Gay Pride

Mini Film Festival

At the Capri and Cyrano's
(see p. 44)
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.


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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 5.25 diskette (IBM or Mac OK). 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 June 10th for inclusion in the June 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.
Editorial

The hatred we as homosexual persons garner these days is quite stunning: Congress and the military excoriate us, the bashings and murders go on, usually at the hands of bigots or fanatics (who generally espouse some form of religious righteousness), lesbians are raped and abused, politicians categorically assert that only homosexual men have anal intercourse, and the folks who swear by the "family values" tracts and philosophies maintain steadfastly that they do not abuse their own, don't get divorced at an alarming rate and believe fervently that you can teach a child to be hetero- and not homosexual.

On the one hand, we have genuine cause for alarm as the escalation of efforts to curtail civil rights continues. The people who would oppress us have vast financial resources and time and bodies to throw into the fray. We are the last acceptable group against whom to discriminate.

On the other hand, we are making progress we hadn't thought possible just a few years ago. In spite of AIDS and the backlash its connection to the homosexual population has caused, we are nonetheless coming out as never before, marching in record numbers in Washington, DC, getting elected to office across the land, getting legislation passed in cities and states. We seem able to mount effective political zaps, boycotts and civil actions (demonstrations at the CDC helped bring about the accelerated drug approval program (even including the poison AZT)), and the Mayor of New York boycotted the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York.

Lest we forget, this is not a "lifestyle" we live. Certainly, our detractors have had a heyday vilifying the lesbian and gay community for its "lifestyle." Well, there isn't one. Any more than there is a African-American lifestyle or a Baptist lifestyle or a Japanese lifestyle. We share a culture just as those mentioned peoples do, and we are as diverse as they in the way we live. We don't all act according to a stereotype of Japanese, Baptist or Black. What we have as gay men and lesbians is indeed a culture. A culture that manifests itself through the history of its people. It is deep, rich and varied, as any other culture, crossing national boundaries, just as Eskimos, for example, have common cultural backgrounds in Alaska, Russia and around the world, just as Blacks have roots in Africa, America and around the world, just as lesbians and gays have history and herstory spanning the centuries in Alaska and around the world (including such diverse peoples as the Berdache (the Native American "men-women" who were considered the healers and spiritual leaders of their tribes)).

We need to add one more caveat for the folks who would curtail civil rights. Many people point with pride and not a little patriotic fervor at the settlers of the New World, who landed upon these shores and created a nation based on Christian values and the traditional family. Question: does that include the systematic eradication of the Native Indian Tribes? Does that include the manner in which missionaries methodically destroyed the religions and languages and cultures of the Alaska Natives? Does that include the family values which include a 90% sexual and physical abuse rate of straight fathers against their daughters, a 51% (give or take) divorce rate? And perhaps as important, does that include the 30% suicide rate among teen-agers because, once they discover they are lesbian or gay, they can't turn to anyone for support, having been told they are sick, should be exterminated and are unacceptable as people, much less family members, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters?

To heal this rift will take years. Neither legislation nor electoral mandates will still the harsh voices that demand the genocide they so innocently claim they do not favor. The rift has its roots farther back than Nazi Germany, but that's a good example. It is the belief that a race should be "pure," and that multiculturalism is "bad." Further, it is the belief that one group has the "direct line to God (or righteousness)" and that all forms of perversion (which include being of another religion (particularly as related to the "Christian right)), are to be eradicated. The healing will take years of work and even then we face generations of resistance. It is a one-on-one process. It is the work begun by the many groups across the land, radical and subtle, strident and calm, demanding and mollifying. They all have a necessary voice.

We accomplished a lot more than we thought we ever would in this recent election. And yes, we have hard work ahead, but we have a new sense of community, forged in the pure fire of right-wing hatred and sharpened in our own realization that we have begun the process. We are joining ranks, helping each other, healing our souls, and reaching out to ourselves and our straight allies and detractors. We will prevail!

F. Kenneth Freedman, Co-Editor

Reality is something you rise above.
Liza Minnelli, b. 1946, American actress
It's Great to be Gay at AT&T

AT&T employees began an organization in 1986 known as LEAGUE (Lesbian, Bisexual & Gay United Employees at AT&T), which is committed to advancing changes that will help people respect and value gay, lesbian and bisexual employees. It is recognized as the two-way communication vehicle between the company's decision-makers and the AT&T gay employees.

Today there are more than 20 LEAGUE chapters across the country that provide its members with:
* Advocacy and access to all levels of management
* Professional development courses and conferences
* Workplace community support via electronic mail and regular meetings
* The "Safe Place" program
* Help with community service projects
* Social and networking opportunities
* Resources for solving workplace issues
* Opportunities to educate the AT&T community via homophobia workshops and speaking engagements.

LEAGUE has become a proud and visible leader in the global business community, offering an example for other gay employee resource groups to follow.

from LEAGUE at AT&T, P.O. Box 5113, Clifton, NJ 07015-9724

Australian Judy Small In Concert Proceeds to Benefit Alaskan Woman's Resource Center

Judy Small, in concert at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, promises to be excellent food for the soul after a day of fun in the (hopefully) sun. It's also an opportunity to support the Alaska Women's Resource Center.

Judy Small, Australian singer and songwriter, with piano accompanist David Bates, will perform at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Discovery Theatre at 8:00 pm. The concert is a fundraising event for the Women's Resource Center.

Described by the Sydney Morning Herald as "the finest folk singer in the country," Judy Small was awarded the 1990 "Mo" Award for the Australian Folk performer of the Year. She has been received with critical acclaim and is loved by audiences all over Australia and in New Zealand, the USA, Canada and Denmark.

Tickets are $12, available at all CARRS TIX, The center box office, or by calling 263-ARTS.
Partner Benefits? No Problem At Ben & Jerry's from Equal Time

WATERBURY, Vt. While cities like nearby Burlington anguish over whether to offer health benefits to employees' unmarried partners, Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc. workers have had that benefit for three years.

And company officials say it's been little burden on the bottom line, with only about five percent of the firm's 470 workers taking advantage of the benefit.

"We really believe the family is who you love and who you live with," said Liz Lonergan, human resources manager for the premium ice cream maker.

She added that she wasn't surprised that the company had been named recently by The Advocate, a national gay magazine, as one of the 10 best employers of gays and lesbians in the country.

The company was out ahead of cities ranging from New York to Burlington that recently have begun to provide health coverage to unmarried partners of employees.

The issue has been highly controversial, with critics complaining about its fiscal impact and saying it goes against traditional family values. Supporters say families are changing.

"There are definitely gay people in our company," Lonergan said. "There are in all companies. The difference is that it's OK at Ben & Jerry's. We're trying to provide dignity and respect to our employees. Being gay and acknowledging it in corporate America isn't easy. But I think it's easier here."

Lonergan said the company's management was nervous when it first decided to provide health coverage to unmarried partners of both homo- and heterosexual workers.

"Like most of the companies doing this, we had all sorts of fears about people signing up everyone they knew."

But Lonergan said abuses have occurred rarely if at all.

"We've learned there's very, very little to fear around this issue. People just don't run out and sign up their girlfriends and their roommates."

In fact, she said, response has been underwhelming. "We started the program with a lot of fanfare, but only two or three people signed up at first."

Taken from the 03/26/93 - 04/09/93 Equal Time published by Lavender Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation.

P.S. Software company Microsoft in July will begin offering health benefits to partners and eligible dependents of its gay and lesbian employees. The policy was modeled after those already in place at several other companies, including rival Lotus Development in Cambridge, Mass. (From the Anchorage Daily News, 4/22/93) ▼

What to Do If You...

Receive Hate Mail

*Return the mail to its original envelope, re-seal, clearly mark on the front: "FORWARD TO POSTAL INSPECTOR". Mail the original, not a copy.

*The Inspector will determine if, by Federal standards, it is hate mail and act accordingly.

You may also:

*Make a donation to an organization related to those targeted by the mailing. Request that they write to whoever sent the hate mail specifying the donation was given because of it.

*Request you name be taken off the sender's list. If it's not, report the offense to the Post Office and action will be taken.

Hear Inappropriate Comments:

*Don't ignore them. Ignoring slurs, jokes or acts of discrimination, sends the message you agree.

Remember that issues of human dignity, equality, and safety are non-negotiable.

*When intervening, use a non-judgmental tone, project understanding, stay calm, and treat the other person with complete respect.

*Listen carefully, ask questions. Explain your own point of view.

Example: "I'm fed up paying taxes for lazy cheats on welfare!"

Response: "Why do you say that? What have you noticed? I see it differently..."

*Find out why they believe what they have said is true.

Example: "I know she got the job because she is Black."

Response: "I have heard a number of people say that. Would you help me understand why people would think a Black woman gets a job because of affirmative action and not because she is the most qualified?"

*Be a role model. Practice positive values you want other to have.

Developed by Women United Against Hate with assistance from the Anchorage Chapter, National Coalition Building Institute & the U.S. Post Office. ▼
Letters to the Editor

The Sound of Our Voices

Many thanks to Ken Freedman and the Identity Board for the invitation to participate in last month's Potluck program. The telling of personal stories and sharing in the pride and pain of our lives gives me hope and takes me further from loneliness and isolation.

My politics have always been the politics of the heart. My belief is that changes happen first and last on a personal level, be they laws changing or lives changing; we must participate by coming from the heart. I, for one, am weary, as I have endeavored for over 20 years to survive as an in-your-face, out lesbian. From earliest memory, my Mama taught me "to thine own self be true." Bless her heart: she didn't know what she was getting me into.

When offered the opportunity to take part in some of the March on Washington planning last year, I was thrilled to participate, and contributed as best I could. Having been in DC in '87, I knew the unbelievable joy of being surrounded by family, by queers, who somehow were just like me. Just like me perhaps, because in crucial moments of our lives, we had to be untrue to ourselves, to hide in order to survive.

From secrets come self hate. From joining together openly, self love. Thank you to the guy in the Bronco with the "Silence = Death" bumper sticker. Thank you to the Women's Bookstore. Thank you, Ruth for calling me when I had waited until almost too late to write this letter.

To contribute from my heart.

I dedicate this letter from my heart to my cousin David who died of AIDS complications on December 3, 1992. "Sometimes I didn't understand you, David, but I loved the sound of your voice."

Carol Annie Lovejoy ▼

A Brilliant Fact

While we waited to hear the fate of the Charles Wohlforth - Gloria Shriver contest -- one that could have ultimately been determined in the Superior Court on such questions as "can a pencil be used to cast a vote?" or "if two candidates are voted for in the same contest but one has the word 'yes' next to it, may it be counted?" we might have reflected on the fact that Ms. Shriver, who had no known presence in virtually any aspect of our community, was hand-picked by the Fink administration because she apparently hated taxes, gays and books, and reportedly had such keen interest in the body politic to have voted only one time in the past twenty years! This is a most unfortunate harbinger of what is due to follow in the ways and activities of our municipal governing body.

How can a place of such exquisite Beauty have produced so many Beasts? It is a multi-faceted question: the answer surely lies in the loose identity so may have with the place -- someone said recently, "does anyone anymore proudly announce that he/she is from Anchorage?" The question answers itself. The answer to the initial question of course, lies in education. Not only elementary, secondary and collegiate, though all are of utmost importance, but also the education which we all should receive based on our day-to-day involvement, our reading, our radio, yes, television, our cinema and theater, our dialogue with others, and our fellowship. In all of the above, we should be striving to understand more about our world and to understand ourselves. The more we progress toward those goals, the more we recognize a central and brilliant fact of our existence -- that each person among us deserves respect and access to every facet of society.

It seems clear, if unfortunate, that a majority of those recently elected to our Assembly need additional "education." It is the duty of all who care about the well-being of our home city to maintain close scrutiny and ever present vigilance -- to insist that the above-mentioned central fact be instilled in the process of municipal government.

Hugh Fleischer ▼

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A View of the March
by Kippy Lanz

As we entered Washington D.C and The March on Washington, in some way it felt like walking into the future. It was a City of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people for that week. Although we were a people of all kinds, we were all moving together allowing each other to be freely who we are.

Politically, I saw the hype of Bureaucracy representing this patriarchal society: the "Red Sea" of traffic would part for the Presidential motocade to pass. It was then that realized I was in the center of political America. Most of it was what we were fighting against. It was as if we were in the lion's den (to use a Christian Metaphor).

I looked at the Pentagon thinking how ugly it seemed, and felt the ugliness it represented. The city is a male-oriented microcosm of our society, clearly evident in the inscriptions on the buildings and monuments referencing "mans" achievements and aspirations with little recognition of the feminine values in all of us not to mention Womyn's immeasurable contributions to this society.

We Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals were definitely the majority in Washington D.C. From that place came a sense of peace, fullness and unity that produced a respectful acknowledgement of each other in spite of our enormous numbers. Several times while riding the metro, the system was virtually shut down because the "sea of family" overran its capacity. On the escalator, someone would shout "Is there a queer here??" The response was deafening and it was consistently repeated as a new group would enter the escalators.

A special joy for me was playing in the streets of the city with the band, knowing we were a part of something so much bigger than each of us as individuals. Our music was a piece of that amazing puzzle and the experience was truly humbling.

At one point on the day of the march, a woman spoke of how her son who was in the military had recently been beaten to death after confiding to his superior officer that he was gay. I clearly remember standing amid hundreds of thousands of more people. As far as my eyes could see. The silence was deafening as she spoke of her sadness, her loss.

She said of 'us' there before her, "Nobody better mess with my kids!" As if her arms were wrapped around us in a mother's protectiveness. People all around me were weeping and holding each other.

Slowly a chant arose repeated again and again. "We want justice!" That moment I realized what I was there for -- what we were all there for. So no one else in this world would ever have to hide who they are and who they choose to love for fear of persecution or death.

Even though our city elections resulted in a discouraging disappointment I was able to witness the power of human determination and love and want to share that with my community. We were organized and powerful and the million-strong was a tiny representation of our numbers in the world.

We must continue to use this power in our cry for justice not just in Washington, D.C. but in all our home towns throughout our country. The main call from every speaker at the march was a reminder that this is a long fight filled with victories as well as setbacks like the one experienced here in Anchorage on election day.

Our responsibility is to support each other through the struggle. Mayoral, Assembly and Commission terms of service are limited. WE ARE HERE TO STAY! "Get used to it, America!"

