WHY AM I GAY?

CHECK YOUR HYPOTHALAMUS!
COMINGS AND GOINGS!

As editor of a newsletter, you get to witness the many comings and goings that happen in our community and try to determine their impact on our lives. Each month, we drop names from our mailing lists because people die or move out of town, and each month we add more names because individuals have decided to come out of the closet or new people have moved to Alaska to accept a job. Each change causes me to pause to reminisce about the individual involved and how he/she impacted our community or to assess their potential impact. In the past few weeks, we have lost some good friends to various illnesses, including one individual whose life work impacted EVERY Alaskan. His passing deeply saddened me. Yet, on a daily basis, we do receive phone calls on the HELPLINE from people who want to move to Alaska and they want to know if we have an active gay & lesbian community. They want to be involved and are frequently surprised how progressive we are up here in the cold North. We have the activities and the groups to meet their needs. Let's hope we are able to motivate these newcomers to help us grow.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. F. Kenneth Freedman to the Board of IDENTITY. Ken was selected to fill the position vacated by the recent resignation of Beth Vann. Ken has promised to challenge our Board to constantly assess our level of activism and commitment. We look forward to his challenges and his contributions to our community. More comings & goings!!!

In case you missed it, the August 27 issue of the ADVOCATE contained an OUTING article on Pete Williams, the press speaker for the Pentagon. The article and several editorials were very good and really highlighted the hypocrisy of Defense Department policies towards gays and lesbians. Borrow a copy and read these articles!!!

National Coming Out Day is rapidly approaching and IDENTITY is proud to be a national sponsor of this event. Our name has been PROUDLY displayed in national NCOD ads.

JIM BOUDREAUX, Editor
IDENTITY, INC., is pleased to announce that the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has invited us to continue our popular 4th Friday Potlucks at their new location.

WHEN: Friday, September 27, 1991
TIME: 6:30 PM - Doors Open
      7:00 PM - Food Service Begins
      7:30 PM - Announcements, Program
                 ETC. ETC. ETC.
WHERE: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
       3201 Turnagain Street, Anchorage

Don't know where this is? Go west on Northern Lights Blvd. from Minnesota. Go under the railroad tracks and turn LEFT at the 1st traffic signal you come to. That's TURNAGAIN ST. You only have to go about 2 blocks until you reach the church building. There is plenty of off-street parking in the church parking lot. We look forward to seeing you there on Sept. 27.

This month's program will be headed by the staff of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association. They will be updating us on their recent move to new office facilities and all of their expanded programs. The 4A's has been very successful lately in getting grants & railing funds, but the burgeoning case load is continuing to severely tax their resources. This will be a GREAT opportunity for you to find out WHAT'S NEW at the 4A's, including a chance to meet their new (?) volunteer coordinator-the infamous AUSSIE ROSS.

MANY THANKS to the Alaska Women's Resource Center for their excellent presentation last month. Many in attendance were surprised that the AWRC had so many programs going. They can use your help whenever possible. VOLUNTEER!!!

MCC RELOCATES

The Metropolitan Community Church has announced that they have relocated their weekly Sunday services to the St. Mary's Episcopal Church located at the Southwest corner of Lake Otis & Tudor Roads. St. Mary's sits on a hill at this intersection and you can enter either from Lake Otis or Tudor.

Pastor Jim Morgan has also announced a change in times for the weekly services. The new time is 7:15 PM. "This provide many of our parishioners an opportunity to enjoy a complete weekend and still have some time for some inspirational motivation before they have to begin another work week," said Pastor Morgan. "We have been contemplating such a time change for quite a while, and this move to a new facility gives us the opportunity to make several changes at once." Everyone is invited to visit the MCC at their new place and time. There's plenty of room, and you will definitely be among FRIENDS.
Well boys and girls, the NOSE did NOT get anywhere near the amount of sun this summer that one needs to endure a long, cold Alaska winter. I guess I'll be hard to live with, so watch for our sniffing antics in the coming months.

Let's get started with a special CONGRATULATIONS to Rebecca Rogers and her hubby Ken on the birth of a new strapping baby boy named JAMES. We hear James is absolutely adorable & that Rebecca is thrilled the pregnancy is over. She should be back to work at 4A's soon.

Another looooong coronation is again over and the NOSE sends its best to the new emperor & empress. It was a fun evening, highlighted by some stunning headaddresses (Barbie's lights stole the show), some great song and dance routines (Myla's Madonna number was outstanding!), lots of fun costumes (where did Loren find all those furs?), and my personal favorite a HUNK of a man who stood on stage wearing only tight jeans & sunglasses while Empress MAGNA did her number. You could hear the gasps from the audience as he flexed his pecs. Oh well, another year another reign is over. Our best also goes out to Cherresse & Ken for their hard work.

From Juneau comes word that a special group of men is laying the groundwork (so to speak) for a SouthEast version of the Garden Buddies. We hear that there already have been a couple of hot tub planning sessions. The planning for this new club just might be more fun than running one. Official announcements should appear in the near future.

