



NLA Columbus Newsletter

March 2006

What's New in 2006

At our first meeting of 2006, co-chair Shane welcomed Dawn into her new Co-Chair position, Rita into Corresponding Secretary, and our dearest Owen has graciously volunteered to continue his role as NLA-C treasurer, which we greatly appreciate.

In addition, our new 2006 NLA-Columbus Board presented Owen, Shar, and Carey a plaque that stated: *In Honor of your Leadership, Board Emeritus*. Over the years, they've dedicated their hearts and souls to seeing that NLA-Columbus succeeds and becomes the outstanding organization that it is today.

Also at our January meeting, the one and only Jack Rinella presented **Bedroom Play: What Do Leatherfolk Do When There's No DM To Monitor Their Play?** We had over 55 people in attendance, including members from other local groups such as Sterling Shadow and FightclubTNG.

In February, we had a presentation on **Scene Emergencies**. It was a very thought provoking reminder that we each need to plan for possible problems. What do you tell paramedics if you have to call 911? What do you tell the medical staff in the ER? We often overlook this aspect of play at either a play party or when playing at home.

In response to the presentation, many members made changes to the way they prepare for a scene. For example, Stone and Kat report that they've updated their toy bag to include a brand new first aid kit with bandages, aspirin, smelling salts, and earplugs (for sensory play...they were in the same aisle as the first aid stuff!). In addition, Stone says, "I'm a diabetic, so I have a monitor in my bag now, and I've shown Kat how to use it. Now, if she needs to check my insulin, she knows how." Terri also made an addition to her toy bag. She says she now carries EMT scissors for rope play in case someone needs to be cut down real quick. Samantha reassessed her emergency plan. She says, "If I'm planning to secure a bottom in inescapable bondage, I'm going to be sure that someone else will call to check in later—like a safe

call—in case something happened to *me* during the scene."

The topic for the March meeting is **Erotic Role-play**. Erotic role-play allows you to recreate your everyday interactions with a thrilling, fulfilling twist. What if you could spank the waitress who doesn't bring your food fast enough? What if your good-looking doctor playfully reprimanded you because you're unable to hide your arousal during the physical exam? This presentation will help you figure out which roles turn you on, how to integrate role-playing with other BDSM activities, and what special aftercare measures you should consider. The presenter, Rita, has worked in the adult industry for twelve years as a sex toy retailer, stripper, and professional dominatrix. The meeting will be held on Sunday, March 12th at 2pm at Stonewall.

If you're excited about the Erotic Role-play presentation, why not come "in role" to our **party** on March 11th? A certain headmistress will be disciplining misbehaving students while the school nurse provides comfort and discomfort for her patients. We invite you to dress up, bring props, and play! And, get ready to try out our newly refurbished equipment. Co-chair Shane announced that furniture renovations have begun, and he expects some projects to be completed in time for the party. The projects include:

- + shoring up the crosses, posts, and suspension beam
- + padding the benches, bishop's chair, and table
- + refinishing all the furniture



A newly upholstered, padded spanking bench

Special Guest Columnists

The Perfect Master: Misconception and Resolution by Sir Eric Pride and slave jorgi

You, the Master, are in charge and in control. You own the responsibility of your property - whether it is real estate, slaves or your thoughts. You call the shots. You make the decisions and create your reality. Things are grand.

you, the slave, have given up your life's freedom to serve and please your Owner. you own nothing anymore. you obey orders and respond to your Master's will. Things are grand.

However, it's also soon discovered that this is an idealized description of our world – a perfect world without any problems or mistakes. The Master unerringly makes the right decisions. slaves happily comply without hesitation. Master wishes – slave does. This is the symbiotic reverence of being in ideal Master/slave relationships. This is what Masters and slaves dream of, isn't it?

Clearly, one of the biggest errors both Masters and slaves experience, is to believe that Masters make the best decision – always. Why not – aren't they supposed to? They are Masters after all. Complete Masters of themselves and their domain?

