Anchorage

ALASKA GAY AND LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER

Gay News

"I just want you to see how much a boy can fall in love with Little League!"
TO ALL PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY

Hello!

My name is Jay Brause, and as President of the Resource Center, I'm here to tell you about a small, but growing group of people who have taken on the responsibilities of the Gay Community Center after it was dissolved as a non-profit corporation by the State of Alaska this past summer.

We are now re-incorporated as the Alaska Gay & Lesbian Resource Center, and as such, we are committed to be a separate agency serving gay and lesbian people in the state of Alaska, and with our Board of Directors and staff, we're ready to meet our purpose of providing aids to personal growth.

To lessen the chance for misunderstanding, let me explain that the present RESOURCE CENTER is an outgrowth of the COMMUNITY CENTER which no longer exists. The people involved are primarily the same, it's goals remain the same, but experience has taught us to change some things about how the Center operates.

When the old Community Center was started, it was founded on the principle that it would be the place where all of our organizations would come together as a board of directors, to create the social outlets for the gay men and women in this community and within the state.

Well, five years passed and it never quite worked that way— in fact, two or three years ago an inter-community council was established so we could AS A COMMUNITY, find a way to get together on planning for Gay Pride Week. What Happened????

To us at the RESOURCE CENTER, an era has passed. We're ready to start anew as a self-regulated, carefully guided agency for the support of people in search of bettering their own lives or the lives of others. For example; Do you know of anyone who may (or does) have a drinking problem? There are women's and men's AA meetings at the Center. Do you live with an abusive drinker? There's an Al-Anon support group to help you. Do you just need to talk, or really find out about our humanity as Gay & Lesbian identified people? There's a Rap Group starting that is facilitated by both a man and a woman to listen and share. Do you need to know what's going on? We publish a community Newsletter, which you are reading. We produce a radio show weekly and have some national Gay and Lesbian publications available. M.C.C. has a Bible Study meeting at the Center. There's a Lesbian Support Group forming and more as it's needed—As YOU need it.

But, right now, most important of all (from the input we've gotten from all of you) is the phone line. It's the reason we've started anew.

Some of you may remember Gay Information Services. They did a tremendous job of training their staff and had only enough volunteers to keep their lines open on Friday and Saturday evenings. Why? Primarily because they treated this job as VERY important and as a result, they screened and trained their volunteers. Not everyone made it.
This is something the RESOURCE CENTER believes in too, and this is one major change we're undertaking right now. We presently have five of our present staff of nine undergoing phone line training through the 45 hour course in crisis intervention presented by the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Center. We're exceedingly grateful that we can do this and, as a result, we're planning another training session in January of next year for any new people who want to help by then.

With the money that the Imperial Court is donating to the RESOURCE CENTER, we are planning to create quite a few changes which all of you will be kept informed of, and if you will join us, will have a hand in forming.

Forming, creating, changing, growing. Powerful words to us. We hope that they mean as much to some of you and that you will call and talk to us.

Some of you may say "Volunteer? I'm already too busy!" I know - I know. And Thank-you, your needs are already met. But for any of you who have as a priority right now, a COMMITMENT to LISTEN to people, to HELP people, there's room for you. We welcome you. Walk up to us, call us at 276-3909, six to ten any evening.

It's your RESOURCE CENTER in as much as you care to help it, the money some of you have given us in the past years in an incredible indication of your willingness to move to that other donation - that of your time.

For now, I want to thank you, for all of us at the RESOURCE CENTER; all of you who have already helped us through your gifts of money and time, who are helping us through kind words of support and ideas and most of all, to those of you who are now ready to come on over and give of your time and talents, that which we need so much to make the RESOURCE CENTER something that all of us can be proud of and that the community will take note of.

THANK-YOU THANK YOU ALL

Jay Brause
Pres. AGLRC

P.S. Next month, I'll tell you about how it's come in November. Talk to you later. Bye!
GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS!

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT CLUB IS A POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, DESIGNED TO
PROMOTE LEGAL PROTECTION FOR ALL ALASKANS REGARDLESS OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTA-
TION.

THIS ORGANIZATION WILL WORK TOWARDS PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT US
ALL.

THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT, FOR MORE INFORMATION
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ziggy

FIRST OFF...FROM THE SOFTNESS...I CAN TELL THAT YOU'RE A SISsy...
"Our town isn't a loving place"
I received a phone call last week from a person who doesn't get out. My suggestion is GET OUT. The bars, the M.C.C., AGLRC, and our other organizations are always doing something fun and exciting. The Mckinley Club had their Octoberfest at the Jade Room. They served great weiners and sauerkraut, with potatoes at only $1.00 a plate. With door prizes and no cover charge, it was a very exciting evening. The M.C.C. Church has something every week besides church, check them out. Our own Imperial Court just had a very successful Holloween Ball at the Red Ram and every month they are planning a zodiac party at one of the bars. Look for the posters. Also they are planning an incredible Thanksgiving dinner at the Red Ram at no charge. If you wish to be with a lot of fun people during Thanksgiving be at the Red Ram. Our three bars are always doing something. The Jade Room now has a mini stage, and every Wednesday they have a mini show which is always a lot of fun. Draft beer is only 50 cents, so now you have something to do during the week. Hal's will soon have new owners, and a new name "The Raven". We know from past experience that Billy, T Bear, and Daniel will always be in there trying their best to make your outing an enjoyable one. Congratulations to Max Billy, and Larry and best wishes for a continued success.

We've lost Lola for two weeks. Our Empress has gone to Hawaii, then to Seattle, and finally to the Portland Coronation. A well deserved vacation.

Much LOVE to you ALL,

"Cherresse"

Hal, Elaine,
Billy, Daniel and John
Welcome You,

Hal's Place
the place to be!

618 Gambell - 276-9672
New gay directory is very revealing

San Francisco — You can’t get past the cover without guessing that Ma Bell had nothing to do with this phone book.

The first panel is the photograph of the teddy bear sporting an “I Like Boys” button. Then, there are the shots of two nude men straddling a fence, another of cowboys kissing and the slogan: “The world’s first gay telephone directory.”

The Gay Areas private telephone directory, published in San Francisco but including listings from as far away as Seattle, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Providence, Mass., is entering its sixth edition. Thirty-five thousand copies of the fifth edition were distributed over the last year, the director says.

In yellow pages a San Francisco dentist advertised: “Wanted, the Tooth Fairy.” An ad for a U-Haul outlet featuring nothing more exciting than a picture of a rental truck shared a page with Horns for Him Men, featuring a young man in sunglasses, leather halter, leather briefs and nothing else.

The directory’s white pages under “g” included Gay Mountaineers, Gay People for Nicaragua and the Gay Softball League. There were listings for Concerned Evangelicals in San Jose and one for the Gay Men’s Support Group. The Salvation Army in Palo Alto was listed, while a San Diego bathhouse promised “Military Free on Thursdays” in its advertisement.

“I had no idea we were listed,” said a disinterested Maj. Gerald Hill, Santa Clara County coordinator of the Salvation Army, insisting he had no idea how the listing came about. “If there’s anything I can do to get that deleted I will. The Salvation Army has taken a very definite position against homosexuality.”

For the first time since it began in 1979, publisher Robert Adams said, the semianual Gay Areas directory is on the verge of making money — recognition that the gays coming out of the closet are bringing a lot of purchasing power with them.

“We really get a lot of business from it. It’s got to be the best return on our money of any advertising medium in the city,” said Pam Olson, bookkeeper, for San Francisco appliance store called Bob’s Supply Co. Bob isn’t gay but his straightforward pitches for microwave ovens, garbage disposals and refrigerators are prominently displayed in the Gay Areas directory. Hotpoint, Kitchenaid and Westinghouse pay most of the cost of the advertisements.

It’s often easy to spot which customers were drawn by those particular ads, said Olson, “from the way the people look.”

“They’re really good customers because they have the money and don’t seem to buy until they have the money,” she said. “We have no trouble collecting from the gay community. We have more trouble with the so-called normal community, apartment-house owners and contractors.”

The Gay Areas directory was the idea of a man Adams worked for in Danville, Calif., publishing private directories for small communities in Contra Costa County. Adams’ boss had seen an article about gay purchasing power on the West Coast and asked Adams to start the publication.

Adams, 81, bought his employer out and has invested $100,000 so far, working out of a small upstairs office over a homosexual bar and next to a leather store in San Francisco’s gay Castro district.

Any individual or group can fill out a coupon and get a free listing in the white pages.

“That was just a kind of gimmick, to generate conversation and interest,” Adams said. “I offered free listings to anyone for whatever reason.”

The first coupon he received, Adams said, was from Harvey Milk, the gay San Francisco city supervisor who was assassinated before the first directory went to press.

One lieutenant in the Marine Corps called Adams in a panic when he discovered his name listed. Someone had filled out a card and forged the lieutenant’s signature.

