

# NLA-COLUMBUS

January 2007

This newsletter is published monthly to further the educational outreach mission of NLA-Columbus and to share information about the local, regional, and national BDSM and Leather communities.

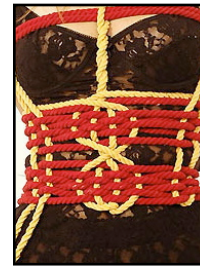


## NLA-C Elects New Board Member January Events and Updates

**Election Results.** The results of the annual officer elections were announced at the December general meeting. Shane was re-elected for a second term as co-chair and Diane was elected to the position of recording secretary. Diane has been active in the BDSM scene since 1999, when she first discovered the joys of kink while volunteering for a sex education organization. In 2006, she coordinated volunteers and the decorating committee for several NLA-C parties. She is also a member of AIS (Adventures in Sexuality). Diane says that she joined NLA-C because she “felt completely accepted and understood as a multi-faceted, complex person with a varied sexual appetite.” She sums up her views on sexuality by quoting one of her role models, Carol Queen. “Trashing other people’s sexual vision is so fucking common,” Queen wrote in *Real Live Nude Girl*, “It’s the highbrows’ lowest road, it’s the fascism almost everyone is willing to embrace.” Welcome to the board, Diane!

Big thanks to Maggie, our outgoing recording secretary, for all the hard work and time she’s put into helping to continue to steer NLA-Columbus forward. We appreciate your service to NLA-Columbus.

**Rope Corsetry.** The topic of the January general meeting will be Rope Corsetry. Rope corsets are decorative bondage garments that can be designed and adjusted to fit any body. Kate will provide step-by-step instructions to get you started in the art of erotic macrame. Bring your rope for this hands-on demo at the Stonewall Center on Sunday, January 14th at 2pm. Kate is active in the leadership of the parent organization of the National Leather Association, and currently serves as the NLA-I secretary and NCSF representative.



**Planning for Our 15th Anniversary.** The board received a tremendous response to the 15th anniversary survey. Some of the more popular ideas for the celebration include a dinner and demo, cocktail party and show, and of course, a play party! Special thanks to Don for designing the online survey and to Mark for compiling the survey responses. If you’d like to help plan and organize the celebration, please contact [shane@nlacolumbus.com](mailto:shane@nlacolumbus.com).

# “Switching” Currents Reflections of a Novice Top

By Lady Di

*During a recent series of negotiation conversations with a long-distance potential play partner, I was asked, “What made you decide to become a switch and not stay exclusively submissive? Was it something you always felt inside you wanted to explore?” Being the word-slut I am and tending toward the verbose, I realized at the end of my dissertation of an answer that I had prime choice material for the beginning of an essay, which, in the true spirit of leather family education, I’ve decided to share. What follows below is, more or less, my answer to the rather complex question he posed.*

\* \* \*

I’ve never really identified exclusively as a submissive. While it’s true that I’ve spent the better part of the last five years as a sub, I’ve pretty much always considered myself a switch, as I knew the inclination to experience both sides of the top/bottom dynamic ran very deep within. My first true foray into any kind of extended BDSM play actually was as a top, and started almost seven years ago when I met an adorable submissive man who was a former client of a pro domme friend of mine. After their relationship ended, he and I quickly discovered mutual interests and began an almost weekly play relationship for the better part of a year. He was into light CBT and orgasm denial and as a novice player these things seemed “normal” enough to me that I didn’t have a problem handling them or feeling confident in the execution of such tactics. He also had the most perfect ass I think I’ve ever seen in my entire life, called me “Mistress” without prompting, and came equipped with a toy bag the size of small Toyota. How could a girl say no to that? However, our relationship ended rather abruptly when I met another man who was to become my very serious boyfriend for two years. I’d never done monogamy and so I decided to give that a whirl with my new beau. Hence, the weekly Saturday night play-date with my hot young muscular friend came quickly to an end.

After that serious (non-kinky, I might add) relationship ended two years later, I remained pretty happily single for the next two years. It was a sexy and incredibly productive phase of my life, at least as far as BDSM exploration was concerned. I met lots of new people, some kink-identified, some not. I dated, had sporadic vanilla sex, and did some pretty serious spiritual work. At that time however, I was not active in any BDSM groups or in the larger leather community. I

knew intuitively that my sex and romantic life was missing something, and I became more and more intrigued with the idea of revisiting a BDSM-type relationship, one that hopefully would allow me further growth within the hot-n-kinky world of leathersex.

