Identity NORTHView

News and Views for Alaska's Gay and Lesbian Community

Issue #8

May 1991

ANNUAL COMMUNITY

PICNIC

MAY 27
NORTHVIEW

IDENTITY NORTHVIEW is a monthly publication of IDENTITY, INC., a non-profit, Alaskan corporation concerned with issues of sexual identity. NORTHVIEW is published as a community service & the views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the directors, officers, or members of IDENTITY, INC. The publication of an individual's or organization's name or photo in NORTHVIEW is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons or organization's membership.

EDITOR OF NORTHVIEW - James Boudreaux

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CONTRIBUTIONS: NORTHVIEW welcomes articles & letters from community individuals & organizations. All contributions must be signed, but names will not be used upon request. NORTHVIEW reserves the right to edit as necessary & reserves the right to refuse to print any article submitted.

DEADLINES: All articles & advertising must be received by the 20th of the month for publication the following month.

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MAIL: Editor, IDENTITY NORTHVIEW P. O. Box 200070 Anchorage, AK 99520
PHONE: Anchorage Gay & Lesbian HELPLINE (907) 258-4777. Messages will be returned as soon as possible.

YES! I want to join IDENTITY and help work on programs that are important to Lesbians and Gay Men in Alaska. Please add my name to your mailing list. Enclosed are my $25.00 dues.

NAME: Phone:
Mailing Address: Work Phone:

Please contact me. I would like to work on an IDENTITY project.

Although I can't become an IDENTITY member just now, please add my name to your mailing list so I can keep informed about IDENTITY news and projects.

Return this application to IDENTITY, P.O.Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520.

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED "COMMUNITY"?

I was recently approached by a "new Alaskan" at a social function who asked what we meant when we said "community" when we referred to various functions. He had heard about the "Gay & Lesbian Community" and he did not know what that meant because he had not heard that term in other parts of the world. Lynn Sheppard, during her recent visit, also asked why we kept referring to the "women's community" and the "men's community" when we had discussions about our various activities. I started to think about their questions and wonder if we really have a "community" here in Alaska, or just separate groups.

Mr. Webster describes a community as "a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society." Well, that certainly describes those gay men and lesbians who reside in the GREAT LAND. Up until recently, however, the women have been off doing their thing and the men have been doing theirs, only occasionally uniting their efforts for some special project or event. I know that our choice of lifestyles seems to indicate that we should be off doing our own thing, but maybe it's time for us to start working and socializing together more often for our common good. There are many issues and problems that affect all of us and they deserve our joint attention.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find comments from individuals who feel strongly about this issue. The Board of IDENTITY is committed to the concept of a unified Gay & Lesbian Community that recognizes our individual differences but that can viable and strong when the need arises. We can still have our individual activities, but we can also have more events where we socialize or work TOGETHER for our COMMUNITY. THINK ABOUT IT!!!

JIM BOUDREAUX
EDITOR
Warm, sunny days are finally here and the Board Members of IDENTITY, INC., hope that you are all enjoying yourselves. It is also hoped that you will join your friends to help begin the Memorial Day weekend with this month's 4th Friday Potluck scheduled for . . . .

WHEN? Friday, May 24, 1991

TIME? 6:30 PM - Doors Open
       7:00 PM - Food Served
       7:30 PM - Announcements, Program,
                Miscellaneous Happenings.

WHERE? Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church (The Log Cabin Church).
       602 W. 10th Ave., Anchorage

MANY THANKS to the Reverend Jim Morgan from the Metropolitan Community Church for making a very informative presentation about MCC activities at the April Potluck. Many people in the audience were surprised to hear that the MCC is so active and growing here in Anchorage. You can expect to be hearing more from the MCC in the coming weeks as they undertake some AIDS programs. The MAY program will contain some special goodies to commemorate the official beginning of summer in Anchorage. SEE YOU THERE!!!!!

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SUMMER PICNIC

The IMPERIAL COURT has announced the final details for the 1991 Memorial Day Picnic for the Gay & Lesbian Community. As you might well guess, the annual picnic, one of the most popular & well attended events of the year, will be held on Monday, May 27, between the hours of 12 NOON and 5:30 PM. The picnic grounds must be vacated by 6 PM, so activities must end by 5:30 PM.

The location, as always, will be the NBA Eklutna Campground...at Eklutna, naturally. As you travel out the Glenn highway past Eagle River & Chugiak, you take the Eklutna exit, turn left & keep driving until you hit the campground.

The IMPERIAL COURT has announced that there are a few changes in this years plans. First, there will be a $2 per person charge collected as you enter the picnic grounds. This picnic cost $$$ to sponsor and the Court is trying to raise a few $$$ to help defray costs. ALSO, the Court is encouraging the various organizations in our community to sponsor BOOTHS at the picnic as fund raising projects. Call the HELPLINE at 258-4777 for more details.

