

The LADY O Society

BCM/3406, London WC1N 3XX

NEWSLETTER #11

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THE SOCIETY FOR SUBMISSIVE LADIES: recognising that a sub/dom relationship is more fulfilling and stimulating than a "normal" sexual association. We are not abnormal, we are different, and happy to be different. The LADY O Society exists to provide reassurance and reinforcement; it is not just another sub/dom club, it is the only organisation in the world which speaks exclusively for submissive ladies (and their Masters). Articles on any aspect of the scene are invited and welcomed. Letters requiring reply should be accompanied by return postage.

Annual Membership (ladies) £5 (overseas £10 or \$20 US cash) Associate Membership (gentlemen or couples) £10 (overseas £20 or \$40 US cash). All back-numbers of the Newsletter are available at £2 each (overseas £2.50 or \$5 US cash). Please make all cheques/POs payable to RYDER.

If an "X" appears here your subscription expires with this issue. We hope that you will continue to support The LADY O Society; please send renewal now, to save cost of reminder.

Messages from Deborah

The LADY O Society is producing a book, provisionally titled *The Desire For Submission*, but I hope that can be amended soon - when someone thinks of something better. It is intended to encompass everything about sadomasochism. Previous attempts to accomplish this have been unsatisfactory, probably because they were written from one perspective. As I have found out, especially over the last couple of years, there are as many viewpoints as there are people in the scene. So, if you would like to contribute an article, I look forward to hearing from you. Or maybe you would like to re-use an article written for the Newsletter. Don't be put off writing if you are new to the scene; such a view is equally relevant. Male, female, dominant, submissive, hetero, gay, bi, and anything else. TSs and TVs are also a part of the scene if you want to be. A written exploration of SM in all its grandeur demands many diverse views. Will this project succeed? That's up to you.

I find it impossible to comprehend the fact that some people find SM horrifying or terrifying. I have been sub for as long as I can remember and, to me, it is as natural as breathing. Why do some people think we are unnatural? I appreciate that some of the bigoted minority are those who contend that all sexual activity is reprehensible; nevertheless, there are others who view SM as iniquitous and abusive simply because they do not themselves experi-

ence such desires and therefore do not understand the condition. To say "they do not understand it" does not excuse their intolerance. Does it help us to understand them? On the other hand, why should we bother to understand them? They may be in the ascendant now (in Britain) but their days are numbered.

The government has refused to make Holocaust-denial a criminal offence in Britain (it is an offence in many other countries). The official reason - and someone in the government actually said this! - was "freedom of speech". So perverting the truth is OK, though perverting anything else isn't.

Please note that publication dates for the Newsletter mean that your copy is posted to you during that month. Probably in the latter half of the month. Deadline for ads etc: last day of the preceding month. Then I print-out, photocopy, collate, staple, address envelopes, fill envelopes, seal and stamp envelopes, stamp return address on envelopes, check that everyone who should have one has got one, and (at last) post them. That's the members. Then the exchange advertisers and the miscellaneous (which covers many reasons). Possibly the whole process would be quicker with help but (a) I don't like delegating and (b) there is the question of confidentiality. No-one but I (DR) has ever seen the list of members, letters from members, etc, and I have no intention of changing that situation as long as I can continue, which I hope will be a good few years yet. (What will happen after that? I believe the problem will solve itself when it needs to.) Meanwhile, this is the timetable, and sometimes an article jumps the queue or is delayed because everything has to fit into twelve pages. Amateurish, maybe, but that adds to our charm. Doesn't it?

OLYMPIA

On 23 April at precisely 1 pm, a horde of police officers charged into Olympia Publishing (UK) Ltd, demanded we all stay where we were (one employee was in the Ladies, for heaven's sake!) told us not to touch the computers, etc, and handed over a search warrant under the Obscene Publications Act, and accused Mr Wakelin, the Managing Director, of living off immoral earnings. (Our model is an aromatherapist, as I am, and had been about to begin a massage of a fist-full-of-money "do-you-do-any-other-services" policeman when he leapt off the table and began his accusations, along with the mob upstairs).

For the next six hours, Olympia's offices and the homes of the two directors were turned upside down. I would like The LADY O Society members to be aware that they were after drawings, especially bondage drawings. I would also like The LADY O Society members to be aware they also

searched a tin full of paper clips and a first-aid box. I also have to say personal and insulting questions were asked of the middle-aged ladies we employ ("have you sold your body for money" was just one of them!). A large quantity of magazines and illustrated books were taken away, including our own Pleasure Bound Forum magazine.