After two years of playing the field, I reconnected with a female friend of mine I’d known for a few years. She’d been in the scene a lot longer than me and although keen on discussing everything from current affairs to literature to our diverse sexual proclivities, I don’t think either one of us had really considered the other as a potential play partner. One night, rather unexpectedly, I wound up in bed with both my friend and her long-term boyfriend, and my life and sex play changed dramatically. She became my first real top in any sense of the word and my relationship with the both of them split my world wide open.

*I knew intuitively that my sex and romantic life was missing something.*

Suddenly, what I felt I’d been missing on my sexual/leather journey became pinpoint-focused; bottoming to her, him, or some combination of the two seemed the most natural thing in the world for me. After we’d all been together for about three months we decided to attend the Dark Odyssey gathering in Baltimore. Although I had been to the Ohio Leather Fest twice before, D.O. was an entirely new experience for me. The scale of the event and the diversity of attendees floored me. I did my first public scenes there and although I was terrified, it was so exhilarating I knew I had stumbled onto something remarkable that I didn’t want to let go. It was, quite possibly, the most erotic weekend of my entire life.

That fateful D.O. trip was also how I found NLA-C. I was in a class on cross-dressing and transgender issues and I expressed dismay that I didn’t think there were any gender-queer leather organizations where I lived. Someone asked me where that was and I responded

Continued on the very next page...

**Novice Top**...continued from page 2

that I lived in Central Ohio, and about seven people turned around and said, "Uh, hello! We're from NLA-Columbus and we have a large and vibrant gender-queer organization". My partners and I were thrilled! We attended a munch once we arrived back in Ohio and found that NLA-C was a wonderfully accepting place for a trio of perverted, polyamorous switches. We all joined soon after and I've never looked back.

What has most recently prompted me to fully explore the wonderful world of topping is directly related to my growing involvement with NLA and its members. Within that group, I've found unconditional support and heartfelt understanding for whatever aspect of my sexual/leather life I want to investigate. The knowledge and experience within the group is amazing; the group itself has been around for 15 years and there are some members who have been leather players for 20, 25, even 30 years. I've learned that nothing in the erotic realm is outside the scope of my ability if I ask the right questions, find mutually agreeable partners, and let myself free.

*I finally feel as if I have culled the experience and wisdom necessary for me to access this kind of power within myself.*

I'd always been reluctant to top in any true sense of the word, especially with male submissives, as I didn't know how to properly access that particular type of power within myself without feeling like I was responsible for the entire life of someone else. In my leather infancy, I couldn't envision myself as a top where I wasn't the sole "owner" of someone who was utterly dependent on me for everything from when to come to when to pee, and that kind of responsibility was way too much to consider saddling myself with. After five years as a sub, I realized that my cursory impressions on "how to be a submissive" were, in a word, whacked.

Through NLA-C and attending other local and national events such as OLF, Dark Odyssey and Queen of Heaven, I've quickly discovered that just as there is no one "type" of sub, there is no one type of dominant, either. I had met far too many female dommes who were simply hard-assed, narcissistic bitches, and seemed only to want to beat the crap out of men to highlight their inferior status or punish them for abuses suffered at the hands of previous male partners. I saw very little real, human connection and caretaking when these women would play in public, and I wanted abso-

lutely nothing to do with them or their style of dominance. Through the connections I now have, I have encountered a wide assortment of dominants, both male and female, with whom I am proud to associate, people I can ask even the most intrusive questions and know I'm going to get an honest, informative answer. It's changed my entire perspective on the possibilities of me as a top. And now that I'm in my 30's, I finally feel as if I have culled the experience and wisdom (or the beginnings of it, anyway) necessary for me to access this kind of power within myself, to celebrate it and use it to the best of my ability for the mutual pleasure of both myself and others.