Kippy Lanz is a musician and a political activist in the Anchorage community. She is a member of the band "Sky is Blu", and performed at the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and BiEqual Rights and Liberation. 

Help an only child of a single Mom in the Community go to a special program this summer. Jessie Withrow took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) to qualify for the Center for Talented Youth (CTY is sponsored by Johns Hopkins University), a program to identify and encourage academically gifted kids, 12 to 18. Jessie got the highest score on the verbal section of all the 13 year olds in Alaska who took the SAT as well as the highest combined verbal and math scores in 1993.

**Hot Tub Party**

- **to raise money to send Jessie to the CTY program**
- **Sunday, June 6, 1-4pm**
- **Susan Klein, 427 Valier,**
- **$10 donation for reservations:**
- **221-5550**

**Bal and math grade math score seniors is 400.**

**In verbal age is 375.** Jessie despite excelling received no financial aid to attend the accelerated summer course for which she qualified. Her Mom has been attending UAA full time and only working part time for two years, and can't send her. Can you help with a donation? Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Jessie Withrow, 1543 'L' St., Anchorage, AK 99501.
The March on Washington: Love and Harmony
by Herman C. Coen, Jr.

On April 25, 1993, over one million gays, lesbians, bisexuals, their friends, families, and allies participated in the largest civil rights demonstration in history. The gay lesbian and bisexual community has finally said its own name, a name that is love and harmony.

I had an opportunity to see the march from a different perspective than most: I was backstage, and I spoke with many of the people who addressed the crowd that was assembled on the mall. In no particular order, what follows is my own story of April 25th, and the week leading up to the march.

I arrived in D.C. on Sunday, April 18, exactly one week before the march, with no idea what kind of madness awaited me. There were always phones to be answered, housing to match up, and any number of other things to be done. My first day will always stand out in my mind, and I will forever be indebted to Jaime Rodriguez for starting out my stay in D.C. on a high note. I came into the office at about 1:00pm after recovering slightly from my long trip, and Jaime was on the phone. When he finished, he told me that he had been speaking with Dr. Klaus Mueller, the researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum who had been primarily responsible for the fact that the many gays and lesbians who died at the hands of the Nazis were not forgotten. Jaime had arranged for me to tour the museum, even though it didn’t open to the public for a week. I spent many hours there, and could have spent many more, just learning. It was at times overwhelmingly infuriating to see what people had done to one another. But it was also inspiring to look upon the greatness of those who survived -- makes one realize how trivial our own problems can sometimes be.

I returned to March headquarters in the early evening (6:30pm) and Jaime practically met me at the door and said “Are you ready to go?” I was blessed for the second time in one day to find that Jaime had gotten tickets to the opening of the Lesbian and Gay Historical Exhibit, the first official related event of The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. As we walked through the exhibit, I was struck with the fact that I knew very little about what came before. I never knew that Eleanor Roosevelt had lived with two women in a small house on the grounds of Franklin’s home. I had heard the story of the cut sleeves on the Chinese Emperor’s robe, but I didn’t realize that the lover referred to in the story was another man.

And so much more. But above and beyond anything else, I felt I was in the presence of greatness. The past, present, and future movers and shakers in the gay community were there. Derek Charles Livingston, co-Chair of the March, Jaime Rodriguez, the man who kept the dream of this exhibit alive, Dr. Mueller, Thom Ham, president of the 10%, the organization that sponsored the exhibit, and Anthony Turney, co-founder of the Names Project memorial AIDS quilt. My own lasting memory of the exhibit will be standing and looking at the first panel of the quilt, and talking with Anthony about it, and seeing in him a quiet rage as we looked at Cleve Jones’ work. I will never forget his one wish: to finally sew on the last square.

Next Month: Interviews.

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

FourA’s Says Thanks

The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (FourA’s) would like to thank the many NorthView readers who joined our agency as members this year! Your response to last month’s article combined with other FourA’s mailings has helped us raise $3,000 during the 1993 Membership Drive. The drive continues through May 31st, so encourage your friends and families to mail in their contributions now!

In other news, the FourA’s is planning its largest fund raising event ever. R.S.V.P. Alaska will rely on over 40 volunteers hosting dinners on June 12th for their friends, families and co-workers to raise money for the FourA’s. Host will set the location, time, theme, suggested donation, and attire for their event. The FourA’s will mail customized invitations with the above information to each Host’s guest list. Guests will then be able to call a special R.S.V.P. Line to confirm their attendance at the evening’s festivities. Later that evening, at 9:00pm, the FourA’s will host an after dinner Coffee and Dessert Reception at the ARCO Atrium. The reception will feature music, door prizes and an announcement of the total funds raised during R.S.V.P. Alaska.

If you are interested in hosting a dinner during R.S.V.P. Alaska contact Brian, FourA’s Development Manager, at 276-1400. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you on June 12th!
EQUAL News
by Karen Carlisle

May 1: GREENPEACE invited EQUAL to have a table at Earth Day on the Town Square and to send a speaker. Chris Gravel and Amy Young organized people and gear. Karen Carlisle spoke as a member of EQUAL about the need for biodiversity in humans as well as other life forms (It was Amy’s brilliant idea to connect Earth Day and Equal Rights). Thanks to everyone for helping us visible.

May 7: A public hearing to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission to testify about a proposed regulation that would prohibit a teacher from discriminating against, or fostering prejudice toward, a student based on the standard laundry list of protected categories, and including sexual orientation. Michael Johnston and his unholy alliance had inundated the PTPC with letters opposing, naturally, and no one else in the world seemed to know about it. Randall Burns of the ACLU got wind of it and alerted EQUAL. We were able to mobilize students, school counselors, P-FLAG (alias Fred Hillman), other youth workers, teachers and EQUAL activists in just two days. The students made the difference; they were wonderful! PTPC adopted the regulation for the State of Alaska. Good teamwork, EQUAL!

May 15: There was an EQUAL contingent cleaning up Little Campbell Creek wearing queer insignia on Creek Cleanup Day. We need to get EQUAL T-Shirts! More good visibility in doing what all good citizens do! Yea, team!

May 18: Public hearings before the Municipal Assembly on the proposal to rescind the Equal Rights ordinance. At the EQUAL meeting, we decided there was nothing to be gained by giving public testimony. We wanted to make a visual, media impact, however. So, we decided to ask every queer and ally to come, but not speak. Instead, we agreed to ask a member of the progressive Christian or Jewish clergy to rise to testify and lead a three-minute prayer for tolerance from the Assembly; then, someone else will approach the mike and begin singing "We’re gonna keep on moving forward." Then, the rest of us will rise and sing along with this call and response song, which is very easy to follow, and then leave quietly afterward. This way, the Assembly will have to look at the people they are discriminating against and we can leave with dignity.

May 20: Equal Rights Commission Chair nominee Michael Johnston seems almost certain to be elected. Anyone who wants to speak against this can call the Municipal Clerk to schedule testimony time. You must also request permission to sit and watch. The meeting room is very small. Would you call commissioners and voice your objections? Phone numbers following: Kevin Finnigan 552-3046-w; David Strong, no number; Gary Horton 349-3332; Michael Johnston 333-4613-w; Lydia Jones 561-4228-w; Bruce Tiedman 561-7877-w; David Thompson 276-3456-w; Elizabeth Vasquez 276-3550-w; Jerald Wolf 258-6672-w. The Commission meeting begins at 5:30 PM at the Michael Building, 10th and Gambell, May 20th. NOTE: An EQUAL contingent will demonstrate outside the building from 6-7pm; we have signs from the Rally, and we’re going to sing fun songs about being lesbian and gay. Y’all come! The more there are, the better it looks. IMPORTANT INFORMATION: the EQUAL meeting will begin at 7:30 PM this night only.

EQUAL will continue to meet every other Thursday at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 3201 Turnagain Street. We are deeply indebted to the Unitarians. The next meeting is Thursday, May 20, at 7:30pm. Those of you who have not attended a meeting for a while must know that we need your support. Do join us. The effort continues!

Karen Carlisle is a lesbian activist in the Anchorage Community.
Abuse

Through the walls of my private sanctuary,
Through every pore of my skin,
Through every thought in my mind,
Through the walls I build to keep it out,
The yelling, the screaming, the cursing,
Permeates me, consumes me.

Where can I go?
Where can I hide?
Where can a two-year-old go,
To hide from the fury of one against another?

Mother and father.
Married because of love?
Together because they care for one another?

I build THE WALL brick by brick,
Wonderful wall around all of me,
A wall to protect me,
A wall nobody can see,
A wall everybody feels,
A wall to protect me from this kind of "love."

I build THE WALL deep in my:
Body,
Emotions,
Mind,
Sense of caring,
Spiritual self.

The yelling cuts deep like a knife,
Cutting out any feeling of self respect,
Surgically removing my ....
words can not describe my loss.

The vindictive comments,
I feel the heat of hate,
I feel the heat of anger.

She controls me,
Sweet innocent woman controls all of us.

Day after day Dad cowers under another rain of
words,
A shower of epithets,
A hail of hate,
A mist of manipulation,
A sprinkle of innuendo.

He sits and takes this onslaught day after day.
He tries to reason with her.

He tries to heal with love, with compassion.
Somehow, someway he knows not to hit her, that
would be abuse.

My wall is so strong words of emotion lie outside.
My wall is so woven into every aspect of my being.
My wall surrounds my heart, my caring.
My wall stifles my screams, my anger, myself.
My wall controls my fingers as I write this.
My wall controls me.

Years of yelling, screaming.
Years of the woman controlling my father, controlling
me.
Years of learning not to fight back when a woman
beats me.
Beats me in every respect except physically.

A myth of abuse only being physical.
A myth of only men abusing men or women.
A myth that women do not abuse men or women.
Myths that are part of my wall.

Mom.
Mother so innocent.
Mother so sweet.
Mother is suppose to protect her child.
Mother entrusted with forming life.

Abuse

A be use
I be for your use

She used me sexually, emotionally, spiritually.
She consumed my energy, my essence.

Here I am 36 years later with my "Great Wall of
China."
So here I am with my hate, anger, fear: ......... my
rage.

Treat every woman as she treated me?
Turn about is fair play?

Oh where do I go from here?

by John McNitt

Imagination is the highest kite one can fly.
Lauren Bacall, b. 1924, American actress
The Eye
Not to be Confused with Cheek

Did EYE hear correctly? Seems Dr. Prevo has moved on to serious child abuse. Rumor has it and EYE s have witnessed his new lessons on how to prevent your (always boy) children from becoming homosexuals: the latest technique is spanking. Not only did the Good Doctor describe the act but called an unsuspecting child from the audience and demonstrated. He allegedly showed how to, "Spank until blue." WHY DO WE CONTINUE TO STAND FOR THIS? ▼ Seen at the Women's Bookstore: postcards (which one can send to one's favorite Senate/Congress person and/or friends) showing ranks upon ranks of military personnel, with arrows labeling this one Gay, that one Straight, this Gay, that Straight. ▼ Ron Tibbs had his tonsils out! ▼ "Last Tango in Raven" department: whEYE is Ray Jorgensen walking around with that ankle brace? Did EYE hear about a passionate Tango at the Raven? Must have dipped a bit too low! Choose your partner, everyone, carefully! ▼ Wonderful idea department: AmFar, New York, in the person of one Tony Staffieri (Pres. of Savvy Management, Inc.) is planning a Mt. McKinley (Denali to the cognoscenti) climb in order to raise awareness and money for AIDS research. The 4As will be working with them in a "small logistical capacity." EYE hope this does not mean that only a small remuneration will follow ▼ The Alternative Women's Run is scheduled for the same time and day (June 5, 10am) of the "regular" Women's run? WhEYE? Allegedly, the "regular" version is raising some financial questions about expenses and distribution of the "net" proceeds. The Alternative Run monies will go more directly to breast cancer research, no frills. Call Terri at 338-0362. ▼ Heard on the Rialto: Herman Coen is now managing Cyrano's Cafe. 'Nuf said. ▼ The Helpline got a call about a poster on a UAA bulletin board touting a music festival in the Valley, Memorial Day. It features a group called "Dammnit Jim and the Faggot Killers." A call to the 373-4675 got one John Shilt (EYE thinks that one letter was put in just as camouflage) who allowed as to how God (doubtless the white male one) hates faggots and they should all be killed and EYE should come the the festival to picket so he (John) could see EYE in order to kill EYE. A call to the Director of University Information Mel Kalkowski elicited the comment that the student boards are for the students and largely not monitored by the administration. The question was posed "What if a sign went up that said 'Kill Niggers!' or 'Die Japs!' or 'Off Alaska Natives' ?" Mel allowed as to how that might not be acceptable, but he'd have to check with legal counsel and get back to EYE. Never did. Parting shot, however, was Mel saying those types of signs wouldn't in all probability be acceptable. EYE asked why then would the 'F-K' one be OK. Waffle, waffle. Didja hear about the new dance being introduced in some circles? Do-A-Little-Sidestep, Never Be Direct, Do Just What the Law Says, Can't Think What Is Right. ▼

"Sensual and provocative...the best American lesbian drama since 'DESERT HEARTS'."

...intelligent and beautifully atmospheric... the very definition of love and intimacy.
— Critics Choice,
Los Angeles Reader

Claire of the Moon
One woman's journey into her sexual identity.

ALASKA PREMIERE SHOWING
A Benefit For The Alaska Women's Bookstore
Thursday June 3 Capri Cinema on Tudor Road
Reception 7 PM Door Prizes, Food & Fun
Show Begins at 7:30 PM
Tickets $10.00 (includes reception and screening)
Buy tickets early at the Bookstore - receive free book
Groups & Gatherings, Circles and Clubs
News from Gay & Lesbian Organizations around the State compiled by Faron Purget

Summer might show up in several weeks. Don't blink! But as long as you can 'not blink,' there are gatherings, events, clubs, and adventures.

Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association of Fairbanks (AGLA): a UAF student organization, has been very active on campus this spring. Meeting times vary, but you can contact their student advisor, Pete at 488-6636. These meetings are open to all gays, lesbians and allies.

Alaska Women's Political Caucus: for lesbians and non-lesbians, meets 7pm at the First United Methodist Church on the first Monday of every month.

Anchorage Garden Buddies: meets on May 26th. AGB is a social group for Gay Men. To find out more, or to get on the mailing list, call the number listed in the Identity Directory.

