STATE UNION LEADS THE WAY!

In Alaska, approximately 8,000 people work for the General Government unit of the state, and are represented by Alaska State Employees Association, Local #52, affiliated with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO). The projected 800 gay and lesbian employees are constitutionally protected by their union. Mirroring its national affiliate, ASEA states the following in its Bill of Rights, lead-in to its constitution: paragraph one: RIGHT TO MEMBERSHIP - No person otherwise eligible for membership in this union shall be denied membership because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or political belief.

The Bill of Rights then goes on to accord to all members freedom of speech, democratic elections, the right to hold office, and the right to participate in all decisions made by the union.

This equal status is about to receive what might be its first real test, and the result could have far-reaching effects for the entire gay and lesbian community of Alaska. In early 1991, about 2 1/2 years after ASEA's formation, the Gay and Lesbian Issues Task Force was formed with two primary areas of emphasis: (1) Increasing the availability and effectiveness of state and federal programs, statutes and regulations to disabled union members, with initial emphasis on disabilities caused by HIV and AIDS; and (2) Ending discrimination in contracts and programs within the union and the General Government Unit (the portion of Alaskan employees represented by ASEA, which includes by far the largest number of employees).

The GLITF is about to recommend an action which may establish the first legal recognition of domestic partnerships for gay and lesbian couples. The first step being pursued by the GLITF is in modifying access to the union's Legal Trust. This trust provides funding for legal representation of members in their own private concerns. Each union member is allowed a certain amount of time in consultation with, or representation by, an attorney to be funded by the trust. These funds are also available to spouses of union members. The Task Force is recommending a change to allow access to these funds by the domestic partners of union members as well.

The Task Force defines "domestic partner" as "the other adult in an intimate committed relationship to a member of ASEA AFSCME, Local #52". This would include heterosexual as well as homosexual relationships. The Task Force is pursuing this as the first step in gaining all rights to benefits for domestic partners traditionally granted to spouses because the Legal Trust is entirely under the control of the union which embraces non-discrimination. Once this modification is made, the task force will pursue other areas which involve negotiations by the union with the state administration, such as health insurance benefits. A report recommending the change to the Legal Trust is currently being prepared and will be presented to the union leadership in April.

The task force is not assuming that this work will be easy. Most lesbians and gay men are not "out" in the work place. This makes it easier for prejudicial attitudes and discriminatory activity to take place, in spite of any union protection. The union will need the voice of every lesbian or gay member, along with their heterosexual union brothers and sisters, to make these changes happen. The task force recommends that any lesbian or gay member of the General Government bargaining unit who would be willing to participate on this or any other related issue to contact their business agent at the work place and ask about the GAY & LESBIAN ISSUES TASK FORCE.
EQUAL RIGHTS... AGAIN!

In last month's issue of NORTHVIEW I reminded everyone that there would be a public hearing in Anchorage by the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission on Gay & Lesbian rights. That meeting was held, as scheduled, on February 20. The big surprise of the evening, however, was that only THREE commissioners showed up for the meeting, and NONE of those commissioners included members of the special subcommittee assigned the task of coming up with a recommendation on this issue. Where were commissioners Liz Vazquez, Gerald Wolf and Edward Cordova? Why weren't they there to present the report they had promised they would present at this meeting?

Another big surprise of the evening was that one of the commissioners that WAS present for the meeting was Michael Johnson, who apparently had been recently appointed to the commission by Mayor Tom Fink. This is the same Michael Johnson who is the founder of the local Kerusso Ministries, that religious group that dedicates itself to helping YOU change from being gay or lesbian. How many of you knew that Mr. Johnson had even been nominated for the commission, much less appointed? It is scary to think that someone from Pastor Prevo’s congregation is now in an influential position to make decisions about equal rights in Anchorage, but that is what is happening.

Our heartfelt THANKS goes out to those NINE individuals who did show up to testify FOR our rights on February 20. Both Herman Coen and Jay Brause were quoted in the local papers. Apparently we can expect some possible activity in May. We will try to keep you informed about what might happen next.

As you can see from our front page story, the ASEA is making plans to accomplish some important objectives in the area of gay and lesbian rights for its members. We will be following their activities with great interest and reporting their accomplishments as they develop.

This month marks a transition for NORTHVIEW. The newsletter staff finally put forth a major effort to completely computerize the publication. Please bear with us as we make this transition and come up with a style for our publication. As editor, I want to express my appreciation to those members of IDENTITY who have commited themselves to making this publication more successful & relevant. JIMBOUDREAUX, Editor
The snow is now in its melting phase and all of us are looking forward to an Alaska Spring. Until that Spring arrives, why not join your friends for another IDENTITY potluck social....