The yellow pages bear a striking resemblance to those put out by the telephone company, with a few notable exceptions. An ad for the Lion Pub, which shows a lion reclining on top of a man, is being changed after other advertisers complained that it smacked of bestiality. An interpretation Adams said never occurred to him.

“We don’t take any pornography,” Adams said. “I wish we could.” But advertisers would object. One gay-owned antique store withdrew its ad and banned the publication from its counters because the owner objected to a nude on the front of the 1980 edition.

Five hundred paid advertisers, twice as many as in the first edition, pay up to $675 for space (that’s the cost of the entire back cover, filled with an ad for “nitrite based odorants,” legal drugs used as sexual stimulants). The ads promote everything from accounting services to yarn.

“Ninety-five percent of the gay people will go out of their way to shop with other gay people, more than any other minority group,” Adams said.
Acts of terrorism. And us.

Whether we were there physically or not, we all felt it when a tall bearded man in a business suit lobbed a tear gas canister into the Sheraton ballroom at Coronation. It was, as the Anchorage Daily News later editorialized, an act of violence. It was, in fact, an act of terrorism. It was another instance of one of the nastier truths of our lives as lesbians and gay men.

And here is another (my source is Boston's Gay Community News, Vol. 10, No. 13, Oct. 16, 1982): On September 29, just before cover charge at 11.00 PM, ten to twenty of New York's finest entered Blue's, a gay bar with a primarily black clientele. Claiming that two police officers had been mugged earlier that night in Times Square, and that gays were to blame, the Boys in Blue proceeded to indiscriminately beat the 30 to 40 people inside Blue's. Shouting, "You want to fuck with cops? We'll show you how to fuck with cops!", the officers took the bar patrons' money, trashed the bar, and put at least 12 people in serious enough condition that they had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. Reporters from GCN and other papers the next day found bloodstains on a large section of wall behind the bar's pool table. When questioned, the police department was evasive and self-contradictory.

And again: A 26-year old black lesbian beaten and arrested by 3 cops in front of over witnesses in Washington Square Park, New York City. Her crime was having whispered a comment to a friend about how the cops were using a nightstick to choke a man on a nearby bench. (The section of the park where this took place is one where black and Latin lesbians and gays regularly hang out.) The woman arrived at the hospital later with multiple contusions, hemmorhaging in her left eye, and marks on her arms from the tight handcuffs.

And again: A gay man on his way home from a St. Paul, Minnesota, gay bar, was pulled over by a paddy wagon because one of his tail lights was allegedly out. Before the officer driving the wagon even asked him any questions, he slammed the man in his mouth with a flashlight. The man lost one tooth, four others were broken, and his mouth was split.
I said in last month's NGLRC newsletter that, coming to
Anchorage, I again discovered the truth: We are everywhere. Un-
fortunately, they are everywhere, too, beating the living shit out
of us, as they did at Blue's; gassing us, as they did at Coronation;
burning us, as they have done at several MCC's around the country
lately; raping us, as they do in prisons and as they did to a friend
of mine because they knew she was a lesbian; murdering us.

And what are we going to do about it?

I've heard some answers, some of them that make me as angry
as the terrorism they attempt to answer. "Go back into the closet,"
some say. Or, "Let it be, you have to expect it, we're queers after
all don't you know." But I say, No way, no way, to answer in either
of those ways only means that they've won, and homophobic terrorism
has the victory.

We've got our own little slogan. Remember Stonewall! Fight
Back!

But that still leaves the question of how. And, in fact, it
even leaves the question of when. Another answer I've heard is,
"Don't worry about it; it'll all go away." But it won't. The
evidence seems to be pointing in exactly the opposite direction.
People have been beaten -- in Anchorage! -- outside the bars recently.
Women are raped every day, not only for being lesbians, but for
being women, period. It's getting worse and worse, if for no other
reason than the homophobes have Jerry Falwell and Jerry Prevo to
incite them. So we can go back into our closets, or we can tolerate
it because after all we're only perverts, or we can sit blithely
on our asses and say, it'll all go away, maybe when Ronnie isn't
President anymore. But it won't go away, it will only get worse;
and it might do us all well to remember that the lesbian/feminist
and gay movements were well in hand when the Nazis came along and
put the men into concentration camps with pink triangles and the
women into the same restrictive Kinder/Kuche/Kirche roles we've
been fighting to get out of forever. So think about it.

The only way we can escape the terror is by escaping into free-
dom. The only way we can do that is by fighting back. And the only
way we can do that is by working with, and not against each other.
But that's something to talk about for next month.