**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 and 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 person's or organization's membership.

**Editorial Board:** F. Kenneth Freedman, Ruth Mathies, Sylvia Short. **Chair:** F. Kenneth Freedman

**Distribution:** the **NorthView** is free upon request and is mailed at special non-profit, bulk mailing rates. Identity's mailing list is confidential and is not sold, given or loaned to anyone. Copies of **NorthView** are also distributed at select businesses in the Anchorage area. Financial contributions are gladly accepted to defray mailing costs.

**Copying:** please feel free to copy this newsletter and give it to anyone whom you feel will enjoy it or benefit from it.

**Contributions:** We welcome articles and letters from community individuals and organizations. Ideal length is 1,000 words or less. Please submit, if at all possible, on 3.5 or 5.24 diskette (IBM compatible). All media will be returned. All contributions must be signed, but names will not be used upon request. **NorthView** reserves the right to edit as necessary and to refuse to print any article submitted.

**Deadlines:** All articles and advertising must be received by **March 10th** for inclusion in the March **NorthView**.

**Advertising:** Rates are available upon request.
Contact **NorthView** by mail or through the Helpline at 258-4777. All advertising must be camera ready. **NorthView** will not accept advertising that is sexist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

**Mail:** Editor, Identity **NorthView**, P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070.

**Phone:** Anchorage Gay & Lesbian Helpline 907-258-4777. Messages will be returned as soon as possible.

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### MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE FORM

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<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Monthly Pledge</th>
<th>One-time Pledge</th>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Membership</td>
<td>$25 (First Year)</td>
<td>$50 (First Year)</td>
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<td>OR</td>
<td>$35 (Yearly)</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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*Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.*

- **Deadline:** **February 15th** for membership to begin the following month.
- **Mail:** Membership applications should be sent to: **Identity, Inc.**, P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070.

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**Alaska Community Share**

**Member Agency**

**258-4777**
Editorial

**Item:** In a memo to the Anchorage Assembly, Mayor Fink has again vetoed the funding for Out North Theatre Company.

"I don't think there's any question but that the public does not approve of spending tax money for a theater which encompasses homosexual themes. I'm not trying to close down the theater but I am trying to stop the expenditure of public funds for such theater."

**Item:** In Quarantines and Death (see article "Do You Think Prevo Could Have Written This?") a neo-Nazi leader exults: "...once Whites get used to it they can throw away AIDS as a crutch and shout from the rooftops their real views on faggots, niggers, drug addicts, all the garbage we've been forced to wallow in."

**Item:** In Anchorage, Prevo continues to manipulate the unsuspecting public to hate Lesbians and Gays and encourages hate crimes in doing so. His mignon, Michael Johnston, an HIV positive and former self-avowed Gay man, sits on the Equal Rights Commission as Vice Chair, yet seems to spearhead the campaign for the referendum against equal rights, calling the sexual orientation clause a "special rights law for homosexuals."

**Item:** In Washington, DC, the newly elected President attempts to lift the ban on Lesbians and Gays in the military and runs into a stone wall. The military responds with studies espousing the old canard about separate but equal quarters based on the irrational fear that once a gay man or lesbian goes into the same shower room with a non-lesbian or gay person, surely unwanted advances and sex would ensue. They labor under the misconception that, in the first place, there would be unwanted advances, and, secondly, the "innocent victim" would be completely helpless in rejecting it, if it was unwanted. Perhaps the Tailhook scandal is the lesson in point -- what's good for the goose is not at all the same as, or any good for, the gander.

**Item:** Back in Anchorage, the Interfaith Council of Churches issues a statement that they don't agree with Prevo's stance on the Lesbian and Gay issues now before the public, and there is even a piece in the Anchorage Daily News on the Religious page (by the Catholic Diocese) mentioning that this issue must be handled carefully. Neither represents the forceful stand one could have wished for, but both organizations show much needed support.

We have been told that one of the cornerstones of the Anchorage Baptist Temple was the "Communist threat." With large contributions from the flock, the perceived Satan could be fended off. A church is born of fear and hate. Attempting to exorcize that part of society that is different, whether Black, Native Alaskan, Jewish or Jain is indeed the foundation upon which such institutions as the ABT are built.

How to bear, and ultimately throw off the yoke of oppression? Remember the Black Civil Rights movement in its fledgling stage in the '60s. Recall how one day Rosa Parks simply would not relinquish her seat to a white person standing in this aisle demanding she move to the back of the bus. Then remember the drag queens in Sheridan Square in front of the Stonewall Inn in New York on a hot June night in 1969. Do not believe that if you keep quiet and apart and make no noise that this wave of hatred will not wash over you and soak you in its blood. Find a way, now, to take a stand, publicly or privately, but commit to yourself that you won't let slip this precious time leading up to the referendum.

If there is not decisive and strong action taken now, by the time the referendum rolls around, the Prevo machine (united with many other anti-Lesbian and anti-Gay citizens cum Christians (including our Catholic mayor)), will stand a very good chance of bringing out an overwhelming vote against the new ordinance. It would take years to recover from such a defeat.

It is time to stand and be counted. We have said before and will repeat it now, some people simply "cannot come out." To you, we urge reconsideration of that stand. But regardless of your decision, find a way to get involved, and now. Give money, offer your time, make phone calls, write letters, go to meetings, help organize. Call a friend if you don't...
know how to help, call Equal, call the Temple, call the Interfaith Council, call Bishop Hurley. Every minute counts.

Moral of the Editorial: Herman Coen tells the story about rushing to the downtown bus station upon hearing that some of the Prevo petitioners were there gathering signatures. As he and Pam Sigfried shadowed the signature gatherers, they were successful in preventing many signatures. How? The question was: if you sign this petition, and the ordinance is stricken from the books, or worse, laws are enacted that specifically curtail the rights of Lesbians and Gays (as in Colorado), how do you know you won't be next?" And who will be left to stop the carnage? Many then refused to sign. Your voice absolutely has an impact.

F. Kenneth Freedman, Editor

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I always felt that the great high privilege, relief and comfort of friendship was that one had to explain nothing.

Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923), New Zealand-bom writer

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Dear Friends at NorthView,

I had the extreme good fortune to be able to visit Alaska in September of 1991. At the time I was working for West Virginia Public Radio, and they agreed to pay for the trip so that I could attend a news writing workshop hosted by the Alaska Public Radio Network. I would not have otherwise been able to afford the trip myself.

For me, the trip was a peak experience. I had always wanted to visit Alaska. By the time my visit was over and I awaited my flight in a lounge at the airport in Anchorage, I felt a profound sadness at the prospect of leaving a state that I felt I belonged in. At a time when the eastern U.S. was suffering through the last major heat wave of the summer, I had arrived in Anchorage in clear, crisp, 65 degree weather. As someone with an affinity for colder weather, I had suddenly found myself in Heaven. I gazed at the browns and golds of the glorious Chugach Mountains. At one point I was able to observe Denali looming majestically on the horizon, over a hundred miles away. And as my flight left Anchorage for Chicago, I saw down below in the dying twilight, for the first time in my life, glaciers.

Best of all, I was able to meet many wonderful Gay men and women, some of whom lived in Alaska, others who were sightseeing. I had come to Anchorage armed with my trusty Bob Damron guide, so I knew exactly where to go. My fondest memories are of the Blue Moon and the friendly people I met there, particularly a native of Columbia named B... whom I have subsequently maintained some correspondence with. I suspect it was B... who got me on the NorthView mailing list. For that, allow me to say: "Thanks, B...!" I am truly impressed by the quality of this publication. I had no idea the Gay and Lesbian community was so well-organized in Alaska. This letter is just my way of saying Hi, wishing you the very best of luck, and expressing my hope that I'll be able to visit again soon. After all, with the preponderance of big, bearded, furry men I saw at the Blue Moon, I certainly wouldn't want to stay away for long.

Here in West Virginia, I'm the membership chair of the West Virginia Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Compared to [the] NorthView, our newsletter is a rather minor affair. But we're picking up momentum, getting a lot of press coverage lately, and we even have a Gay rights legislation pending in our Statehouse. What an exciting time it is to be Gay!

Since Alaska is such a rural state, I would be interested in how you go about reaching out to Lesbians and Gay men in more isolated communities. If you have any suggestions for those of us in the Coalition, our mailing address is WV-CLGR, P.O. Box 11033, Charleston, WV 25339.