There is no such being as the Master who, like an oracle, makes the correct choice in every instance. Masters are humans, and humans commit mistakes. As easy as it sounds, both Masters and slaves tend to forget this. Masters often become overconfident of themselves, just because they are in charge. They may disregard options. slaves, quite similarly, tend to believe in an illusion that their Masters are perfect. It's possibly why they gave complete control to their Master in the first place.

It is important to think about what this means for our daily interaction – between Master and slave – and the future development of our relationships. Failure to recognize the fact that Masters are imperfect will lead to instability, and loss of trust in our households. At a minimum, it will cause confusion, but it may also cause broken relationships and separation.

As a Master, it is meaningful to keep yourself levelheaded, and try to make responsible and "right" decisions. However, you have to accept that you are

going to have your share of misjudgments and miscalculations. Some examples are assigning too many tasks to be accomplished in a certain time, demanding too much commitment/control too soon, or expecting your slaves to learn a specific task quicker than they can manage. And it's equally challenging to manage yourself with compassion as well. Yes, sometimes, and inevitably, you make wrong determinations.

It is a great sign of strength and confidence when you accept and admit your mistakes. Showing an understanding of what went wrong, and explaining why, provides comfort and trust for everyone involved. If you do not, that fault is likely to happen again. There is nothing worse than slaves not knowing whether you realize a mistake. Humility goes a long way also for Masters.

slaves get frightened, disappointed, or even angry, when things don't turn out how their Masters told them they would. It can be very disorienting for slaves to, literally, put their life in their Master's hands, and then find out they aren't necessarily masterful in all things, and at all times. It can cause slaves to question their own ability, or even their slavery. At the most extreme, it may feel like betrayal.

As a slave, consider that if you feel disillusioned, or have succumbed to fearfulness about your Master's oversights, a good place to find freedom from that, is to realize and accept that a "wrong" decision was not yours to make. A good, honest, and loving Master does not make mistakes on purpose. To release judgment and ownership, over a result that your Master did not intentionally cause, is a great first step.

Be we Master or slave, humans often experience complex learning as "painful". A considerable milestone is achieved when we no longer automatically shun areas of growth that may be difficult, and in fact, make the decision to be willing for more. Not because we enjoy that kind of pain, but because we recognize that pain, like pleasure, is sometimes useful to achieve progress in ourselves and our goals. Once we have chosen our dream, we must have the confidence, integrity and determination to follow it.

And now, we will remember that Masters will never be perfect – even if we all desire them to be!

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Sir Eric Pride and slave jorgi welcome your comments at Eric_Pride@yahoo.com and jorgi@wideopenwest.com.

Calendar of NLA-Columbus Events

March	1	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
March	8	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
March	11	Erotic Role-play Themed Party For Members + Guests	8:30 pm (8pm for orientation)
March	12	General Meeting Stonewall Center Topic: Erotic Role-play Presenter: Rita	2:00 pm
March	15	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
March	18	Bar Night at Exile	11:00pm
March	22	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm
March	29	Munch at High Five	6:30 pm

Munches are free and open to the public. Munches are held at High Five (corner of 5th and High Street).

Party tickets are available at munches and meetings for members and their invited guests. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$15 (members) and \$20 (guests). The party location is disclosed only to ticket holders.

General Meetings are free and open to the public. Meetings are held at the Stonewall Center (1160 N. High St).

Bar Night is held at Exile (893 N. 4th Street). Cover is \$2 and the money taken at the door goes to the NLA-Columbus treasury. This is an excellent way to help NLA-Columbus raise money and allow us to keep offsetting expenses for guest speakers, parties, educational events, etc.

Calendar of NLAI Events

The Annual General Meeting of the National Leather Association International (NLAI) will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2006 in Oklahoma City at Tribal Fire. The membership meeting will include brunch. Board members, committee members, and executive officers will also be meeting Friday, May 5th, and Saturday, May 6th. For more information, contact Jan at jhall36@columbus.rr.com. Members do not have to purchase brunch tickets (\$15) or attend Tribal Fire to attend the NLAI meetings. However, Tribal Fire, hosted by our Oklahoma City chapter, is a top notch social and educational event and can be registered for at tribalfireokc.com

Calendar of other local group events

FightclubTNG will host a munch in Columbus on March 18th at 7pm.