Anchorage Lesbian Families' Alliance (ALFA): (formerly Lesbian Moms') usually meets every 4th Sunday at various locations (usually at Lynne and Marion's) to socialize and provide support for one another. Adults, children, lesbians, allies, newcomers welcome. Lisa: 278-2198, Lynne/Marion: 338-5253. (From the KK. Thanks!)

The Berdache Society: of Anchorage, a group for transgender persons has been more active in the community -- notably at the Blue Moon on Wednesdays at the 9:30 p.m. show. Nora Jean heads the group. If you want to get in contact, there mailing address is in the Identity Directory.

The Duchy of Juneau: part of the Imperial Court of All Alaska (except Bird), put on a fabulous show at the Penthouse in Juneau on May 1st. This was the 5th year for the Fem/Fatale show and they raised over $6,000.00 for AIDS organizations around the state. A special Thank You to all the performers that took the time and money to fly to Juneau and make it a success.

Mark your calendars for the annual Eklutna Picnic hosted by the ICOAA, Monday, May 31st at Eklutna Lake. Games, prizes, booths, food, fun and more.

Bring some cash to help support our local organizations (The College of Monarchs is running the food concession this year), the 4As have their annual plant sale, Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club sells, among other club-related goodies, Mystic Exploding Rocks. This is an event that nobody should miss.

EQUAL, the Alaska Gay and Lesbian Task Force: has been meeting regularly on every other Thursday evening this spring. May 20, however will be at the Equal Right Commission - rumor is that Michael Johnston (the anti-homosexual Prevo mouthpiece) is to be elevated to Chair of the Commission. You can contact EQUAL at 561-1755, ext. 1021.

Fairbanks' own Gay Men's Support Group: meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at the Interior AIDS Association office at 2210 S. Cushman, #210. You can contact them by calling 452-6398 and leaving a message.

Fairbanks seems to be a happening spot this spring. You can go out dancing on Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 p.m. 'till 3:00 a.m. at the Palace Saloon in Alaskaland. Friday's DJ is Hugh and he likes to play Hip-Hop, Techno, Pop, and Top 40 Dance music. Saturday's DJ is Phil and he plays Country, Disco, and Oldies.

Feminist Sing-a-Long: Women only. Third Saturday, every month. 1741 Westview Cir. (maps at the Bookstore) or call 337-3543. Non-singers welcome. 6:30 potluck, 7:30 singing. (From the KK. Thanks!)

Gay Bar: free legal question & answer sessions on issues of interest to lesbians & gay men. Every 2nd Monday. 7-8:30pm at 845 K St. 279-5001.

The Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA): hosts a progressive dinner on Saturday evening, May 22nd. All three houses for the dinner are located in the vicinity of Minnesota and Raspberry. Tickets are $20.00 each. If you're interested in attending, ask about tickets at the Blue Moon or the Raven. Jerry and Reyna will be selling tickets at both bars on weekends.

Metropolitan Community Church of Anchorage (MCC): acquired a new space this spring and -- make a note -- has changed the service time to 10:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome. See ad for more information.

In Anchorage, the Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club is celebrating its 20th year this summer. The official
outing for 1993 is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend at Eklutna Lake. Gates at the campground close at 10:00 p.m. so keep this in mind if you’re only going up to visit. If you want to join us, contact Dan Cook at 561-8744 or refer to the ad in this issue.

Northern Exposure Bowling League of Anchorage finished their season in April. As I understand they will start up again in September. I’ll be sure to let you know when that happens.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Fairbanks (P-FLAG): meets regularly on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. on the 5th floor at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. You can contact Nancy at 470-4944 for more information.

Women’s Coffeehouse: every 4th Saturday, 8pm, Church of Religious Science, 637 A St. Sliding scale, suggested donation $2. Leslie: 277-0713 for information or if you want to perform. May 22: Wendy Withrow. (From the KK. Thanks!)

Women’s Two-Step Dance: first Saturday of every month. Pioneer School House, 3rd & Eagle. $3.00. Lessons at 7:30, dancing at 8:30. You don’t have to know how to join the fun: come learn, meet new women and enjoy. (From the KK. Thanks!)

We’d appreciate your contributions and additions. Please contact Faron at 248-7352. We’d like to get as many different groups and activities possible listed.
Gays Flood Congress With Messages To Lift The Ban from Edge Magazine

The Human Rights Campaign Fund’s Speak Out Program proved the political power of the lesbian and gay community by mobilizing its members during the recent debate on gays in the military. On Thursday, January 28, just three days into the two-week debate on gays in the military, 26,000 individual Speak Out letters arrived on the Senate floor, urging Senators to lift the ban. Speak Out moved quickly to help counter the right wing, and insured a victory by a vote of 62 to 37 in the Senate.

In the past four months the lesbian and gay community, through the Speak Out program, has sent over 71,000 urgent telegrams to Congress, the Pentagon, and President Clinton supporting an end to the military ban against lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

In addition to sending Speak Out letters, members of the program registered their opinions by calling the White House, the Pentagon, and their Senators and Representatives. Speak Out volunteers around the country sponsored bar nights, enrolled new members and urged their local communities to call Washington. In only five days, the grass roots mobilization of HRCF and Speak Out members and volunteers helped turn the tide of calls to Senate offices between our community and a very mobilized right wing opposition.

"In the next six months we must work harder than ever before," acknowledged Tom Swift, national canvass manager. "We must use this time to enlist as many new members of Speak Out as possible. To do that, we need hundreds of Speak Out volunteers to work in communities across the country. If we can find these local Speak Out volunteers, we can double our constituent pressure while Congress debates this issue. Pat Robertson has every method at his disposal to mobilize constituents and promote discrimination, from religious broadcasts that reach millions to announcements at thousands of churches. We can fight that power, but only if we join together as a community and Speak Out to Congress. We need many more volunteers to build the Speak Out program."

Since the Speak Out program began three years ago, over 550,000 Speak Out letters have been sent to Congress on lesbian and gay civil rights, AIDS, choice, and women's health issues. This action has helped secure victories such as the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, Immigration Reform, Women's Health legislation, the Ryan White CARE Bill, and the recent Senate vote on gays in the military.

To join Speak Out, or to become a local Speak Out volunteer, contact Tom Swift at 1-800-777-HRCF (4273), or write to the Human Rights Campaign Fund Canvass Unit, 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 607, Washington, DC 20005.

Taken from the April 7, 1993 issue of Edge Magazine by Edge Publishing, Inc. of Los Angeles, California.

Identity Fourth Friday Potluck & Social

In the past 2 months at least 5 people well-known in the Community have died because of AIDS complications. Do you have questions, friends with questions?

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 openheartedly appreciated.

Date: Friday, May 28.

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

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

Program: Dr. Frank Domurat has helped and is helping many people with AIDS, and is considered one of the more knowledgeable practitioners in Alaska. He expressed a keen interest in sharing his feelings about AIDS, HIV, treatments, attitudes and ways to live fully with HIV. Scott Olson's family will be there. You be there, too. Bring your questions, bring a friend. It's a great opportunity to go right to the medical source on this issue.
Gays in the Military, Historically Speaking
by John Paul Hudson

Editor's note: This retrospective and analysis of homosexuality and the military is presented here in serial form over the next three to four issues.

Among Muslim military heroes said to have been homosexual was Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria (1138-1193). His homosexuality was referred to non-judgmentally, and in fact indicating an accepted tradition, in several episodes and references in the "Arabian Nights."

Saladin's friendly enemy Richard the Lion-Hearted, absentee King of England, was a macho figure whose most widely-ruled attachment was to Raife de Clermont, a young knight whom he liberated from Saracen captivity. Blondel the Troubadour, who tradition has it played a principal part in Richard's being located in an Austrian prison, and thereafter freed, is also said to have been his lover.

As Plutarch wrote about Theban lovers of the Sacred Band of Epaminondas, and of Pelopidas after the Battle of Chaeronea, dying in one another's arms, so did Shakespeare immortalize the English general Edward, Duke of York, as he lay dying on the battlefield of Agincourt embracing his lover, Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk.

The Bard has Exeter report, in "Henry V": "...Suffolk first died: and York, all haggled over./Comes to him, where in gore he lay instep'd,.../So did he turn and over Suffolk's neck/he threw his wounded arm and kiss'd his lips;/And so espoused to death, with blood he seal'd:/A testament of noble-ending love..."

The military reputation of the Fifteenth Century French general Gilles de Raiz has been eclipsed by his monstrous post-war sex crimes involving the murder of some 150 boys; however, his battlefield friendship with comrade-in-arms Joan of Arc has helped bring into the spotlight the likelihood of Joan's also being homosexual, as well as world-class cross-dresser.

It was the excessive ambition, not the homosexual dalliances of the Fifteenth Century Burgundian duke, Charles the Bold, which caused his undoing at the hands of rebellious subjects.

Spain's so-called Great Captain, Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba (1453-1515), was the pre-eminent military leader under Ferdinand and Isabella, and his probable homosexuality is described by both the German sexologist Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld and the English writer Xavier Mayne, creators, in the early 20th Century, of the most comprehensive published lists of famous homosexual men up until the time of Noel I. Garde, in "Jonathanto Gide," 1964.

Mayne finds evidence of the homosexuality of the Italian cardinal and politician who also was a noted general, Cesare Borgia, as well as the Portuguese admiral and explorer Vasco da Gama, both who lived into the Sixteenth Century. As da Gama fathered six sons, it has been suggested his homoerotic escapades were attributable to what is sometimes called "deprivation homosexuality," commonplace in both military and prison worlds where men are confined together and contract what has been called "cabin-boy fever."

In a popular work on female impersonation that touches on the subject of famous homosexual persons of many types and periods, the American C.J. Bulliet and his English contemporary Havelock Ellis, author of "Sexual Inversion," both claim as homosexual the Mogul Indian conqueror Babar (1483-1530).

The Sixteenth Century Turkish sultan Suleiman I, known as the Magnificent, is on historical record as having had passionate homosexual attachments to a Greek provincial governor, Ibrahim, who was later Suleiman's son-in-law, and to a Croatian youth named Rustem. Rustem, by virtue of his sexual relationship with the sultan, worked his way up the civil ladder and also married one of the Islamic ruler's daughters.

One of the most popular of Elizabethan English military heroes was also lauded as the ideal Renaissance Man, Sir Philip Sidney, who wrote youthful verses to Fulke Greville and Edward Dyer, immortalizing them jointly in an invocation to the pagan god Pan which went: "Only for my two loves' sake,/In whose love I pleasure take;/Only two do me delight/With their ever-pleasing sight;/Of all men to thee retaining/Grant me with these two remaining."

To Be Continued...

John Paul Hudson, who was at Stonewall, has been called a "pioneer writer for the Gay Press" in such publications as The Gay Book of Days, thanks to his involvement as New York correspondent and feature columnist for the original Advocate and as a star columnist for Gay, America's first gay weekly. He has written numerous novels and columns for the Gay Press. His Superstar Murder? brought him to national prominence. Recently completed the first draft of a book related to AIDS and the metaphysics of gayness, called The Lost Commandment.

...the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances.

Martha Washington (1731-1802), First Lady
Obituaries

A Prayer: That Loss may be the flaming Arrow. Let it pierce your soul, Igniting it to greater loving.

Mei Mei Evans

Scott Leroy Olson, 38, died April 29 at Alaska Regional Hospital of complications from AIDS after an arduous and sometimes agonizing battle with HIV disease. A celebration of his life was held at the First Christian Church. Wes Veatch led the ceremony.

From his beginnings in Lisbon, ND, on December 17, 1954, Scott met and surmounted the many difficulties of his life. He was born with a cleft palate and lip and glaucoma; he endured 16 different operations on his face; later, he completed speech therapy. His parents provided loving support, moving several times to be closer to hospitals and therapeutic situations. Scott made his life a tribute to the physically challenged. He constantly and eloquently championed the cause of AIDS education and understanding after his own HIV diagnosis some eight and a half years ago.

Scott graduated from Service-Hanshew in 1973 and held jobs at J C Penny, Nordstrom, Lamonts and Stallone's. He managed the Juneau Stallone's for several years in the mid '80s. He was fashion-conscious, a sharp dresser and an expert at outfitting others to their best advantage.

He wrote for the South East Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance newsletter Perspective as Aunt Blabby. He had extensive collections of CDs and Oriental figurines and Bonsai trees (not to mention his attraction to teddy bears). It was in Juneau that he found out that he was HIV positive and after a brief bout of denial, took up the cudgels of advocacy.

For the last three years he was a client of and an active speaker through the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As). He shared his message with young, middle and old alike visiting most Anchorage area schools and medical conferences, and travelling to such unlikely places as Valdez, Seward and Sitka where he spoke to a group of enthusiastic students.

Scott's advocacy never flagged even when Anchorage failed to offer the kind of open and massive support for the AIDS community that he had envisioned.

During his lengthy fight with AIDS, he demonstrated a bravery and acceptance of his illness that affected every visitor, every family member and the caring staff at Alaska Regional Hospital. He always had a wink and a wave and a "I'm hangin' in there" to let everyone know that he was making the best of it.

He is survived by his parents, Jan and Jerrold Olson of Soldotna, his paternal uncle Curt Olson and his wife Lorna, his beloved sister, Dawn and her husband Otis, niece Ashley and nephew Joshua, another sister, Lona and her son Keith and many other relatives Outside. As he crossed over, he was greeted by the spirits of 150,000+ men, women and children Gay and non-Gay, Baptist, Jew and Jain who died from AIDS complications before him. He is survived, additionally by his AIDS buddy Ken Freedman, 4As Executive Director Rebecca Rogers and many Lesbian and Gay friends in Washington, California, Juneau, Sitka and Anchorage - his family of choice, his support group and his solace during his last days among us.

Scott and his parents ask that donations (including food) be sent to the 4As - the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association at 730 "I" Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99501 or to Identity, Inc. P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070. ▼

Former Fairbanks resident Joselito H.

Laaron, 34, died of AIDS complications April 12th at the San Diego Hospice, with his family by his side.

Mr. Laaron was born at a U.S. Navy base at Subic Bay, Philippines. He worked as an air traffic controller and was stationed in Delta Junction, then worked in Prudhoe Bay, Barrow and Fairbanks.

Mr. Laaron also owned and operated a business, Details, Details, Details and was a part-time bus driver for Gray Line of Alaska.

Memorial donations may be sent in his name to the San Diego AIDS Foundation, 4080 Centre St., San Diego, CA 92103. ▼
Paul Floyd Cole, 52, of Wasilla died April 25th at home after a three-week struggle with AIDS-related pneumonia.