Let your readers know that if any of them happen to be down in this part of the country, they have a friend in West Virginia. See you in Washington, DC, on April 25th!

Chuck Anziulewicz •

Dear Editor:

I filed an ethics complaint against Michael Johnston January 26. Two days later Herman Coen Jr. and I filed a similar complaint against Mayor Fink.

Michael Johnston is Vice-Chair of the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission. His responsibilities should include working for equal rights for everyone, investigating civil rights complaints and enforcing laws against discrimination for every citizen in our community.

His actions are at odds with his position. He is spearheading the campaign for the referendum against equal rights, calling the sexual orientation clause a "special rights law for homosexuals." It seems unethical for him to campaign against the very laws he swore to uphold. He should either quit his anti-civil rights campaign or resign from the Commission. His campaign impedes the effectiveness of the Equal Rights Commission. Who can file a civil rights complaint based on sexual orientation when it is obvious that one of the equal rights commissioners will vote against you if homosexuality is the issue? My hope is that the Ethics Board will order him dismissed.

Mayor Fink also insists on misrepresenting the ordinance as a "...gay rights preference ordinance." He claims the new law gives gays special rights and publicly campaigns against the law.

This law is NOT about "special rights." Sexual orientation is a widespread phenomenon. Herman Coen Jr. says, "Most everybody has one; a sexual orientation, that is." This law protects everyone against discrimination regardless of their sexual orientation. That's about as fair as it gets!

As Mayor, Mr. Fink conspicuously represents the Municipality of Anchorage. When he speaks against this civil rights law, he does it as the top ranking official in the municipal government. Does this mean he promotes bigotry as the local government's position? Is this truly the position of the Municipality of Anchorage? I don't think so.

I believe the Mayor is in violation of the Municipal Code of Ethics. This law makes it a violation for a
municipal official to campaign on an issue to be brought before the voters when on duty or otherwise conspicuously representing the Municipality. As Mayor, Mr. Fink may not "...campaign for a referendum..."

Our local leaders should be responsible enough to support equal rights for all citizens. Discrimination in any form is reprehensible. I don't know if the Ethics Board will take action against Michael Johnston or the Mayor. If my interpretation of the code is correct, each of them deserves at least some 'recognition' for such inappropriate behavior.

Sincerely
Les Baird◆

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Celebrate Diversity -- Hate Hurts Everybody
by Don Naff

I'm sure that most of you reading this article join with me in a limited thanksgiving when we look at the Anchorage Assembly's recent action. While none of us believes that an ordinance protecting Municipal Employees is anywhere near enough, I'm sure we all agree that it is better than no ordinance at all.

As we ask the greater Anchorage community to be open-minded as it looks at us, a minority in their presence, I think it only fitting to take a look at ourselves to see where we stand in relation to our own minorities. If we have a "Gay and Lesbian Community" in Anchorage, it is made up of people who are from all the same minorities of the greater community around us. Remember that one of our strongest arguments for protection of our rights is that we are "the" minority; namely that at least 10% of whatever group out there you want to look at belongs also to our "community".

I believe that a community needs all members, and that anyone that discriminates and is closed-minded is narrowing his or her own life experience and lessening his or her own quality of life. This is, of course, in addition to the more obvious and heinous harm done to the group being discriminated against. When I take a look at our community, I believe we have a good long road ahead of us before we are perfect in this area. And I believe that our performance in this area may well have an effect on how soon we are granted our status as equal in the greater community.

Part of the problem, I think, is the words we are forced to use when discussing differences between one another, especially ones that distinguish a minority group from the majority. Words that come to mind include "acknowledge" and "acknowledgement", "recognize" and "recognition", "tolerate" and "tolerance", "accept" and "acceptance". I think these are the ones that are used most commonly. I also believe none of them works worth the proverbial tinker's dam.

So where does that leave us? I like several words that aren't usually used in this area. First, I like "respect". According to Webster's "respect" means "to hold in esteem or honor, to show esteem, honor, or consideration for". Now doesn't that sound nice? Or how about "understand" — "to be thoroughly familiar with, to get knowledge of, to apprehend completely the character or nature of". Sounds good, too, doesn't it? In fact, I think this one is at the core of any positive approach to differences among us. Fear leads to hate, and fear is spawned by lack of information, knowledge, and understanding.

Finally, we come to my favorite word to apply to differences I see around me. That is "celebrate" — "to observe or commemorate with festivities, to sound the praises of or extol". This I think is the best approach to differences we see around us. I am so very glad that our world is not filled with the same types of creatures and that differences abound. It is this diversity in our community that makes the social condition so beautiful! To me, this beauty is worth celebrating. Hence the message I've used as a title for this article. "Celebrate Diversity -- Hate Hurts Everybody". This summer, assuming there is a summer, you'll see this message on a brick I bought in the Town Square. I use it as my banner on computer bulletin boards. I'm thinking of having cards made up, you know, like business cards with this on them. I believe in this message. Celebrate the beauty that is diversity. Anything that works to counter this diversity leads to hatred and that hate hurts everyone.

Why everyone? Because no one is free until everyone is free. I know, I know, you've heard that before. But it is true. Until everyone is free of discrimination and of hate there is the danger that someone else will be discriminated against — if it's okay to fire "gays" now, why not women tomorrow? Also, in a society where anyone is afraid to be themselves, they are not able to contribute as fully to the community and the community suffers. Energy invested in hiding is energy that could otherwise be directed into worthwhile pursuits.

Especially now, when we are asking Anchorage to offer the kind of protection to us as a group that we deserve and need so desperately, it is essential that we take a good hard look at how we measure up in regard to our own attitude towards the diversity which makes up the Anchorage Gay and Lesbian community. In months to come, I'll look at several specific areas I think we need to improve. These include genderism (I prefer this to "sexism"), racism, ageism, religionism, politicalism, and yes, even homophobia. I will not deal with gender identification and transvestism or transsexualism, not because these are not important, but because I believe my good friend, Kurt Parish, is dealing very well with these issues in his articles on drag and related subjects. But until then, let me recommend that you look around you. Try to see the differences you see in people in our community not as blemishes to be polished away, but as different facets on a beautiful stone. The more facets a precious stone has the more light is reflected and the more valuable
the stone becomes. Celebrate Diversity -- Hate Hurts Everybody!!!!

Don Naff is a State Employee and an activist
"of many colors". ▼

Do You Think Prevo Could Have Written This? If Not, Think Again

The irrational public response to AIDS has bred violence; and this hysteria, as well as the repression that accompanies it, could spread to minority communities, which also suffer from the disease in disproportionate numbers.


"I now feel that any white revolutionary party needs to upgrade the struggle against perversion [sic] significantly... [I]t is now the area in which the enemy is arguably the most vulnerable, thanks to those four little letters that are God's greatest gift to our cause since the Fuhrer Adolf Hitler himself: A-I-D-S!...it has galvanized White opinion worldwide in a manner nothing else has done...At long last, using AIDS as an excuse, White people could really say what they felt about faggots! And from saying and openly admitting what they really feel about queers, it is only a short step to saying what they really feel about those other major AIDS carriers, the blacks...once Whites get used to it they can throw away AIDS as a crutch and shout from the rooftops their real views on faggots, niggers, drug addicts, all the garbage we've been forced to swallow in. And who knows? Once Whites get really used to speaking their mind, maybe Yehudi [Jews] himself might come in for a mention or two."

The Center for Democratic Renewal is publishing this report in order to promote greater understanding of the agenda of the antidemocratic movement in the United States. It is the Center's belief that a deepened appreciation of the goals and strategies of that movement is central to the development of a stronger community response to hate groups, not to mention to the expansion or our democratic potential.

