CARAS is a volunteer-run organization serving academic and all-sex communities nationwide. We need your partnership to accomplish our mission!

Contact outreach@caras.ws to get involved with outreach efforts in your local academic and lifestyle communities.

Every person willing to take action makes a difference for us all.

Visit us online at www.caras.ws and thanks for reading Standard Deviations.

We’re Looking For A Few Good Men & Women

CARAS is a volunteer-run organization serving academic and all-sex communities nationwide. We need your partnership to accomplish our mission!

In our recently filed papers for 501(c)3 status, the government wants to know details about our anticipated income and expenses along with details of the organization and why we exist. Without any significant history, it’s a challenge to provide three years of anticipated finances! Nonetheless, here is what was filed under “Anticipated Sources of Financial Support.”

CARAS will get its primary support from professionals and community organizations that become subscribers to the CARAS services, from those who donate to support the mission and work of CARAS. Our first year estimate of income and sources of income is:

- Professional membership: $600
- Student membership: $100
- Supporting membership: $750
- Organizational members: $1000
- Direct-mail fundraising: $500
- Annual fundraising event(s): $2000
- Online-appeal fundraising: $0
- Total income: $9950

Years two and three showed modest increases in income, and while our ongoing expenses should not change much, unless our business plan we hope to provide some dollars to those who are doing research that will be CARAS affiliated. We are also looking into any new areas for funding such as philanthropic organizations or research funding, as long as those sources fit within the guidelines of our basic mission.

And that’s the first Treasurer’s report. If you would like to make a donation to support our continued growth and development, please contact richard.sprott@caras.ws. Thank you for reading.

Treasurer’s Report

Marc Johnson, CARAS Board Member

By many volunteer organizations, the monthly Treasurer’s report consists of barebones information, or the current person assigned to the job says, “Yup, we’ve got money.”

Since this is the first report from the CARAS Treasurer, I thought it might be nice to report about what we spend money for and where we hope to get funding to continue the work of CARAS.

CARAS is a volunteer organization. No officers receive salaries. There are no employees. We have three main expenditures: a monthly fee to keep our website going; the printing and development, please contact richard.sprott@caras.ws. Thank you for reading.

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In the late 1970’s, modern SM is linked to various historical phenomena such as medieval feudalism, submission to cruel nobles, and the torture of the Inquisition.

The starting point of SM community convergence on a more focused historical view. The starting point is the SM community itself, and the original question is how did the groups and organizations that compose today’s SM community develop over time? Dr. Gaye Rubin’s work, the early history of gay leather, and my own work addressing the history of American and European SM and fetishes.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Margaret Nichols outlines seven common misconceptions that she has encountered in her twenty years of clinical practice with members of the queer and kink community: these are misconceptions that her clients often have to deal with when they interact with non-SMers or address as internalized beliefs:

- BDSM is (1) mostly the “dominant” partner getting his/her way with a passive, exploited “submissive,” (2) about physical pain, (3) is self-destructive, (4) stems from childhood abuse, (5) is an avoidance of intimacy, (6) is separate from “vanilla” sex, and (7) that BDSM activities inevitably escalate to extremes and/or become addictive.

M. Makoel Newby, Managing Editor

Chris Ward, Associate Editor

Please direct all comments to media@caras.ws or visit us online at www.caras.ws

Standard Deviations is a product of CARAS, the Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities.

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Continued on next page

VIVIENNE KRAMER

Vivienne Kramer earned her MBA in non-profit management and has been working in the field for over 20 years. She has been a passionate activist since 1989 and serves as Treasurer of the National Organization for Women, Boston chapter. She joined the kinky community in 1995 and is Treasurer and Chair of the New England Leather Alliance as Chair of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom (NCSF). In addition to her various Board roles she donates her time to a variety of AIDS related organizations. One of Vivienne’s missions is and ally building across progressive communities for which CARAS is a perfect opportunity.

RICK STORER

Rick Storer is the Executive Director of the Leather Archives & Museum (LARM) in Chicago, IL. He received his Masters in Library Science from Dominican University in River Forest, IL. His research interests include privacy and copyright issues as related to gay, lesbian and sexuality archival collections. He is a member of Chicago Leather Club and Chicago Hells Angels Club and has been involved with the International Mr. Leather weekend and contest for 15 years.

Rick joined the CARAS Board of Directors as a strong advocate for the history of the SM community and the research of alternative sexuality communities.

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Continued on next page
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Institution building is definitely
The sound research created out
I recently received an email
in
1950's in gay SM groups in New York
thread took shape a bit later in the
people in the subculture to find
nation, which were "hubs" that allowed
groups that did evolve into today's
community. In contrast, for those
groups that did evolve into today's
community, there is concrete
evidence of links across
generations from the
early 1920's and began to converge in the 1970's. The hetero...

...the SM community in the United
States developed as two largely
independent threads, in distinct gay
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Origins (cont'd)

Current scholarship indicates that
the SM community in the United
States developed as two largely
independent threads, in distinct gay
and heterosexual groups.