A memorial service and potluck dinner was held at Camp Challenge in Palmer on Friday, April 30th. Paul was born July 17, 1940 in Danville, Ohio, Population One Hundred. After leaving the small town life, he joined the U.S. Army, where he served for four years. After earning a master's degree in social work at New York State University and moving to Los Angeles, he began work at Kaiser Permanente, helping create the Department of Mental Health Services at Bellflower Medical Center. He and his wife Felicity had a son, Yoji, and a daughter, Kiri.

Paul became active working for people with AIDS, their loved ones and friends. He was also a founding member of the Long Beach Gay Fathers' Organization. Paul was also a trainee with the Elisabeth Kubler-Ross Center.

With the knowledge of his own HIV positive status, Paul began a spiritual quest, turning to Zen Buddhism.

Wishing to be close to nature, he traveled to Alaska and accepted a position at Life Quest Comprehensive Mental Health Services in Wasilla.

According to his family, he touched many lives with his sensitive, compassionate nature and gentleness of spirit.

Paul is survived by his life partner, Lucian Childs, his children Yoji and Kiri, his mother, Mary; a special sister, Mary Jo Collins, and sister, Diana Malone, his brothers, Wilkin, Terry Cole and dear brother, Terry Collins.

Donations may be sent in his name to the 4As, 730 'I' St., Ste. 100, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Craig Moody

Died of AIDS complications, around May 1st.

Craig was very involved in Anchorage life. He was a bartender at the Bonfire, Jade Room and Hal's (now known as the Raven). He was also the first president of the Knights of Malta, Nanook Chapter as well as the first Emperor of all Alaska. He was in his late 40s. His ashes are resting at Portage Glacier. He had been living in CA for the last few years, leaving Anchorage about 10 years ago. Memorials can be sent to the 4As, 730 'I' St., Ste. 100, Anchorage, AK 99501. (Editors Note: unfortunately, calls requesting more information about Mr. Moody did not yield more than the above. Apologies.)

Clips from The March

(sung by the Alaska Coalition):

"We're from the Northern Lights
We want our rights.
"

"We're here, we're queer
We're from the last frontier."

( deep voice) "We're lesbian"
(shrill voice) "We're Gay"
"We've come a long way!"

At DuPont Circle:
1) A semi parked in the street with a continuous drag show
2) all neighboring streets blocked off
3) when escalators up to DuPont Circle lost power, climbers were cheered from above to make the 3-story trek.

... on the Metro going in to D.C.:
There was a large group from a gay men's chorus who broke into spontaneous song. Seated in front of them was a hetero family with two little girls. One child turned to her mother and asked, "Mom why are they singing?" The mother replied, "For their freedom, honey, for their freedom."

National Military Coming Out Day

A coalition of gay rights organizations is bringing together service members on Memorial Day for a highly publicized coming out in Washington, DC...a sort of "National Military Coming Out Day."

Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America will be overseeing this action with other gay lobbying organizations including The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, The Human Rights Campaign Fund and the Campaign For Military Service.

If you are in the military, please consider being a part of this group. If you have questions call Alan Stephens, the Public Relations Office at GLBVA. Alan, a former Army Captain, will try to give you answers and may be able to put you in touch with others who have come out in the past. Call 1-800-598-9031. Pass this information on to other gay and lesbian military members.
June 12, 1993  276-1400

Volunteers are needed! Call the FourA's now to become a Host!

See our article in this month's North View for further information.

May 22 & 23 at 1339 Denali St.

&

May 31 at the Eklutna Pic-Nic

Great Deals on Cedar Planter Boxes, Annuals, Perennials, Hanging Baskets, House Plants and more!

For more information about this or other FourA's events call us at 276-1400!
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.

In my private practice, I work predominantly with individuals who experience disabilities, including vision and hearing impairments; physical, mental and learning disabilities; and health related disabilities. All individuals who have disabilities are confronted with a major psychological adjustment to the changes in their lives and in the lives of their friends and family. Functional abilities and limitations are usually identified through medical professionals, but the person with the disability must themselves deal emotionally with the impact their loss has on their functioning. Most people with disabilities experience chronic illness and medical problems throughout every day of their lives. Chronic illness is a progressive and debilitating process which causes not only medical complications, but also extreme psychological stress.

Even though of us not physically or mentally disabled experience loss and associated stress throughout our lives. Plans and goals for the future may succumb to devastating and sudden changes in life circumstances. For example, the loss of a job can cause extreme distress. To many, the loss of job means loss of self identity and self worth as well as loss of income and financial security. When partners or spouses separate or divorce, emotional stress results from both the dissolution of the relationship and the resulting changes in day to day life. People who experience progressive and debilitating diseases are confronted with the continued loss of abilities and the inevitable premature loss of life.

The experience of loss is not only devastating to the person confronted, but also to loved ones, both family and friends. Everyone feels helpless regarding their ability to relieve the distress caused by grieving and loss. Not knowing what to say and do is a constant reminder of the reality of the situation. In spite of the loneliness and sense of isolation each person feels, losses are shared experiences. All persons affected require support and guidance.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross explains in her book On Death and Dying that the grieving process is not necessarily systematic. Everyone experiences five major emotional states when confronted with unexpected life changes, with loss of ability, or with terminal illness. Denial is usually the initial stage of the grieving process. Denying the severity of loss can occur intermittently throughout the grieving process. Acknowledging loss generally results in depression, an overwhelming feeling of helplessness and loneliness. When depressed, people tend to disassociate from others, and to withdraw into their own isolated thoughts and feelings. Depression is repressed anger, hence the third stage of grieving is the expression of anger. While internalization of anger is unhealthy, expression of anger results in emotional release and is ultimately strengthening. Through the anger stage, people are able to begin identifying ways to cope and make adjustments to their loss. Bargaining, the fourth stage of grieving, serves as a mechanism for coping with the intensity of emotions. Making deals with oneself, others, or God can be both comforting and healthy. Through acceptance, the final stage of the grieving process, one accepts the reality of one's life situation even while fearing and hating what they face. The process of grieving is cyclic, hence the five stages recycle, often simultaneously.

We are constantly reminded of the rapid increase in the incidence of HIV, ARC, and full-blown AIDS in our community. None of us is immune to terminal illness. The incidence of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer is also common throughout the gay and lesbian community. However, with the development of medical technology in recent years, treatments have advanced which allow people with these illnesses to live longer, more productive lives.

Treatment of chronic illness depends on attitude as much as taking care of one's physical and mental health. Maintaining a positive and hopeful attitude, along with diet and exercise, strengthens the body's ability to fight disease and to reduce physical and mental stress. A negative attitude tends to increase and speed up the progression of disease. Coping with loss of abilities, with devastating life changes, and long-term, progressive diseases is a difficult process for both the person faced with the loss and their family members and friends. The mutual support and positive attitude of family and friends is a critical component of the coping process.

Maintaining productive, meaningful life activity is essential to making a healthy psychological adjustment to loss and illness. In recent weeks, our community has lost two individuals who exemplify the importance of productive activity when confronted with the devastation of AIDS. Both had compassion for people and spent their time helping and educating others. Positive thinking brings hope. Life is already too
short, a precious gift not to be taken for granted or ignored because of stress and unhappiness. To live life one day at a time should be a constant goal.

Everyone must recognize that throughout our lives we experience losses with varying degrees of emotional intensity. With each experience, we become stronger and better prepared for dealing with both life’s joys and disasters. Learning to cope with grief and loss is essential to maintaining good mental and physical health, and to living a long and happy life.

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

Those Who Share Your Soul

"Is this a love poem, friend?"
"It is. I mean no disrespect."

There are times with women I truly love--I cannot think of the words.

If I could use my body to comfort you; to release you, unlock your tears.

I would.

I would hold you naked and gently caress you... Let you feel who YOU are.

Before proscription or predisposition.

Feel who you family is;

Those who share your soul,

Your dreamworld; your premonitions...

Instinctive, unconditional circles of friendship.

Caress you, to love, to desire, to release;

Return to friendship.

Speaking without words.

You make you own world.

You can create whatever you have the courage to create.

You have a right to be happy.

Lynne Prossick ▼

Our strength is often composed of the weakness we’re damned if we’re going to show.

Mignon McLaughlin, 20th-century American writer

Courage is the price that Life exacts for granting peace.

Amelia Earhart (1898-1937), American aviator
Where in the World?
by Bob De Loach

Hi again! Wellll, this month is IGTA convention in West Hollywood and this reporter is looking forward to getting a lot of new and exciting insights in the world of travel.....

City Bound? Festive Holidays is offering a nice selection of trips in '93.

The first is San Francisco Pride Parade June 25-28. The tour includes a real limousine ride from the airport, 3 nights hotel, City Bound Guide to San Francisco and reserved parade program. Priced from $109 ea. for quad - $169 double.

Aug. 26-Sept 2 is Prague/Budapest Adventure which includes 3 nights at the Budapest Korona Hotel, 4 nights at the Prague Karl Inn, 1/2 day tours in both cities, experienced gay guide, first class train from Budapest to Prague, cocktail party, and continental breakfast daily. A 3 day extension to Munich is available and includes first class train to Munich and 3 nights hotel and transfers. Land-only prices are $899 for Prague/Budapest with the 3 day Munich for $369.

Leather Oktoberfest is Sept. 16-22 and includes 5 nights Munich Bristol Hotel and one outrageous night at the Amsterdam Avenue Hotel, first class train from Munich to Amsterdam, reserved tickets to sell out leather events, Gay Guide, Transfers and continental breakfast daily. A four-night extension is available at the Amsterdam Avenue Hotel. Land-only prices are $1099 for the basic trip and $299 for the Amsterdam extension.

October 1-3 is the Castro Street Fair which includes 3 nights hotel at the Triton hotel, stretch limousine from the airport and reserve copies of Gay newspapers.

Puerto Vallarta/Thanksgiving is from November 25-28 and includes air fare from San Francisco, LA or San Diego, 3 nights hotel, Gay guide, transfers and welcome party. Prices are $439-479 double.

GAY SPIRIT JOURNEYS are about the joy and playfulness of brotherhood and the adventure of travel to powerful places where mystery and beauty abound. They are also about discovering our deep selves, our relationship to nature and the honoring our unique gifts and collective gay heritage that stretches back into the dawn of history. Each unique journey is designed as a conscious pilgrimage, an unconventional travel time where you can peacefully wander along on the land, meditate beneath the stars and enjoy the fun-filled company of an intimate brotherhood. Spirit Adventures offers "Outdoor Adventures for Men." 1993 plans call for May 16-22 Rafting on the Dolores River and departs Cortec, Colorado. Cost $900.00. June 5-12 or Sept 3-10 "Voice of the Desert" leaves from Albuquerque, NM $875. July 24-30 "Dads and Their Children" departs Albuquerque for a celebration in Native Lands. Dads $875, children $675. August 11-15 and August 18-22: "Journeys Into Ourselves." Gay men and Mid-life Transition. Departs from Jemez, NM and costs $600.00. September 27-October 2 they offer "Time Out of Time." On horseback into the Canyon. Departs Albuquerque and costs $925.00.

For full details on these or other travel opportunities contact you local IGTA travel agent. I see that the "Full gauge" on my computer runneth over, so I will say Bi-Bi for now.

Bob De Loach is president of Apollo Travel, B G Tax & Accounting, Electric Doctor, Apollo Real Estate, Lock Doc and is an insurance broker. He is currently VP of the Imperial Court Board of Directors, and takes part in other community projects. He still finds time to write adult novels and this column.

Eisenhower's Lesbian Corps

World War II WAC Sergeant Johnnie Phelps, in response to a request from Gen. Eisenhower that she ferret out the Lesbians in her battalion: "Yessir. If the General pleases, I will be happy to do this investigation .... But, Sir, it would be unfair of me not to tell you, my name is going to head the list.... You should also be aware that you're going to have to replace all the file clerks, the section heads, most of the commanders, and the motor pool.... I think you should also take into consideration that there have been no illegal pregnancies, no cases of venereal disease, and the General himself has been the one to award good conduct commendations and service commendations to these members of the WAC detachment."

General Eisenhower: "Forget the order."
From Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers by Lillian Faderman.

▼
A Great Time to Extract Equity (and Other Financial News) 
by Lynn LaPerriere

Mortgage interest rates are at a twenty year low. Credit card interest rates are still around 14% to 18% and the interest is no longer tax-deductible. It makes a lot of sense to refinance your primary residence (you cannot extract cash on non-owner occupied properties), withdraw cash, and payoff any loans with interest rates of 8% or more.

FHA (Federal Housing Administration) will allow a refinance loan of 85% of the appraised value of your home, duplex, etc. Conventional investors (FNMA, FHLMC, etc.) will allow a 75% loan based on the appraised value. FHA loan limits are $135,000 for single family residences, $151,000 for duplexes, $173,000 for triplexes and $213,000 for fourplexes. If your refinance needs exceed these amounts, you will have to go with conventional financing. The following example (a true case scenario) will illustrate how much easier refinancing can make your life.

My customer has a home valued at approximately $350,000. He owes $188,000 on the home with payments of $1,715 (including taxes and insurance) at 10% interest. He also owns a second home at Big Lake financed at 12% with a balance of $36,000 and payments of $450 (excluding taxes and insurance). Various credit cards are used by his household (interest rates vary from 14% to 18% depending on the card) with total balances of $7,800 and minimum payments of $300 per month. Currently, with all of the above, his monthly outgo for these expenses is $2,465.

He is refinancing the property for $250,000 (71% of appraised value; he could go 75%). The $250,000 will pay off the $188,000 loan balance on the primary residence, $36,000 on the second home, and the $7,800 credit card balances. In addition, the loan will pay for all his closing costs and reserve account, an give him a check for more than $10,000 at closing. AND IN ADDITION he will receive another check from his former lender to give him back his old reserve account for taxes and insurance for $4,200 AND he will skip at least one $1,715 house payment!

His new monthly payment (including taxes and insurance) will be $2,043 for the $250,000 loan, but he has eliminated $2,465 in debt and pocketed more than $14,000. What a way to go!! My customer decided on a FNMA fixed rate loan with a 7 year call (balloon) and a guaranteed refinance at that time. The fixed rate he obtained was 6.75%. Some people would not want to have this type of loan, but there are hundreds of programs to choose from and we can try to match one with your special needs. As you can see from the above example, these kinds of situations are "win-win" which makes my job so much fun, and neat at times.

