KATE CLINTON

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NATIONALLY KNOWN LESBIAN COMIC

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1st

STATE-WIDE CONFERENCE SEP. 30th-Oct. 2nd

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY OCTOBER 11th

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY DANCE OCT. 1st
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Identity 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.


Distribution: the NorthView is mailed automatically (non-profit, bulk mail) to members of Identity (special reduced-rate memberships are considered upon written request to the Board of Identity). Identity’s mailing list is confidential and is not sold, given or loaned to anyone; however, special mailings under the auspices of Identity are occasionally sanctioned. Copies of NorthView are also distributed at select businesses in the Anchorage area. Financial contributions are gladly accepted to defray mailing costs.

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Submissions: 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 OK or MAC (HIGH DENSITY ONLY)). All media will be returned. All contributions must be signed, but upon request names will be withheld or pseudonyms used. NorthView reserves the right to edit as necessary and to refuse to print any article submitted.

Deadlines: All articles must be received by the 5th of the month for inclusion in that month's NorthView.

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Phone: Anchorage Gay & Lesbian Helpline 907-258-4777. Hours: Thurs-Mon, 6pm-11pm. Messages left during off hours will be returned as soon as possible.

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Whistling in the Dark
by Andrew Holleran

It's not hard to write an essay on Gay pride—there's a formula. An essay on Gay pride must be defiant, uplifting and celebratory. It's based on the idea that pride is essential, self-esteem crucial, and, in the words of a popular song, the greatest love is learning to love yourself, et cetera; that every Gay person—no matter what slings, arrows, mud pies and rocks have been thrown at him or her—has a story to tell. It's based on the idea that there is nothing wrong with being homosexual.

Often this includes a personal story—a suicide attempt, sometimes, or a period during adolescence when you thought you were the only one in the world; then a moment of truth, perhaps, when you had to hide your sexual orientation to protect yourself or your career (leading to a vow: never again!), followed by a move to a large city, acquisition of a lover and circle of Gay friends, participation in a Gay pride march, and, finally, self-acceptance in the company of many others like yourself who give you the strength to know you are not alone and there is nothing wrong with you, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

That, at any rate, is the traditional valedictory model—of even the speeches we can hardly bear when we do get to the end of the march and the afternoon's festivities begin, through a cloud of dust, over the heads of thousands of strangers, on a PA system. It's been 25 years since the Stonewall Riots, and the experience of Gay Pride Day has become as formulaic as that of any other celebration of this sort: tired, dusty and predictable. The speeches really don't matter—innermost thoughts turn into platitudes whenever the audience numbers more than five—and the point anyway seems to be the crowd, and nothing more; the act, in this advertising-soaked culture, of advertising ourselves.

Gays do this because we feel we would otherwise remain what we are the other 364 days of the year; invisible. Like the octopus when cornered, shooting out black ink, or the skunk its odor, or the porcupine its quills, this organism of Gay people—the Gay pride march—gathers in the street to show its fellow citizens it is not cowed, cannot be removed, refuses to disappear. In other words, we behave much like other minorities in American life.

We are in the minority, of course; when I stepped out of my apartment building to march in New York City in the '70s, I was always acutely conscious of the fact. The city, for one thing, looked so normal when I got downstairs; as if nobody else even knew, much less cared, this was Gay Pride Day. Most of my Gay friends were at the beach; it was considered very odd in 1978 to come back to the hot and grimy city just to march. Before AIDS there was a flabbiness to pride day; there was no particular urgency, no particular reason to feel one had to march, much less get up a precious summer Sunday at the beach. Going to the march was like going to a barbecue. There would be heat, dust, the usual floats, a disco truck, some drag, speakers at the very end one could barely hear; and then the subway home.

The subway home astonished me—or rather, the instant I decided to say good-bye and walked away from the crowd in Central Park to go home—the tenuous, invisible, subjective nature of homosexual identity hit me with enormous force. A great deflation, and doubt, set in. After the initial nervousness of marching to the West Village to take one's place in the ranks of homosexuals, after the fun of seeing friends, the hot, thrilling trek up Fifth Avenue, the odd way the march petered out in a vast sea of tired people in a meadow in Central Park, the huge, dust-covered mob of fellow homosexuals, I found myself on the IRT going back to the East Village; once more in a city that was going about its business quite as usual, because it did not have to proclaim its sexual preference (it was straight)—and a feeling of intense loneliness came over me. Well, I thought, you go and march with all those people, but you end up alone. That, in the end, is homosexuality; not a political plank, not a social movement, but an individual, personal fact, the most individual, personal of facts—the search for one other person on this earth to love. What does marching have to do with that? The personal is not political. Homosexuality was not something I was proud of, but something I had to merely accept, like my height or the color of my hair.

