

The Scarlet Leather

Newsletter of the New England Leather Alliance



Warning: May contain nudity and graphic sexual content. Absolutely not to be viewed or given to persons under 18 years of age.

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The Scarlet Leather Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the *Scarlet Leather* is to publish articles of interest to the leather/fetish/BDSM communities in New England, in keeping with NELA educational and community-building mission, and in support of NLA: International's statement of purpose. It is published quarterly by the New England Leather Alliance (NELA), also known as NLA: New England.

Credits

Production Directors: Emily and Nikita

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Subscription Information

The Scarlet Leather is provided free to all members of NLA: International who reside within the six New England states, to annual contributors/associates of NLA: New England, and to holders of valid NELA Benefits Cards. To purchase a Benefits Card, make a tax-deductible contribution to NELA, or become a member of NLA: International, see the registration form at the back of this newsletter.

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Brighton, MA 02135-0075

www.NELAonline.org

A chapter of the National Leather Association

NELA is an organization dedicated to making a safe place in the world for all leather/fetish/SM people through education, advocacy and charitable giving.

Advertising Policy

The Scarlet Leather accepts advertising from businesses related to or appropriate for the leather community. We reserve the right to approve or reject any ads.

Full page (7.5" x 10") - \$75

Half page vertical (3.5" x 10") - \$60

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Quarter page (3.5" x 4.5") - \$35

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Ads must be submitted as a hard copy of correct size, or as a PDF, TIFF, GIF, JPG or EPS file. Email as an attachment to production@NELAonline.org or mail disk and hard copy to:

The Scarlet Leather

c/o New England Leather Alliance

PO Box 35728

Brighton, MA 02135-0075

Don't you want to submit...

...your writing to us? *The Scarlet Leather* is New England's quarterly newsletter for the leather/SM communities. Published by NELA and edited by Emily and Nikita, the *Scarlet Leather* combines up-to-date information about events and the leather scene in New England with how-to articles, essays, stories and poetry. Issues may include book reviews, how-to articles, scene reports and much more.

If you are a writer, artist or other creative type, contact us! We are always accepting contributions now for future issues.

Specifically, we are looking for:

1. Short informative articles on how-to, legal issues and news events (200 to 700 words pays \$15; 700 to 1000 words pays \$25).
2. Short stories, prose and thoughtful essays on BDSM (700 to 1000 words pays \$25). Please note that we are generally NOT looking for graphic erotic fiction or pornography, but positive portrayals of BDSM, relationships and the leather community instead. No explicit sex, please.
3. Poems on BDSM (pays \$10; no epics, please).
4. Book reviews (500 to 750 words pays \$10).
5. Photos with model releases; releases must be supplied at the time of submission. (No frontal or genital nudity, please.)
6. Cartoons, spot art and puzzles (pays \$10)

Please submit all selections via email to board@NELAonline.org. Include your email address, name, pseudonym (if any) and an address where we can mail a paper contract and your check if your piece is accepted.

We are buying North American One-Time Rights for print publication and, when possible, the right to include the piece in the newsletter archive on our website. We will sometimes buy reprints of articles that have previously appeared for a different audience.

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Greetings from the Chair

Greetings! Welcome to the Scarlet Leather Lite summer edition! We're trying something a little different...a little less paper, a little more eco-friendly.

Big thanks to everyone who helped make Boston Pride a very fun time this year. We had about 25 people walking in the (un)official Leather Contingent with many groups represented: NELA, Harbor Masters, Bay State Marauders, FLAG, NEDS, Entre Nous. It was a hot and steamy day so sweating was definitely the top priority. Next year we will also put Rhode Island Pride on the To-Do calendar.

Hot topic for the month: The U.S. Department of Justice is beginning to enforce the regulations relating to the 18 U.S.C. §2257. "Twenty-two fifty-seven," as it is known colloquially, is the federal records-keeping and labeling act outlining penalties for failure to document the ages of models and actors who appear in sexually explicit imagery. The revised regulations, which specify how 2257 documentation must be kept, who must keep it, and how it may be inspected, were published in the Federal Register May 24 and took into effect June 23. Under the section titled "Executive Order 12866," it says, "The benefit of the regulation is that children will be better protected from exploitation in the production of sexually explicit depictions by ensuring that only those who are at least 18 years of age perform in such sexually explicit depictions."