Another venture I've recently become involved with is tax-deferred real estate investments. It is a wonderful way of investing in real estate using withdrawal from you 401(k) and IRA accounts and not paying federal taxes on the withdrawal as you normally would. There are strict IRS rules and lots of paperwork and bookkeeping which is my job, but the long-term potential is great. You should check your accounts now to see what kind of interest they are earning (and I'm sure it's low -- probably about 4% if you're lucky), while real estate will always appreciate (in the long run).

Lynn LaPerriere is a Mortgage Specialist and a feminist(!) ▼
The Amazon Trail: Valerie = Brave
by Lee Lynch

Recently an editor commented that what is going on in Oregon is horrible. It is horrible to stand by helpless at a city council meeting while being called Those dirty, filthy homosexuals over and over and over. It is horrible to sit at a state senate hearing listening as hysterical witnesses spew Biblical quotes to prove that we are perverse and unnatural.

Horrible is nothing new to gay people. We have never, ever been anything but an oppressed minority in so-called "civilized" nations. Discrimination against us has been blatant and legal. We've found ways to resist rather than overcome oppression.

One form our resistance has taken has been literary. For lesbians this began with pulp paperbacks. I didn't know that the pulps were saving my life. I didn't know that I was publishing the literature of resistance. I didn't know that my secret reading was as brave as any challenge to the status quo as joining peace marches.

Valerie Taylor wrote many of those lesbian classics. I had no idea that she'd chosen the name Valerie because of its meaning: brave. I, along with thousands of other baby dykes, simply revered her for telling stories of women like ourselves, like her Whisper Our Love, which were titled by publishers out for a sleazy buck.

It took me twenty-five years to finally meet this energetic sprite of a woman with a lifelong history of political activism and peace work. A Quaker with Potawatome roots, she raised three children alone partly on the proceeds of those pulps.

Even in the early 1960s Valerie understood that her books (thirteen published now, eleven lesbian) were part of the resistance of an oppressed people. She even created a character who spent her youth in a concentration camp (Journey To Fulfillment). And she has been more generous in her support of this lesbian writer than I ever dared dream.

I can write today because of women like Valerie. Hers was not the literature of a free and healthy people, but it was a crack in oppression's door. Later, she dared a quickly sprouted gay literary establishment to publish books about old lesbians (Prism) and poor lesbians (Rice and Beans). In 1974 she gave the keynote address at the first Lesbian Writers’ Conference in Chicago. That became a booklet titled For My Granddaughters. Three decades after the publication of Valerie's first lesbian title, The Girls In 3-B, gay publishing is an industry.

It is still horrible where I live. Right wing petitioners have a new logo: a garish pink triangle with a slash through it. Our local paper has refused to drop "For Better Or Worse," the comic depicting the torment of a gay youth. Protesters have lined twoblocks for a week now, inciting drivers to bawl their horns to harass the paper's staff.

When Valerie, now 79, called to ask for help recently, I wondered for a weary second if I could take energy and time from fighting the petitioners, the picketers, the testifiers. She'd fractured her shoulder and, because of a leg problem, can no longer walk safely without the use of her arms.

She's taught me yet another lesson. Helping our own is part of our centuries-old resistance. The initial response to a letter asking for assistance for Valerie has been tremendous. The lesbian and gay male community has recognized the value of her work. Because of people like Valerie Taylor who created a resistance out of nothing but sheer need and courage, today we openly fight back.

Lee Lynch is a columnist/author based in southern Oregon. She writes "The Amazon Trail" regularly for The Dallas Voice, Just Out, The Washington Blade, the Identity NorthView (some 16 papers, in all) and is the author of ten books. Copyright Lee Lynch, 1993. ▼
Don't Give Up on the Church Yet!
by the Rev. Jay P. Olson Ketchum

I was born in a small town, conservative, Christian community in south-central British Columbia where I attended the same church for sixteen years. That church is the United Church of Canada, a denomination which is now ordaining "self-declared practicing homosexuals."

My strongest memories of church are elaborate Christmas and Easter services with lots of music and loving grandparents who passed butterscotch candies to me at the beginning of each Sunday sermon.

I learned through compassionate, caring parents and grandparents that the number one law of life was love. Sometimes that love was tough and certainly imperfect, but it was always supposed to be supportive, accepting, and compassionate.

During my teenage years, I migrated with my friends to a different denomination. There I experienced a new kind of Christian community. I quickly learned that to be a true member of this church you had to be loving and that meant, for them, knowing the rules of behavior and obeying them. Disobeying the rules meant risking alienation and loss of salvation, or worse, risking the nagging doubt that perhaps I had not received salvation at all.

In my twenties I attended the Vancouver School of Theology with the intention of becoming a hospital chaplain. I simply wanted to be one-on-one with people who needed love and care. I did not want to do the preaching, teaching, congregational "stuff." I just wanted to give away some love and care to those in need.

The first two years of seminary were extremely difficult. I was truly a stranger in a strange land. I was again in a new community with students and teachers talking about corporate responsibility, justice, peacemaking, feminism, historical and literary criticism of scripture, ethics, liturgy, and more.

Later, with the help of the church, I would realize that I had seen all of this at work in my family and friends but I had never used the language or understood the larger issues of the nature of healthy community and the forces of discrimination and narrow-mindedness.

The seminary was insisting that I learn how to think, that I learn to articulate my thoughts and beliefs, and that I exercise self-criticism, social analysis and social responsibility.

The challenge was more than I could handle. I quit seminary and went to work hoping for a new direction in my life.

I received that direction when I was denied a job on the basis of gender alone. If I can recall a dynamic conversion experience, it was that moment when my employer said that the men did not want to work with me. The "scales" fell from my eyes and I saw the world in a totally new way. At that moment I knew what my professors had been talking about. At that moment I knew what "those women" had been complaining about. I returned to seminary and my conservative voice became dynamic, angry, playful, and radical. Ethics became challenging and enlivening. I fell in love with the liturgy and I felt a part of community of faith long-rooted in injustice, healing and joy. (Though it is true that those roots do not show as often as they ought.)

I have learned and continue to learn about the goodness of lifethrough the people who make up the church. The church has taught me about commitment to justice for all people, helping the planet heal, having fun, dealing with my fears, my sexuality, my thoughts and dreams. This church has taught me to reject the ways of evil. It insists that I grow in my faith and remain open to the new things that God is doing and the new ways God is revealing God's self.

The church that sometimes teaches intolerance and promotes narrow-mindedness and suffering is the same church that enabled me to change from being narrow-minded and fearful to being open, playful and accepting.

Do not misunderstand me. I am no more perfect than my church family but today I am healthier spiritually and emotionally because of the goodness of my church's teachings and the goodness of her people.

As long as the church continues in its goodness I will be part of it contributing, I hope, my share of time, talent, treasure and joy. As long as I see signs that the church is living the law of love then I will do my part in promoting that same love.

The church where I minister, Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Anchorage, is attempting to live out the law of love. We are certainly imperfect in our efforts and become tired easily in this mission. At Immanuel there is a sincerity and vulnerability that I have not experienced in many churches. It enables us to continue in our dream of creating a church "where it is safe to talk about anything and where all people are welcome."

It is extremely difficult to meet that challenge, that call. It is tough to stand in the face of our fears and imperfections but we are trying. We want to be the
loving, prophetic, caring community that our faith requires of us.

I am not giving up on the church yet, though admittedly there are days when I would like to.

Whether I like it or not, this is the community that has taught me about love, justice, peacemaking, the goodness of human sexuality including all sexual orientations, corporate responsibility, life, health and possibilities. It has taught me that God is love and that God will not be confined to my theological system, yours, or even any one faith.

Don't give up on the church yet. Instead, search out a community of faith where you can add to its goodness and help it grow.

Peace be with you.

Jay OlsonKetchum is a Canadian citizen, born and raised in British Columbia. She was ordained in the United Church of Canada in 1987. She is presently Pastor at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Anchorage and as Chaplain for the University Campus Ministry. This summer, Jay is committed to working on her dissertation about women as worship leaders in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and also plans to do some serious fishing.

Prayer of Invocation
written and led by the Rev. Jay P. OlsonKetchum for the Civil Rights Rally in Anchorage, Alaska

April 10, 1993

Great Spirit,
whose will it is that all may have life
and experience it in its fullness,

Breathe through us and among us here today that we may
encounter you in every human being,
in every act of compassion,
and in every work of hope.

Remind us of our capacity for giving and receiving love.
Nurture us in our desires and efforts for justice and reconciliation, and keep us true to your ways of creative peacemaking among those who want no peace.

Promote peace here today.
Gift us with your healing power,
and fill us with your playful joy - that which has no ending.

We pray in the spirit of those who danced in the face of death
and showed the world the ways of a just peace.

Amen.

The Religious Right
in the '90s, A Study
by Sylvia Short

The Social Justice Committee of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (AUUF) is forming a study-group to learn more about the "religious right." As recommended by the UU Association's Department of Social Justice and its Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns, we have obtained the handbook of the Institute for First Amendment Studies and its newsletter The Freedom Writer.

The handbook is full of interesting, helpful organizational tips and suggested books and activities. But the newsletter has the biggest caution.

The following is from an article "The Anti-Gay Nineties" by Frederick Clarkson in the March/April 1993 issue:

"The new hot button issue for the religious right is homosexuality. While abortion continues to be a top priority, right-wing Christian leaders believe that there is a wider constituency that can be mobilized to oppose gay civil rights. And the way they are doing it is through a cynical exploitation of people's ignorance and fears about homosexuality, to move this wider, unwitting constituency closer to theocracy."

The article goes on to note that "an increasingly important element of the Christian Right, the Christian Reconstructionist movement, believes that the Bible calls for the death penalty for 'homosexual acts.'"

The UU Social Justice Committee, itself an arm of a 'religious' organization, is exploring the goals, means, and actions of the religious right, not to demean or deprecate, but to try to understand and, more importantly, counteract activities which result in hurting others. Only through such study can we anticipate and undermine action based upon or preying upon ignorance and mindless fear.

Think about joining us. There will be an organizational meeting at a potluck picnic at my home, 705 West 47th Ave. (just off Arctic between Tudor and International Airport) on Saturday, May 29 from 4 to 7. The Social Justice Committee is also sponsoring study groups on Health Care, Civil Unrest, and Energy, and feel free to explore any of these as well.

And note: We do not proselytize; everyone is welcome, Christians included, of course!

Sylvia Short, Attorney at Law, lives in Anchorage.
SILVERLAKE LIFE: The View From Here

GOLDEN GATE AWARD (BEST IN CATEGORY), 1993 SAN FRANCISCO FILM FESTIVAL
WINNER OF THE GOLDEN TEDDY BEAR (BEST GAY FILM), 1993 BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

“Wrenching but never maudlin...this painful but
bracingly frank film isn’t only an invaluable
document of the day-to-day ravages of AIDS, it’s
a testament to an extraordinary relationship,
a love story in extremis.”
— David Ansen, Newsweek

“Devastating...funny and tender
at times, almost impossible
to sit through at others
and always indelible.”
— Kenneth Turan,
Los Angeles Times

SILVERLAKE LIFE: THE VIEW FROM HERE is a highly personal film which traces the journey
towards death of filmmaker Tom Joslin and his companion of twenty-two years, Mark Massi,
both of whom are stricken by AIDS. Largely videotaped by Joslin and Massi themselves and
completed by their friend, director Peter Friedman, the film captures the everyday realities of
living with AIDS, and emerges as a heightened mix of optimism and despair as two remarkable
people share moments of simple joy and profound sorrow. Although shattering at
times, SILVERLAKE LIFE is a healing film, as much a paean to life as it is a chronicle of death.

“POWERFUL” — Bernard Weinraub, New York Times

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Book Corner
by Joann Contini

Places of Interest: 14th Annual Worldwide Gay and Lesbian Vacation Planner
Marianne Ferrari, Editor and Publisher,
April 1993, $14.95

They have really outdone themselves this time!!!! The new Places of Interest is outstanding. A grand new 8 1/2 x 11 format, full color cover and 344 fun-filled pages detailing how to go around the world and still enjoy the company of lesbians and gays. This improved edition of the original guide book provides a sure-fire method for planning vacations, business travel and short trips. Specific information on major types of vacations such as resort vacations, RV and camping, Women’s festivals, cruises and sailing, worldwide tours, outdoor adventures, conferences, retreats, sports events, art events and rodeos are presented in the first 40 pages. This is followed by 10 action-packed pages of events in monthly calendar format from April 1993 through April 1994. The basic information section is rounded out with an extensive listing of reservation services, tour operators and travel agents.

The main feature of the planner is the listing of what to see and do in over 50 different countries and all of the states and provinces in the United States and Canada. As always, each listing indicates such items as the type of establishment (bar, dance bar, bookstore, accommodations, beaches, clubs and gyms, etc.), type of clientele (mixed gay/straight, women, men, etc.), type of entertainment (live music, dancers, female impersonators, etc.). Brand new this year are pages and pages of wonderful introductions to each country/city/region written by the local gay and lesbian experts who live in the area and publish gay and lesbian periodicals. These exceptional articles tell about the place where they live and what it’s like being a gay or lesbian living there.

Once you decide where you are going and what events you will participate in, you can locate excellent accommodations by using the Ferrari guide Inn Places that describes inns, bed and breakfasts and hotels. Then you can leave the planner at home and take off with the more compact pocket guides traveling companions by Ferrari Places for Men and Places for Women. Ferrari produces all the latest and greatest information and we make it all available to you through the Alaska Women’s Bookstore. Even if you aren’t planning to vacation, this new Places of

Interest is the perfect way to get to know lesbian and gay life around the world and to do some armchair traveling. Enjoy your trip!!
Joann Contini is co-owner of the Alaska Women’s Bookstore.