Also from Juneau, we hear that a local DJ recently proudly announced that he had the largest HYPOTHALAMUS in town. Isn't it fun to have a new word added to our vocabulary? It always brings out the very best in radio DJ's.

The NOSE is horrified to hear that Darl Schaaff is planning to leave Anchorage for a 1 year sabbatical. What will we do without his absolutely fabulous parties to write about?? Well, we lost no time in visiting his recent birthday bash that also honored some visiting friends from Seattle & Florida. The men were all handsome, the women were......well, you know the rest. I promised NOT to name names, so you'll just have to use your imagination.

The NOSE had scouts at the Sept. 7 Ann Reed show and reports indicate that everyone enjoyed the show. Ann is now on a tour with 160 performances scheduled this year alone. The auditorium was packed with Alaska women and Ann was so impressed she's promised to return for another show next year. The NOSE continues to be impressed with the attendance at these women's events. How do you women do it???

Have you noticed the increasing number of articles in our local "straight" newspapers about gay & lesbian issues? The NOSE is keeping track, dearies. Our absolutely favorite quote of the month comes from our dear President Bush in response to a recent AIDS march in downtown Kennebunkport. Bush told local reporters on August 16 that, "I don't like it that people choose to exercise their first amendment rights by demonstrating in this small town." Pleeeeease, Mr. President-what else are we to do when over 115,000 people in America have already died from AIDS??? We can't all go boating when a crises hits.

Did anyone notice that the Kerusso guys were at it again post Coronation? They passed out their brochures on car windows. This brochure is titled "How Would Christ Respond to Homosexuals Today?" They're persistent!!!

The arts season is beginning & the NOSE looks forward to lots of social activity. We hope to see you out and about.

THE NOSE!!!
LIBBY RODERICK'S NEW ALBUM

The word has hit the street that Libby Roderick is now working on a new album and an album release concert is planned for Friday, December 13. The exact time and location will be announced soon.

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CHORUS SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

The Anchorage Women's Community Chorus is now making plans to begin their activities for the 1991-92 season. If you are interested in singing or helping with the many logistical aspects of a singing group, you can give Liz Illg a call at 279-4155 or call B J Gardner a call at 345-1573.

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WOMEN'S TWO STEP DANCES

The monthly women's dances have moved to the Mt. View Community Center. The dances are still held on the 1st Saturday of the month. Two Step lessons begin at 7:30 PM with open dancing at 8:30 PM. There is a $5 cover charge to help pay for the costs of the community center.

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CHRISTMAS WISH LIST?

They know it's early, but Joann & Mariah at the Women's Bookstore are asking anyone with a special WISH LIST for the holidays to plan early & visit them NOW so they can place your order. They have many exciting things you can buy for your loved ones. Also, stop in and see their great selection of "Coming Out" cards in preparation for October 11. They will be having a special "Coming Out" Sale from Oct. 1-11 with 25% off on all pride caps & clothing, cards and posters. Their expanded music department includes Ann Reed's tapes and the new tape from Romanovsky & Phillips. The shopping is always fun & friendly at AWB!!!

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
IMPERIAL COURT 1991-92

Coronation 1991 is over and new royalty has been elected to lead the Imperial Court for the coming year. The crowning event of the evening was the announcement of Barbie Dawn LaChoy as Empress XIX and Loren as Emperor XIX. Barbie has chosen the name "The Aurora Red Fox Empress" and Loren has selected "The Artic Wolf Emperor" as his title. The reign will be called "The Dynasty Court of the Regal Triumph". Court meetings will be held the last Monday of every month at the Blue Moon to plan court activities.

Other announcements from Coronation included the awarding of the Peter Dispirito Award to Mr. Raymond Jorgenson and the Wayne Hussey Memorial Community Service Award to Bob Henderson & Ruth Van Scoy. The College of Monarchs also awarded five scholarships to local recipients to assist in their educational pursuits.

Coronation 1992 will mark the 20th year for this annual event, so the newly elected royalty is wasting no time in planning a busy year of activities and fund raising to mark this special event. Empress Barbie has already announced that over $300 has been collected to support the purchase of paving blocks for the Anchorage Town Square Project. The court is planning the purchase of several blocks in memory of past court royalty. Also, while the 1991 Coronation audience watched on, the College of Monarchs announced that over $3000 was raised that evening toward a $10,000 goal for next year’s scholarship fund.

Despite such grand beginnings, Empress Barbie has issued a special appeal to all members of our community to help with Court activities. Like most organizations, the Court has a loyal core group of volunteers, but they can not do the job alone. The Imperial Court has traditionally been one of the largest fund raisers and project supporters over the last 19 years and they plan to maintain that tradition as they approach their 20th anniversary. The Board members and royalty of the Imperial Court asks for YOUR help in making this next year a GRAND event for the entire gay and lesbian community.