In fact, I suspected most Gay people were not proud of being Gay—they simply accepted it, too—and the ones shouting the loudest the slogans of Gay pride were probably the ones dealing with the heaviest amount of Gay shame. Not to mention those whose witticisms, whose behavior, indicated a certain despair over the fact—a kind of bitter self-mockery. The number of people I knew who
genuinely felt no shame over their homosexual orientation was fairly small. The vast majority, I suspected, would merely have agreed with Freud's statement, in a letter to an American woman who was worried about her son, that homosexuality, while no vice, was assuredly no advantage.

The roommate I had in New York, for instance, belonged to the category of those who doth protest too much. "God, I love being Gay," he'd say as we walked over to the march. "The only thing I'd rather be today is Lesbian!" This same roommate killed himself a few years later, at the onset of AIDS; depressed by what was happening to his friends and feeling trapped, I suspected, by homosexuality in a life he felt was going to be increasingly lonely. He was one of those whose enthusiasm masked the opposite. Yet he stands today as only one of many examples of the toll Gay life has taken on men I knew, or knew of. AIDS is the most obvious explanation; but AIDS only clouds the issue. On this day I still ask the same silent question I did going home on the subway nearly 15 years ago: What does Gay pride have to do with actual Gay life?

The insecurities of minorities are well-known; a refusal to examine "dirty linen" in public because this might feed the stereotypes (of the Caucasians, or gentiles, or heterosexuals, or whoever); the absurd idea that self-criticism can only be self-loathing; an aversion to criticism from any source. Gay life too often reflects this. When do you find—except, perhaps, in the occasional letter to the editor—a discussion of the thoughts we generally keep to ourselves, or share only with close friends; the fear of growing old as a Gay person, the emphasis on looks, the fudging of the ethics of sex in a time of AIDS, the suspicion that all that matters is our dicks? Not to mention the degree to which we still retain the belief that we are safe as long as we remain invisible, the belief that makes Gay pride days necessary, in a way. "Don't ask, don't tell," after all, is not only the policy President Clinton has asked the Pentagon to accept; it is in reality the way most Gay people actually live their lives in civilian society. Which means that each year on the arrival of Gay Pride Day—or week or month—I wish we would look at the degree to which we remain ashamed; of our behavior, looks, age, failure to connect, inability to integrate sex with the rest of our lives, whatever it is that flavors our own self-judgment. (There is nothing wrong with self-judgment, by the way, so often tarred with the word self-loathing; it is the beginning of honesty and change.) Along with the marches, the display that counters our invisibility every other day of the year, it might be useful if Gay Pride Day came with a Gay Shame Day—a sort of self-examination, a Yom Kippur.

Having said that—here comes the uplift—it is impossible not to acknowledge what has happened in the 25 years since Stonewall. No one marching in 1973 or 1978 could have imagined the disease that has been, perversely, the means by which Gay life entered national politics; the American Psychiatric Association's dropping its classification of homosexuality as a disease; the incredible burgeoning of Gay publishing, movies, film festivals, academic studies, political groups. What does this march have to do with me? is a question I no longer ask, living in a small town down south. In small towns down south, there are no marches, and one realizes very quickly that Gay culture—Gay pride, if you will—is a product of New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, Boston. And that Stonewall marked a change in consciousness. The people in that bar said: The cops can no longer harass us because we are Gay. From that, everything else followed. The response to Anita Bryant, to Pat Buchanan and his confreres, the American military, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the plague itself. There has been an extraordinary release of energy and defiance.