Safer Sex

In the interest of providing for safer sex activity the Alaska Women’s Bookstore carries a variety of items including: condoms with nonoxynol-9; flavored dental dams; latex examination gloves; toy cleaner with nonoxynol-9 for dildos and vibrators; Astroglide lubricant (non-staining, water soluble, colorless, odorless, greaseless, flavorless); Slip lubricant (non-staining, water based, odorless, no fat or oils, water soluble, condom compatible); ForPlay lubricant with nonoxynol-9 (water based, non-staining, condom compatible) and, ForPlay Sensual Suckents for condom and dental dam flavorings and other exotic uses in wild strawberry, passion fruit, green apple, cool citrus and other flavors. Sensual Suckents are non-staining, water based, harmless if ingested, all natural flavorings, condom compatible and tasty. The water based lubricants are important because only water based lubricants are to be used with condoms (use of oil based lotions such as Vaseline and baby oil dangerously weaken latex). Nonoxynol-9 contained in a product is a plus as it is a mild detergent which effectively assists in killing sperm and germs on contact, including HIV, herpes and many STD germs. It has a strong chemical taste so it is limited in its use for oral sexual activity. Current Flow, a short safer sex video showing the use of dental dams during lesbian sexual activity is also available for free overnight rental with rental of another video.
Senate Begins Battle On Military Ban
News Analysis By Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON - Lesbian comic Kate Clinton has quipped that the fracas over the Pentagon's policy of barring gays and lesbians has been reduced to what at times appears to be one long word: Gayzinhemilitary.

As in, "Senator Nunn, how do you feel about gayzinhemilitary?"

As if one needed to ask.

As of March 29, the senior senator from the Peach State finally made good on his promise (threat?) to stage hearings on the issue. And gauging from the reaction of some activists working on the Hill, so far it's had mixed results.

For one thing, the hearings appear to be revealing that most of the lawmakers on the Senate Armed Services Committee have already made up their minds and don't have any real inclination to change them.

Still, gay activists are expressing a measure of satisfaction in seeing that the policy's defenders don't have much of an argument beyond, "We really don't feel comfortable with them looking at us in the showers."

After two days of hearings, the consensus on the pro-ban side of the debate seemed to be that as long as no one knew some service members were gay (and, presumably, they acquiesced to actively portraying heterosexuals when necessary) they could stay.

Otherwise, they argued, people would be uncomfortable in the presence of homosexuals and the entire military system would, of course, unravel.

Gays and their allies have countered that the issue is a simple matter of discrimination and that they should be treated no differently than heterosexual servicemen and women.

Senator Nunn, however, clearly has other matters in mind. Not that anyone was surprised.

According to some gay activists working the issue, they are quite perturbed that Nunn is looking to divert the question of gayzinhemilitary away from the basic policy and into areas where gays are less likely to have public support. Those would include matters of housing and spousal benefits and, most unsettling to many heterosexuals, public displays of affection in and out of uniform.

Senate supporters of President Clinton's pledge to lift the ban likewise are coming in for a share of criticism from some of these lobbyists much in the same way Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee were excoriated for their behavior in the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill hearings. Basically, the lobbyists argue, senators supporting the Pentagon ban are firing their heavy artillery at pro-gay witnesses while anti-gay senators are maintaining a much cooler stance, asking few hard questions of anti-gay witnesses.

Regardless of the outcome of the hearings, all parties concerned are looking toward the July 15 date scheduled for Clinton's final executive order on the issue. And likewise all parties are preparing for the expected Senate vote to kill the Clinton plan as soon as it is issued.

Why else, some ask, would Nunn be planning to continue the hearings well past the July 15 mark?

Already people on both sides of the issue have fired up the phone banks, fax machines, and lobbyists on this one.

One gay group, the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), has even hired one of the most powerful Democratic lobbying agencies in the nation to help frame the issue in their terms and influence the expected vote.

Another, the Campaign for Military Service, an umbrella group leading the charge on the issue, is working feverishly in advance of the July vote.

Now some activists are reporting that most Democratic senators are, in the words of one lobbyist, "solidifying" behind the President.

One group that seems adamant about not changing its stance is the military itself. Probably the most telling sign of the pervasive anti-gay sentiment among active duty sailors and soldiers is one piece of doggerel that has been making the rounds among the troops in Somalia and inside the Pentagon.

The four-verse anthem to homophobia is set to the tune of the 1966 song "The Ballad of the Green Berets" by SSgt Barry Sadler and in parody becomes "The Ballad of the Queen Berets."

In explicit and often crude language, the parody mocks President Clinton's pledge to lift the ban, suggesting that it will lead to indecent proposals, indiscriminate sex, and open displays of sexual behavior.

After months of reports of the tune making the rounds of American camps in Somalia, a printed copy of the parody was leaked to a gay organization by a Pentagon source.

"This is pretty juvenile stuff and it reflects badly on the military personnel who think it's humorous," said HRCF's Gregory King of the parody.

"This is exactly the kind of stuff most people are offended by," added Tom Sheridan, a lobbyist.
working on the issue. "If people in the military
behave that way they ought to find another job."

With such deep animosity in the service toward gays
and lesbians, come the summer at least one set of
individuals--gays or their harshest enemies--will be
pounding the pavement. The question remains, which
shall it be?

Complete lyrics to "The Ballad of the Queen Berets"

Falling fairies from the sky,
I broke a nail, oh I could cry.
Don't you like the way my tusky sways?
We are the fags of the Queen Berets.

Bill Clinton's upon my ears,
"You guys have rights, be proud you're queers."
I once was scared, now I'm okay
cause I'm a fag, in the Queen Berets.

Put silver ear-clips on my nuts,
I love the pain, now spank my butt.
The way you walk is awfully cute.
I sure would love to pack my chute!

This army stuff is really slick,
Free meals and clothes and lots of dicks.
When I retire, I still get paid,
I thank you Bill, from the Queen Berets.

Taken from the 04/23/93 - 05/07/93 Equal Time published by
Lavender Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation. ▼
License Plate Language:
Another Test

Remember last month’s tweak of humor that asked the age-old question, can teaching phonics really be wrong? Well, we are prepared to translate it for you and provide another equally punny example.

MR Ducks: Them are ducks.
MR Knot: Them are not.
OSAR: Oh, yes they are.
CM Wangs?: See them wings?
LIB: Well, I’ll be!
MR Ducks: Them are ducks!

New problem:
MR Snakes
MR Knot
OSAR
CMBDI’s?
LIB
MR Snakes ▼

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If you have made mistakes ... there is always another chance for you ... you may have a fresh start any moment you choose. For this thing we call "failure" is not the falling down but the staying down.
Mary Pickford (1893-1979), American actress

“I’m glad you told me you’re gay, Jeff. Mrs. Greenbaum’s daughter’s gay too. Maybe you could start dating.”

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International Gay Travel Association
That's how it was, and how it is.
(remembering)
by Dan Cook

Part I: The Bond, The Adventure

Note: the following tale (and the subsequent episodes to be serialized here) were drawn from stories as told to Dan Cook (a.k.a. Cherresse) by Mike and Steve (the protagonists). Mike and Steve kept a chronicle of their 50 plus years together in a collection of photo albums. In showing the pictures and describing them, Mike and Steve wove what turns out to be a touching gay history.

"Fifty years? You've been together how long?"
A little over twenty years ago, I was doing a show at a place in Portland called the "Doul & Penn" (pronounced Doll & Penny). Sitting in the audience were two old men wearing tailored western suits. They stood out like little beacons with their white hair. I just thought they were good friends out having a good time. Well, they were -- the only difference was that they were there to celebrate their 50th year together as business partners, friends and lovers.

When the show was over some friends of mine sitting at the same table introduced me to Steve and Mike. My first impression was that they were as old as my grandfather and my second was how on God's green earth do two men stay together for fifty years.

There was a great deal of difference between these two and my grandfather. Mike and Steve didn't talk or act like old people. They sat straight and tall with square shoulders and could converse on any subject. My friends left the table shortly after the show was over but the three of us sat there for three hours. Seemed like 20 minutes to me. I wanted to know more. There was something that pulled me in, hook, line and sinker. I asked then for their phone number and said I would be out their way in the spring and asked if I could stop by and visit them.

It was months later when I did call and ask if the invitation was still good. "You bet", Mike said and gave me directions and told me to call when I got to John Day.

You have to picture in your mind where their ranch was. John Day, Oregon is east of Bend, through rolling hills, deep gorges, and high plateaus in the eastern part of the state. John Day is the county seat and I suspect that little has changed for the past 80 years except for 3 gas stations and a John Deere sales outlet next to the feed store. The town's main building was the courthouse constructed around the turn of the century. The Blue mountain range starts there and at one time timber and mining were part of the mainstay of the area. Now farming and ranching had taken over.

Steve and Mike had met at the University of Oregon around 1920. Steve was taking geology and surveying and Mike was studying to be a veterinarian. They had seen each other at the boarding house where they lived, but had become friends in Biology class, and as Steve said "one thing led to another."

They moved out of the boarding house at the end of the school year and rented a small two bedroom apartment over a store in Eugene. Mike, the more domestic of the two, said it was very small and one thing he remembered was the coil spring beds that made a terrible noise even if you turned over. (Mike recalled that before going to bed (and whatever) they had to make sure everyone was gone from the store below, due to the springs and Steve's moans and groans.)

Steve graduated first and got a job in Salem doing field work all over the State. They only got to see each other on weekends. Steve would drive to Eugene or Mike would take a train to Salem. Following graduation the next year, Mike got a job in Seattle with the USDA checking meat. He loved the city, but hated his job. Steve wrote Mike that he was taking time off from his job to come to Seattle to meet Mike. He promised a surprise when he arrived. The surprise turned out to be two maps, one of Oregon and the other a survey map of Grant County. Steve showed Mike a plot on the maps and said that he thought they should buy the ground. Steve had a small trust fund and with what he had saved, and some help from Mike's father they had the money. Mike's parents never knew that their relationship was more than business partners.

Steve made the arrangements and they bought the property. The next spring they bought a Model T and drove Highway 99 south to Portland then east down to the Columbia river gorge to Hood river, south to Bend, Ore. then to John Day. This was a three day journey which today takes about 14 hours.

Upon their arrival they got rooms at a boarding house owned by a Japanese couple who also owned a laundry. Steve said that clothes were
scattered everywhere and clotheslines took up the whole back yard.

The next day they bought fuel and food and started out on a road which had been made for wagons and horses, not cars. They had to hike the last 1/2 mile to the property because the road was not passable.

The house, more like a cabin, had been vacant for two years. The original owner had passed away and the property had passed to the State. The State had ordered the property surveyed, and that’s how Steve came to find it. The property sold at public auction and Steve and Mike’s had been the only offer received. The land included three sections (1920 acres).

The next day they visited a neighboring ranch to rent some horses. In the process, Mike spotted a horse that had a limp and offered to help. After he took care of his “patient” they rode off to survey their land. About a quarter of the property was virgin timber, the rest was rolling hills, a small lake, two streams and a couple of hot springs which were common in Eastern Oregon. After spending a couple of days on the land they returned the horses and went back to John Day with the intention of finding someone to watch their property and care for the stock they wanted to buy.

When they got back to the boarding house the Japanese lady told Mike the feed store owner wanted to see him (word had gotten around already that there was a vet in town — the closest vet was in Bend). Seems a rancher in the area wanted to trade stock for grazing on two sections of their land and that he would bale ten acres of hay. Mike & Steve said it was the best deal they ever made. Mike was kept busy with animals to treat and Steve went to the court house to check on the papers for the ranch. Posted on the wall was an ad for an assayer — “must read survey maps, and have geology experience.” Steve could hardly believe his eyes. When he told Mike, Mike was quick to let him know that he had no intention of staying in John Day this year. But all that changed when the feed store owner offered to set Mike up next to his own store with an office and holding pens for the animals. Mike agreed only to part time work because he wanted to work on the ranch enlarging the house and adding a strong barn. They decided to stay, Mike sending for his medical and surgical supplies, and Steve taking the job at the courthouse.

That Summer they worked very hard and finished the house complete with gravity fed water from a stream, wood burning cook range with water heater and all the comforts of home. They were able to trade vet care and other services for the materials for the house and barn. Neighbors helped neighbors and goods and services were traded. They had a wonderful sense of pride in all that they had accomplished. The time had now come to make a decision. They were both employed, they were enjoying their new world and their new home, they had made a new life and the big city didn’t seem that important after all. Steve wanted to stay and it was Mike who finally gave in. As Mike later said, “It was the right decision.”

TO BE CONTINUED

Cherrese AKA Dan Cook was Empress I of Eugene, OR, Empress 18 of All Alaska and very active in gay politics over a long period of time.
Must We Keep Talking About This?  
Lesbian Battering: Part II  
by Karen Carlisle

Sexual Abuse: First she talked about lesbian battering in public! And if that wasn’t bad enough, now she’s going to talk about sex too! I can just hear what you’re probably thinking, but exposing sexual behavior that is not loving and mutual to the air and light will ultimately help to heal each of us, and, thus, our community. Sexual abuse exists on the continuum of lesbian battering, but not in isolation. It is certainly accompanied, and probably preceded, by emotional/psychological abuse, and may, or may not, exist concurrently with physical battering.

The Lesbian Battering Intervention Project defines sexual abuse as any non-consenting or sexually exploitative behaviors that may be verbal or physical. Any single act performed without consent, may constitute sexual abuse. Previous consent does not imply current consent. Under certain conditions, the concept of consent itself is suspect.

Examples of non-consenting sex include but are not limited to forcing, coercing, not asking, guilt-tripping, and manipulating. It is also considered non-consenting when a person is unable to understand or make an informed decision when any of the following are in existence: the person is asleep, drugged, drunk, disabled, incapacitated or too young, too old, dependent upon or afraid of the other.

Examples of non-consenting verbal sexual behavior include but are not limited to laughing at another’s sexuality or body, jokes, insults or name-calling about another’s sexual behavior or preference.

Non-consenting physical sexual behaviors may be the same as consenting sexual behaviors. The key concept here is consent. It is sexual abuse if you do not want these sexual behaviors, but are forced, coerced or manipulated into them: oral, anal or vaginal penetration; touching using objects or one’s own body (oral, anal, genital, breasts, or any other body part, stroking, kissing, licking, sucking); viewing of sexual activity or material prostitution; participation in the making of pornographic materials.

The Lesbian Battering Intervention Project defines sexual exploitation as a sexual act, interaction or relationship occurring when one individual is in the care, or under the direct, or indirect, authority of another. Sexual exploitation involves the abuse of trust and/or power in a relationship in order to engage in a sexual interaction or relationship.