The Center for Democratic Renewal is the principal national clearinghouse for community-based efforts to counter hate group activity. The Center publishes occasional special reports, such as Quarantines and Death, and a bimonthly newsletter, The Monitor. Contact the Women's Bookstore for more information. ▼

The Eye
Not To Be Confused With The Throat

Note from DC: seems there was to be an informal with the Alaskan Senatorial and Congressional Delegation. EYE is not sure why or who set it up, and, lo and behold, only Ted Stevens showed. The funny part was the look on his face when told that in late April he would be visited by 200 Lesbian and Gay Alaskans! Garcon, garcon! help me get my jaw up off the floor, pudzle. ▼ Note from Northern California: prior to the November election, a right wing group got some 11,000 signatures on some, what else?, a right wing petition. Some savvy lesbians and gay men got together, got the petition (anyone can), and checked the signatures against (also available) voter lists. Seems about 7,000 were fake! Lesson for Anchorage: maybe those ubiquitous petitions being circulated by You-Know-Who (both of them), need to be checked. ▼ The Imperial Court of All Alaska (except Bird) has established a new Duchy in Fairbanks. EYE sees that the Duke is Lenora Epperson, the Duchess Nida Little aka Paul. They were crowned with proper pomp on Jan. 16 by Emperor XX Jerry. EYE's EYE popped to see some 100 people turn out, so to say ▼ Ad Nauseam re: Jerry Prevo: EYE got quite a story upon hearing the rumor that the good Baptist leader makes a cool million (that's coin of the realm as in dollars to you gEYE and gEYE) in his contract with the monolith on Baxter and No. Lights. One wonders whether he serves God or mammon. EYE takes that back: there's no question. ▼ On a lighter note, EYE caught sight of a non-typical Alaskan family: seems there's at least one gay couple that hunts and fishes and all that butch stuff, even salvages the meat and bones and all, even mounts the trophies in a rather butch house/rural cabin replete with skins and hides and etc. You wouldn't have a clue until you EYEd the five fish tanks with oh-so-carefully manicured underwater habitats. Only in Alaska! ▼ Bigot Buster Brigade: story of Herman and Pam at the bus station (see Editorial): seems Herman was having trouble keeping tabs on both the Prevo Petitioners and went to the Director of the facility, who promptly ejected the interlopers. Can't have petitions in any municipal building or near the employees. Not legal. EYE wonders if more than the IRS should investigate the ABT. Watch out for Prevo Petitions on any municipal property and have them 86ed! ▼
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Sauna
by Greg Johnson

Editor's Note: when it comes to beautiful prose, we cannot bring ourselves to touch red pen to one single line of the following poetic piece. Thus, we include it in its entirety with the hope that it will be viewed by all our readers as an insightful journey, conveying understanding and appreciation in a singular area of the lives of gay men. The Editors of the NorthView encourage similar or opinion pieces from the Lesbian community.

Yesterday, to soothe February fears, I took a sauna at my health club, that event offering me the opportunity to ask life some questions, to check the vital stats of our community, and, or course, to leer lasciviously at men. For those willing to open their eyes, it is obvious that the scene is sexual. It is free pornography for gays.

There's always a few prospects I can pin my dreams to, although there is usually very little to show for my efforts, save a wet bed that night. Happily, the long draughts are occasionally punctuated by hot flashes of carnal delights, verdant oases in the vast deserts of longing. A recent highlight, and it is surprising how few episodes are necessary for survival -- we are a resilient species -- was catching a young boy masturbating. It transported me to earlier halcyon days when I was first awoke to the beauty of men's bodies. Back in high school, it was with avarice that I gazed at dimpled quarterbacks and lanky sophomores as they buffed their machines, brazenly brandishing their towels, like signets, like flags, heralding the arrival of a conquering enemy, of a hurricane.

If that young boy was like me, he was confused and ashamed by his reaction to the locker room. After his brief flight of ecstasy, after he cleaned himself up with a towel, he undoubtedly swore never to do it again. He probably said extra prayers that night, asking his god to relieve him of his burden, pleading with the universe to make him like girls. But no act of will can change such primal impulses. He will be back to the locker room, pulled by forces he cannot yet name, at first unable, and eventually unwilling to steer his course otherwise. Seeing his naked body, and peeking in on his shaky hand in wild motion, I was briefly seized by melancholic longing, not only for a body I could not touch, but for an era that had passed forever. These base sentiments were soon bettered by what I would call a more noble attitude: while I will never be that young again, I was assured that others would take my place, choosing the path of truth on that amazing journey of self-discovery, filling the ranks left vacant by so many fallen soldiers.

Yesterday's escapade in the tile and chrome garden yielded the following harvest: a faerie-type, with Guatemalan cloth on his wrist, an unkempt beard, and an equally disheveled mane; a standard issue middling bureaucrat, maybe a lawyer, afraid of any change (in spite of my rigidly enforced left wing taste code, I am still a sucker for norms); and a strapping lad with firm breasts. He was as impressed with himself as I was, spending an inordinate and almost embarrassing amount of time in front of the mirrors, flexing, and no doubt noticing nuances none of us could catch. When he headed for the sauna, I wrily thought, "You may regret that choice." For, once I lock periscope, I track relentlessly, powerless to control my heat-seekers.

Pity the unwitting target.

None of these one-act fantasies panned out, of course. I got a fleeting smile from the faerie, a nod (you had to look close to catch it) from the lawyer, and nothing from the young stud, even as I danced behind his bulging reflection, using any excuse -- a second cup of water, a Q-Tip, to linger in his glow. As a palliative for my mounting failures, as an elixir for those long stretches when my revealing poses and outrageous behavior produce little more than an ill-defined sense of distraction amongst the bothered recipients of such charades, I seek strength and comfort from that genial reality which many gay men mourn. To wit, I grunt, "Oh, he's probably straight." Far from causing lament, this act gives me sweet succor. Like aloes, it salves my wounded ego. It allows me to pile fantasy upon fantasy, as the trash heap of abandoned dreams grows ever larger, the sea gulls and bulldozers barely able to keep up with the debris. After only a well-practiced moment's readjustment, I can confidently say, "See, it has nothing to do with my receding hairline!"

I have given up wondering if being solicitous in the showers is an offense to men. Are not my acquisitive stares and gestures spawned in the same murky waters as the machismo whistle feminists decry? Such is the implication of infrequent letters to college newspapers from sanctimoniously incensed straights shocked that another man would dare proposition them. I must grudgingly admit that there is something seductive to this argument. If we are to rise above, if our movement is to have any meaning, it is not enough to merely declare our love for men; we must also denounce the habit that helped build the machine. Such seemingly innocuous conventions -- like Mrs. -- are signals of oppression. Like antibodies, they are evil's shadow. They tell us oppression is afoot.

For reasons good and bad, I refuse, at least in the locker room, to rise above "objectification," as it is known in the trade. To give Queer Nation its due, let
me hazard one response to those irate student letters: "In your face, straight boy. Taste your own bitter medicine." But I have trouble lingering long over such wispish, catty comments. Better to focus on the refreshing liberation of the locker room leer. In the past, such acts drove me to despair, to chapels. Today I can adore the towel waving gods with pride, with impunity.

Once I sight prey, I am never sure of the best approach. Do I swagger, letting everyone know that I am proud of that I have? More, that what I have is desirable, and that I expect others to fawn. (When faced with the myriad possible postures and philosophies, why not adopt the one calculated to at least make you feel good, regardless of what the mirror says?) Do I cover my genitals and slump my shoulders, playing the shy neophyte in an all-too-studied attempt to lure the unsuspecting, or those with a preference for straights. Or do I prance, sashaying the faerie dance, laughing from head to toe, as if to say, "Girlfriend, I am me that's who I am."

What makes the locker room worth returning to is that, for the intrepid and the determined, one can try each of these personae, switching masks with reckless disregard, until one works. And trust me, they do work. If you are dedicated, there are riches to be had in this market, prayers to be answered. Any number of my steamy memories (one watches the door while the others cavort), would confirm most of the Uneducated's worst suspicions.

So five it a try, take a sauna. What do you have to lose but your virginity? And brothers, you have my blessing to wear your drag in every sacred place. In the courtroom, in the boardroom, and in the locker room. Ogle, swish, point. Never let them forget we are here. And, when you get up the verve, ask them to wiggle it, just a little bit.

In his spare time, Greg Johnson clerked for the Alaska Supreme Court.

I never thought I would have the nerve to call a poem Untitled

I once thought of my statement, my struggle, in larger than life terms. A smash hit, plastering every marquee in oversize letters. A blink many would notice.

