Law that he/she had both reasonable suspicion and probable cause that the driver was in possession of drugs and therefore, detained the driver and searched the car.

## **Nice Doggie**

Police K-9s have been working in departments for a significant amount of time. They have special skills and are extremely helpful in many ways. And, K-9s can play a role in traffic stops. Here’s where it gets complicated...

Ok, so you have been pulled over. For some reason or another, the police officer wants to search your car. You say, “No.” The officer then calls for a K-9 to do a search on the perimeter of your car. This is legal. Since the dog is not touching or entering your car, the dog may smell around the area. If the dog is a trained narcotics dog and signals on your vehicle, this does give strong probable cause to search your vehicle. Now.... this must be done in a specific order with a time limit. If you were pulled over for speeding and given a ticket, that’s it. You’re free to go. The traffic stop is done. Moreover, a police officer CAN NOT pull you over for speeding, issue citation, ask for permission to search your car, which you refuse, and THEN call for a K-9. That is unconstitutional. If an officer calls for a K-9 at the same time he/she pulls the car over and the dog smells around the perimeter while the officer is writing a ticket, that is lawful. In that instance, if the dog signals, the driver and occupants can be detained while a lawful search is conducted.

## **Court Dates**

I’m a strong advocate of going to court. Again, traffic stops are not the place to argue or debate anything with an officer. We live in a digital age and I believe in putting my best foot forward, gathering my own evidence, and allowing a judge to decide. When I think about how much car insurance costs the average American, along with how badly insurance companies punish people for tickets and accidents, why not go to court and have an opportunity to have the ticket thrown out? I say, “Go for It.”



If you have any questions about traffic stops or other legal matters, please e-mail our editors and they will forward the question to me. I am not a lawyer, but I can answer legal questions from a law enforcement perspective based on my education and expertise



## 50 Shades of Green

### Lifestyle Advice For the Right Side of the Slash



#### **When entering into a dynamic do you think written contracts are necessary?**

Thank you for your question. A contract holds both parties accountable. Yes, as owned property I do have a slave contract. Admittedly, my memory is not the greatest. Having the ability to reference my contract as needed has prevented a few snap-fu's. LoL. Also, having a contract reinforced my memory and my ability to retain the information.

As a person with ADHD and on the autistic spectrum having a written contract has been beneficial, especially with regards to certain rituals and protocols and directives. I use my contract as a way to evaluate my submission and surrender and growth within the dynamic and personal growth. There is a medical section in my contract with my notarized advance directive, life insurance information, a list of all my medications, including dosages and a list of my doctors. There is also a notarized copy of my mental

health directive. Let's be realistic. Not all relationships will endure, so within the contract is a exit strategy for both Master and his property. The exit strategy outlines in detail, what happens if the dynamic should dissolve. Contracts aren't for everyone. Ultimately one should do what works best for them..

#### **I'm new to BDSM and kink. What advice would you give to a newbie?**

First and foremost, welcome! I am super excited for you. Please remember to take your time. This is a journey and not a race. We oftentimes feel pressured to "identify" with a particular role. I would encourage you to wait on identifying as anything other than yourself. Take time to invest and explore all the land and all it has to offer. Use this opportunity to discover who you are in this new space. I would also

recommend against entering into a dynamic right now and focus on learning. BDSM and kink provide explorations into self discovery on so many different levels. Reading helps gain a better understanding of WIITWD (What It Is That We Do). Books like "SM101" written by Jay Wiseman, "Existential Kink" written by Carolyn Elliot, "Kink 101" written by Leonard Cascia and "Kinktionary" written by Ignixia Roberts (all found on amazon) are great books to start with. Munches are a great place to connect and meet new people. Due to Covid-19 alot of munches and events have changed to a zoom platform. Take advantage of this online platform and attend classes. Although I'm not a huge fan of FetLife, it does have a awesome "search" component. Plug in your city in the search bar and all events in your area will pop up. Another great resource is findamunch.com which lists links and descriptions of munches, gatherings, events, etc. As a newbie "predators" may try to take advantage and exploit your newness. This is why it's so important to research and learn as much as you can; knowledge offers protection. Please feel free to contact me again on any of my social media platforms if I can be of further assistance. Wishing you a wonderful journey filled with love and light and all the things you desire.

**Are you an s type with a question to ask slave green? Please send your emails to: [girlgreen.mso@gmail.com](mailto:girlgreen.mso@gmail.com).**



**Membership Matters!**

**The LA&M is in its 28th year, collecting and preserving your history.**

**Become a member today and ensure this work continues.**

[leatherarchives.org/support/become-a-member](https://leatherarchives.org/support/become-a-member)

[online@leatherarchives.org](mailto:online@leatherarchives.org)

 **Leather Archives & Museum**

Making leather, kink, BDSM and fetish accessible through research, preservation, education and community engagement.



LEATHER | DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | BIKES  
ADVOCACY

# The Disciples of Leather



## More Than Leather

A deeper look into the newest club affiliated  
with NLA International.

Interview by: **girl alayna**

A proclaimed “group of misfits” by their President, Syr Domino, The Disciples of Leather MC turned heads when they came into the NLA-I fold. Located in Ohio, they intend to rekindle the bond between biker culture and the current population of Leatherfolk in the Midwestern United States.

Their mission includes raising awareness and providing support for victims of domestic violence. Read on to find out more about the newest affiliate club to join the National Leather Association-International.

**girl alayna:** Welcome to the National Leather Association-International family! How did you make the decision to join?