For the record, a formal complaint has been made to the Winchester Police HQ, which is being followed up very quickly indeed, a telephone call to make an appointment was received within an hour of the complaint being levied, over alleged breaches of civil liberties, videoing people who were not charged, etc.

More information as it happens, but be warned, the Thought Police will not let us rest! Josephine Scott 0061

SEX MANIACS BALL

Police harassment forced the cancellation of the 1996 Ball. See attached leaflet which gives details of how you can help to campaign against this persecution.

Following from the success of the Reflex Club acquittal and the letter sent by The Sexual Freedom Coalition to John Major, it is important that individuals continue to lobby against police harassment of the 'scene' in general, clubs and one's private life. Letters do help the cause; they get counted and replied to.

1. Metropolitan Police Service, Complaints Investigation Bureau, Tintagel House, Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TT.
2. (Local MP), House of Commons, London SW1 0AA.
3. Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, New Scotland Yard, London SW1H 0BG.

SECRET WOODLAND PICNIC

You are invited to join Tulloch for a summer's evening picnic in the heart of Surrey on Saturday 20th July from 5pm. Please phone Tulloch on 0181 785 7523 for details. (Associate Member 0313A). Tulloch is also planning a group visit to Club Whiplash Pleasure Zone outdoor summer fetish event Sunday 18th August 1996, at the Middlesex & Herts Country Club, 2 till late. Transport will be arranged; phone for details.

BRIGHTON BUFFET

Unfortunately too few Members/Associate Members expressed an interest in attending. However, Heidi and David would still be willing to host a party in their home for say 25 people. They have the space and plenty of experience in organising social events. Write to them if you are interested (no forwarding fee, of course). Or phone 01273 207743. David and Heidi 0086A.

STATEMENT BY LEATHERWOMEN UNITED

International Ms Leather, Pat Baillie, and LeatherWomen United will be sponsoring a national drive from May 15 - June 30 1996. The focus of this drive will be LeatherWomen and Health Care and will be called "Exposing Ourselves to Women's Health Care". Locally, your group

can get involved in this drive by contacting Pat Baillie at (505)332-4901 or by e-mail at CheshLthr@aol.com.

Some actions your group can organise during this time are: Women's Health Fairs with SM 101 and SM First Aid education; identify supportive medical personnel in your area and work with them to conduct seminars for the medical community to overcome stereotypes and lack of knowledge about the leather community; raise funds to enable local women to get annual PAP and Breast Exams and write articles on the subject dealing with the system for your local papers.

Nineteen states participated in the first LeatherWomen United "Pushing the Limits" food drive and we hope to increase that number with this second drive. What can we accomplish through "Exposing Ourselves to Women's Health Care"? First, we can raise awareness of the need for routine medical care within the community. Second, educate those outside our community about SAFE, SANE and CONSENSUAL relationships. Finally, do our part to raise funds to increase the chances that everyone has access to routine and preventive health care.

Studies suggest the gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people do not get the same level of medical care as mainstream Americans. For many, especially women, this is due to economics. However, even if the money and insurance are there, Leathermen and Leatherwomen face prejudice within the health care system for the ways we live and love. If you've ever worried about going to the doctor because of piercings, cutting or bruises that you have consensually received, you know there's a problem. When we avoid routine check-ups due to money or fear, we risk losing many key members of our leather community. We can sit by and watch this happen or act now to make a difference. Pat Baillie, International Ms Leather '95, 313 Espejo St.NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123, USA.

Comment from Deborah: this strikes a particular chord with me because, about fifteen years ago, I had a routine cervical smear test and the (female) doctor noticed some strange marks. The following evening, I was visited by two (male and female) police officers. I invoked my right to silence (which, in Britain, we no longer have) and called my solicitor. He told the police to go and catch criminals. But what would happen nowadays?

A VISIT TO A MASTER (continued)

Hazel stood in front of me in bra, panties, stockings, suspenders and shoes. "Hands on hips," I ordered. She obeyed. "Spread your legs. This, Hazel, is known as 'assuming the position'. Whenever I tell you to 'assume the position', you will stand like this. Do you understand?" Hazel had gone very still and quiet. "Yes Master," she breathed. "Now, because you are a miserable old slag and a dirty little slut, you are going to ask me, very nicely mind, to grope your cunt." Hazel blanched at the use of the word. I stared straight into her eyes. Silence. "I am waiting, slut," I spat. Very, very slowly, Hazel's mouth opened and she said, softly and