But truth comes with age. With due contrition, I now admit my life will be little more than a minor skirmish in the Great Crusade. Any future historian caring to chronicle will note that, in the end, the Turk was kept at bay with little effort. With pomp he heralded new ideas. But on the battlefield, he stayed behind the lines cavorting and consorting with the cadets (always willing to play the elder), and falsely swearing to his troops that they had won the war.


is 6'2", 150#, with blond hair, blue eyes and a beard. He likes saunas.
Schedule of Events
February 1993

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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Atwood Center 2nd Floor</td>
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The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association needs your help! For volunteer information or to sign up for 4A's training classes call 276-1400.

The Service of Affirmation "A Time for Healing and Wholeness" will provide a casual atmosphere where attendees can express themselves freely and share with others.

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1993
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12:00Noon at The Raven

Enter your favorite dessert in this annual extravaganza!
-Great Prizes Awarded in all Ten Categories-

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Entry Fee - $3.00 per Entry
Entry forms are available at The Raven and the 4A's office.

Brunch will be served beginning at 12:00Noon - $3.00 per person
Dessert Judging 2:30PM
Dessert Auction after the Dog Sled Races 4:00PM
Update on EQUAL and the Anti-Gay Referendum Fight
by Karen Carlisle

Last week, Equal members met with some professionals in advertising, marketing research and fundraising for a strategy session on how to defeat the anti-gay referendum that will probably be on the April ballot.

An organized campaign against a ballot measure requires filing complicated reports with the APOC (Alaska Public Offices Commission) and reporting contributions in a rigidly scheduled way. Since 84 days (less now) is a very short time to organize and implement an effective campaign, these people, highly experienced in the political process of the patriarchy, have initiated a new coalition (as yet unnamed). Its sole focus will be to generate a research-driven, well-financed advertising campaign aimed at defeating the referendum, and they have the political network to do it. They will hire a campaign manager and an accountant, and will deal with the APOC filings. This group consists of allies as well as community members, and will have an advisory committee of well-known people who support the effort by (among other things) allowing the coalition to use their names on official letterhead. There were already people in this network calling each other looking for the place to make their donations and offer their services.

What will Equal be doing? We will complement the new coalition’s efforts by raising and donating funds, and by providing volunteers to do such things as staff phone banks, do door to door leafleting and talking, and putting together political mail outs.

And we will continue to do what Equal does so well: educating the public about ourselves, dispelling misinformation, doing visibility actions, speaking in public at various forums, being out and proud before the media.

With these two groups working toward the same goal, our chances of mobilizing a much larger number of supportive voters is greatly heightened. Lisa Jamieson will be Equal’s liaison to this group.

Equal has held two strategy meetings. We decided not to launch our own referendum (a city-wide Lesbian and Gay rights ordinance), because of limited resources and because we don’t want to confuse the voters. On a related note: attorneys in Equal’s ranks say we may be able to challenge the referendum language, but this is still under investigation.

Visibility and educational opportunities upcoming:

* 2/11/93: a debate between Jerry Prevo and someone who will represent the civil rights viewpoint for us. Channel 7 at 8pm. The show is “Double Exposure” co-hosted by Fred Chiei and Peter Gruenstein. Our representative may be John Wood or Allison Mendel.

* 3/18/93: Herman Coen and an as yet unidentified lesbian will address the Bartlett Club.

* Possibly a gang of queers will make a snow sculpture at Fur Rondy and perhaps we can march in the parade.

* Rallies and vigils are in the planning stage.

What can you do right this minute? Until the referendum petitions are certified to be on the ballot, Equal can raise money that does not have to be reported, so send money now to Equal at P.O. Box 244452, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-4452.

Also, the new coalition is asking for help in finding a campaign manager. Call Mia Oxley with any ideas at 272-8659.

If you have any ideas for important persons whose names might be listed as advisors to the coalition, please call and ask them and then leave their name and number on the Equal voice mail 561-1755 x1021.

Karen Carlisle is a lesbian activist in the Anchorage community.

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Lifting Military Ban Only a Start
News Analysis by Cliff O’Neill

Amid the sound and fury surrounding the Clinton Administration’s promise to repeal the Pentagon policy barring gays, lesbians and bisexuals from the armed services, a key point is being missed. There’s more to the changes than meets the eye.

While the new Commander-in-Chief can revoke the blanket prohibition with one stroke of his pen, some gay and lesbian vets are saying that the wording of an executive order will have to do more than just overturn the ban to guarantee equality for homosexuals in the service.

In addition to the contested Department of Defense (DoD) policy, there are several other institutionalized forms of anti-gay bias in DoD practice and policy which affect gays in the service.

Congressional sources insist that all of these matters could be included in the wording of any executive order prepared for the new President. Still, they will have to be worked out quickly if they are going to be addressed in the executive order.

There is the question of the military’s prohibition of sodomy included in the Uniform Code of Military Justice which, according to many gay vets, is regularly used as a tool of intimidation by military investigators to flush out gays in the service. For while gays and lesbians may now simply receive honorable discharges based on their status, it is often the fear that they will be investigated and charged with the federal crime of sodomy that leads many to accept dismissal without a fight.

President Clinton has yet to take a specific position on a repeal of the military’s sodomy law.

A repeal of the military’s non-sex-specific sodomy law could become part of a general review of a whole series of matters contained in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, but such a move would have to be taken by Congress and could not be addressed in an executive order.

A coalition of groups working on gay military issues has called on Clinton for a general overhaul of the Code, while the Human Rights Campaign Fund has gone one step further, singling out the sodomy law for repeal.

Questioned about such a congressional move, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), agreed that the Code should be changed and added that the anti-harassment rules will also need to be put into effect.

“I think you need to reassure straight people that they’re not going to be harassed by gay men and lesbians and vice-versa,” said the openly gay lawmaker in a telephone interview. “And exactly how he’s going to do it, I gather that’s what [Clinton] says he’s going to take advice on.”

To help smooth the transition between the old and new policies, some parties are suggesting a gay and lesbian sensitivity program for the military along the lines of what is now done for women and racial minorities in the service.

Finally, gay and lesbian military activists are looking for some assurance that when homosexuals and bisexuals in the service come out they will not be penalized for the revelation.

Since the general inclusion of females in the service, women in the armed forces have had to deal with issues of harassment and being overlooked for promotions. For this, the Pentagon some years ago created an advisory panel known as DACOWITS to look into fairness issues surrounding women in the service. DACOWITS, however, remains simply an advisory panel and has no actual force in the military structure.

Gay activists are hoping for a similar commission to address these matters as they relate to gay servicemen and women.

And then there is the question of whether servicemen and women who have already been separated under the contested policy would be allowed back in.

Clinton has suggested that he would consider a limited number of such reinstatements on a case-by-case basis. This has become an issue of some gravity for many gay and lesbian vets who were let go just shy of being able to qualify for pensions. Some victims of the policy who once sought lifetime careers in the service will also be looking at this decision closely.

Frank, however, said that the longer a gay or lesbian vet has been out, the harder it may be to get back in. "Remember we are in the process of reducing [military forces], so that makes it harder to take people back in," added Frank.

Taken from the December 1-December 18, 1992 Equal Time published by Lavender Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation.

One of the oldest human needs is having someone to wonder where you are when you don’t come home at night.
Margaret Mead (1901-1978), American anthropologist
Debating Gays In The Military
by Herman C. Coen, Jr.

Gays in the military seems to be the big topic in Washington, D.C. lately, and Anchorage has not been spared the firestorm. Anchorage has an interest in the debate because of the close proximity of both Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base. The fact that these bases are located here means that the number of military personnel, dependants, veterans, and retirees is higher than it would be in an area without bases, or even an area with only one base. These Anchorage citizens are perhaps one of the best "barometers" of the military sentiment here.

I had the opportunity recently to discuss the issue with Larry Patch, the Commander of The V.F.W. in Alaska, in the form of a live debate aired on the Channel 2 News. As I expected, I heard the same old arguments to defend the ban on gays. Mr. Patch contended that because a person is gay, somehow he or she is somehow less trustworthy, and that having gays in the military would make soldiers wonder about the person next to them. He raised questions about the living arrangements for gay and straight soldiers, and mentioned the fact that in some cases up to forty soldiers share a common shower room. These are some of the same arguments used to protest the integration of the services to persons of color many years ago. They are inflammatory and have no basis in logic. Even those which, although baseless, concern soldiers can be easily remedied. The fact that gays are permitted to serve openly does not mean that all gay soldiers will be open about their sexuality, or that they will somehow allow their sexuality to affect their job performance. As I told Mr. Patch, I served four years in the U.S. Army, and never once did my sexuality affect my performance. To the contrary, I have the distinction of being the youngest person to hold my position in the history of the Army (in peacetime).