**ember:** Domino and I wanted to be part of a Leather group and we did some research on NLA-I's website and found that we could either 1. create a NLA Chapter in our area or create a motorcycle group and be affiliated with NLA-I. We both had a passion to ride and were riding anyway so Domino did additional research and made the final decision to start a Leather Motorcycle Club, She did the paperwork for us to become a 501C3, applied for a Tax ID and reached out to the President of NLA-I and this all started the balls rolling which got us on our way as a Leather MC.

**girl alayna:** Were you a club before asking to be sponsored by NLA-I?

**ember:** We decided to become a club and asked to be sponsored by NLA-I pretty much during the same time frame.

**girl alayna:** That is awesome that you made that decision. You're a bike club. Is being Leather a requirement to join?

**ember:** Being Leather isn't a requirement to join but following the Leather Code of Ethics is.

**girl alayna:** Different communities are now gathering after the pandemic. Especially so during Pride.

What events are you planning for after Covid?

**ember:** COVID really hasn't stopped us too much as riding goes. Last summer was our pandemic summer and Riding was our way of social distancing and was how we got through the beginning of COVID. We put 10,000 miles on our motorcycles last summer. We stopped riding due to the winter season and we are all getting geared up to start this riding season as soon as it warms up a little bit more. This year, so far, many of us have our COVID vaccines so we are looking forward to starting up some in-person meet n greets for those that are vaccinated and interested in DOL.

**girl alayna:** How has being sponsored by NLA-I helped Your club so far? What are you looking forward to as new club affiliates?

**ember:** It has given us the basics to get our MC off the ground with standard operating procedures and our bylaws. They have been an excellent support system in the whole process of becoming a new Leather MC. NLA-I has made our life easier as a club and been an excellent role model of structure and support.

**girl alayna:** Where are you based out of?

**ember:** We are based out of Cleveland Ohio.

**girl alayna:** Who are your present board members?

**ember:** Members of the Board have recently changed but Domino serves as President and Founder. I am Vice President. Lita serves as our Treasurer & Secretary, and our SA is Rock.

**girl alayna:** What is the process of becoming a Disciple of Leather? Do you have any covenants or policies that you can share with our readers?

**ember:**

1. Each prospect will have a 60-day probationary period.

Prospects must do anything a patched member tells them to do (outside of breaking the law, harming themselves or others)

2. Each prospect is required to be an Individual Member of the National Leather Association - International. [Click here for NLA-I Membership Details.](#)

3. Members are required to have paid DOL Member Dues in full.

4. Members are required to attend all DOL church (club) meetings (may miss 1 meeting with sitting President approval)

5. Members are required to attend all events hosted by DOL (including member passengers).

6. Members will practice Loyalty to DOL at all times.

7. Colors will be treated with respect (example, no one should touch your colors, your cut should never be taken off and left unattended etc....).

8. Never disrespect any other clubs colors or members (in doing so you will be immediately removed from Disciples of Leather M.C., and your colors will be removed from your cut immediately)

9. Never discuss club business in public.

10. We do not EVER discriminate against ethnicity, gender, religion, sexuality etc...

11. Patched members will not ride alone while wearing colors.

12. Members are not permitted to join other clubs.

**girl alayna:** The sponsorship process...what was that like for you?

**ember:** We are proud to be sponsored by NLA-I and by our members supporting us, we support NLA-I. It's been a win-win situation and one that we would do again and again. The Disciples of Leather is a 501c3 that along with NLA-I, also supports The Domestic Violence Project and we hold fundraisers for a local domestic violence shelter to help those that are local to our communities.

COULD YOUR CLUB BE THE  
NEXT AFFILIATE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE  
NATIONAL LEATHER  
ASSOCIATION-  
INTERNATIONAL? VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE AT NLA-  
INTERNATIONAL.COM FOR  
DETAILS ABOUT WHAT IT IS  
WE OFFER AND THE  
ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN  
NLA-I MEMBER OR AFFILIATE!





# MAN WITHOUT THE MASK

b y V I N C E A N D R E W S

We began 2021 together with a mask, not the more common metaphorical mask that we are all used to, but a physical mask that placed a barrier between us. Not that masks of any nature are new to us, we are after all, a collective of kinky-minded individuals who enjoy the scene of mysticism. We currently seek comfort in health, just as we seek to advance our personal knowledge of Fetish and play.

In life, we all wear masks. We use them metaphorically to cover our sadness, anxiety, and fear. We use them to protect us from the shards of art, project scraps, chemicals, and bristling cold. Some masks empower us; other masks are intended to disguise and hide us. All of us started our time together wearing a mask. Some of us have used them as gateways to enter the leather culture because it protected us and yet empowered us at the same time. Unlike masks that can be removed by comfort or simply completing the project or task, these everyday masks protect us from each other.

One day those masks are going to be made into blankets, scarves, pillows, and relics of a time not so distant in our past. They will mark a starting process, a beginning. What once protected us will be converted into things that comfort us. In many ways, we share a lot in common with our masks. We came together in one state and are leaving new. Our mental masks have fresh coats of paint, and our outer masks have a new purpose.

Before us, the future will most likely require many metaphorical masks and possibly a physical mask similar to the one we wear now. However, one day we will celebrate a new time—one where no mask hides the excitement and joy of all our lifestyle or is required to protect us. Our old masks, intended to protect us from each other, will someday compliment us and comfort us, reminding us that better things always lay ahead. Let those masks serve to remind us how strong we are and much we have accomplished, and may all your future masks be purely metaphorical!





OP-ED

DON'T

# YUCK

## MY YUM

by **Sir Robert Helms**

I love our community and the many different niches we find in our fetishes and kinks. From those into heavy SM to those that love tickling, from those into flogging to those into erotic massage, from those into uniforms to those into nudism or naturism. In our world, there is someone that shares your kink and fetish. So, if we have so many different things that make us tingle, why do we continue to talk nasty about something that does not give us “all the feelz?”