Earlier in this article, the statement was made that under certain conditions, the concept of consent itself is suspect. This brings another uncomfortable subject to mind: sadomasochism and bondage and discipline. Those who are practitioners of these behaviors seek to assure others that these behaviors are based on a mutual exchange of power. The Lesbian Battering Intervention Project maintains that in any relationship where there is an imbalance of power, it is impossible to mutually consent to "S&M or B&D." Therefore, in these circumstances, "S&M and B&D" are abusive. Women practicing these behaviors must examine their relationships and decide if an imbalance of power exists; if so, they must decide if they are consenting freely to these practises. If any feel they are not, it is likely that sexual abuse is a feature of the relationship.

Myths About Lesbian Battering: One of the ways that opponents of lesbian and gay life make people fear us is to create damaging myths about us and to repeat them over and over. This is homophobia. It works so well, that many of us believe the myths ourselves. Because of external homophobia and sexism, lesbians have created good myths to protect our ability to accept and love ourselves when we are so rejected in the world. For instance, lesbians are non-violent; women have consensual, equal, reciprocal relationships; the lesbian world is utopia. These myths, based on unexamined generalizations, serve to keep us from the self-examination that is vital to a healthy life, a healthy community.

Out of our internalized homophobia, and because it is very difficult for us to identify with the battered lesbian (we have rejected compulsory heterosexuality of which one feature is "victim-hood"), we have created our own myths about lesbian battering. In part, this has happened because the feminist analysis of battering has named it a male behavior. We are not males, therefore lesbian battering does not exist. To repeat what was stated in former articles, battering is anyone abusing power and control. Following are myths about lesbian battering that we cannot continue to blindly believe:

* There is not much incidence of lesbian battering.
* The victim has an investment/payoff in staying in the relationship; i.e., she allows it, is masochistic, codependent, provokes it.
* The victim is to blame for the violence.
* The problem is the relationship or the family system.
* Lesbian battering is caused by chemical dependency.
* Offenders are psychopathic or mentally ill.
* Battered lesbians are sick.
* Offenders are out of control when they batter.
* Butch/femme roles contribute to battering.
* It is easier for lesbians to leave a relationship.
* It is more likely that battering is mutual in relationships.
* Power is measured by size differentials.
* Lesbians don’t need any special programs.
* Lesbian service providers know about lesbian battering.

One of the strengths of lesbian life is that we are generally conscientious about our psychological health because we are constantly attacked and demeaned from without. Part of that psychologically healthy behavior is to acknowledge and celebrate our sexuality and our relationships. Do we have the courage to take our search for psychological health to new realms? To an individual examination of our relationships for abusive behavior? To seeking support and counseling if any of these behaviors apply? To opening up these issues for dialogue in the community? A therapeutic slogan that was prominent at one time said “We are only as sick as our secrets.” Does anyone who has already turned the rock over and exposed the secrets to the healing air and light doubt this?

The last proposed issues to be opened for dialogue, but maybe not the final issues, are the community response to the battered woman and the batterer, and the question of who holds the batterer responsible; difficult issues to discuss. Stay tuned.

Information for this article comes from the Lesbian Battering Information Project, Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, 570 Ashbury Street, #201, St. Paul, Mn 55104.

Karen Carlisle is a lesbian activist in the Anchorage Community.

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Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club
20 Years
1973-1993

This year the Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club will celebrate it's 20th year of service to the gay community. Originally founded as a drinking club for men it has undergone a lot of changes during the last 20 years.

Women are now welcome in the group and there is more involvement with straight allies. The club has always been noted for it's generosity in helping other groups in the gay community as well as many other worthy charities outside the community. Toys for Tots, MCC Church, 4A's, The Boys and Girls Clubs, and Identity are just some of the recipients of funds raised by the club.

With its 20th birthday this year the club is planning a full slate of camp out events, fund raisers, and it's second international outing. (The first was to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in Feb. 1992).

The kick off is the "Official Outing" to be held at Eklutna Lake campground for the Memorial Day weekend. The group and all others who wish to attend, will pitch their "tents" at the campgrounds from May 28th through May 30th. Saturday night, May 29th, the Club will provide food for the Official Cookout Dinner around the campfire, and those who are members (or who join) will receive their official Mt. McKinley Club patch. The Official Outing is the only event where one may earn their patch. These "campouts" are traditionally a great deal of fun with continuous campfires, cocktails, cooking, camping, and cavorting. Some members will be roughing it with their motor homes complete with FAX, Color TV and the like while others will actually pitch tents(!).

The Eklutna campground has excellent facilities including toilets, running water, fire pits, and paved parking areas for motor homes and campers. Canoeing, hiking on miles of trails, cocktails, games, and more are always a part of the Mt. McKinley Club experience. All are invited to attend this outing. The Club will be helping with the games at the annual Eklutna Picnic and will have a booth there.

For the rest of the season there are events, fundraisers, more campouts: June -- Whittier outing, Booth at Gay Pride Rally on the park Strip, July
2-15 -- 4th of July outing at Seward, August
13-15 Outing TBA, September 10-12
Hope outing, October 30 Pajama Party, November -- Founding Father's Show and

Banquet at the Elk's, -- December -- Annual Christmas Party, January -- Winter outing place TBA, February -- Overseas outing St Thomas VI, March -- St. Patrick's fund raiser TBA, April -- Annual Board meeting and Election, plan next season's activities.

The Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club invites all to join us for this year. Annual dues is $10 (we want to keep out the riffraff). For further information or to join call Cherresse (Madame President) at 561-8744 or corner her at your favorite watering hole on Friday nights.

Mt. Mc Kinley (non-ascent) Club
Application for membership
1993-94 Club year
Mail to:
Mt. Mc Kinley Club
1207 West 47th Ave. Anchorage, Ak 99503

Name _____________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________ St ____________________________
Zip Code ____________ Ph. number ____________

$10.00 per year '93-'94

Make Checks payable to Mt. McKinley Club and mail to above address. Your membership card and notices of meetings will be mailed to you.

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

The second Monday of every month: 7:00 - 8:30pm
Open to the public. No Charge.

Mendel & Huntington
845 'K' STREET
May 20, Thu:
* EQUAL meeting, 7-9pm, AUUF (561-1755, x1021)
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 21, 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.)
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 8-9:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

May 22, Sat:
* 4As Plant Sale, 10am-6pm, 1339 Denali St.
* Lesbian Family Group, 4pm (NOTE NEW TIME), Lisa, 278-2198
* Coffee House, 8pm, 827 A St.: Wendy Withrow
* Imperial Court Progressive Dinner, tickets at the Blue Moon
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

May 23, Sun:
* 4As Plant Sale, 10am-6pm, 1339 Denali St.
* Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am - NEW TIME. See ad.
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317.
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 8:30pm, variety format, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 24, Mon:
* AWRC Board, 5:30pm, call Women’s Bookstore
* Partners of Incest Survivors, 6-7:30pm, $10, Pam Peters, Gatekey, 561-7327.
* Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7-9pm, call 786-4846, make on-air requests, give positive feedback, or both!
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 25, Tue:
* Identity, Inc. Board Meeting, AUUF, 7pm, Members

Welcome
* Fairbanks Gay Men’s Support Group, 452-6398

May 26, Wed:
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm.
* Anchorage Garden Buddies, 272-9220

May 27, Thu:
* EQUAL meeting, 7-9pm, AUUF (561-1755, x1021)
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 28, Fri:
* PLWA lunch, 12-1pm, 4As, 730 ‘I’ St. 276-1400.
* Identity Potluck Social, 6:30pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
* HIV University Early Care Workshop, 7pm, Call the 4As, 276-1400.
* Lesbian/Gay 12-step meetings: AA, 7-8:30pm, 637 ‘A’ St (old Synergy bldg, now Anch. Ch. of Relig. Sci.)
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 8-9:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club camp out at Eklutna, 261-8744
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

May 29, Sat:
* 4As Crisis Training, Part I of II, 10am-4pm, 4As, 276-1400
* KK deadline: please get diskettes to Women’s Bookstore
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

May 30, Sun:
* 4As Crisis Training, Part II of II, 10am-4pm, 4As, 276-1400
* Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am - NEW TIME. See ad.
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 8:30pm, variety format, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 31, Mon:
* Annual Eklutna Picnic, noon-6pm
More Calendar

* 4As Plant Sale at Eklutna Picnic
* Partners of Incest Survivors, 6-7:30pm, $10, Pam Peters, Gatekey, 561-7327.
* Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7-9pm, call 786-4846, make on-air requests, give positive feedback, or both!
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun 1, Tue.
* Anchorage Women’s Commission, 5:30-7:30pm, Loussac Library.

Jun 2, Wed.
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm.

Jun 3, Thu.
* EQUAL meeting, 7-9pm, AUUF (561-1755, x1021)
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun 4, 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. Sc.)
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 8-9:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaald

Jun 5, Sat:
* 4As Buddy Training, 10am-4pm, Part I of II, 4As Office, 276-1400
* Women’s Two Step Dance, 7:30pm, lessons, 8:30pm dancing, Pioneer School House. Donations.
* Judy Small in Concert, 8pm, Perf. Arts Ctr (see ad)
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaald

Jun 6, Sun:
* 4As Buddy Training, 10am-4pm, Part II of II, 4As Office, 276-1400
* Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am - NEW TIME. See ad.
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317.
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 8:30pm, variety format, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun 7, Mon:
* Partners of Incest Survivors, 6-7:30pm, $10, Pam, 561-7327
* Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7-9pm, 786-4846, make on-air requests, give positive feedback!
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun 8, Tue:
* Fairbanks Gay Men’s Support Group, 452-6398

Jun 9, Wed:
* Blue Moon Boy-Ree-Alice Review, 9:00pm.

Jun 10, Thu:
* EQUAL meeting, 7-9pm, AUUF (561-1755, x1021)
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
* Deadline for NorthView articles, ads & etc., 248-7722

Jun 11, Fri:
* PLWA lunch, 12-1pm, 4As, 730 ‘I’ St. 276-1400.
* 15% Inc., Annual Meeting, 6:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse
* Lesbian/Gay 12-step meetings: AA, 7-8:30pm, 637 ‘A’ St (old Synergy bldg, now Anch. Ch. of Relig. Sc.)
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 8-9:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaald

Jun 12, Sat:
* 4As R.S.V.P. Fundraising! See ad!!
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaald

Jun 13, Sun:
* Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am - NEW TIME. See ad.
* Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Group, 1-2:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Prayer and Praise Fellowship, 6pm, ACORS, 7th & A St., Marcia/Lynne, 274-9317.
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 8:30pm, variety format, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
* Gay Pride Ball, Elks Lodge, Imperial Court (Imperial Court Pride Week - 13th - 20th)

Jun 14, Mon:
* Partners of Incest Survivors, 6-7:30pm, $10, Pam, 561-7327
* Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7-9pm, 786-4846, make on-air requests, give positive feedback!
More Calendar

* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
* Gay Bar, free legal Q&A, 7-8:30pm, Mendel & Huntington. See ad.

Jun 15, Tue.
* Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays of Fairbanks (PFLAG), 5:30pm, Nancy, 470-4944

Jun 17, Thu.
* EQUAL meeting, 7-9pm, AUUF (561-1755, x1021)
* Lesbian & Gay 12-Step, 7pm, open/non-smoking, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun 18, Fri:
* PLWA lunch, 12-1pm, 4As, 730 'I' St. 276-1400.
* 15%, Inc., Annual Meeting, 6:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse
* Lesbian/Gay 12-step meetings: AA, 7-8:30pm, 637 'A' St (old Synergy bldg, now Anch. Ch. of Relig. Sci.)
* Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Group, 8-9:30pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (Call regular AA phn for info.)
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Jun 19, Sat:
* Women's Potluck (6:30pm) & Sing-Along (7:30) at Lucy's
* Athena Ball, Elks Lodge
* Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Notes from Here and There compiled by Scout Conrad

Hawaii's highest court has taken a long step toward making the state the first in the country to recognize marriages between couples of the same sex, ruling that a ban on such marriages may violate the state constitution's prohibition against sex discrimination.

In the majority opinion, Justice Steven Levinson wrote that "marriage is a basic civil right" and that "on its face and as applies," the Hawaii law "denies same-sex couples access to the marital status and its concomitant rights and benefits." Legal experts said the case would not wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court because it was based solely on state law. But if Hawaii were to recognize gay marriages, the decision would have implications nationwide. Carl Varady, the legal director of the Civil Liberties Union in Hawaii, who was a member of the litigation team, said the court's invocation of sex discrimination was unexpected and added that by doing so, the court was expanding not just gay rights, but the rights of women. From the New York Times and the Anchorage Daily News, May 7, 1993.

Being homosexual is "abnormal." So is being left-handed or deaf. By definition, "normal" is what most people are. Everyone else -- left-handed, deaf, non-heterosexual -- is abnormal. "Abnormal" is what is not typical. Before 1960, left-handed children were forced to learn to write with their right hands. Then educators finally realized that forcing a child to use the right hand did not make that child right-handed. A few hundred years ago, left-handed people were regularly executed for being in league with Satan. Do we need sexual orientation as a protected class? Yes, we do. Until we see sexual orientation as a physiological state, we need our government to protect our fellow citizens from our own ignorance. From a Letter to the Editor by Katherine B. Waimer, Chugiak. Anchorage Daily News, May 8, 1993.

In a case that has focused attention on attitudes toward homosexuals in the U.S. military, an American sailor, Airman Apprentice Terry Helvey admitted at a hearing that he beat a homosexual shipmate to death at a bar in Japan last fall. But he sought leniency, contending that the killing had not been planned, as the Navy has asserted. If the plea is accepted, it could halt any further public examination of a case that homosexual rights activists and the victim's mother say appeared to have been a hate crime, reflecting what they have said is an attitude condoning violence against homosexuals in the military. From the New York Times and the Anchorage Daily News, May 4, 1993.


Editor's Note: Sorry, Joe. Trying to derogate the Supreme Court by invoking a stereotype not only leaves your consciousness sadistically showing, but also indicates that there might be some inherent flaw in a person's thinking if he or she happened to be lesbian or gay. Benighted thinking deserves illumination. Behold!

Let's have a waiting period for homosexual liaisons. Give the authorities an opportunity to ensure they are "safe" before they can pursue any supposed rights they may enjoy. Make them carry special ID cards if a government agency deems it necessary. Enshrine their personal choices in the bowels of intrusive computer banks. Maybe we could work out a computerized serial number plan so public health experts can track gays and tell their exact numbers and location if the greater public interest so requires. Any of you liberals out there want to take The Economist's approach? From a Letter to the Editor by Howard Martin, Eagle River. The Anchorage Daily News, May 15, 1993.