I spent quite a bit of time after the debate talking with Mr. Patch, and discovered that he really didn't want to be reassured, rather he wanted to be able to believe what he believed and not be confused with the facts. If each of us were as single-minded as he is, we would already be in the military, in congress, in the executive branch, and all of the other areas of society. But wait we already are, aren't we...?

Herman C. Coen, Jr. is a gay rights activist living in Anchorage.
Changing the World
by Lee Lynch

Here we go again. Oregon's radical right lost, but now it has carefully targeted twenty-four cities and eight counties for local anti-gay ballot measures. I live in a county on the hit list. In the newspaper a local right-winger claimed, "It's a foregone conclusion" that the gluttonous right would win our little county.

He's wrong. With no opposition our county passed the 1988 anti-gay ballot measure only by 66%. After our active campaigning in 1992 the anti-gay vote dropped to 56%. The new measure is a sily piece of double talk, tilting at windmills, a desperate attempt by the right to get something, anything, on the ballot to keep the funds rolling in and to gather more power. All we need to do is reach another 6% of the voters! I wouldn't have thought it possible a year ago, yet it is. And if we can do it in this depressed, politically volatile area, believe me, anyone can.

Ballot Measure Nine has brought us: an Oregon Hate Crime Summit, a Bias Crimes Commission right here in Redneck City, U.S.A., a state Civil Rights agenda that addresses gay issues, civil rights legislation that just might pass if only to stop the tedious initiative attacks.

The right has created a monster. All over America the gay and progressive communities are an enragé whole. We've got a friend in the White House and more in the Senate and Legislature. The scale is tipping toward us. I'm wired, like a hurdler at the line, waiting to fling my weight into the balance.

It's time to change the world again. Before Stonewall the gay nation was fragmented, hiding in closets without connecting doors, lines of communication or even knowledge of our numbers. Twenty-four years later a fraction of us, one to two million, will march as one, shout as one, be heard as one. That ought to be enough to tip the scale.

Local skirmishes are the right wing's last stand. The conservatives' lies about special rights are wearing thin. It's obvious to all but the most embittered that the right wing agenda has to do with backlash: against gays for emerging from the closet, against the civil rights movement for mortally wounding racist institutions, against feminism for setting women free. It's also obvious that if gays give an inch, the right will make straight for those other groups that fought before us.

Those who marched last time -- minus the loved ones we've lost to AIDS, cancer, and too many other causes -- tasted our strength and are returning for more. Those of us who stayed home can't be kept down on the farm another second. Whole coalitions of non-gays and gays from Colorado and Florida and Maine and Oregon are reserving trains and cars and planes and busses. It's clear that this is not simply a gay issue. We're watching democracy as it's attacked from within. Even in America, champion of freedom, we're staving off enemies of human rights.

I'm incredibly excited. I feel like I did at age six when my parents somehow got tickets to a kids' T.V. show. I want to leave for D.C. now. I remember watering the garden during the last March, so moved that I cried as I listened to National Public Radio's coverage. I vowed not to miss this one.

For months I thought I couldn't go, then the airlines -- incredibly -- dropped their rates for the March. The only barriers left were my fears. When I weighed my decision I realized that any one of us could tip the scale, that I could do it. We're changing the world again. Watch us.

Lee Lynch is columnist/author based in southern Oregon. She writes regularly for the Amazon Trail and the Dallas Voice and is the author of ten books. Copyright Lee Lynch, 1993.

Mile-High Revolt

Colorado's tourist industry has been torpedoed by the following boycotters: The National Center for Social Studies, which canceled a 4,000-person Denver convention with estimated revenues of $4 million; the American Association of Law Libraries, which canceled a 5,000-person Denver convention; the Association of College Unions-International, which switched its 1993 regional conference from Colorado Springs to Tucson, Ariz.; the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, booked for an April 1994 Denver meeting and expected to generate $8 million; and the production of a television mini-series of Stephen King's "The Stand," which has been moved from Colorado to Utah.

Probably the most stunning rebuke for Colorado was a decision by the 1,046-member U.S. Conference of Mayors to cancel a Colorado Springs meeting that was expected to earn the hospitality industry at least $500,000 and produce positive publicity for the state valued at $1 million. From Restaurant Business, January 20, 1993.
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I THINK I KNOW A MASTERPIECE
WHEN I SEE ONE, AND I'VE SEEN ONE."
-Jerry Tallmer, New York Post

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ONE WEEK ONLY - MARCH 3 - 7
March on Washington Update  
by Herman C. Coen, Jr.

Your local March committee is hard at work for you. As the NorthView goes to press, Scott Turner and Lori Stroup are winging their way to the fourth National Steering Committee Meeting in Washington, D.C. They are taking with them concerns raised at the recent meetings of the March committee here in Alaska. They will bring back information about speakers and entertainers appearing at the March.

Also, the local committee is planning several "fun raisers" in the very near future. Among these are a Sky Is Blu concert at the University (Sunday, Mar. 7, Wendy Williamson Auditorium), and a "date auction."

The folks already in Washington need to know if others from anchorage are planning to be at the March. Please call Equal at 561-1755, x1021 if you are going. A head count is valuable.

In DC, there are at least 115 events related to the March (there will probably be near 200 events in the days preceding April 25th). Among the events are: 1) a non-sectarian wedding ceremony in front of the IRS Building, complete with a certificate of participation, 2) a contest for the longest relationship with a trip to the DC March as first prize, offered by MCC and the Rev. Troy Perry, its founder, and 3) a Triangle Inaugural Ball featuring k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge (who recently came out possibly because of k.d.'s coming out in the Advocate).

The National Committee for the March, composed of 4 representatives each from 17 regions, has its hands full to pay for national advertising, recruitment of speakers, required permits, sound and stage set-ups, port-a-potties, press conferences, etc. Your help and contributions are vital to the success of the March.

If any of these things interest you or you wish more information, call 258-5131 and ask for Herman or Scott. The committee meets every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at 603 W 20th Ave. The next meetings are Feb. 17th and Mar. 3rd. Please get involved.

Herman C. Coen, Jr. is a gay rights activist living in Anchorage.▼

$SUPPORT THE MARCH  
The success of the March is dependent upon support from our community. Please make a donation TODAY.

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Make checks payable to "March on Washington" and send to MOW, 603 W. 20th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99503. Thank You!

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It's a Simple Matter of Justice

THE 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON  
FOR LESBIAN, GAY, AND BI  
EQUAL RIGHTS AND LIBERATION  
APRIL 25

Diversity ▼ Unity ▼ Solidarity
The 1993 March on Washington Platform Demands

1. We demand passage of a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender civil rights bill and an end to discrimination by state and federal governments including the military; repeal of all sodomy laws and other laws that criminalize private sexual expression between consenting adults.

2. We demand massive increase in funding for AIDS education, research, and patient care; universal access to health care including alternative therapies; and an end to sexism in medical research and health care.

3. We demand legislation to prevent discrimination against Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered people in the area of family diversity, custody, adoption and foster care and that the definition of family includes the full diversity of all family structures.

4. We demand full and equal inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people in the educational system, and inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender studies in multicultural curricula.

5. We demand the right to reproductive freedom and choice, to control our own bodies, and an end to sexist discrimination.

6. We demand an end to racial and ethnic discrimination in all forms.

7. We demand an end to discrimination and violent expression based on actual or perceived sexual orientation/identification, race, religion, identity, sex and gender expression, disability, age, class, AIDS/HIV infection.

Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese.
Billie Burke (1886-1970), American actress
Women's Health
by Karen Carlisle

As promised, the column on women's health continues to include items of concern -- for BOTH women and men -- and issues which merit attention. The following columns are reprinted from newspapers in the Lower 48.