DON'T FORGET that this picnic is BYOBeverages & BYOFood, but supplies are provided for the continuous volleyball games and the annual egg toss contest, the High Heel Race, and the popular Water Balloon Toss. Everyone always has loads of fun at this annual picnic, so make your plans NOW to get together with some friends and join the fun at EKLUTNA on Memorial Day!!!!!
THE ARCTIC NOSE

Well, boys & girls, the NOSE is oh so exhausted from this past month's activities, but I did warn you ahead of time that we would be out looking for juicy items to write about. Here we go........

What can one say about the CELEBRATION OF CHANGE except WOW!!! The NOSE was overwhelmed by the auditorium of over 700 women (mostly lesbian???) and a few men who paid $15 each for a great evening of entertainment...and a few political statements. The shows format centered around DJ Allison Gray from radio station KWRE. Allison filled in between sets, which included everything from a large beach scene (UNDER THE BOARDWALK) to poetry readings to Anchorage's version of a DYKE ON A BIKE. The audience roared when ASL Interpreter Jerri Fuller showed us how to say ORGASM in sign language at the prodding of comedienne Vicki Evans. There was a wide variety of musical entertainment & loads of FUN. The NOSE was very impressed with the pool of talent available right here in AK that makes this show possible. Congratulations to the 15% for putting this annual event together.

AFTER the show, we hear there was a "women only" dance at the Egan Center. The only men in attendance were the bartenders, so we hear, even though there were grumblings from some other men who felt they should have been "welcomed" to attend. Maybe next year, boys!!!

Meanwhile, down Juneau way, despite missed ferry's & a couple of no-shows, the FABULOUS FEMME FATALES show went off as scheduled raising almost $4000 for the Imperial Duchy of SE Alaska. We hear that the late show was just full of "distinguished legislators", some of whom occupied front row seats. There was even a mysterious, unknown drag queen who showed up to watch the show & managed to escape before any of the local Juneauites could find out who he/she was. Life can be oh so interesting in our Capital city. The profit from the show will be disbursed soon to several worthy causes.

While we're in SE Alaska, surely you have heard by now that Juneau assembly woman Rosalee Walker's trial ended in a hung jury. Rosalee claimed that a "female faggot" purposely caused her to have her auto accident, making her so nervous she had ONE drink of rum that raised her alcohol level to 0.225. We hear the local bars now serve a new drink called the WALKERBANGER, a 14 oz drink that sells for $49. The voters of Juneau must really love her since they reelected her to office. We wonder what her excuse will be the next time she gets caught???

It appears we have a sudden surge in country & western dancing in Anchorage. The monthly women's dance is now featuring 2-step lessons & the Blue Moon has been having a CW Hoe-Down every Tuesday at 8 PM (food at 9). Where are all of these cowgirls/boys coming from???? The NOSE will investigate!!!

You really must stop by the Women's Bookstore & see their new line of gay clothing. The NOSE particularly likes the aprons (for summer BBQ's) with sayings like GAY GRUB & FAGGOT FOODS. Also look at their hats, shorts and those funny fag bags that everyone wears around their waists.

Have you seen Rebecca Rogers lately?? She is oh so pregnant. We sincerely hope her condition doesn't interfere too much with her hard work at 4A's.

Going to the big PICNIC? DON'T bring your dogs with you this year. They cause way too much trouble & YOU may just be tied up to the nearest tree with your pet. Yes, we know how much some of you may enjoy that idea!!!

HAVE A FUN SUMMER !!!      THE NOSE!!
CRIS WILLIAMSON COMING TO ANCHORAGE

Breakeven Productions and the UAA Center for Women & Men recently announced that CRIS WILLIAMSON and TRET PURRE will be appearing in a concert in Anchorage on Saturday, June 1. This concert follows close on the heels of Cris’ May 18 concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Time for the June 1 concert is 8:00 PM and will be held at the UAA WENDY WILLIAMSON Auditorium. General admission tickets are $20 and are available at all Carrs Quality Centers. A limited number of reserved seating tickets at $28 each are available at the Alaska Women’s Bookstore, 2440 E. Tudor Road.

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for the July 6 weekend so you can travel to Fairbanks for the 3rd annual WOMEN’S MUSIC FESTIVAL. The title of this year’s festival is "BIG NAMES - small names", and all women are invited to attend. For more information about attending or performing, contact: Louise Barnes, (907) 479-0618, P.O. Box 156, Ester, Alaska 99725.