I think it has something to do with how our culture has changed over the years and how we perceive these different likes and dislikes. For some, a shaving fetish can evoke memories of a parent or guardian doing their

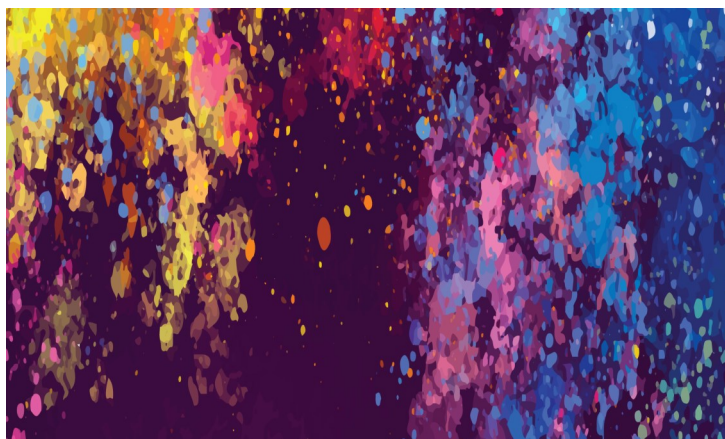


daily or weekly grooming ritual triggering that smell of the lather while others may now see it as a patriarchal requirement to fit the ideals of a “bygone era.” Nevertheless, there are always going to be two different views of whatever subject comes about. And that can be a problem when we get together.

Sometimes, people cannot accept what someone else likes and these days, one will find themselves in the crosshairs of an offended person. I personally do not care what someone is into (as long as it does not cross moral or legal bounds within reason). For example, I am not into fisting and do not find it erotic or enticing. That is just me. But I know many people that find it to be the most intimate expression of sex. I am not going to jump up and scream that people should stop it because I do not like it. That is inappropriate for me to do. How can one stand up on their soapbox and fight for acceptance and equality and at the same time be so hypocritical as to put down another? Alas, that is a question for every individual to ask themselves. And I would love to hear their rationale to understand their viewpoint better.

I guess it all comes down to each person to take an inventory of their words and actions. If something bothers you or you do not like it, just walk away. If you are invited to a spanking party and that triggers you because you may have suffered abuse, do not go. Do not knowingly put yourself into that situation just so you have an excuse to scream how you are upset and how can others let this happen. Granted, the key word here was KNOWINGLY. It is totally different if you are someplace where this happens, and you had no idea this was going to happen. That becomes something different where you had no control. At that point, it is up to you if you wish to scream and yell about your feelings. But you must be willing to accept that there are people out there that are going to fight you since they feel you should have just left the place. (I will not get into consent in public spaces because that is for a different op ed.)

This is why there are indemnification sheets you sign when you go to a dungeon or **event**. Take a close look at the papers you are signing, and I am pretty sure there is something about the event not being responsible for what an attendee may see. One person does not get to dictate the lives of others in this community. All one can really do is just take a breath and walk away. Because when you walk away, you may come face to face with that thing that makes you smile.



Awards

ANNOUNCING THE LIVING IN LEATHER 2021 LITERATURE NOMINEES

SHORT STORY NOMINEES:

SEASON'S BEATINGS: A STEAMY GAY HOLIDAY SHORT by L.A. Witt

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND by LM Somerton

NOVELS:

EDGE PLAY by Jane Boon

STRANGE FLESH by Kevin Breslin

THE WORMHOLE by Lee Dorsey

THE LUCKY CAT: TREASURE TROVES ANTIQUES BOOK ONE by LM Somerton

STORIES FROM THE BROTHEL by Mr. W

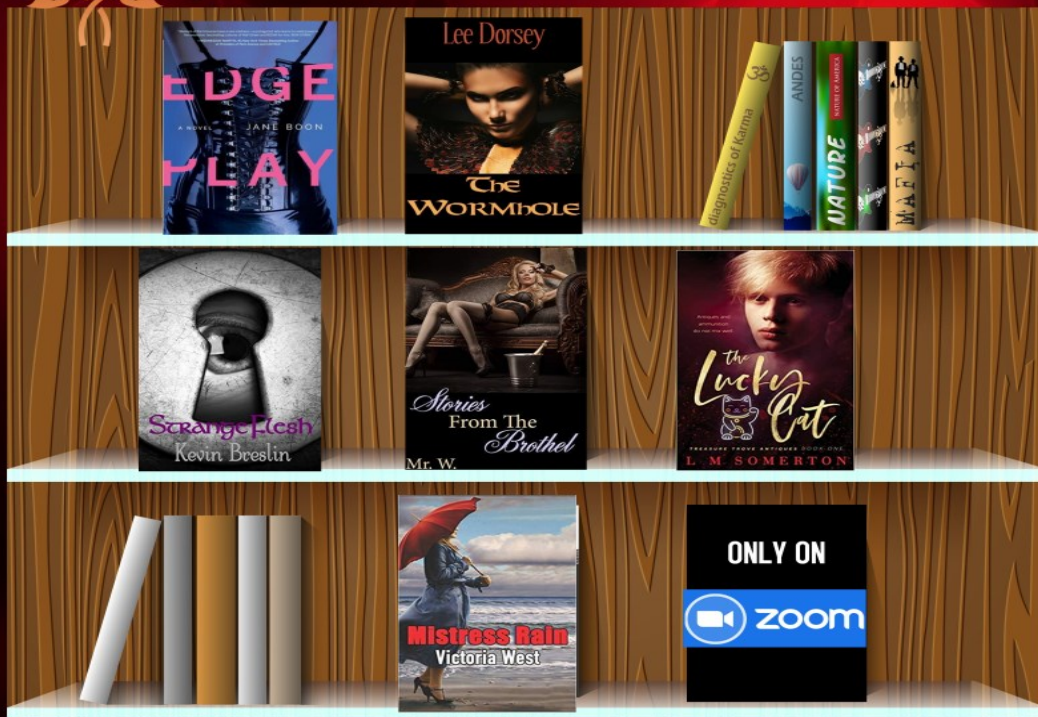
MISTRESS RAIN by Victoria West



WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED AT  
LIVING IN LEATHER XXXV