Too Many Mastectomies? Though lumpectomies and mastectomies would be equally effective for between one-third to one-half the women diagnosed with early breast cancer, too few physicians offer lumpectomies, the American Cancer Society, American College of Surgeons and American College of Radiology report.

Approximately 46,000 women will die of breast cancer in the US this year; and around 180,000 will be diagnosed.

Info from the Atlanta Journal Constitution, 10/20/92.

Breast Cancer $$ Battle. DC -- In what one Democratic Senator (Patrick J. Leahy VT) called an act of "arrogant sexism" Bush budget director Richard G. Darman recently attempted to force House-Senate conferees to drop $185 of the $240 million approved for breast cancer research in the coming year. Some Republicans as well as Democrats on the appropriations panel in question have signed a letter that urges the Senate to hold firm on its allocation, which is part of the Pentagon's fiscal 1993 budget.

Info from the Washington Post, 10/1/92.

Pap Smear Info. Getting a pap smear? You might want to check about where it's being sent.

According to the Compendium on Diagnostic Cytology, the accuracy of this test for cervical cancer can depend strongly on the competence of the technologist who screens the smear. The International Academy of Cytology, which offers a registration examination for cytotechnologists, has found that over 15% of those who take the exam fail it. In some cases, technologists have missed detecting more than five of the sixteen cancerous smears they were shown. Those who fail have already passed national certification requirements; they may continue to work in the field. What is more, time and economic pressures can make detection difficult even for the best technologists: some are given only 24 hours to evaluate as many as 90 slides, and many are paid by the slide rather than by the hour. A better lab will mean more accurate results.

Info from the Bloomington (Indiana) Voice, 4/27-5/3/92

Karen Carlisle is a lesbian activist in the Anchorage Community. ▼
Part II:

Men Who Wear Dresses
or, Gay Liberation Was a
Drag Queen
by Kurt Parish

As promised here is a second installment addressing the part Drag plays in the gay community. Having introduced the historical view of Drag, in a brief attempt to grasp even a morsel of the role it has played in the development of gay life, I would, at this time, like to move on to a more personal aspect. My goal was to talk with perhaps half a dozen practicing "drag Queens" in our Alaskan community. However, upon completing just my first two interviews, attending at least one drag show per week for the last six weeks and sharing the excitement of watching the Closet Ball in January, I feel confident enough to share with the readers a taste of what I have learned.

The most difficult part in getting started with this article was trying to come up with questions to ask my interviewees. I cornered several people, "gay" and "straight" and asked them what they would like to know about Drag Queens, or what they would ask if given the chance. The number one question seemed to be Why? Why do these men do drag? Davy, - perhaps a little less known as "Mishell" Lamar Barrington says that when he does drag he mentally and physically appears to become a woman, and that Mishell and Davy are two different people. Granted they both like to socialize, dance and as Mishell would put it, "to cut loose and be noticed." However, there is a more personable side to Davy. He's the one that is still looking for that special someone. He is also the one that seems to be more in control, whereas Mishell is uninhibited, care-free, and most-definitely wild! (Many have even gone so far as to call her a Bitch, but, that's O.K. that's all part of the act.) These are the same people who admire and respect Mishell. On the other hand we have Javier, or "Mariquita" DeQuazar who proclaims that Javier would never be able to get out in front of all these people, but Mariquita responds well to a crowd.

In responding to what they get out of dressing in drag, Mariquita says that the entire experience is fun; the shopping for clothes, the application of make-up, the perfection of making a transformation from Javier to Mariquita, and of course the performance itself as the actual finished product. There really isn't a part of the whole experience that in not enjoyable. He also says that it's important to never forget who you are. He is Javier - a gay man first, and Mariquita is somewhere farther down the spectrum. Being relatively new to the Drag lifestyle Javier hasn't made the ultimate jump by entering an establishment that caters to the wants of the "straight" community. Having not built up that kind of courage he leaves that to the more experienced sisters like Mishell. Mishell, having done drag as far back as 11 years ago, off and on, enjoys the thrill of being able to go into a bar with men that think, and treat her as a woman. Sound risky? Well, at times it is but you learn to read what people are thinking about you and perhaps at times make quick exits. It's all part of that excitement that keeps the adrenaline pumping and the adventure moving.

Davy and Javier both agree that dressing in women's clothing has nothing to do with their sexuality. They both lead relatively normal, male lifestyles and fit within the standard realms of society. The majority of men that do drag fall into this pattern, but there are some that are in it for different reasons. Some fall into the category of transsexualism -- these are men and women who have a need to make a complete physiological change into a member of the opposite sex. These people may or may not be gay, but they generally do feel more accepted by the homosexual community.

In talking about best or worst experiences, regarding Drag, Davy recalls being asked to do a Command Performance for the reigning monarchs at Coronation three years ago. This gala event held every year on Labor Day weekend attracts hundreds of people from all over the United States and Canada. Spending the time and energy to make it a "flawless" operation; making sure everything was in perfect order and trying not to be too nervous, Mishell took the stage for just five minutes. She was the center of attention as she executed her performance, a show stopper. She knew she was doing well, as everyone was lined up to stuff "moolah" down her "cleavage". Afterward, having counted her "booty" she realized she was holding well over two hundred dollars in her hand. Not bad for a few minutes of fun.

Mariquita's best experience falls much along the same lines but the setting was Investitures at the Imperial Crown Prince & Princess Ball. In both
cases they felt very comfortable once the action started and really felt that they were giving it their all, and of course the steady flow of money in their direction meant that the audience was appreciating their efforts.

Undoubtedly, a Drag Queen's worst nightmare is for something to go wrong while on stage. Mariquita remembers performing her first comical routine, a song called "Sam You Made The Pants Too Long". Near the end of this number, she slipped on a wet spot on the stage floor and crashed to the floor -- high heels and all!! Being the perfectionist she is, she quickly recovered and finished the show. Afterward, talking with people in the audience, she found that they didn't realize that it wasn't all part of the act. And of course being the perfectionist she is, she didn't tell them differently.

The drag queens in the Anchorage community seem to have formed a family, of sorts. Many even call each other "sister" or "mother", because of the SMALL size of the drag community. (Not to be confused with their dress size!) This may explain why their role models are also their drag family. In Mishell's case, her role models are Kristara Barrington, and J.R. Lamar. Kristara being a drag queen by way back, and J.R. a friend who greatly impacted her life. Together, J.R. and Kristara, as emperor and empress, were able to bring together the drag community with the rest of the gay population that had been drifting farther and farther apart. That is why Mishell added Barrington and Lamar to her drag name. Mariquita's role models are Reyna (who holds the title of Mother Perpetual), and Mishell. She feels that between the two of them, they bring out the best of what she wants to be as a drag queen.

In responding to how the community views drag, Mariquita tells us that the gay community seems to be getting better at supporting the shows. Her being in drag, at least part of the time, doesn't seem to impact the friends she has. In fact, she has made many more friends. As far as the non-gay community is concerned; they seem to be just above "toleration", in her opinion, especially with the recent debates on homosexuality taking place in the Anchorage Assembly. She tells of shopkeepers at times refusing to allow "them" to try on female attire, and even when they are allowed to, they get stares of disbelief, shock, and even anger. Mariquita says to them," My money spends just as well as anyone else's!" Mishell conforms to the belief that what she does is her business and her business only...

In conclusion, I would like to comment on my perceptions of the two men that I interviewed. In both instances the interview was held at the Blue Moon, and throughout our conversations we were interrupted perhaps a half dozen times, by people coming to hug or otherwise greet "the girls." This interaction showed me how well accepted they are, at least within our gay community. They both seemed content with who they were and relatively happy with where their lives were heading. In fact, they seemed more than eager to be interviewed and are looking forward to the extra publicity that this article will possibly bring.

As I ponder my next attempt at shedding light on some of the mystery that surrounds the life of a Drag Queen, I hope that at least some more questions have been answered here. Mariquita, reminds us never to forget who you are; and that if you can climb a tree in pants you can climb a tree in a dress.

Kurt Parish lives in Anchorage, is a member of the Imperial Court, a gay activist and an aspiring writer. •

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4 Out Of 4, or
In Case You Haven't Been Counting

Some folks may be feeling a bit relaxed and perhaps even let down since the Anchorage Assembly passed its famous ordinance last month. If you are one of those who are experiencing this depression, or if you're wondering where to focus energy next, give the following points a thought:

1) The Assembly did pass an ordinance in favor of gays and lesbians, albeit a modified version which protects M.o.A. Employees and those working for M.o.A. contractors hiring 35 or more people.