COFFEEHOUSE RESUMES

After taking the month of April off, the Alaska Women's Bookstore Coffeehouse will resume its regular schedule on Saturday, May 25. SKY IS BLUE will be appearing from 8-10 PM at the Bookstore.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!!!
THEY HELP PAY OUR EXPENSES!!!!

ALASKA WOMEN’S BOOKSTORE

- biography
- recovery
- fiction
- spirituality
- feminist
- lesbian
- non-violence
- health
- children’s
- mail order

2440 E. Tudor Rd. #304
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 562-4716

Mariah Redwood Joann Contini
CONCERNED ABOUT OUR IMAGE

I had the opportunity to attend the CELEBRATION OF CHANGE concert & I am concerned about some of the things that happened that night. As a gay man, I am very interested in learning more about the women in our community & I was anxious to support a production like CELEBRATION. I really wish more men had been present to witness all the fine talent present in our community.

I was personally offended by the actions taken against the picture of Wally Hickel during the show. A dart was stabbed through his throat & left there throughout the show. I personally do not respect Mr. Hickel, but I was offended by this act of violence, especially from a group of women who spend so much time & energy on programs that deal with violence against women. I honestly believe that this action sends a mixed message to the public & certainly makes some of you appear two-faced.

I understand that some of you are frustrated by the recent events affecting the Women’s Commission. I lived in Juneau for a few years and had the opportunity to become politically involved with several issues. I learned how effective collective action, lobbying and some letter writing to our representatives can be. Instead of offensive actions, why not try to do something to get what you want. You might even consider asking some men to help you. There are some of us out there willing to help.

The AIDS crisis has taught me to take a whole new outlook on life. I often found myself becoming very angry about what was happening—or not happening. I had to learn to deal with that anger & channel my energies into something constructive. It’s a problem I still have to deal with, but I’ve decided that life is too short to condone childish or violent behavior.

I would really like to see the men and women of our community come together more often & really become a GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY. We all need to feel more comfortable around each other. There were many times at the CELEBRATION when I wanted to tell some of the women how great they looked or ask a question. I was often afraid that I might get some hostile reaction if I did approach them. I don’t feel any of us should feel that way, especially in a public setting like the PAC.

Despite my concerns, I really did enjoy the show as a whole. I would like to express my appreciation to the 15% for presenting this show in Anchorage. I only hope that, some day, this type of show will include both men and women.

SCOTT OLSON

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GAY RIGHTS IN ALASKA

Hawaii has become the third state to pass anti-discrimination legislation that protects gay people. Hawaii joined Wisconsin & Massachusetts when its governor signed into law a bill that adds sexual orientation to the list of protected classes regarding employment, housing, public accommodations & financial aid from the state. The bill was supported widely & it received a majority of votes in the legislature.

I read about this in the Gay Community News, a weekly newspaper published in Boston. I keep hoping for the day when I shall be able to read news like this, about positive events concerning gay people elsewhere, in the two newspapers published in Anchorage. We are talking about news that concerns roughly 10% of the population, according to the Kinsey data.

I also keep hoping for the day when Alaska will wake up, enter the 20th century & join Hawaii, Wisconsin & Massachusetts by passing a gay rights law here too.

FRED HILLMAN

(Reprinted from the Anchorage Daily News)

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KODIAC CALLING!!!!

Want to spend a wild summer in Kodiak with all those fishermen?? Opportunity knocks in the form of a possible job offer from Mr. Jim Wilson who is looking for someone with bookkeeping experience to work 4 hours a day, 5 days a week for the summer. The pay is $1,100/month plus a place to sleep. Your afternoons will be free, unless of course, you find something else to keep you busy. Call Jim at 486-5656 if you have questions or want more details.

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY - If you want to leave your footprints in the sands of time, wear your work shoes.
IDENTITY ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At its annual meeting on April 13, the membership of IDENTITY, INC., elected 5 new board members to help lead the organization during the coming year. New officers were subsequently elected at a board of directors meeting. The new line-up is as follows:

President: Beth Vann  
Vice President: Steve Rule  
Secretary: Ruth Mathes  
Treasurer: Warren Sprenger  
Directors - James Boudreaux, Art Curtis, Steve Russell, Don Naff, Mike Travis

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IMPERIAL COURT AWARDS GRANTS

The Imperial Court has announced that $2,500 in grants have been awarded to the following organizations:

$1,200  IDENTIY, INC.  
$ 500  Metropolitan Church  
$ 300  UAA Gay & Lesbian SA  
$ 500  Names Project

These awards were made by a special committee based on grant applications submitted by various organizations from around Alaska. The funds came from 1990 court activities.