As a direct result of 2257, Bound and Gagged, a long standing, well respected website has decided to close its portal, www.boundandgagged.com. This issue hits home, folks. For more information on this issue that will undoubtedly continue to impact our community, look at www.freespeechcoalition.com and www.ncsfreedom.org.

Hope to see you at our 25th Fetish fair Fleamarket, August 6th, at the Boston Center for the Arts' Cyclorama. Be on the look out for NELA's pictorial of the last 25 events and be a part of history in the making. Happy summer!

Cheers,



Vivienne

Chair, NELA Board of Directors



V.I. Fetish Party Machine Nightclub 1254 Boylston St. Sat. Aug. 6th

V.I. Fetish party will be a monthly Saturday night fetish party. There's not much to do on a Saturday night in the fetish scene. Together we can change that. The first party will be Sat. night Aug 6th @ Machine nightclub, 1254 Boylston St. Boston, Ma.

From September on it will be the second Saturday of each month. From vanilla to extreme we encourage everyone to come play. There will be the Deviant Dancers dancing for your viewing pleasure all night. DJ Shivar will be spinning the latest and greatest as well as the classics all night. Machine nightclub has inexpensive drinks compared to other nightclubs, you will not be disappointed. Machine also has an outdoor patio with a waiter/waitress open all night for the smokers and drinkers.

There is a strict dress code. There are no blue jeans, sneakers, sports wear, or all black permitted. You must have on at least one article of fetish wear. Examples would be Fetish, Rubber/Latex, Cyber-industrial, Uniform, Kinky, Schoolgirl, Drag, Ultra Formal. We encourage creativity. For those who are not familiar with the strict dress code, it is in place to ensure that people come out to have fun and look great. The dress code also helps reduce the spectators from wandering in and making those of us who like to have fun uncomfortable. The dress code is all-around great for the night. So break out your sexiest outfits and come join the party!

Doors open at 10pm

21+

\$10 cover

Any questions email to Michael@variantimages.com or Bianca@variantimages.com. Vendors interested in displaying their merchandise please contact us.

Upcoming NELA Events

More events are added from time to time, please check our website for updates.

Saturday, July 17, 1 to 4 pm – The Zen of Flogging – Flogging is one of the most popular BDSM activities, but there is more to it than just how to swing a cat. Master Sade presents this class on zen and the art of flogging. Although he will cover many aspects important for novices (including grip, strokes, safety, and choosing a whip), he will delve into zen ideas of becoming one with your activity, physical activity as a means of meditation, and the connection between top and bottom. Expect a little history and live demonstration, to boot.

Saturday, August 6, 11am to 6 pm – Fetish Fair Fleamarket #25 – Come shop on the wild side for the kinkiest shopping ever... There will be over 100 vendors, crafters, and community groups representing themselves at the fleamarket this summer. We'll be at the Boston Center for the Arts on Tremont Street in Boston's historic South End.

Saturday, September 24, 1 to 4 pm – BDSM IOI – Sabrina Santiago, NELA's Director of External Relations, will present this back-to-the-basics overview of kink. More details will be available on the website soon, so check back often.

October (Date/Time TBD) – King Richard's Faire – Details to follow.

November (Date/Time TBD) – High Tea – Details coming soon.

programming@NELAonline.org
www.NELAonline.org/calendar.html
 617-867-NELA (6352)

PRIDE 2005



(all photographs courtesy of Allen)

The Sticking Point . . .



"Tale of the Tail" ©2005, Ray Aims

and private for two years and has always made art or designed objects and spaces. He created a piercing and video performance at MixFest NYC in April 2005 and will be doing something similar at Art Interactive in Boston on August 5th. The fight between beauty and pain draws Ray to temporary piercing and he'd like to be doing more of it.

www.truthserum.org/rayaims

rayaims@gmail.com

Scarlet Leather: How did you get into piercing?