WHEN?  Friday, March 27, 1992

TIME?  6:30 pm - Doors Open
        7:00 PM - Food Service Begins
        7:30 PM - Announcements, Program, etc.

WHERE?  Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
         3201 Turnagain Street, Anchorage, AK

This month我们的 program will feature a special talk by Ms Mary Westbrook from Charter North Hospital. Mary will be talking about "Substance Abuse." This topic includes all types of substances, not just drugs. Many thanks to Allison Mendel for talking to a large crowd last month about legal issues. Everyone enjoyed the information.

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**BLUE MOON REVIEW**

Break-up blues and cabin fever take a back seat with the March Reviews each Wednesday evening at the Blue Moon. Shows begin at 10:30 p.m. and are the best bargain in variety entertainment in town.

Even Misty Dawn was fabulous at the ticket door. (I promised her I would say that!) Reyna talked about the production numbers after the show, and shared a secret.....sometimes former Coronation routines find their way into Wednesday night festivities. And why not, since these girls spent hours learning dance routines each year which never fail to have Coronation audiences oohing and aahhing.

Bunny Marshall's "nun" could get to be a "habit", and the rendition of "Operator, Give Me Heaven" was hilarious. A very svelte Michelle finished the evening off in a "killer" dress (thanks, Barbie), and got the tips to prove it.

The audience got a real treat listening to "bear" on live mike.....fabulous voice and easy on the eyes as well. Several "Madonna" numbers in this collection, and Miss Myla does her soooo well! Good mix of love songs full of passion, rock with plenty of soul, steamy torch songs, and show-stopper stuff enough to please everyone. Seventeen numbers in this review caused Reyna to say, "If YOU'RE on time WE'LL be on time!" Well worth the $2.00 cover -- girls! RM

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**Anchorage Gay & Lesbian HELPLINE**

258-4777

A Community Service of IDENTITY, INC., P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520
AAAA ACTIVITIES

If you've wondered about getting involved with the 4A's but haven't found the activity that has warmed the cockles of your heart, you have a chance this spring. There are some exciting workshops, activities, and groups now being formed that need your participation.

The 4A's would like to thank everyone for making our 2nd Annual Bake Off and Brunch a tremendous success. We raised $2,800! Thanks to the superb chefs, generous auction participants, and especially dear Billy! We had fun! We look forward to seeing you next year!

Medical Workshops - This Spring the 4 A's will host a workshop series focusing on health and self-care for persons with HIV. Medical advances and a decade of clinical experience have shifted the focus of AIDS treatment to the management of long-term HIV disease and to the improvement of the quality of life of HIV-infected persons. The workshops planned should provide persons with all the information needed to take charge of their own health care and to live well. These workshops are open to the community.

Legal Workshops - The 4 A's recently hosted a series of legal workshops on such topics as Estate Planning, Health Insurance for Persons with HIV, and Patient Rights in a Hospital Setting. These evenings were poorly attended, but the 4A's does have notes and materials on these legal issues available to the public. Phone Ed at 276-1400 for details.

Support Groups - A Gay Couples Support Group meets every Thursday night at the 4A's. A screening is required. Phone Michael Mraz at 276-1400 for details. A support group for families affected by HIV meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. at the 4A's. Phone Rebecca Rogers for details. The Wednesday night support group for Persons with HIV has been cancelled due to lack of interest. In its place, the 4A's will be running the Early Care for HIV Disease workshops series through May. The support group will reform sometime thereafter. Any person interested should contact Michael Mraz at 276-1400.

Cut-a-thon - The First Annual Cut Against AIDS will be held at the University Center on April 12th, from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Top hair designers from around the Anchorage area will ply their craft to raise money for the 4A's Client Assistance Fund. A cut, style, and blowdry will be offered for only $20.

Rie Munoz Print - The colorful Rie Munoz print Peacable Alaska will soon be on sale through the 4A's offices starting at $25. Proceeds from this Alaskans United Against AIDS benefit will go to the 4A's and to ALHIV (Alaskans Living with HIV).

Friday Lunches - Every Friday at 12 noon the 4A's and their supportive family and friends. The meals are provided by local restaurants, bars, and community groups. The cheer is provided by people like you.
The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association presents:

Early Care for HIV Disease

A workshop series focusing on health and self-care for persons with HIV.

UNDERSTANDING HIV MEDICATION AND LAB VALUES
March 18th, Wednesday
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Barbara Eichens, registered pharmacist
*Ron Kanjilal, A.S.P., medical technologist
Learn how your body processes medication, common side effects, and signs to watch for. Understand better CBC’s and health indicators such as T-cell counts.