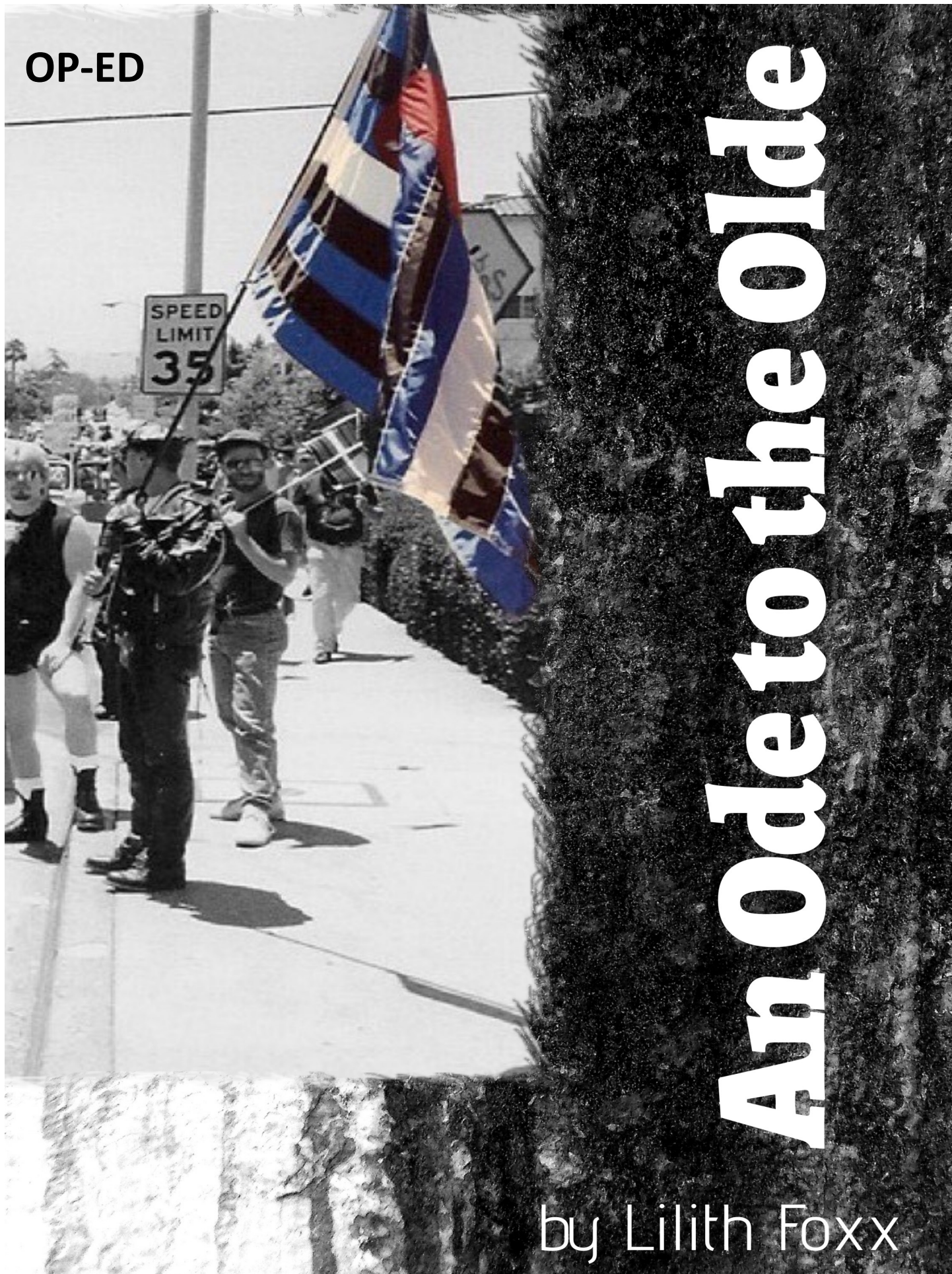
AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup> 4 PM ET  
JOIN US

MEMBERS REGISTER [HERE](#). NONMEMBERS USE LINK AT  
THE NLA-INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE. PLEASE REGISTER  
WITH A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS.





OP-ED



# An Ode to the Olde

by Lilith Foxx

Tradition is not a dirty word.

The Leather community faces scrutiny by the younger generation of kinkster for being the remnants of a bygone era. Gone are the days of the necessity of furtive sexual expression, and with it the Leather lifestyle.

However, this “New Age” of kink ignores the fact that this privilege was born from Leather. The privilege of not worrying about police raids is the direct product of the war fought by the “Olde Guard” that they vilify.

Giving reverence to a lifestyle and the decorum that it carried for the sake of survival is acknowledgement and appreciation. The Olde Guard planted olive trees for a harvest they knew they’d never see.

Where does this disconnect in understanding and appreciation stem from? Why are the stories of Leather lost with time? Why does this younger generation eschew the concept of continuing the lineage of their Leather ancestors?

The question “What is Leather?” is asked and often met with ambiguity. However, the question the New Agers should ask is “What isn’t Leather?”. Leather is not discrimination. Leather is not sexism. Leather is not “Boomers” forcing an arbitrary hierarchy to all within sight. Leather is not preconceived ideas born of biases and misinformation.