What I've discovered thus far is that how I top is directly related to how I bottom. As a bottom, I want to feel cherished, hot, sexy and taken care of. I want to feel as if I am offering up a bounty of myself to my partner, and that each delectable morsel is savored on the palate as if it were the finest meal in a five-star French restaurant (\$100 bottle of Veuve Clicquot included!) I try to select partners who desire that kind of exchange, men and women who appreciate my sensuality and erotic dominance, but who don't necessarily want their hides bloodied and broken (at least not all the time!). Please don't let that fool you, though. I can throw a sub around like a rag-doll if the scene requires it and we've negotiated that beforehand, but I don't know if that's where the heart of my top skills originate from. For right now, though, for both me and my play partners, not knowing seems to be working just fine.

Lady Di welcomes your comments at [godysdiane@yahoo.com](mailto:godysdiane@yahoo.com).

**Anonymous Messages**

Anonymous Messages are secret messages from one NLA-C member to another. For the rest of us, it's a game of fun and guessing.



*"Sjobok? Isn't that some kind of sandwich?"  
"No, that's stromboli."*

The Rules: Identities cannot be revealed in the pictures of the text. Text should be under 20 words. Malicious messages will not be published. Send pictures and text to Rita at [rita@nlacolumbus.com](mailto:rita@nlacolumbus.com).

# Keeping the Home Fires Burning

## Notes on Polyamory

By Sir Barak and Brat Sheba

Now all relationships can be challenging. However, we would like to talk about polyamory (or “poly” to those who live this way). Since poly is widely misunderstood, and its definition varies by even those of us who are poly, let’s start by defining terms. According to Wikipedia, polyamory is the practice or lifestyle of being open to having more than one loving, intimate relationship at a time, with the full knowledge and consent of all partners involved. The word is often used more broadly to refer to relationships that are not sexually exclusive, but there is disagreement on how broadly it applies (for example, many people contend that swinging is not polyamory). While there are many different applications within the poly lifestyle, we can spend a large amount of time debating what is and isn’t poly. For the sake of this article, let us generalize poly as “more than one open, fully disclosed, consensual and simultaneous relationship.”

Perhaps right now, you are wondering why we would bring this particular subject up within a leather context, right? Well, that is simple. In our experience, we have run across many examples of open relationships, however temporary, within the scene. In a long term sense, there are “tribes” or “houses” that have many tiers to their relationships, or Masters/Mistresses/Dom(me)s/Tops that have more than one regular submissive/slave/bottom, despite having a primary partner or partners. In a short term sense, partners sometimes open the relationships for just play or parties with specific guidelines. Regardless of the combinations there normally is a base couple, triad or small group, containing the essential fire of the relationships.

As we have learned and grown within our open relationship, we have discovered how very important it is to maintain and sustain the intimacy, love, passion and lust of our private relationship or “home fire.” What we mean is that the “logs”(passion & lust) and “coals”(love & intimacy) are the primary fuel/energy of our relationship, which must be fed and kept burning brightly. This forms the base of our “home fire.” Regardless of how or when we open our relationship, our love and passion remain at the center of the fire. Within our relationship, we have certain parameters that are designed to bring NRE (new relationship energy) back to our loving fire.

When there is a mutual attraction to a new person, couple or group, it can increase the energy of one or both of us. When we infuse that NRE back into the primary relationship, it is additional passion and lust.

This addition goes onto the outside of our relationship fire. When a home fire is brightly burning as a bonfire, adding in moderation can make the wholeness of that relationship burn brighter. It can become a version of a pornographic book or story that is “read” to each other by recounting the passion/lust, or the person can be consensually “shared.”

Be well advised, a primary relationship can be weakened in any number of ways. It can be damaged from within or from the outside. The easiest way to damage

*Within our relationship, we have certain parameters that are designed to bring NRE (new relationship energy) back to our loving fire.*

a primary intimacy is by not maintaining honest, open-hearted communication between all parties. If we don’t share directly any negative feelings, such as jealousy (which always springs up, regardless of what people say), or how we are triggered, or the effects we feel, then those feelings can’t be dealt with in an open, healthy manner.

Honesty also must be maintained with the outside relationship in order to clarify the intent and ideas of that person. If that new person has any form of hidden agenda, then it can impact and potentially cause damage to all of the relationships involved. One such hidden agenda we call the “The Pickle Phenomena.” This occurs when the third party just wants one of the members of the primary couple but is not honest about this desire, allowing both members of the couple to believe they are both desired equally. It’s like the hamburger ordered at a restaurant that comes with a pickle on the side. The person ordered the hamburger, they wanted that hamburger, they may push the pickle around the plate, they may even eat the pickle, but they didn’t order the pickle, it just happened to be on the plate. In order to avoid making anyone feel like the pickle, all parties must be honest with themselves and those they are getting involved with.