NUTRITION AND HIV
April 1st, Wednesday
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Beverly Wooley, nutritionist
*Sheldon Muir
Proper nutrition is a key ingredient of good health. Beverly and Sheldon will host their popular evening of information, food, fun, and cookbooks.

BASIC HIV MANAGEMENT
April 15th, Wednesday
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Madeleine Grant, M.D.
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
An overview, in understandable language, of a physician's approach to treating HIV disease. Topics covered will include indicators of the health of an HIV infected person, symptoms, prophylaxis (preventative measures), basic AZT therapy, and the importance of co-factors such as nutrition.

DENTAL CARE FOR PERSONS WITH HIV
First week in May, TBA
Time TBA
*David Rosenstein, D.M.D.
Dr. David Rosenstein, a nationally recognized leader and educator in dental care for persons with HIV, will travel from Oregon to lead a workshop on this topic.

STRESS REDUCTION
May 11th, Monday
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *John Schlize, Ph.D.
Wellness Consultant, Dr. John Schlize brings to the 4A's his unique take-charge approach to stress reduction and relaxation techniques.

COPING WITH THE SYSTEM: ENTITLEMENTS & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
May 20th, Wednesday
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
*Don Naff, Div. of Public Assistance, State of AK
*Speaker TBA, Social Security Administration
An insider view of entitlement programs including Interim Assistance, Aid to the Disabled, Food Stamps, General Relief Medical, Medicaid, SSI, and Social Security Disability aimed at eliminating your headaches. Application made easy.

All Workshops will be held at the offices of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, 730 I St., Ste. 100, Anchorage, AK. Please direct questions and comments to Ed at the 4A's, 276-1400.
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE... NO LONGER JUST A DREAM, BUT NOT YET A REALITY

These days, civil rights issues appear on almost every front page throughout the country. Many of these issues directly concern lesbians and gays or deal with lesbian/gay related problems. As this issue of IDENTITY NORTHVIEW goes to press, Anchorage homosexuals are preparing to dip a legal toe into the murky waters of national civil rights.

A local gay couple and a local lesbian couple, both of whom shall remain nameless for the time being (for obvious reasons) are preparing to test the legality of same-sex marriages. These two brave couples have valid reasons to believe that they stand an even chance of winning such a battle in Alaska's court system.

The impact of such a case is enormous. Think of being allowed into a hospital sick room as a legal 'spouse'. Imagine being able to file a joint tax return, or share dental benefits, or inherit real property in a regular will. The list is endless. This is an area of law with much the same impact as the segregation issue in Brown vs. The Board of Education. The social implications are every bit as wide-reaching as the legal ones.

It is not the wishes of this publication staff to damage in any way the chances of these two couples as they attempt to forge a new chapter in civil rights manuals. They are in the final stages of negotiations for representation, and are receiving wise counsel from highly creditable sources. As the wheels of justice slowly turn, our eyes will be on these daring people, and our hearts will be with them. It is people such as these who champion the cause of fairness for us all.

NOTE: What is your opinion on same-sex marriage? IDENTITY NORTHVIEW would like to hear from it's readers on this sensitive issue. Please write in care of Editor, IDENTITY NORTHVIEW, P.O.Box 200070, Anchorage, AK. 99520.
NEW COLUMNS PLANNED FOR NEWSLETTER

IDENTITY NORTHVIEW tries to be responsive to the varied needs of our lesbian and gay community. To this end the staff has been talking to our readers to discover what they would like to see addressed in our newsletter. Two requests have surfaced and will result in new monthly columns, beginning next month and continuing on a trial basis.

The first new column is “Out And About”. This will be a chance for you to continue the warmth and the sharing which you have experienced at IDENTITY’S annual National Coming Out Day functions. In this column we will print “coming out” stories submitted by our readers. It is our hope that this column will help readers realize they are not alone, and will give much-needed encouragement as they make difficult decisions in this most personal and important process.

The second new column is called “On Being Together”. This is an effort to feature a couple, either lesbian or gay, who would like to share their initial meeting and/or experiences of their life together. Many of our models for relationships came from the bi-sexual community, and while we share some of their values in relationship building, we do it in our own characteristically unique way. If you would like to share your experiences with our readers, read on for guidelines on how to submit to IDENTITY NORTHVIEW.

1) Keep your story to 400 words or less.
2) Sign your story and provide a contact phone number to verify content.