Leather is what you make of it. Leather is immortal because Leather is an expression of the human condition to the best of its capacity in the darkest of circumstances. Leather is what gives some semblance of family and security when they had nothing else. Leather is watching that family endure discrimination and die at the hands of a cruel disease. Leather is long nights and intoxicating musk in the back room of the bar. Leather is guidance, Leather is consent, Leather is freedom.

Leather is loss; Leather is not dead.

---

Nostalgia is dangerous.

Leather maintains the façade of a romanticized back bar musk and Crisco that arguably never quite existed. Tall tales of the Leather bar scene have led to historical inaccuracies and misunderstandings, so New Age kink fills in these gaps with stereotypes. What choice do they have when the information is so safeguarded? Back bar room sex certainly existed, but it was largely regional and ever volatile in its consistency of occurrence. Shrouded in its own ironic mystique, Leather maintains the secrecy that has kept it alive, but remains a slow poison destined to be lost with time.

The inconsistencies and inaccessibility of Leather as an education and as a community have led to the younger generation feeling disenfranchised from it. Why should they be interested in an idea that is as dated as those who dig their heels in and refuse to tell the stories? Why should New Age kink hold reverence for a community that comes across as exclusive in its practice – regardless of its reality?

The generation of Leatherfolks who fought so tirelessly for the right to love openly, now scoff at the new generation who exercises that right. They see before them the spoils of the war they fight so tirelessly in, and yet they are angered when they see that progression. Is it jealousy, or something more?

Despite their comfort level, despite the unfairness of it all, The Olde Guard must adapt - as readily as they did to the everchanging hanky codes. The Old Guard must understand that if Leather is to be the immortal force that it deserves to be, that so many before them sacrificed to build, they must open the door. They must demystify the shrouds of secrecy that are no longer necessary with practicing a Leather lifestyle. The fight benefited more than the Leather that is to be, it was always for community.



If Leather is to live, as it so deservedly should, both sides must reach across the aisle and listen. The Olde Guard and the New must bear witness to the very valid and real Leather identity that exists within us all. Community, family, and sacrifice are concepts that

aren't exclusive to Leather, and yet are its lifeblood.

We are all Leather, and the moment we acknowledge that is the moment that we all save Leather.



**$F(u) = c + k$**

by boy bradley

Allow me, please, to define  
the area under the curve  
of your ass: Each cheek  
is a wide parabola;

their volume bouncing when  
pulling Calvin Klein over.

Allow me, please, to solve  
functions, calculate

the limits of your (non-  
existent) commitment.

No axiom nor proof can  
verify all series of your

sums, converging, diverging,  
graphs transforming, shifting.  
If  $x$  can be defined if and only if  
past suitors show their work

of your integrated involvement,  
then in order for  $f(u)$  to equal  
values  $c$  add  $k$ ,  
solve the derivative where

I no longer exist.

## His Accessory

by boy bradley

He sung the body electric, knowing  
How his tongue can both speak my  
Language & make my knees buckle,

How his tongue can lick up my  
Spine, over the damaged marrow,  
Grazes my nape, we exhale our moan...

Spine meets chest, tan arm draped  
Like a Sam Browne belt, fastening us  
As one, matching the rhythm of his hips.

Like a Sam Browne belt, thrown  
Unbuckled on the floor, with other  
Parts of our leather wear. His bed

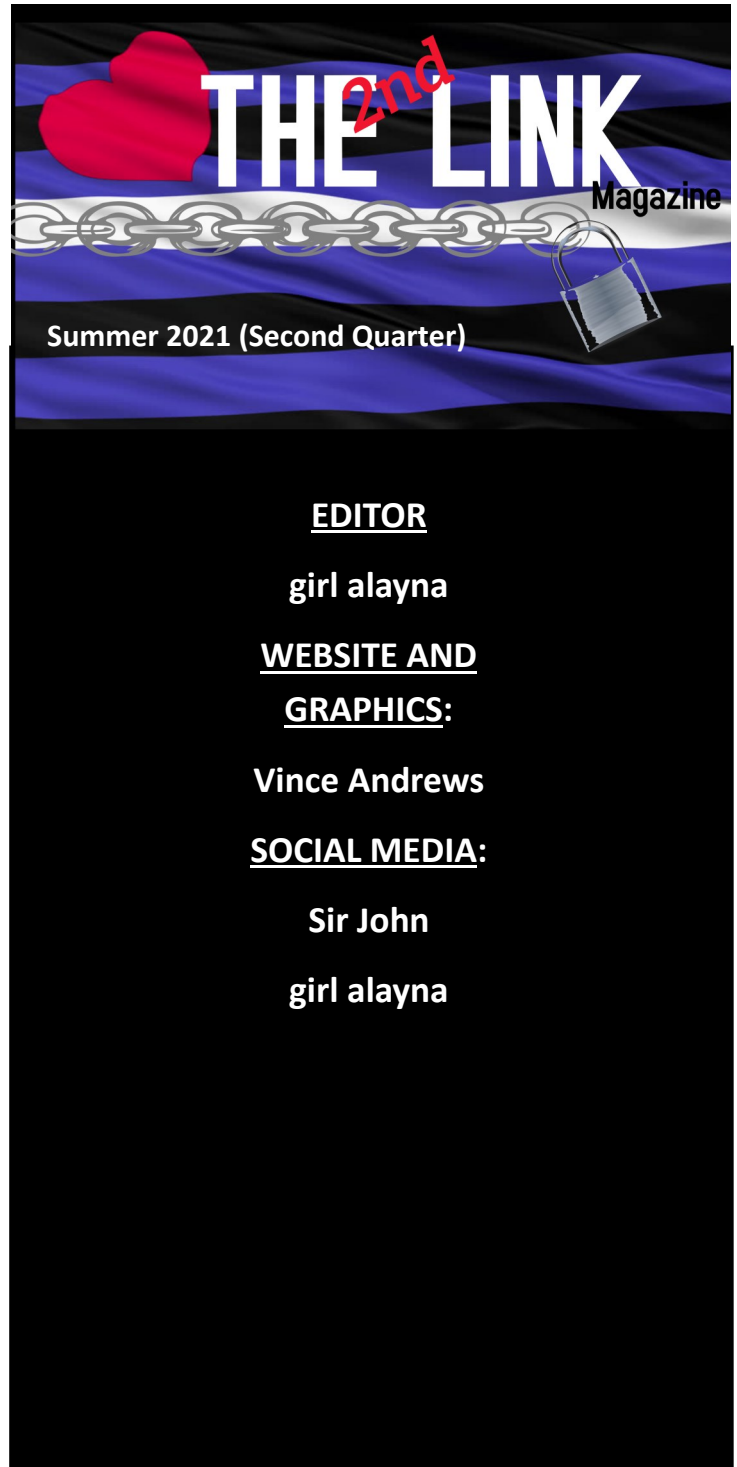
Scrapes along the battered floor, as  
He pulses inside me, growling like  
when wolves claim their meat.