Sterling Shadow will host a monthly educational meeting on March 21st in Dayton. For more information visit sterlingshadow.com.

This newsletter is published monthly online and in a hard copy format to further the educational and outreach mission of NLA-Columbus and to disseminate information about the local, regional, and national SM/Leather scene.

We'd love to publish your calendar listings, news, and announcements; creative or analytical writing and opinion pieces; art, including pictures of handmade BDSM toys, tools, and equipment; kinky book and movie reviews; as well as trip reports from folks who have attended national or regional leather conferences and workshops.

If you would like to contribute to the next NLA-Columbus newsletter, please contact Rita at rita@nlacolumbus.com.

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Shane	Co-Chair
Dawn	Co-Chair
Owen	Treasurer
Rita	Corresponding Secretary

Vacant	Recording Secretary
Vacant	Member At Large
Vacant	Member At Large

Financial Report

Cost of a Party

Since we haven't had a published financial report in several months, we just want to make sure everyone is aware of the cost and understands why we poll the members prior to making the commitment. The hotel asks that we sign a contract a month in advance of the scheduled party. We are charged \$350 plus \$63 (18% service fee) or a total of \$413. In addition to the room expense, we have to rent a truck to transport the equipment to and from the party, which costs between \$40 – 50. Therefore, the minimum cost to NLA-C is \$450. We don't have to make money on a party but we do need to break even.

Membership

Our current membership totals 59. The breakdown is: 36 (NLA-I/NLA-C) and 23 (NLA-C). We are currently tied for the largest Chapter in NLA-International. And let me say that is a mere statistic: the key in our chapter is support for the organization and our community.

Changes at Stonewall

In the past, the meeting space in Stonewall has been available thanks to donations from the groups using the space. Over the past few years, we have always tried to give donations in appreciation for having the space. Near the end of last year, with rising costs of utilities, they announced a "fee" assessment for use of the space. You will note in the December expenses a category "Mtg Space Rental". The fee is based on the size of the group and frequency of meeting. Based on our experience of locating and paying for space, this is a BARGAIN.

Fundraising

We've designed t-shirts, mugs, and hats bearing the NLA-Columbus logo. They are now available at cafepress.com/NLAColumbus. We earn a dollar or two for each item purchased.



	Dec 2005	Jan 2006
Income		
Dues New Mbrs	120.00	40.00
Party Ticket Sales	440.00	115.00
Gen Inc	60.00	16.00
NLA-I Dues	80.00	40.00
Fund Raisers	5.00	146.00
Total Revenue	705.00	357.00
Cost of Sales		
Club Pins	8.76	2.92
Patches	-	-
Total Cost of Sales	8.76	2.92
Gross Profit	696.24	354.08
Expenses		
Miscellaneous		14.84
PayPal Fees	1.62	
Mtg Space Rental	125.00	
NLA-I Dues Paid	80.00	40.00
Presentation	175.00	
Party Space Rental		413.00
Truck Rental		36.09
Party Supplies	100.00	80.00
Total Expenses	306.62	758.93
Net Profit for Month	389.62	(404.85)
Assets		
Cash on Hand	3,035.07	2,633.14
Legal Fund	200.00	200.00
Restricted		
Bldg Fund Restricted	100.00	100.00
Cash Available	2,735.07	2,333.14
Inventory		
Club Pins (67)	97.90	97.90
Patches (16)	72.48	72.48
Total	170.38	170.38
Summary		
Income	3,162.39	354.08
Expenses	2,961.58	758.93
Net Income (YTD)	200.81	(494.85)

Treasury Information

Just a reminder for all members: any time that you have questions about handling of the books (our money), or an explanation of expenses, please feel free to contact your friendly Treasurer.