It has always been the policy of this newsletter to print names with permission. We would encourage you to allow us this freedom for these special columns, but will still use submissions without names if requested to do so.
3) Be real and tell your own story. Do not send fiction or second-hand news.
4) Keep it clean. No explicit descriptions, please.
5) Submit early. The deadline for inclusion in any month’s newsletter is the first day of that month. We will usually run only one story for each column per month. If yours does not appear, be patient. It may be that it is being held for subsequent issues.
6) All submissions become the property of IDENTITY NORTHVIEW, and will not be returned. We reserve the right to edit for clarity.

Have a story in mind already? Remember what it was like when you came out to family members or at work? What about your first date as a couple, or the first time the in-laws came for a visit? How about the way you worked through your first fight? If you believe that your story will entertain, enlighten or inspire the readers of this newsletter, send it to “Out And About” or “On Being Together”, IDENTITY NORTHVIEW.

These columns are being run on a trial basis in that they will only run as long as you show an interest by submitting stories to be shared. Let us hear from you!
Metropolitan Community Church
Of The Living God
Sunday Worship 7:15 P.M. at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church on the corner of Lake Otis and Tudor Rd.
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

ECO-FEMINIST SPIRITUALITY AND CHRISTIAN SYMBOLISM:
A series of 5 led meditations on Eco-Feminism. Led by student clergy Suzan Dula this series will touch on the 4 elements of earth, air, fire and water under the presidency of Spirit promises to be a wonderful way of lenten preparation for Easter. The series will run March 8, 15, 29, and April 5, and ending on Palm Sunday the 12th.

March 22, 29 --- April 5, 12

Inquirer’s Class: A series of 4 inquirers classes into the beliefs, practices, and history (world wide and local of Metropolitan Community Church

APRIL

12 th. -- Palm Sunday -- Special guest speaker: Rev. Larry Spannagel. 7:15 P.M. St. Mary’s
18 th. -- Great Easter Vigil at St. Mary’s 11:30 P.M.
19 th. Easter Sunday Service 7:15 P.M.

For more information call 338-6749 CHURCH PHONE NUMBER
COUPLES WORKSHOP

Susan E. Johnson, author of STAYING POWER: LONG TERM LESBIAN COUPLES, is offering an intimate educational workshop for lesbian couples. During this one-day workshop participants will identify similarities & differences within couples, evaluate how important these qualities are, focus on making them work for us, not against us, support each other, learn, and laugh a lot. The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 9:30-3:00 at the Unitarian Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. The cost is $150 per couple with a limit of 6 couples. Call Susan at 272-4113 for more information & to register.

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QUILT IN FAIRBANKS

The NAMES Project AIDS Quilt will be making an appearance in Fairbanks from May 1-3 and several individuals from the Anchorage area are making plans to organize caravans for that weekend. Anyone interested in going to Fairbanks to see the quilt should call Al & Dan at 522-1380, Scott at 274-5826, Mary at 688-0816 or the 4A's at 276-1400.

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LYNN LAVNER

The nationally famous comedian-musician, LYNN LAVNER, will be appearing in town for one night on Friday, March 27. Show time is 8:00 PM at the UAA Campus Center Pub. Lynn's visit is co-sponsored by the UAA Student Programs and the Gay & Lesbian Student Association. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the UAA Campus Center Information Desk or at the Alaska Women's Bookstore. Call 786-1219 for more info.

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Homosexuality is assuredly no advantage, but it is nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation, it cannot be classified as an illness...It is a great injustice to persecute homosexuality as a crime, and cruelty too.

SIGMUND FREUD (1856-1939), in a letter to the mother of a homosexual.

IDENTITY ANNUAL MEETING

IDENTITY, INC. will be conducting its annual membership meeting and election of new board members on Friday, April 24, 1992 at its regular 4th Friday Potluck Social. Any individuals who are interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors should call Jim at 274-5826, Ruth at 563-1324 or the HELP-LINE at 258-4777. There are FIVE positions to be filled at these elections.

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MARCH ON WASHINGTON

A dedicated group of people is working a lot of hours to guarantee Alaska's participation in the 1993 March on Washington. The organizing committee will be meeting at the Blue Moon on Friday, March 20 at 7 PM. Another meeting is planned for April 25. If you would like to volunteer your time or money, call Scott Turner at 563-7120.

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WOMEN AND RECOVERY

A new monthly newsletter, WOMEN & RECOVERY, is now being published by an organization called Women to Women Communications, P.O. Box 161775, Cupertino, CA 95016. This newsletter is for women in all aspects of recovery and for professionals providing women's services. Sample issues are $1 and 12 issues cost $18 + $4 postage. Write the address shows above.