Interested in volunteering? Watch for future news releases on special projects or go to the Blue Moon on the last Monday of every month at 7:30 PM for Court Meetings.

ATTENTION ALL YOU MUSIC LOVERS!!! That fabulous singing duo of Romanovsky & Phillips and Fresh Fruit Records recently announced that a new album has been released titled "Be Political, Not Polite." This is the record that Romanovsky & Phillips talked about earlier this year during their concert in Anchorage.

This new R&P album contains 15 songs, a special treat when you consider the slim selection on most records & tapes you buy today.

You will LOVE the variety available on "Be Political, Not Polite." Although this album contains come of R&P's traditional humor, this recording is being billed as a battle cry for action and an affirmation of gay and lesbian pride. Confrontational tunes include "Hymn" (a powerful indictment of the Catholic Church), "Queers In The Closet" (A commentary on influential closet queers), and "When Heterosexism Strikes" (a list of responses you can make to heterosexual actions).

Romanovsky & Phillips remain unafraid to tackle any subject, from lesbian/gay parents to lesbian/gay teachers, surviving AIDS to surviving dating, with compassion & insight. And lest anyone think that R&P have lost the sense of humor for which they are so well known, songs such as "Tango Indigesto" (a breaking-up scene over a bad Mexican meal) & "Oh No...I'm In Love" (with my therapist) should quell any such fears. AND, for those of you who like to sing along, a sheet album with all of the lyrics to each song.

The Alaska Women’s Bookstore on Tudor Road already has a supply of Tapes of this new R&P release. The compact disc version is on order and should be arriving soon. Run down NOW and pick up your copy. You will be glad you did.

SAFE SEX - JUST DO IT!!
DROP DEAD DRAG QUEEN!
MALE STRIPPERS ARE HUSTLERS!
SEND THE BLACKS BACK TO AFRICA!
ALL LESBIANS AND DYKES HATE MEN!
LEATHER MEN ARE THE CAUSE OF AIDS!
PEOPLE WITH AIDS GOT WHAT THEY DESERVE!
HEY HEY - HO HO - HOMOPHOBIA HAS GOT TO GO!!!
QUIT DRINKING! CLEAN AND SOBER? THEN GO HOME!

WAKE UP EVERYBODY! Every day we hear these statements being made by GAY people. These statements are all SICK & FALSE! We march in protests demanding that our local, state, and national governments accept homosexuality. We go on Oprah Winfrey, Phil Donahue, & Sally Jesse Raphael & tell the world we are full of LOVE & UNITY. Then we go to our local party place & get drunk & talk viciously about every one in our community instead of the ones who HATE us. Gossip can be fun but it also can be dangerous. Some gay bars won't serve drag queens, women are not welcome in some mens bars, leather men are not accepted within our community. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM??

DRAGS UNITED was formed in June of 1991 (in Washington DC) to be the first to address the serious problems of homophobia within the Gay & Lesbian community (hopefully, more organizations will follow). Our primary goal is to re-unite the Gay & Lesbian community in LOVE & UNITY so that we may have a more effective fight for Lesbian & Gay rights nationally. Through education, lobbying, peaceful protests, fund raising, & membership, we can end this oppression within our community. You do NOT have to be a drag queen to join DRAGS UNITED. You have to be a PERSON regardless of your LIFESTYLE PREFERENCE.

DRAGS UNITED is also interested in establishing a fund for drag queens with AIDS. In the past, many drag queens didn't get the proper treatment strictly because of who they are. Since the beginning of the AIDS crisis, Drag Queens have been on the front lines raising money for AIDS. It is time we raise money for THEIR struggle with AIDS. Contact DRAGS UNITED, c/o JBP Productions, Inc., PO BOX 32097, Washington, DC 20007.

(reprinted from the WASHINGTON BLADE 7/11/91)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, October 11 is National Coming Out Day for this year and IDENTITY is planning an evening of festivities for your enjoyment.

To begin with, IDENTITY will be sponsoring an after-work POTLUCK beginning at 6:30 PM. As soon as everyone is through eating, we will be repeating the popular COMING OUT STORIES seminar that we held last year. This is your opportunity to hear how other individuals have COME OUT to families, friends and/or employers. The evening will wind down with a DANCE for WOMEN & MEN.

A special flyer will be mailed in the next couple of weeks verifying the times and place for this special event. Make your plans NOW to reserve this special evening to celebrate NCOD.

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NORTHERN EXPOSURE

The Gay Bowling League, one of the longest running gay activities in Anchorage, began its 1991-92 season at new location on September 8. The League is now meeting at the PARK LANES in Mt. View. Bowling day is Sunday afternoon at 5:00 PM. There are currently 10 teams in the league. If you are interested in joining the league as a regular bowler or as a substitute, call EEB KENSHALO at the Raven (276-9672).

SAFE SEX - SAFE SEX - SAFE SEX