He pulses inside me, choking  
The “virgin” sowing vanilla beans,  
Who never had a man such as

This stranger who devirginized me.

Dawn, our breeding rite concluded,  
He watches me back out his driveway

Another weekend concluded. He hangs  
The Sam Browne belt back in the closet,  
Worn & waiting for next Saturday.



### EDITOR

girl alayna

### WEBSITE AND

### GRAPHICS:

Vince Andrews

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

Sir John

girl alayna



THE NLA - INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

# LIVING IN LEATHER

XXXV

THIRD QUARTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND AWARDS CEREMONY

**SATURDAY AUGUST 14**

4PM ON ZOOM

**ALL ARE WELCOME FREE TO ENTER**

[WWW.NLA-INTERNATIONAL.COM](http://WWW.NLA-INTERNATIONAL.COM)





The National Leather Association International has teamed up with Amazon Smile! Whenever you shop with Amazon, a portion of your purchase will go to the organization to assist with expenses to run Living in Leather programs such as the Living in Leather Conference and the Domestic Violence Project.

Please visit our website at [nla-international.com](http://nla-international.com) for more information.



# *Faces of Leather*



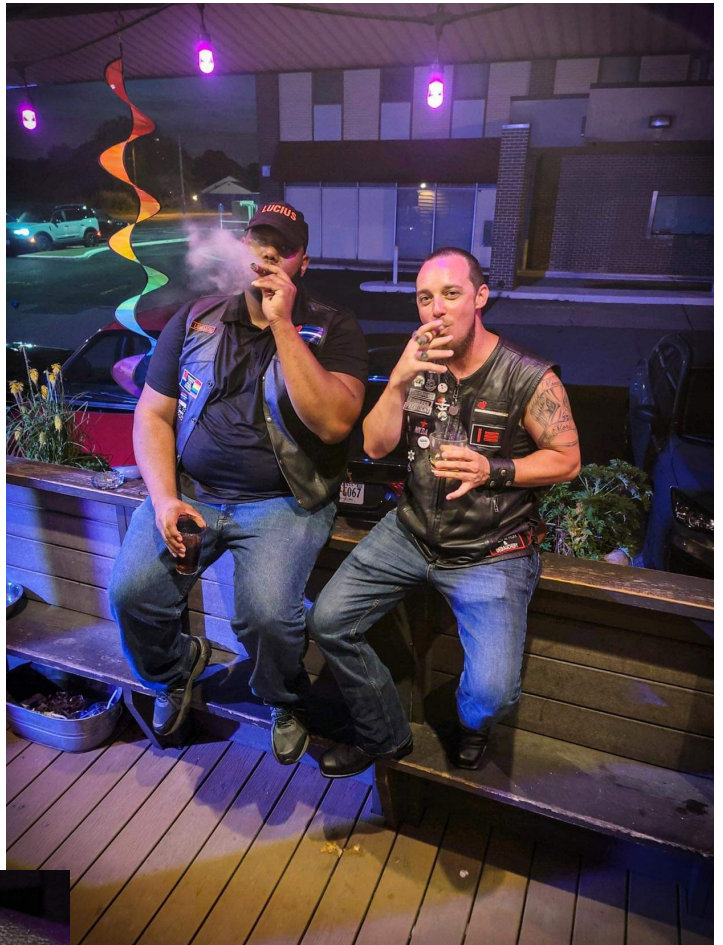
**Lucius X**

Photos by Eastbound

HAMPTON ROADS, VA



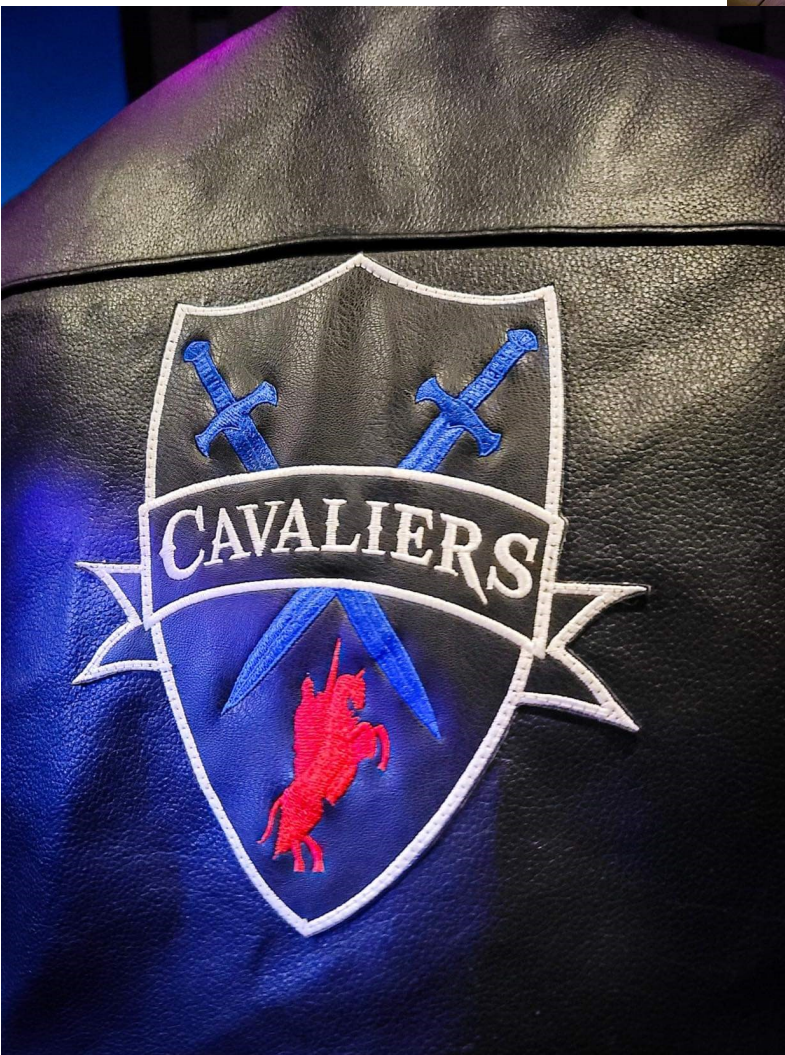
If you were ever to walk into MJ's Tavern during a Cavalier's Leather and Levi bar night, Lucius X would probably be the first person you would see and hear. Meet the towering teddy with a heart of gold.



### 1. Tell us about your journey into Leather.

My journey wasn't a journey until I met and started a relationship with my then girlfriend, now fiancé. I kind of knew of the Leather community before, but the knowledge was vague and I was highly misinformed. So the first time girl alayna explained it to me I was like "What the hell? Fuck that." lol.

But then we started going to educational and other events. After our first scene together I was hooked. It felt like something I was missing even though I had no idea I was missing it.



### 2. What are some of your kinks?

I love impact play and rope play. I'm fascinated by needle play even though I don't think I can perform it myself.

### 3. Have you ever thought about running for a title?

I have thought about it but I want to make sure I have the time to commit to the title before running.

### 4. Have you read any sexy erotic literature lately? What would you say is your favorite?

Can we count porn as literature please lol. I'm not a big reader, but if you need to anything about a porn website, I'm your guy.





# A Continued Assault

by girl a l a y n a

Sex workers already face prejudice that threaten their lives. Now, a popular payment method threatens their livelihood.

The ACLU has joined 22 other civil rights groups in demanding a stop to PayPal and Venmo's practices that harm vulnerable communities by shutting people out without due process.