Ray Aims: From my experience with acupuncture, bee stings, and dry needle trigger point injection for therapeutic purposes, I knew I was interested in the rush of adrenaline that happens from the piercing of the flesh. I must have seen some images of play piercing or ritual piercing on the web and then maybe some playing at a party when I started to realize I wanted to know more about it. I remember one night seeing a piercing scene in a porn at the leather bar and my pulse quickened. It

Ray Aims is the alter-ego of a Boston, MA USA based artist/designer. He submitted some photos of his piercing work to the Scarlet Leather, we were impressed, and the end result was this interview.

Ray Aims has been piercing in public

was really exciting to see play piercing in a public setting like that.

I'm a visual- and design-oriented person and I started dreaming up needle designs for people's skin. I knew I needed to learn. Sometimes it seems like the only way to get my needs met is to leave town or to import people. I was commiserating about this with Midori who was visiting and working in Boston from San Francisco and I mentioned, "...for instance, piercing. I'd like to learn to pierce but there is no one around that I am comfortable with enough to do it with."

She said, "I'm free at midnight. Pick me up and I'll teach you." And that was that. She came over and amidst the mess that was my mid-renovation apartment taught my then-partner

and me the basics. The rest I've picked up along the way by taking workshops and by talking with Amiee Ross from The Bearded Lady in Provincetown, and from practicing as much as I can.

When I think back on it, I did all of my own piercings when I was in high school and those of my friends. Though back then, it was ear lobes and cartilage.

SL: Do you also enjoy being pierced?

RA: I do enjoy getting pierced, though I've never had as many needles as the people I've pierced have had (sometimes up to around 175 needles). I just haven't had the opportunity to have a long session with someone I trusted and who had the skills I'd expect. Sometimes I find it hard to get out of my own head enough to switch, but I'd really like to at some point.



image ©2005, Ray Aims

. . . with Ray Aims

SL: Is piercing your main kink/BDSM focus?

RA: Lately it seems that way but I think it's just the part that's been most public lately. I'm into flogging and punching and rough play. Throwing people around, etc. And, I switch. I do more topping than bottoming, but I'd like to be switching more. Depending on the situation of the piercing, I can find myself in service-top space, which has been interesting for me to start getting my head around. For me piercing is a bunch of different things depending on the relationship I have

with, Crystal Goldmind, and I did a lot of thinking about what it meant that we were doing this in front of people. We labored over a warning message to the audience that asked that they leave respectfully and with regard to the other audience members and to us as performers if they thought that flesh, blood, needles, etc., were going to offend them in some way. The last thing we wanted was someone gasping, "EEEwww" in the middle of the performance, right?! We also positioned our performance just before intermission so people could leave for a little while longer and come back for the last performances. Sometimes it's a bit hard to navigate, but I am learning as I go what's appropriate with each performance.



"Tension" ©2005, Ray Aims

with the subject and with the goals of the scene. I usually have my artistic vision in the forefront of my mind, but also, sometimes I am taking someone on a journey and it's not all about me and my vision or sadistic tendencies.

SL: Is there a difference for you between public performances and private piercings?

RA: Yes, there are a lot of differences and issues that have to be navigated in public performances. I'm not doing this to freak people out, you know? I want to expose them to something that I think is really amazing and beautiful and to share a performance with them. In the performance I did at MixFest 2005 in April, "Tale of the Tail", the person I was performing

One thing that Crystal and I are acutely aware of in our performances together is that we don't want to be portraying a power dynamic on the stage when we work together. We may play privately with a power dynamic, but we don't want to subject others to that unless it's consensual all around. With other performers it's different. They might not mind a power dynamic. And other times, it's not been an issue. Like with the piercing, "Angel," that was done in NYC, at one of Felice Shay's cabaret events. Eben Z was there as my canvas and I got to make him into an angel. He was feeling the pain and enjoying it, but I wasn't a sadist then so much as an artist.

Private piercings can be the same: someone wants a creation made on their body and maybe they want some photos to document it. Or they want to experience what it feels like. And sometimes it is part of a negotiated scene with a power dynamic.