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EDENITE REORGANIZED

What is Edenite?? Not to worry, since this organization has been changed to CHEST MEN OF AMERICA (CMA). The purpose of the club is to provide a network for every man in America & the world who is attracted to the male chest, enabling him to meet other men with the same interest. CMA claims to have members in Alaska & is finalizing plans for its national convention in Chicago from August 21-22. Write CMA at P.O. Box 138551, Chicago, IL 60613 if you want more info.

HOMOPHOBIAS IS A SOCIAL DISEASE!
THE ARCTIC NOSE

The NOSE is so envious that so many men and women have been traveling outside because of the cheap plane fares and I must stay here and only write about it. For example.....

Over 20 Alaskans flew to Seattle for the annual coronation activities on Feb. 15. We hear that a special group photo was taken with over 30 Alaskans & former Alaskans in attendance at the event. We are just dying to get a copy of that photo.

Two Alaskan men showed up in Miami to take an RSVP Caribbean cruise, including your NorthView editor. We hear that the city of Miami & the cruise was FABULOUS! The word is also spreading that RSVP will be hosting an Alaska cruise this summer departing Anchorage/Whittier on July 3. More news about that later.

If Mexico is your favorite spot, then try to locate one of the dozen or so people who went on the Mt. McKinley Club trip last month. We hear they had a wonderful time vacationing at a really nice hotel in Puerto Vallarta. Were they next to a gay beach? We yearn to learn more.

From Seattle also comes word of a special group called WOMANTREK that plans really different trips around the world. Their brochure lists river rafting in Idaho, safari's in Africa, cycling in China or France, van touring in Australia, etc. Sounds fascinating, doesn't it. Call the HelpLine if you want to know more. Or, you can call 1-800-477-TREK and get on their mailing list.

SEEN at the Blue Moon last weekend—Mr. Robin Cousins and friend stopping in for a drink & shooting pool after a busy evening on the ice skates. It is oh so nice to see celebrities out and about.

Well, another Celebration of Change is now history and what fun we all had. It is nice to know there is so much local talent available. The NOSE was really stunned by dance routine performed by Sherry Gobaleza. WOW!!! It really added some excitement to the evening.

Our traveling Empress Barbie Dawn Lachoy is now "stranded" in Texas for a few months going to school, so we hear. We have also heard that she is developing a real habit of missing planes while traveling on her official duties. Her next trip is a trek to New York City for the famous Night of A Thousand Cowns, where she hopes to pick up East Coast ideas for next Septembers coronation. HAVE FUN!!!

A record number of MEN showed up for the Celebration of Change this year. Several men even attended the art show and dance following the show. It makes our heart feel good to see the men and women of our community playing together. MUCHO THANKS to the 15% for hosting these events!!!!

Finally, the NOSE was pleased to learn that our community did end up having a float in the Fur Rondy parade & that it won second prize. We hear Ms Myla got to play queen for a day & ride atop our parade entry. THANKS for representing the Gay & Lesbian community!

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!!! The NOSE
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Thursday, March 19 - Anchorage Garden Buddies Monthly Meeting
Friday, March 20 - March on Washington Organizing Committee, 7PM.
Saturday, March 21 - Sing-A-Long at Lucy's, monthly social for women.
Friday, March 27 - 4th Friday Potluck Social, 6:30 PM
              LYNN LAVNER at UAA Campus Pub, 8PM.
Saturday, March 28 - IDENTITY Board meeting, 10:30 AM, Unitarian Church
              Woman's Coffeehouse, 8PM.
Saturday, April 4 - Womens 2-Step Dance, 7:30 PM, Mt View Com Ctr
Friday, April 24 - IDENTITY Annual meeting & Board Elections
May 1-3        - Names Project Quilt in Fairbanks.
May 9          - Annual "The Fabulous Femme Fatals" show in Juneau.

Coming out means telling the truth about your life...
it's a real family value.

The National Coming Out Campaign
is fundamentally the most effective campaign
the gay and lesbian community has ever waged.

Please give generously to:

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY, PO BOX 8349, SANTA FE, NM 87504 / 505-982-2558
YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE FORM

Identity, Inc. - P.O. Box 200070 - Anchorage, Alaska 99520

☐ Yes! I want to be a part of Identity, Inc! I understand that my membership will expire one year from this date. My membership entitles me to Northview, Identity's monthly newsletter and other periodic mailings. I have the option to NOT receive the newsletter and mailings if I check here.

☐ $25 Membership
☐ $25 AND $50
☐ $35
☐ $100
☐ $ Other

Per Month
for one year

Contributions are tax-deductible
to the full extent of the law.

Name

Mailing Address

City State Zip Code Signature Date