Using financial services such as PayPal and Venmo can make or break one's ability to work or survive in our progressive virtual society. Despite this, PayPal and Venmo are booting sex workers and other users off their platforms, randomly and with little warning shutting down the accounts of sex workers. The targeted freezing of accounts, without warning or due process, proves to be harmful to workers relying on that income, pushing sex work deeper into the shadows, in turn facilitating abuse that goes unaccounted for.

## **DECriminalization is still an issue that needs to be talked about**

Sex workers are no strangers to tech-based discrimination. The passage of SESTA/FOSTA in 2018, a bill intended to stop the internet from being used for sex trafficking, caused online platforms to ban harm reduction and anti-violence tactics that keep sex workers safe. Platforms such as Backpage and Redbook that allowed sex workers to advertise online and share tips on dangerous clients, were taken offline, forcing many trans women of color back onto the streets with no recourse against violence. Many organizations such as Desiree Alliance, The Sexworkers Outreach Program, and Woodhull Freedom Foundation are dedicated to the rights of people involved in the sex trade and their communities, focusing on ending violence and stigma through education and advocacy.



## **PAYPAL IS NOT ONLY TARGETING FREELANCE SEX WORKERS AND ADULT ARTISTS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO FORCING COMPANIES TO END SUPPORT FOR ANY TYPE OF SEX WORK.**

PayPal has not only suspended the accounts of sex workers without return of funds both past and present, but they have also forced other organizations they work with to end support for adult projects/entertainment such as Patreon. This has not only caused those who currently engage in sex work to be affected but even those who have not done so in years have found their accounts banned.

Adult camming and content sites have seen record creator signups as COVID-19 forced the reported 27 million unemployed Americans to find innovative, safe ways to make ends meet as the federal and state governments continue to fail them. Sites like OnlyFans have seen massive increases in creator signups. At the end of March 2020, Forbes reported that the paywalled site racked up 150,000 new users every 24 hours.

But sites like OnlyFans take a 20 to 60 percent cut of the creator's income. Sex workers through the platform are considered independent contractors, so creators also have to put upwards of 20 percent away for taxes. Many adult sites are the target of hacks, and virtual sex workers worry about their content getting leaked.

## **PAYPAL HAS A HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATING AGAINST SEX WORKERS**

PayPal began its crusade against sex workers in the early 2000's when they — along with other fin-tech and banking giants JP Morgan Chase and Visa/MasterCard — not only abruptly froze and closed sex workers' accounts while pocketing the cash but supported legislation that further stigmatized sex work making it even more dangerous. They continued their campaign in November 2019 when they announced they would no longer be approving payment through

PornHub. The adult site offered models other ways to receive payment, saying, "We are all devastated by PayPal's decision to stop payouts to over a hundred thousand performers who rely on them for their livelihoods."