2) The Assembly did override the Mayor's veto of this ordinance and made themselves politically vulnerable in doing so.

3) The Assembly unanimously voted "yes" on HIV/AIDS being added to the present definition of handicaps, making it illegal to discriminate on that bases against persons for that reason.

4) The Assembly did override Mayor Fink's veto of Out North Theater's funding. Fink, however, refused to sign the funding "contract" and Out North must take immediate action to preserve (or reinstate) these funds.

So...think of how far we've come in so short a time in our struggle to provide equal rights for everyone. Consider the undoubtedly pitched battle to come as we head into the April elections and the Lesbian/Gay Rights ordinance comes up for public vote. Make a silent vow to help, somehow, to continue the effort which has begun. Four (more or less) out of four. Not too shabby! ▼

GAY BAR:
A monthly question and answer session on legal issues of interest to lesbians and gay men such as relationship contracts, wills, custody & visitation

Every second Monday of the month, 7:00 - 8:30
Open to the public. No Charge.

Mendel & Huntington
845 'K' STREET
Heart, Mind and Soul:
What You Feel, You Can Heal
By Doran Vaughan

Editor's note: This column takes a look at our mental health from various angles and offers different points of view, different approaches to healing. Please write with your questions/comments to: Identity NorthView, P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070. Answers and advice will appear in the following issue of this newsletter.

Alaska is a wondrous place. Whether the season at hand is winter or summer, the beauty of Alaska far surpasses that of most other places in our great country. Winters are long, dark, and cold, while the summers are temperate with extensive daylight and high energy. A majority of Alaska's population are relocated from other parts of the United States as well as the world. Each person's natural biological clock varies depending on the type of environment they were accustomed to prior to moving to Alaska.

For many, Alaska is a difficult place to acclimate to. In fact, it typically takes years to adapt to the extremes in climate and in light and dark in this northernmost part of the world.

The Fall and early Winter are times of excitement for many who are anticipating skiing and snowmobiling or are anxiously preparing for the upcoming holiday season. The new year is around the corner with expectations that it brings positive change and good fortune. In Alaska, February is a hopeful month. Generally, it marks the ending of winter and the prelude to spring breakup. In March, temperatures will warm and the overall effect on individual emotions and the noticeable increase in daylight will be apparent.

In spite of the fact that February is a hopeful month, it also tends to be a period when most Alaskans experience a diversity of intense emotions. Unless you are naturally active and involved, the past five months have added extra pounds and raised your serum cholesterol level. You have experienced short days and long nights, hence, you suffer from light deprivation. You may vaguely recall that during the summer when daylight is excessive, energy levels are high, you sleep fewer hours and are active into the night, and you and others tend to feel both positive and optimistic.

As winter progresses in Alaska, light deprivation actually has a major biological impact on the feelings and attitudes of people. Whether you label it Cabin Fever, Winter Blues, or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), the overall effect on individual emotions and interpersonal relationships is the same. Without sunlight, the body generally does not produce a sufficient amount of vitamin D which is responsible for maintaining high energy and emotional levels in people. With a decrease in exposure to sunlight, the body produces an increased level of a natural hormone called Melatonin. With an increase in Melatonin, people experience depression, irritability, lethargy, moodiness, and a craving for sugar and sleep. As a result of these effects, people have difficulty controlling their emotions and, hence, controlling their interactions with others. Relationships become stressed and a cycle of depression and pessimism results.

Unless you acknowledge the overall effects of these biological processes, you may easily succumb to the resulting negative cycle. At this time of the year, people often consume an excessive amount of alcohol and other addictive substances; and domestic violence, including both physical and sexual abuse, increases. In order to avoid these more serious reactions, you must exert self-control and be proactive in addressing problems.

Certainly, taking a week or two to travel outside Alaska to an area where sunlight and warmth are available, can have a positive effect on ending this vicious cycle of feelings and behaviors. Many people are unable to travel due to expense or other commitments, hence, do not have access to this type of therapy. Generally, increased activity will aid in combatting the negative effects of Winter. Outdoor activities are preferable because of exposure to fresh air and, if during the day, an increase in the exposure to sunlight. Winter sports in Alaska are very popular and for many individuals quite desirable. For those who have no interest or enthusiasm about exercising in the outdoors, indoor physical exercise can, have a similar positive effect. Exercise stimulates the production of other natural hormones which combat the negative effects of Melatonin.

Physical exercise is not the only activity that can help people combat the effects of winter. Any type of activity can successfully break the cycle of depression, irritability, and excessive sleep. Anchorage offers a variety of cultural experiences including concerts, plays, movies, operas, dances, and special events like the forthcoming Fur Rendezvous. Spontaneity is an important aspect of selecting activities, but planned ones will undoubtedly suffice. Being creative in selecting unique activities, which you generally would not participate in, can assist in breaking the cycle of negativity.
Mental health research has extended beyond the practical for dealing with depression and anxiety caused by light deprivation. Artificial lighting can suppress the production of Melatonin in the body as well as increase Vitamin D production. Standard lighting, if increased, is insufficient in combating the ill effects of light deprivation. Replacing standard lighting with fluorescent is an improvement, whereas Halogen lights, which are significantly brighter, have a more positive effect. Full spectrum lighting, which is generally fluorescent in nature, has been demonstrated to provide the best type of lighting for individuals who experience Cabin Fever or SAD.

"Sunup", a brand name, is often available at local lighting distributors as well as at natural health food stores.

Ever important at this time of the year is understanding and accepting the origin of the negative feelings and reactions you or your friends and lovers experience. It is not only important to recognize, but to accept the fact that depression and irritability are normal responses to climate and darkness. Although being patient may be a difficult task, it certainly can help individuals better cope with their feelings and emotions. Be patient with yourself as well as with others. Acknowledge that the depression and irritability you and others feel is temporary, and be proactive in addressing these feelings.

Now is the time when communication in relationships can potentially break down. People may tend to be negative, to solicit arguments, and to physically fight. Combat these feelings by attempting to express understanding and tolerance. Communication channels should remain open. Yelling, arguing, and physically fighting are usually non-productive. Be honest, talk about your feelings, discuss your attempts at coping. Relationships require compromise. Talk about how you and your friends or partners can support each other in combating Cabin Fever. Listen attentively to what others have to say, before you express your thoughts. Don’t jump to conclusions. Taking this advice seriously may have a positive effect on your mental health or that of significant others in your life.

Doran Vaughan, M.A., is a private therapist in Anchorage with twenty years of experience in the mental health field.

Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life.
Sophia Loren, b. 1934, Italian actress
The Directory

This directory is a fledgling "yellow pages" and reference guide. It isn't complete, either. Want to be listed? Know someone who you think wants to be listed? It's free! Write Identity or call Ken at 248-7722.

The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (A)llie indicate that the business or service is owned by (L)esbian(s), (G)ay(s) or (A)llies. All peoples (regardless of sexual orientation) are encouraged and welcome to call for further information. NOTE: In some instances you might encounter employees who are unaware of this Directory and its significance. Don't be offended: it's an opportunity to enlighten them.

All listings are in Anchorage unless otherwise indicated.