SL: Is there a particular piercing that you are most proud of? Or remember the most fondly?

(Continued on next page)

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RA: Oh, god. I don't know. I've loved them all so far! "Angel" was the first public performance type piercing I did. We were off to the side of a stage where a cabaret show was happening all night. We were like the 'freak show/side show' and people could look over and see how it was going throughout the evening. That was fun.

The ribbon images are from a private session I did with JD for the purpose of creating some web content for a fetish website, but also because JD and I had been wanting to create something together. There were a bunch of friends around the whole night checking in with us and we even took a sushi dinner break half way through! That one took about 6 hours and over 150 needles.

"Tale of the Tail" was a super quick performance, 20 minutes, in front of 250 people in a movie theater in NYC. Crystal read text about homosexual behavior in animals while I created a mane and tail for her. I'll be showing video footage of it at the performance on August 5th at Art Interactive. I've done some really theatrical private scenes, too, which have been tons of fun and quite gorgeous. And I've done some not so aesthetically pleasing piercings for the pure sadistic pleasure of it. *[insert evil laugh here]*

SL: Any advice for the aspiring piercer/piercee?

RA: That one's kind of hard. I hope to be teaching workshops that explore piercing for people and do some hands on training some time soon, but I don't think I can give advice here. Find someone who is good and careful and trustworthy to learn from. Someone who will put his

or her inner sadist aside in order to do a demonstration with you so you can learn without a power dynamic. That was personally important to me. And it seems like a good way to learn.

SL: How do you choose the aesthetic for each piercing?

RA: Usually I have a design or concept in mind and I find someone to work with. Or sometimes I've proposed designs to the subject and we've worked on fine-tuning together. Sometimes the venue informs the concept. On July 19th I'm doing a performance at Galapagos in Williamsburg in NY. They have a reflecting pool as you walk in the club that is visible through a huge window from the street. Creating a mermaid in the middle of the

pool was the first thing that came to mind. When I mentioned it to Crystal Goldmind, she said, "Yes! And you have to dress as a sailor!"

SL: Where would you like to go with this? What are your goals?

RA: I'm trying to explore all of the possibilities I can with piercing. I'd like to be doing more public and paid gigs, I'd like to be doing more private (and paid, even) gigs. I'd like to pierce more men/butches/transguys. I'd love to be exploring pain with them. I've been fortunate in the



image ©2005, Ray Aims



"Angel" ©2005, Ray Aims

amazing folks who offer to be pierced and I love working with them. But I'd like to make some images of masculine people experiencing piercing and creating designs with and for them. I'm working on some classes for Women's Week in Provincetown, and some also in NYC and Boston. I'll send out information about these to folks on my mailing list. So, email rayaims@gmail.com if you are interested in classes, or sessions, piercing in general.



"Tale of the Tail" ©2005, Ray Aims

Flesh and Foundation

Truth Serum Presents "Flesh and Foundation"
a temporary piercing performance and installation by Ray Aims.

Ray Aims' work explores the fine line between beauty and pain, structural integrity and decadence, the temporal and the seemingly infinite. Performed with JD, this live and multi-media event links flesh to structure to expose strength in fragility. The space will also exhibit art and documentation of past piercing performances. Music provided by DJ D'hana.



image ©2005, Ray Aims

Flesh and Foundation:

a temporary piercing performance

Friday August 5, 2003

9pm-12am

\$8 suggested donation

cash donation bar

Art Interactive

130 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA

(at the corner of Prospect in Central Sq.)

Phone: 617-498-0100

www.artinteractive.org

www.truthserum.org

www.truthserum.org/rayaims

or

rayaims@gmail.com for more information.

(this event is part of a summer long Friday event series being held as a benefit for Art Interactive).

Barks and Howls on Puppy Play

by: The Puppy Fifi, International Puppy 2004

Over the last several years puppy play has become an increasingly common way to explore our more animal side within our BDSM/leather lifestyle. Puppy play is many different things. The people that enjoy this type of play run the gamut from fun-loving puppies whose play promotes relaxation and youthful energy, to very sexual and guttural forms of play that bring on an intensely primal form of energy for its players. There are many different views and aspects to puppy play, but there are a few things that puppy play is not.