If you are a reader who wants to help sex workers, here's what you can do:

1. Go to the Election Frontier Foundation's (EFF) Action Center and contact your representatives. The site helps you determine which reps to contact and even provides a script.
2. Continue to educate yourself and others about the intersection of technology and social justice. Hacking//Hustling, a collective of sex worker and ally activists, has wonderful resources.
3. Donate to your local sex work union or sex worker emergency relief fund. Point Source Youth has a growing list of organizations to help sex workers financially affected by COVID-19.
4. Pay for your porn.

# IN THIS ISSUE

## MEET THE AUTHORS

### slave girl gaia



Born in Washington, DC, slave girl gaia, entered the BDSM community in 2013. girl gaia is a black queer-femme, slave, leather-girl, masochist, educator and bootblack. She is affectionately known for her spirited approach to service in the Leather and Kink

communities. In 2019, she produced a conference "Bright Side of the Right Side: The Art of Submission and Surrender". A conference for those interested in or that identify on the right side of the slash (ex. submissive, slave, switch). She continues to volunteer across the region for conferences like the Master/slave conference, BHT, The Science of BDSM and various other national and community-based organizations. She has also presented at various munches and conferences. gaia's love of service keeps her busy. As the organizer of the DMV slave Munch she hopes to provide opportunities for those interested in or identify on the right side of the slash a place to build friendships, share experiences, discuss issues and network. Currently she is on the Board of The Northeast Person of Leather Contest as the Sponsorship Coordinator and is a staff writer for the National

Leather Association's Second Link magazine where she has her own column titled, "50 Shades of green". girl gaia is always available to lend an ear and committed to helping other submissives and slaves who seek guidance on their journey. she is the collard property of Xir Oya and a founding member of The Tribe of Mount Saint Oya.

### Lilith Foxx



Lilithfoxx (she/her) has been in the BDSM lifestyle for the better part of a decade, and an active member of the Houston kink community for the past few years. She currently serves on Council for SAADE (School for Austin Advanced D/s Educa-

tion), and serves Team Dungeon and Houston QueerSpace group. Lilith is a polyamorous, sadomasochistic switch who goes from bratty babygirl, to a sadistic pro-Domme with a penchant for degradation, mind-fucks, and (just about) all things bloody, painful, and fucked up. She identifies as "Leather-ish", identifying with and serving both the Leather and BDSM communities.



Valuing education and service to community, Lilith has taught several classes and served as a panelist for a number of groups, including organizing and moderating Team Dungeon's "BIPOC Experiences pt. 2" panel, teaching "How-to Walk in High-Heels" class, "Social Media Marketing for Kinky Businesses and Brands", and serving on Team Dungeon's "M/s Experiences" panel. She has also served as a panelist for Dark Necessities' Prominent Blood Players of Houston panel, and was recognized nationally at Anomaly's Frost Gala Fundraiser for her service to the kink community. She volunteers her time and experience as a writer, marketing specialist, and business consultant to local kink businesses, and runs Kinky Marketer, where she gives free marketing advice for kinky and adult-oriented brands on FetLife, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

### boy bradley



Paul Bradley, aka boy bradley, lives in Atlanta, GA where he has received his MFA in Creative Writing from Reinhardt University. bradley has come into knowing leather over the last several years. The power dynamics, romance, and cultural impacts of leather

has influenced his writing. bradley aspires to be a professor of English and Creative Writing. Creatively, bradley aims to blend leather and poetry together, much as the poet Thom Gunn once did. bradley thanks NLA-International for accepting his poems and spreading love, leather, and poetry to everyone.

### Melinda Agaton



Melinda Agaton is Secretary of the Houston TX chapter of NLA. An Ex-cop from South Florida, Melinda likes to maintain an eclectic lifestyle and devotion to the common good of the community.

### girl alayna



girl alayna Muster (she/her/zombie cupcake) joined the BDSM community in late 2010 and began her Leather journey shortly after in 2012. A polyamorous, Leather little/middle she is a founder of the Old Dominion girls of Leather in Hampton Roads and is presently a

member of the Mid-Atlantic Onyx Pearls where she proudly serves as their Public Relations chair.

Her advocacy began as a young adult when she created fundraisers and benefits for homeless women and children and AIDS patients in Fayetteville, NC. More recently, she has organized events and panels including Blood is Blood Virginia Beach and What Now: End the Silence on Sexual Assault.

Obsessed with learning about Leather history and its culture, girl alayna joined the National Leather Association– International in 2016 and quickly began work

in the organization with Living in Leather and the Domestic Violence Project. In 2018, she was appointed the position of Publications Chair and is now Editor of both The First Link newsletter and Second Link magazine for which she received the Steve Maidhof Award for Local/International dedication in 2020.

girl alayna lives in Virginia Beach, VA with her fiancé Lucius X and her stuffed owl babies.

**We are looking for content!**

**If you would like to write something for The First Link, we are always taking submissions!**

**Get noticed! Please send your writing and art to girl alayna at**

**[publications@nla-international.com](mailto:publications@nla-international.com).**

**DID YOU ENJOY A PIECE IN THIS ISSUE OF THE SECOND LINK?  
YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE AUTHORS WITH A TIP!**

**Slave girl gaia:**

Cash App: \$leathergirl

\*

**Boy Bradley:**

Cash App: \$MattBear26

Venmo: @MCBeard26

\*

**Lilith Foxx:**

Please send donation to NLA-International via paypal.

\*

**Girl alayna:**

Cash App: \$girlMunster