Another way to create damage and resentment to existing relationships is by adding new relationships too

Continued on the very next page...

**Polyamory...continued from page 4**

quickly. Not only can this damage the primary, but the newer relationships won't sustain energy if they are frequently eclipsed. Also, if a home fire is not a strong enough to absorb the NRE, it can be overshadowed by the frequent new additions.

What happens when we aren't vigilant in maintaining and sustaining the primary? We see it time and time again, the one partner who is home begins to realize the home fire is dwindling. That partner hopefully

*What happens when we aren't vigilant in maintaining and sustaining the primary relationship?*

makes attempts at open communication with the other. If that doesn't work fights and threats may ensue. If the person who is out looking can't or won't hear the concern of their partner, the relationship fire gets further diminished until finally, one of several things happens:

1. The partner left behind becomes angry and begins to manipulate the relationship which causes more fights and threats.
2. The partner left behind goes out to find NRE themselves, creating a mutual disregard of the primary relationship.
3. One of the partners addresses the issue directly and more forcefully, indicating that the primary relationship is in serious danger – which can lead to more lasting positive relationship changes, and a relationship renewal.
4. Lastly, one partner builds another permanent fire elsewhere, leaving the other to watch the extinguishing of that first home fire and the end of the relationship.

With a vigilant core of love and passion, the home fire can be rekindled over and over again, with or without the addition of NRE. Many issues and circumstances are bound to come up within polyamory, which are part of the journey of self discovery. Sometimes, all that is needed is to take the time to rekindle. If you want to have successful polyamorous relationships, our suggestion is to be honest and open with your lovers, so that all can work toward mutual bliss and satisfaction.

Sir Barak and Brat Sheba welcome your comments at [Baraknsheba@aol.com](mailto:Baraknsheba@aol.com).

# Cocktails Number 1

## Erotic Fiction

**By Shane**

I don't park in the well lit area of the lot. I park in the dark where it's hard for people to make out the type of car I drive and hard for people to see who's pulling in. It's dark and cold and the air is moist from the rain. I leave my coat in the car because I know I won't need it once I'm inside. The less I need to keep track of, the better.

The door to get into the club is propped open. It's hot inside. I can see figures leaning up against the glass block wall of the building. Their outlines – I can see that every type of man is here tonight. There's a short line to get in. The woman at the window stamps the hand of the man in front of me – in case he wants to come back later. It is five bucks to get in for the night. I give the woman a fiver and go in. It's hot inside. And it's dark. It only takes few seconds for my eyes to adjust, but I don't need to see to know what's going on. I don't need to see that I'm being sized up. Men. All types. Leaning against the walls. Some standing with their hands in their pockets. Some because they're nervous. Some because they're playing with their cocks – trying to get the attention of whoever just walked through the door.

Except for the sound of doors opening and closing there's little noise from those inside. The radio is tuned to a local top-40 station. Men are constantly entering and leaving the building. A business man in his nicely pressed suit, white shirt, tie and dress shoes. Just a quick stop before heading home. He walks past brushing up against me. I can smell his cologne. It's expensive. He goes into a small unoccupied room and closes the door. There are college boys in jeans and tennis shoes with their alligator oxfords on. Exploring and looking for a quick way to get off. Waiting for the next guy who wants a blow. Sometimes you don't need a room. Sometimes, all you need is a dark corner. There are three men in the corner. I watch them. Two are standing, one behind the other, fucking. The third is on his knees sucking cock. Leather daddies cruising the hallways for the next boy to open his door to him. Their smell intoxicates me. Leathery, sweaty, musky. It's hot inside. And very crowded.

The radio station is tuned and blaring club music from the decade-old speakers. It's late and I have to leave. The woman at the door stamps my hand, "Just in case you want to come later," she says to me with a smug grin as I walk out into the cold, damp air.

Shane welcomes your comments at [Shane@nlacolumbus.com](mailto:Shane@nlacolumbus.com).