Puppy play is not having a sexual relationship with your friendly greyhound. Puppy play is not taking my pet (non-human) dog to the park for a vigorous game of catch. The puppy play we are talking about is all about the human puppies and those that enjoy training or living with them.

Puppy play is something very personal for me. It is a reward for a job well done and a way for me to let go of the outside world. I am a lifestyle slave and manage the household for my owners. When I become a puppy, I can let go of my regular responsibilities and rely on instinct. Thru puppy play I can let go of all the rules, expectations, and requirements of the everyday world and do nothing more than have fun and protect my owners.

Puppy play can be mentally freeing and yet physically draining. There are some steps you can take to help protect the human pup, be it you or your play partner. First, take a look around you. Get on the floor and look around your play space. Will the cord hanging down pull a crock-pot of wax onto an awaiting puppy if they chewed on it? Will furniture be easily knocked over if a curious dog crawls under it? The surroundings are ever-changing as the dog moves around.

Second, remember that as humans we are not meant to be on all fours, and protection for knees and hands will be needed. Investing in a good set of knee pads is crucial to the safety of your human partner when they come out of the puppy headspace. Wrestling, volleyball, or football kneepads can work. Puppy mitts are essential for puppies intending to compete but for those just enjoying the freedom of the play, socks, bondage tape and even boxing gloves can be used to simulate a paw while protecting the hands. Protective footwear such as a pair of boots is also a smart choice for this type of play.

Dogs need plenty of liquids when they are running around so a dog bowl is always a great idea. All you need to participate in the world of human puppies is a willing puppy, some protective gear and an active imagination. Depending on how "realistic" you would like to be, you may want other items for your play time. Plenty of toys to fetch or play tug-o-war with are also enjoyable. A leash to keep the wandering dog at the owner's side is a good idea as well.

As an owner or trainer interacts with the puppy, the need for rewards and punishment may come into play. Please remember your puppy's headspace and remember you are "starting over" with a new relationship. Your well-trained houseboy has just been turned into an untrained animal. Until you have TAUGHT them it is NOT okay to do something, in the puppy's mind it is okay to do. If they are petted and loved after pissing on the carpet, they will continue to piss on the carpet. If they are sleeping at your feet and are slapped on the nose with newspaper, don't expect them to sleep at your feet for too long. Don't expect puppies to answer to anything but their "puppy" name when they are in puppy headspace. Communicate, negotiate, and communicate some more! Find the level that you want to start with and go from there.

Once you get interested in puppy play, whether you are the trainer or the puppy, your only limits are your imagination and those negotiated with your partner. Have fun with it. There are so many different places you can go with it. For some it will be a very personal and private way to express themselves in a relaxing or even sexual manner. For others it will become a part of their public leather lifestyle with puppy moshes, puppy listgroups and even leather title contests. Take this where you want to take it. Use what you can for enjoyment and leave the rest behind. Nothing will be required of you except those rules that you require of yourself. Now go out and bark loud!

The Puppy Fifi presented the class on puppy play with Ms. Simone for NELA in April 2005. Together they hold the title of International Puppy & Trainer 2004, and are working hard to spread the word about this type of play. Puppy Fifi notes: "This is not a complete or comprehensive list of safety precautions that may be needed for the type of play you participate in. Please remember we all have our views on what is SSC or RACK."

THE NEW ENGLAND LEATHER ALLIANCE
IS PROUD TO PRESENT...

FETISH FAIR FLEAMARKET™

#25

\$5 **ADMISSION!**

FREE for NELA associates & card-carrying members of other leather organizations

Sat, Aug 6th
11am - 6pm
Boston Center
for the Arts
Cyclorama
539 Tremont St

Over 75 vendors meeting all your kinky shopping needs!
Cuffs, collars, whips, floggers, corsets,
boots, books, toys, and more!

Wheelchair accessible / T accessible
info: www.NELAonline.org