New form of public organization
supporting the SM community was
created, employing a model that
emphasized sexual liberation, social
support, and education. These
organizations introduced a new era
in the history of the community. In
the late 20th century the SM
community expanded, a process that
has accelerated since the 1990's as the
community found a new "hub" in the Internet.

Much of this history has yet to be the
subject of serious scholarly analysis.
CARAS hopes to promote such work
in coming years.

To engage in dialogue with other
CARAS subscribers, please visit
www.caras.ws. For more information
and references, please visit
http://americanfetish.net

Bibliophilia

Essential Papers on Masochism
by Margaret Ann Fitzpatrick Hanley, Editor, 1995.

S&M: Studies in Dominance and Submission

Urban Aboriginals: A Celebration of Leathersexuality
by Geoff Mains, 1984.

Against Sadomasochism: A Radical Feminist Analysis

Synergy (cont'd)

It is important to note that several organizations, both
community and academic, continue to emphasize the
need for research and education. Those organizations
create hubs for the community.
On the side of
community organizations:
The Center for Sex and Culture in San
Francisco, The Wet Spot Community Center in Seattle, and
the Institute for 21st Century Relationships in Virginia have all
proactively connected with
researchers and clinicians in 2006.

On the academic side, the Institute for
Advanced Studies in Human Sexuality
hosted the Society for the Study of Sexuality, and the American
Association of Sexuality Educators,
Counselors and Therapists have all
supported presentations and
sessions at both psychoanalysis and
BDSM in 2006.

The continuing development of
CARAS as an organization also signals
this renewed interest.

I have high hopes for 2007 for CARAS.
We plan on becoming recognized
by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization,
to move forward on a project to
promote the dissemination of research,
and to redesign the website to make
it more interactive and useful for
community members and researchers.
The growth of CARAS in 2006, and the support of individuals
and community organizations,
has laid a strong foundation.

This is a crucial time for individuals and
community organizations to
support CARAS, and for academics
and researchers to get involved and contribute.
I look forward to our
synergy in the year ahead.

Now the scope of the "alternative
sexuality communities" targeted by
CARAS is fluid - determined by our
network's current expertise and con-
nections to communities that are
understudied in the field of human
sexuality. And there are many ways
to implement this mission, to embody
this purpose. I look forward to leading
this voice forward to
build bridges, and ultimately to improve
our understanding and well-being as
human beings in community.

Rick:
CARAS, as an institution, is
important because it brings expertise
together. As the Executive Director of
the Leather Archives & Museum, I
have seen the power and results of
alt-sex activities coming together
under an organization. The expertise of the individuals who initially formed
CARAS, along with those who have
joined the organization, creates a
powerful voice for sound research in the
alt-sex field. As the alt-sex community and the academic community learn about CARAS and joins the mis-

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References

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Further, by developing long-term relationships with other academically
oriented organizations such as Society
for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
(SSSS) and American Association of Sexuality Educators Counselors &
Therapists (AASECT), CARAS will gain
lasting credibility as the leading
authority on alt-sex research.

Rick:
The sound research created out of
these collaborations will benefit not
only the alt-sex community, but also
the general public as it trickles into sex
education and advocacy for healthy
sexual expression.

Vivienne:
Please help CARAS by
educating your own organizations
kinky, poly swing oriented, LGBT,
feminist, whatever - as to our existence.
Just one conversation can make all
the difference.

Subscriber News:

In March 2006 Dr. Elisabeth Sheff
presented "Polyamorists, Queering,
Nontraditional Families" for the Southern Sociological Society
Annual Meeting in New Orleans.
In August she delivered "Boundaries of
Mask Identified Post "Sexual
Revelation" at the Society for the
Study of Social Problems' Annual Meeting in Montreal.

Richard Sporrer, PhD, CARAS
Executive Director, presented on "The Psychology of SM" at
AltFest in Los Angeles, on September 27-29, 2006.
In October both he and David Ortmann,
LCSW, CARAS Board Member, attended the
Conference of the ITCR and NCSF in Seattle where they presented
"Paraphilias and the DSM."

Ortmann and Sporrer also presented to the Leathermen's Discussion
Group in San Francisco on
"Psychological Benefits of Kink and BDSM" in October. December saw
David Ortmann at the Gray Artists and
Writer's Collective in San Francisco
discussing "Working with Narcissism and
The Evolution of Gay Male
Communities."

Rob Bienvenu, PhD, CARAS
Team Leader, will present "CARAS: A Community-Based Initiative
To Link Alternative Sexuality Communities and Researchers"
at The Future of Sexuality Research:
Methodological to Social Policy
Innovations conference, to be
held April 9-11, 2007 at the Kinsey
Institute in Bloomington, Indiana.

Katherine Frank, PhD, CARAS
Board Member, presented at the American
Archaeological Association
meeting in November on "Policing Monogamy:  Pleasure and
Erotics in Marriage." She also appeared in a documentary on
"Sex and Science" for Advanced Studies in Human
Sexuality, which aired in early January 2007.

For more information
and references, please visit
www.caras.ws.