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MT. MCKINLEY SUMMER TRIP

The Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club has made all of the final plans for their first "official" outing for this summer. A trip to the Homer Spit is planned for the Memorial Day weekend. Special campers will be leaving Anchorage on Friday evening, May 24 with arrival in Homer later that night. A special cookout is planned for Saturday night. The return to Anchorage is scheduled for Sunday, May 26 so everyone will have time to attend the Monday Eklutna picnic. You first-timers will have an opportunity to earn an official Mt. McKinley patch if you make this trip. EVERYONE is invited to participate in this trip!!!!

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WANTED - HELPLINE VOLUNTEERS

The Anchorage Gay & Lesbian HELPLINE is in need of men & women to staff the HELPLINE. A special training class is scheduled for May 15, 17 & 18 to train volunteers for the HELPLINE. Please call the HELPLINE at 258-4777 if you want to help. You may also call Jim Boudreaux at 274-5826 if you have questions.

4A's SWAMPED WITH ACTIVITY

The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association is currently experiencing an explosive growth in its number of clients and the number of projects & activities to handle that growth. Planned for the coming month are the following.....

PLANT SALE - Mr. Harry Deuber (276-5571) is coordinating a special plant sale to be held at the Memorial Day Picnic on May 27. Harry is looking for volunteers to help sell plants at the booth & he is also looking for donated plants. Harry has an excellent reputation for his gardening abilities, so you can expect to find a wide variety of annuals, perennials, house plants and baskets. Funds raised from this sales will go to the 4A's Housing Fund.

MENS PROJECT - The 4A's is coordinating the formation of the MENS PROJECT, a special program being designed for gay men by gay men. To get this program started, a special weekend retreat is being planned for May 17-19 at the Elks Youth Camp in Palmer. Two men from San Francisco, Mr. Chuck Fruchey & Mr. Dan Wohlfeiler, are being flown to Anchorage to conduct the weekend retreat. This retreat should lead to a group of ALASKA MEN who will have the capability to form some type of network to work on health issues. Anyone interested in knowing more about the MENS PROJECT should call Susan Barnes at 276-1400.

HOUSING PROJECT - The 4A's has recently obtained 2 duplexes on Government Hill for the purpose of providing housing for PWA's. A special fund raising letter has just been sent to a list of 1200 supporters requesting special donations to immediately raise $12,500 in order to buy insurance and conduct a needs assessment of the 2 buildings. The 2 buildings are older Coast Guard government buildings, so you can guess how much work or renovations they may need. Please do what you can to support any fund raising activities to raise money for the HOUSING PROJECT.

FOOD BANK - The growing list of AIDS clients has put a severe strain on the 4A's food bank. All kinds of food and toiletries are needed for individuals coping with this disease. Certain types of food are preferred, so call Susan Barnes at 276-1400 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS - Help is ALWAYS needed by the 4A's to raise money, staff the AIDS HELPLINE, be a buddy, or work on the many activities that 4A's has happening all the time. Call the 4A's office at 276-1400 if you have some time and talent to offer this important community organization.
HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST!!

Saturday, May 11 - Identity Board of Directors Meeting, 1-3 PM.

Wednesday, May 15 - Training Class for ANCHORAGE GAY & LESBIAN HELPLINE
to Sat. May 18       Wednesday & Friday night & daytime Saturday.

Friday, May 17 to
  Sunday, May 19 - THE MEN'S PROJECT weekend retreat/orientation.

Thursday, May 16 - ANCHORAGE GARDEN BUDDIES, monthly meeting, 7:30 PM

Friday, May 24 - Fourth Friday Potluck Social, 6:30 PM, Log Cabin Church
                    Mt. McKinley Club leaves for Homer Spit.

Saturday, May 25 - Alaska Women's Bookstore COFFEEHOUSE, SKY IS BLUE, 8-10 PM.

Monday, May 27 - Annual Community PICNIC at NBA Eklutna Picnic Grounds.
                    12 NOON-5:30 PM.

Saturday, June 1 - CRIS WILLIAMSON concert, 8 PM, UAA Wendy Williamson Aud.

CONTINUOUS EVENTS -  Sunday, 2:30 PM - MCC Church services, UUF Log Cabin Ch.
                    Tuesday, 7 PM - Support Group for families of people
                                    living with HIV/AIDS.
                                    8 PM - Country Western Hoedown, Blue Moon
                                    Wednesday, 7 PM - Support Group for people living with
                                                      HIV/AIDS (primarily gay).
                                    10 PM - Weekly cabaret show at Blue Moon Bar.
                                    Saturday, 2 PM - Self Defense classes taught by Darl
                                        Schaaff, Blue Moon dance floor.

CALL THE ANCHORAGE GAY & LESBIAN HELPLINE FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION!!!!!!