# BR Trip Report

## Dec. 1-4, 2006

By Rita Seagrave

I arrived a day early and watched the hotel guests milling around the lobby gradually change from a suit-wearing crowd of politicians and businessmen to a toybag-toting crowd of kinky perverts wearing black jeans and leather vests. Most of the 1000+ attendees were from DC, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, California, and of course, Ohio. The Ohio contingent met for a small cocktail party after registration and then we ate dinner at the hotel across the street. After dinner, we returned to the host hotel, changed our clothes, and entered the dungeon in the giant ballroom. We strolled and chatted quietly as if we were walking through the National Mall looking at white marble monuments, but these monuments were made of leather, rope, polished wood, and candle wax. "Can you believe the White House is only two blocks away?" someone exclaimed.

I planned to go to bed early on Friday night (but things don't always go as planned) because I was supposed to be a demo bunny for a class called Surviving Corporal on Saturday morning. I was nervous about this class, not because I doubted my ability to survive corporal punishment but because I doubted my ability to survive it at 9 am. However, the flick of the singletail turned out to be more satisfying than a cup of coffee and enhanced my meditational dream-state. After the demo, I navigated the crowded, top-notch vending area, where I bought a cowhide flogger from Heartwood and a low-temp candle from Liquid Fire.

Saturday night's activities included a formal banquet, celebrity auction, private suite parties throughout the hotel, and more play in the main and afterhours dungeons. What I liked most about these activities was that some of the attendees identified as bi poly switches, like me. I was encouraged to express many different sides of myself: sensual domme, co-top, service top, witness, voyeur, flirt, naughty girl, masochist, and submissive.

I wasn't feeling up for much on Sunday, but I did attend an excellent face-slapping workshop. The presenter demonstrated safe technique and urged caution for this type of physical and emotional edge-play, but also gleefully offered guidelines for how to ramp up the intensity of a really good face-slapping. It was a perfect example of why this event was so worthwhile for kinky people at all levels of experience.

Rita welcomes your comments  
at [ritaseagrave@mac.com](mailto:ritaseagrave@mac.com).

## December 06 Financial Report

<u>Income</u>	
NLA-C Dues	40.00
Bar Night	114.00
NLA-I Dues Received	20.00
Party Ticket Sales	495.00
<u>Total Revenue</u>	669.00
<u>Cost of Sales</u>	
Pins	2.92
Cost of Sales Adj	(75.00)
Total Cost of Sales	(72.08)
<u>Gross Profit</u>	741.08
<u>Operational Expenses</u>	
PayPal Fees	1.75
Party Space	413.00
Party Supplies	50.00
NLA-I Exp	20.00
Eqpt Maintainence	106.18
<u>Total Expenses</u>	590.93
<u>Dec Net Profit</u>	150.15
<u>Assets</u>	
Cash on Hand 12/31/06	3,994.21
Legal Fund Restricted	200.00
Bldg Fund Restricted	100.00
Cash Available 12/31/06	3,694.21
<u>Inventory</u>	
Club Pins (38)	54.02
Patches (9)	36.24
<u>Total</u>	90.26
<u>Year to Date Summary</u>	
Income	6,058.85
Expenses	5,459.79
Net Income (YTD)	599.06

# 2006 Annual Financial Report

NLA-Columbus, Inc Income Statement December 31, 2006
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Revenues:	
General Income	651.89
NLA-C Dues	875.00
Patch Sales	25.00
Party Ticket Sales	2,570.00
Bar Night Fund Raiser	1,277.00
NLA-I Dues Rec'd	740.00
Total Revenue	6,138.89
Cost of Sales	
Club Pins	43.80
Club Patches	36.24
Total Cost of Sales	80.04
Gross Profit	6,058.85
Expenses:	
Telephone	111.00
P O Box Rental	46.00
Pride Parade	204.43
PayPal Fees	3.37
Miscellaneous	179.84
Web Exp	119.40
Presentations	489.95
Party Space Rental	1,652.00
Party Exp Other	58.75
Party Truck Rental	126.74
Party Supplies	303.77
NLA-I Dues Exp	740.00
Meeting Space Rental	120.00
Pride T Shirts	396.68
DV Pins (Int'l)	21.00
Corporation Fees	25.00
Eqpt Maintenance	501.86
Picnic Supplies	50.00
Charitable Donations	300.00
Other Exp	10.00
Total Expenses	5,459.79
Net Income	<u>599.06</u>