AA:
(G) Midnight Sons, see Calendar

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 276-1400
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 800-478-2437
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gwen, 278-5019

Automotive
(A) Courtney's, Michael, 562-1227

Bakery:
(G) Illusions, Brian, 243-8457

Bars:
(A) The Blue Moon, 277-8441
(G) The Raven, 276-9672
(G) O' Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080

Bed & Breakfast:
(G) Alta's (Fairbanks), Pete, 457-0246
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 345-2533
(J) The Butterfly Inn, Kay (Hawall), 808-966-7936
(J) Island Watch, Ellie (Honner), 235-2265
(J) Mermaid Inn, Nancy/Bonnie (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), 305-565-8437

Books:
(L) Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joann/Mariah, 562-4716
(A) Alaskana, Gene, 561-1340

Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 243-8457
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0927

Computer Bulletin Board:
(G) Ak Computerized Shopping Mall, 248-7997
(A) Myth's Reality (Berdache), 333-3425, 338-2866
(G) The Wilde Side, 333-4039

Computer Consultants:
(G) Tom, 338-1312

(A) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3069
(A) LLR Technologies, Logan, 272-7377
(G) Mark, 344-1588
(G) Randy, 276-0102

Electrical:
(G) The Electric Doctor, Bob, 561-2225

Electrolysis:
(A) Gentle Touch, 561-6608

Entertainment:
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-8064, Movieline: 275-3799

Florists:
(G) Fireweed Florist, Steve, 276-6628

Gardening:
(L) Green Earth Gardening, Susan, 337-3543

Gender:
(B) Berdache Society, P.O. Box 203134, Anch., AK 99520-3134

Gifts:
(L) Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joann/Mariah, 562-4716
(A) Love of Alaska, Tallyn, 243-0876

Haitstyling:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(G) Jim, 338-6749

Health:
(L) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253

Helpline:
(G/L) Identity Helpline, 258-4777
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 452-3745, Code 82

Homeless?
(A) Brother Francis Shelter, Lynne, 277-1731

Home Products:
(G) Watkins Products, Jim, 243-5054

House Cleaning:
(A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4657
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

House Sitting:
(L) Carol, 271-4131

Legal:
(L) Mendel & Huntington, Allison, 279-5001
(A) Short, Sylvia, 562-4992

Massage (therapeutic, Swedish, Shiatsu, and much more):
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(G) Howie (Girdwood), 783-1338
(L) Leslie, 277-0713
(G) Lucian, 272-0328
(L) Vicki, 277-5222

Mental Health:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 258-2561

Mortgage Brokers:
(A) City Mortgage, Lynn LaFerriere, 277-0700

Native Arts/Culture:
(A) Moon Dancer Arts, Rosemary (Wasilla), 373-5353
Pet Care:
(A) Doggie Hut, Arild, 279-5861

Photography
(G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 337-3399

Political:
(G/l) EQUAL, the Alaskan Gay & Lesbian Task Force, 561-1755, x1021
(G/l) March on Washington, Scott/Herman: 258-5131, Lori: 274-5674, Jaime: 338-0762,
Doug: 277-3862

Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Timeframe, 562-3822

Recreation:
(I) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 658-2226

Real Estate:
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-7481
(A) Bronwyn Hillman, 248-2804; 563-5156
(I) Dynamic Realty, Lucille, 279-7411

Restaurants:
(G) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080

Rooming Houses:
(A) Regina's, 276-4904

Social:
(G) Anchorage Garden Buddies, 272-9220

Spiritual:
(A) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 658-2226
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737
(G) Metropolitan Community Church, Jim, 338-6749

Sports:
(I) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 658-2226
(A) Files by Ilene (Eagle River), 694-6946

Support Groups:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 258-2561

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, Cherresse, 561-0661

Woodworking:
(I) The Alaska Woodpile, Boston, 561-6670
(I) North Star Signs, Rusty, 333-7900

Writing & Editing Assistance:
(I) Mel Mel, 276-7269

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call for appointment:
277-0713

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Metropolitan Community Church of the Living God

A Christian Church that brings the "Good News" of Jesus Christ to all with a special outreach to Lesbian and Gay persons. Worship service Sunday at 2:00 pm. For place, call 338-6749. Or write P.O. Box 142095, Anchorage, AK 99514-2095.

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Mei Mei Evans
EDITING & WRITING ASSISTANCE

(907) 276-7269
Box 240604
Anchorage 99524
Feb 10, Wed:
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Feb 11, Thu:
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Feb 12, Fri:
* PLWA lunch, 12-1pm, 4As, 730 ‘I’ St. 276-1400.
* Lesbian/Gay 12-step meetings: AA, 7-8:30pm, 637 ‘A’ St (old Synergy bldg, now Anch. Ch. of Relig. Sci.)
* Comedian Marilyn Pittman (San Francisco) performs at Anchorage Museum, 8pm (see Sky is Blu ‘ad’)
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 8-9:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)

Feb 13, Sat:
* Women’s Potluck & Sing-Along at Lucy’s, 6:30pm. 337-3543
* Dinner/Dance: Alaska Wilderness Gourmet, 6:30pm, $20.00 ea., Sky is Blu, 563-1997 for info (women only)

Feb 14, Sun:
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Metropolitan Community Church, 2pm (see ‘ad’)
* Bowling Team “Northern Exposure”, 5pm, Park Lanes
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317
* Anchorage Garden Buddies, 7:30pm, 272-9220
* Danza d’amore II, 8pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse, $7, Dee-Jay music by Resorgimento di lesbica (co-ed)

Feb 17, Wed:
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Feb 18, Thu:
* EQUAL meeting, 7-9pm, AUUF (561-1755, x1021)
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Feb 19, Fri:
* PLWA lunch, 12-1pm, 4As, 730 ‘I’ St. 276-1400.
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 8-9:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)

Feb 21, Sun:
* 4As Bake Off & Brunch, noon, The Raven, Gambell & 6th Ave. (see ‘ad’)
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Metropolitan Community Church, 2pm (see ‘ad’)
* Bowling Team “Northern Exposure”, 5pm, Park Lanes
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317

Feb 22, Mon.
* 4As Service of Affirmation, 7pm, Atwood Center at UAA, 2nd Fl.

Feb 24, Wed.
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Feb 25, Thu.
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Feb 26, Fri:
* PLWA lunch, 12-1pm, 4As, 730 ‘I’ St. 276-1400.
* Identity Potluck: Program is by 4As: “HIV-An Update.” Join the companionship at 6:30pm, AUUF (see article)
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 8-9:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)

Feb 27, Sat:
* Women’s Coffee House, 8pm, 837 ‘A’ St., 277-0713,
* Kippy Lanz and Friends.
* 4As Buddy Training, 10am-4pm, 4As Office, 276-1400

Feb 28, Sun:
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Metropolitan Community Church, 2pm (see ‘ad’)
* Bowling Team “Northern Exposure”, 5pm, Park Lanes
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317
* 4As Buddy Training, 10am-4pm, 4As Office, 276-1400
More Calendar

Mar 3, Wed:
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Mar 4, Thurs:
* EQUAL Meeting, 7-9pm, AUUF, 561-1755, x1021
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Mar 5, Fri:
* PLWA lunch, 12-1pm, 4As, 730 'l' St. 276-1400.

Mar 6, Sat:
* Women's Two-Step Dance, 7:30pm lessons, 8:30 dancing, Pioneer Sch. Hse., donations.
* College of Monarchs Fur Fashion Show, Blue Moon, champagne buffet, proceeds to Scholarship Fund, info: 561-8744

Mar 7, Sun:
* Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Metropolitan Community Church, 2pm (see 'ad')
* Bowling Team "Northern Exposure", 5pm, Park Lanes
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317

Mar 9, Tue:
* Gay Bar: free legal Q&A, 7-8:30pm, Mendel & Huntington, see 'ad'.

Mar 10, Wed:
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Mar 11, Thu.
* EQUAL meeting, 7-9pm, AUUF (561-1755, x1021)
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm - New Time!!

Mar 14, Sun:
* Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Metropolitan Community Church, 2pm (see 'ad')
* Bowling Team "Northern Exposure", 5pm, Park Lanes
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317

Identity Fourth Friday Potluck & Social

It's a little after Valentine's Day, a little before St. Patrick's Day and a great reason to party!!
Come and enjoy great companionship, wonderful food and some vital information (see below).

Come to Identity's Fourth Friday Potluck Social. The tradition is to bring a dish, anything from soup to nuts, i.e., main dish, salad, bread, rolls, desert, chips, dip, pizza, etc. Identity provides the drinks (tea, coffee, punch). Admission is free. Donations are warmly appreciated.

Date: Friday, February 26th.

Time: 6:30pm doors open, 7pm dinner, 7:30pm announcements & program.

Place: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 3201 Turnagain STREET, Anchorage.

Program: "HIV - An Update". Presented by the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As), possible areas to be covered include: the latest treatments, clinical trials, the AmFar educational grant (that needs YOUR support to get renewed), politics and more. Bring your Q&As. It's a difficult but vital subject on which to be informed.

Life is what happens to you when you're making other plans.

Betty Talmadge, b. 1924, American meat broker
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