Scout Conrad is a rookie bisexual who wishes to keep her identities out of print.
Good Economics vs?
Homosexuality
by Susan Walker

It's a small three-walled space with a short front curtain, but no one can see into it and what takes place there is private and personal, so, I am taking it personally.

When I hear the "gay" community meaning men, voted their "pocketbooks" rather than "issues" I once again see the gap between my sense of community and the gay men's community.

I've heard gay men say the election "merely retained candidates who had solid economic policies. I've heard gay men say they didn't want to be "political."

Well, don't worry -- you weren't. In that single action, behind closed doors so to speak, of not voting for the candidates who openly put their political careers on the line, the election was over. "Just a question of economics" has divided the lesbian from the gay men's community before. It's called 59 cents (women) to 1 dollar (men). I am one of the 59 centers.

Does this alleviate the accountability for the lesbians who were uninformed or did not vote? No. But it is difficult for me, as a lesbian, to be as willing to discuss "feminism" with a gay man who's sense of gender bias and discrimination is "liberal" in theory. If it is a question of talking with women or lesbians about feminism and civil rights or gay men, the choice is lesbians. Because for me, feminism and the civil rights ordinance are inextricably related. How? A significant element of my feminism comes from my experience as a woman, and a significant element of my civil rights awareness comes from being a lesbian. What is their "link" in addition to my experience? Their link is oppression.

It is not difficult to see that wage inequity, based on gender, is oppression. It is not difficult to see that being discriminated against because of sexual orientation is oppression. This is not "symbolic," this is not "liberal theory." This is. So when a gay man states unequivocally he was "just voting his pocketbook," "how can I not respond vehemently at the continuance of the cycle of oppression supported by the patriarchy? It is very like patriarchal philosophy to espouse there is only one choice -- not two or many more. Meaning you can't have good economics and homosexuality -- it has to be either or.

Am I stereotypically indicating all gay men? No. Is this attitude typical of Anchorage's gay men's community? I don't know. I do know what I've heard, listened to, and experienced.

I don't believe that the "right wingers" "beat us" at the election because of last minute barrages of negative publicity. I don't think they beat us because of a church's power to lie. I think it's time we looked at our community and told some truths. It's another aspect of oppression to internally divide communities. Is that what I'm advocating? No. But to say that the division is not present and to perpetuate ignorance about its source is to perpetuate being a victim -- a "victim" of "them" or of "us." I am choosing not to be a victim.

Was all this embedded in the civil rights ordinance? Perhaps for some lesbians, no -- but for me yes.

Susan Walker is a healer and a feminist. She lives in Anchorage.
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 or Angle/Linda at the KK at 337-0253.

The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (A)lly indicate that the business or service is owned by (L)esbians, (G)ays 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) Alaska AIDS Assistance Assoc., 276-1400
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Found. (WA), 206-383-2565
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gwen, 278-5019

Art:
(I) Studio Designs, Lita, 279-4606

Astrology:
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-6582

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 (see ad)

Bed & Breakfast:
(G) Alta's (Fairbanks), Pete, 457-0246
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2536 (see ad)
(I) The Butterfly Inn, Kay (Hawaii), 808-966-7936
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 235-2265
(L) Mermaid Inn, Nancy/Bonnie (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), 305-565-8437

Books:
(I) Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joann/Marlah, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Alaskaana, Gene, 561-1340

Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 243-8457

(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

Computer Bulletin Board:
(G) AK Computerized Shopping Mall, 248-7997
(A) Myth's Reality (Berdache), 333-3425; 338-2869
(G) The Wilde Side, 333-4039

Computer Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(I) Angle, 337-0253 (see ad)
(G) Tom, 338-1312
(A) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(A) LLR Technologies, Logan, 272-7377
(G) Lucian, 272-8328
(G) Mark, 344-1508
(G) Randy, 276-0102

Deaf Support:
(A) Interpreter Referral Line, 277-3323 voice, 277-9735 tty
(A) Deaf Rehabilitation Serv., 277-3456 voice, 258-2232, tty

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

Electrolysis:
(A) Gentle Touch, 561-6688 (see ad)

Entertainment:
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064, Movieline: 275-3799 (see ad)
(A) Mascarela Music, Diane, 277-9751

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

Gardening:
(I) Green Earth Gardening, Susan, 337-3543 (see ad)

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

General Contracting:
(A) House Surgeons, Ken, 561-5274

Gifts:
(I) Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joann/Marlah, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Love of Alaska, Talyne, 243-0876

Hairdressing:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045 (see ad)
(G) Jim, 338-6749
(A) Lifespa, Internatt'l, Ledjha, 411

Health:
(I) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(A) Skin care, Shari, 688-2963

Health, naturopathic:
(A) Hope, 561-2330

Helpline:
(G/I) Identity Helpline, 258-4777
(G/I) 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 (see ad)

**Hypnotherapy:**
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-6582

**Jewelry:**
(A) Peggy's Jewelry & Repair, Peggy, 562-1095

**Landscaping:**
(L) Green Earth Gardening, Susan, 337-3543 (see ad)

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

**Massage (therapeutic, Swedish, Shiatsu, and much more):**
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045 (see ad)
(L) Leslie, 277-0713 (see ad)
(L) Vicki, 277-5222

**Mental Health:**
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 258-2561 (see ad)
(A) Connie, 345-0088
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(L) Janna, 562-1826
(A) Mental Health Consumers of Alaska, Brian, 277-3817

**Mortgage Brokers:**
(A) City Mortgage, Lynn LaPerriere, 277-0700 (see ad)

**Native Arts/Culture:**
(A) Moon Dancer Arts, Rosemary (Wasilla), 373-5353

**Painting:**
(L) L & L Painting, Lisa, 277-7549

**Pet Care:**
(A) Doggie Hut, Arlid, 279-5861 (see ad)

**Photography**
(G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 337-3399 (see ad)

**Political:**
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America, Ruth, 333-1190
(G/L) EQUAL, the Alaskan Gay & Lesbian Task Force, 561-1755, x1021
(G/L) March on Washington, Lori: 274-5674, Doug: 277-3862

**Printing, Electronic Graphics:**
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-0460
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
(A) Timeframe, 562-3822 (see ad)

**Private Investigators:**
(L) K & K Investigating, Karyn, 561-3665

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

**Real Estate:**
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-7481 (see ad)
(A) Bronwyn Hillman, 248-2804; 563-5156 (see ad)
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 279-7611
(L) Dynamic Properties, Lucille, 279-7611 (see ad)
(A) Dynamic Properties, Steven, 279-7611

**Restaurants:**
(G) Cyrano's Cafe, 274-1173
(G) O'Brady's, 345-5033, 338-1080, 563-1080 (see ad)

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

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

**Sociology, research:**
(L) Susan Johnson, Ph.D., 272-4113

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

**Sports:**
(L) 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 (see ad)

**Travel:**
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, Cherresse, 361-0661 (see ad)

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

**Writing & Editing Assistance:**
(L) Mel Mel, 276-7269 (see ad)

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Growing Up in America  
Danville, Ohio: Population 100  
by Paul Cole

In Danville, when I grew up in the early and late fifties, there were two country grocery stores and two garages. There was also one church, the Danville Church of Christ, and a Township house, a meeting place for local government (elections and sometimes community dinners were held there.) The stores were a place for shopping, socializing or just "loafing." Saturday nights were the nights to sit and talk with your neighbors after the farming chores had been completed for the week. You could stay up late, as Sunday was the day of rest and the time to go to church.

I felt separated from the farmers and their sons for I didn't even know how to drive a tractor or milk a cow. Yet I didn't have the "sophistication" that I felt Hillsboro would afford, if I had lived there. Hillsboro was eight miles away, barely a city of five to ten thousand people, where I was finally bused to attend my later years of grade school and high school.

One of the first Danville community feuds I remember had to do with schooling. My first three grades were completed in a one room, red brick school house that had a pot belied stove, portable metal water cooler for drinking, and a Stuart reproduction of George Washington that hung on the wall behind the teacher who had his desk on the half step stage at the front on the room. Stroupie was the name of our middle aged teacher, we called him Stroupie to his back. His shape resembled the pot belied stove itself. We played a game called "Handy Over" that consisted of throwing a ball over the high pitched roof of the school house and, if caught, throwing the ball at one of the members of the other team until all the members of one team had been hit. A middle-aged spinster music teacher came once a week whom we insulted and assaulted. Stroupie used switches gathered from the trees from the small woods that were behind the outside toilets. He had his favorites, usually older girls, from the eight grades he taught: about twenty or twenty-five students in all. One day he was writing the grades on the report cards and was obviously angered by all of the students pressing around him. He swung his arm and fist around hitting me in the stomach. I cried in the coal bin shack behind the school, alone, as I tried to catch my breath from his uncaring and unprovoked assault.

One other time several girls, five or six years older than myself, took my pants down for probably no other reason than to humiliate someone they considered a sissy. "Sissy" and "Pauline" were epithets I heard often. A boy who was later to be one of my few friends said he actually thought my name was Pauline as that was the only name he had ever heard me called.

Stroupie was finally canned, not so much from his ineptness or cruelty, but because he chased the seventh and eighth grade girls, grabbed them, and kissed them. My parents and especially my mother wanted us to go to Hillsboro to school, and if I thought about such things, I probably wanted it also.

Tim Wade and his wife Ruth owned the smaller of the two grocery stores. Tom Page hated me. He knew Bobbie Jo and I were "messing around" in her barn and used to intimidate that he was going to tell my father. Even then I used to think what would really happen if he also knew I was "messing around" with Larry who lived across from the store. Bobbie Jo initiated these contacts. Even though she was younger than I, she seemed to have the experience of someone who knew what intercourse was really about. We continued these escapades until she joined the church and was baptized, probably at the age of 11, 12 or 13. Gary and I continued fooling around with each other even when I was dating a childhood "sweetheart" in my later years of high school. When he talked of our finding a girl and became a full sized male himself, I knew it was over. Through all of this, I knew I was damned, going straight to hell and was constantly guilt ridden.

Tom Page did tell on me once, but not about Larry or Bobbie Jo. He told my father that he saw me walking backwards on the road which led up the hill to our house. Now, how many cars go through "Danville Ohio Population 100" (DOPO) in an hour? I thought my father was going to beat the wadden out of me, probably not because he was afraid I would get hit by a car, like he said, but more likely because I was doing something different, something unacceptable. Any difference was suspect and not tolerated easily.

I grew up in the church, attending every Sunday, and wore proudly an eight year perfect attendance pen. I wore a Christian ring even in high school with "I.M.H. inscribed on it which stood for "I Am His." I had several official offices in the church and a was a leader in the Young Peoples Group. We bought pew cushions for the church by putting on plays at the 17 other Churches of Christ in the county where we lived. We had socials and played shuffle board in the parsonage basement. I was close to the ministers, but closer to the ministers wives who seemed more available and understanding. They became my substitute family as I had to escape my own. Other
people in Danville, often old people, were kind to me and seemed to accept what others may have thought were my peculiar ways. I would go to the store for them or borrow their encyclopedias. They showed me an acceptance, if not love, that I was unable to accept or find at home. I was afraid to experience this acceptance at home, possibly for some of the same reasons I would not identify with my father. I was afraid I would end up like him, a laborer, one who got dirty and worked by the sweat of his brow. I was afraid I would never escape Danville. We often identify with those people and things with which we have strong feelings. My father, while often angry and seemingly insensitive, was also honest, hard working and always willing to help a neighbor. It was his traits of honesty and integrity (possibly his most important character traits), with which I like to feel I have most identified.

Dannville Ohio Population 100 still looks about the same as it did thirty years ago when I grew up there. The people have had to address some of the same problems experienced in urban areas, but at the same time some things seem unchanged. There are still no blacks, Jews, gays or any minorities, but then neither are there plumbers, doctors, beggars or Indian chiefs. The repressive qualities are all still there, but they are both a put-down and a test of strength, character building. There is a self-conscious, self-effacing attitude, but a sense of pride in living a life with others close to the environment. The people are not effusive and may even seem cold, but they still bring food to a family who has experienced a death.

My experience growing up in my small rural community has helped me to experience my adult environment in a spiritual way: God being all around us and in us, a higher being in all that we experience.

The way we did and did not touch each other, physically and emotionally, helped me to know how important communication really is. I have done a life work communicating and being intimate with others, in trying to help them solve their life problems. I like to feel that I am capable in that capacity, but I know I have been helped by all that I experienced while growing up in a community and with people that I both loved and abhorred.

Paul Cole was born in Danville, Ohio on July 17, 1940. He died on Sunday morning, April 25, 1993 in Anchorage, while in Washington, D.C. one million Americans marched for Gay Civil Rights.

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Film Festival for Lesbian & Gay Pride

At the Capri --

Gay/Lesbian Film Series:

6/4-17 Claire of the Moon. (Benefit on Thursday 6/3 for the Women's Bookstore)! Two women are deliberately assigned as roommates at an Oceanside writer's retreat; one hetero and the other one homo. If you liked Desert Hearts, you'll love this one! It's for everyone who ever wondered...

6/11-17 Three of Hearts. An equal opportunity love story/comedy with a refreshingly open-minded attitude toward the definition of love, regardless of sexual preference.

6/4-11 Silverlake Life: A View from Here. (Golden Gate Award/1993/Golden Teddy 1993). A highly personal journey towards death of film maker Tom Joslin and his 22 year companion, Mark Massi, both of whom are stricken by AIDS. A testament to an extraordinary relationship.

AT CYRANO'S --

Lesbian & Gay Pride Mini-Film Festival 6/18-23

6/18-21 American Fabulous. A portrait of a wild storytelling homosexual named Jeffrey Strouth. His account of a vivid, lurid lifestyle is captivating, edearing, moving.

6/18-21 She Must Be Seeing Things. The strength of a love affair between two women, a lawyer and a film maker is tested when the lawyer disguises herself as a man and jealously "shadows" her lover.

6/20 and 22-24 Silence = Death. This film documents the struggle between homosexuals and people with AIDS on one hand, and an uncaring apathetic society and government on the other. Positive shows the response to AIDS by homosexual men in New York, and details the struggle of a minority which has organized itself because the state and city have ignored its existence. Featured in these films are the works by and interviews with, Allen Ginsberg, Rafael Gamba and Emilio Cubiero, among others.

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

Betty Talmadge, b. 1924, American meat broker

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