NLA-Columbus, Inc Balance Sheet December 31, 2006
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		Assets	
Fifth Third Checking		3,994.21	
Legal Fund Restricted		200.00	
Bldg Fund Restricted		100.00	
Inv Adj		(20.00)	
Club Pins		54.02	
Club Patches		36.24	
Total Assets			4,364.47
Property & Equipment			
Dungeon Eqpt		900.00	
Total Property & Eqpt			900.00
Total Assets			<u>5,264.47</u>
		Liabilities & Capital	
Liabilities		0.00	0.00
Capital			
Retained Earnings		4,665.41	
Net Income		599.06	
Total Capital			<u>5,264.47</u>
Total Liabil. & Capital			<u>5,264.47</u>

<b>National Leather Association, Columbus Ohio Chapter</b>	
P O Box 2763	
Columbus OH 43216	
Phone: 614-898-6266	
Email: <a href="mailto:nlacolumbus@nlacolumbus.com">nlacolumbus@nlacolumbus.com</a>	
Website: <a href="http://www.nlacolumbus.com">http://www.nlacolumbus.com</a>	

Shane	Co-Chair
Dawn	Co-Chair
Owen	Treasurer
Rita	Corresponding Secretary
Diane	Recording Secretary
Mark	Member At Large

## Calendar of NLA-Columbus Events

Wednesday, January 10	<b>Munch</b> Munches are held every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.	The Surly Girl 1126 N. High Street (at the corner of High and 4th)	Free and open to the public
Sunday, January 14	<b>Board Meeting (12 noon) &amp; General Meeting (2 pm)</b> Meetings are held on the second Sunday of every month.  Topic: <i>Rope Corsetry</i> Presenter: <i>Kate</i>	The Stonewall Center 1160 N. High Street (at the corner of High and 4th)  Note: Please notify a board member in advance if you plan to attend a board meeting.	Board meetings are open to all NLA-C members.  General meetings are free and open to the public.
Wednesday, January 17	<b>Munch</b> Munches are held every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.	The Surly Girl 1126 N. High Street (at the corner of High and 4th)	Free and open to the public
Saturday, January 21	<b>Bar Night</b> Bar Night is held on the third Saturday of every month at 11pm.	Exile 893 N. 4th Street	Admission: \$2
Wednesday, January 24	<b>Munch</b> Munches are held every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.	The Surly Girl 1126 N. High Street (at the corner of High and 4th)	Free and open to the public
Wednesday, January 31	<b>Munch</b> Munches are held every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.	The Surly Girl 1126 N. High Street (at the corner of High and 4th)	Free and open to the public
Sunday, February 11	<b>Board Meeting &amp; General Meeting</b>	Stonewall Center (see Jan 14)	Free and open to the public

## Calendar of other local group events

Sterling Shadow Club will host a meeting on January 16, and an afternoon talk, reading, and book signing by BDSM author TammyJo Eckhart on February 3, followed by a party. For more info, visit [sterlingshadow.com](http://sterlingshadow.com) and [www.kiva.net/~teckhart](http://www.kiva.net/~teckhart).

SORE (Southern Ohio Resource and Education) and CORDS (Central Ohio Real Domination and submission) host workshops, roundtable discussions, munches, parties, and fellowship dinners every month. For more information, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SORE> and [cordsinfo.org](http://cordsinfo.org).

CARE (Cincinnati Area Rope Enthusiasts) will host Rope Rendezvous Workshops on February 2 and March 3. For more info, visit <http://www.ds-arts.com/shevah/CARE>

M\_O\_R\_A\_L hosts a munch every Thursday evening. More info: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/M\\_O\\_R\\_A\\_L/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/M_O_R_A_L/)

Fightclub Ohio will host several munches and a party in January. For more information, visit [fightclubtng.org](http://fightclubtng.org).

MAST (Masters And slaves Together) will host an open meeting January 21 at the Surly Girl. For more information, [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MAST\\_General](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MAST_General)

AIS (Adventures in Sexuality) will host a party on Jan 13th. For more information, visit [www.panpolybds.com](http://www.panpolybds.com).

**Please send calendar listings and announcements to [Rita@nlacolumbus.com](mailto:Rita@nlacolumbus.com).**