Unfortunately too much remains the same; the way we flee our families in hometowns to hide in big cities; the way so many of us have sex as if we were disposing of toxic waste; the still-noticeable discrepancy between the slogans and the daily lives. The relationship between the personal and the political has yet to be established. Gay pride and Gay shame still seem to me individual, temperamental qualities, almost independent of circumstance. Slogans and chants are easy to shout—one day a year, in large crowds. Living honestly as an individual Gay person is not. (After all, most Gay people were brought up to be straight.) "Black Is Beautiful" was coined because African-Americans thought themselves ugly in a culture whose images of beauty were all white; we kid ourselves if we don't acknowledge our own sense of dislocation is as great. Gay pride is still a degree a whistling in the dark for many people, and we should use some portion of this annual moment of reflection to work not only on "them," but on us. Otherwise every generation of Gay people, I fear, is going to see what mine has: a great deal of human wreckage.

Thanks to Frontiers Newsmagazine, 6/17/94.

Andrew Holleran is the author of "Dancer From the Dance," "Nights In Aruba" and "Ground Zero."
Martial Arts & the Gay Games
by Darl Schaaff

In 1989 some friends gave me a copy of The Advocate with a story on the up-coming Gay Games in Vancouver, B.C. I was fascinated with the quantity and the apparent quality of the participants. A single line of information captured my attention, For the first time, Martial Arts will be included as a sport. As a long time Martial Artist I knew I wanted to go and compete. The rest is history. At the Games in 1990, I was the one and only member of a prestigious but tiny group known as Team Alaska. The experience changed my life. Never before had I experienced such enthusiasm, such spirit and such extraordinary support as an athlete. Competition was not new to me as I had been active on the tour-nament scene in Alaska, Florida and even Washing-ton state. In all my fights, all my demon-strations, this was the first time that my opponent actually kissed me when we finished and asked me out to dinner.

When the next games were planned for 1994, there was never a question about going. My registration was completed and sent almost a year in advance. June arrived and with it the most exciting week of my life. This time I was not alone. Another man and a woman were also going. Competing in Track and Field and body building, we three became a still small but formidable group known as Team Alaska. Throughout the week of the games the city was alive with beautiful, talented athletes from 43 countries. The weather cooperated a bit too well and every day was in the 90's. This only encouraged the young and the built to parade their well formed bodies, men and women, in the streets. Everywhere there were friendly faces, good conversation and that constant feeling of encouragement and support.

Friendships develop quickly in competitive sports and New York was no exception. In my case there were several alumni from Vancouver and many new faces. Martial Arts had 235 competitors from 7 countries. The Dutch team was 17 strong, the Germans were big and tough, a woman from Japan shared the lessons of her culture and one of the Canadian National Champions competed. It was the most exciting event that I have experienced. For the first time men and women competed against each other in some divisions. The numbers were evenly split between men and women, and the women were fantastic.

The social scene included an international arts and culture festival and naturally there were the parties. Some had 5,000 people dancing to the early morning hours. One party was held on an aircraft carrier. Some were outdoors, many had themes and most had big name entertainers. The opening and closing ceremonies included speakers, music and a great deal of comedy. This was truly a celebration of life and of our success. The specter of AIDS was everywhere but the spirit of Unity 94 was undaunted by the heat, the epidemic or the religious right. Stonewall is another story for another time.

My advice to all reading this is to begin now putting away your pennies and plan on going to Amsterdam in 1998. It will change your life.


Identity Fourth Friday Potluck & Social

Fred Hillman and Sylvia Short talk about P-FLAG—Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Join Identity at its celebrated Fourth Friday Potluck Social. Bring a dish, whether soup, salad, main dish, deviled eggs, hors d'oeuvres, fruit salad, bread, dessert, chips, dip, pizza, etc. Identity provides the drinks (tea, coffee, punch). Admission is free. Donations are unabashedly appreciated.

Date: Friday, September 23rd.
Time: 6:30pm doors open/socialize; 7pm dinner; 7:30pm announcements & program
Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St.
Program: A new chapter has started in Anchorage and is affiliated with the national Federation P-FLAG. Fred and Sylvia will also share their experiences from the national P-FLAG convention just held in San Francisco.
Nation's First “Gay” Long-Distance Company Goes to Court
by Stephen D. Moore

In what may be a precedent-setting case, two long-distance companies are embroiled in a legal battle to determine which one actually owns a 20,000-plus customer base of mostly gay men and lesbians.

The principal players in the battle over money and customers are CommunitySpirit, a long-distance company marketed to the gay community and Trans National Communications, the Boston-based company CommunitySpirit hired to act as its long-distance carrier.

CommunitySpirit, which is owned by Overlooked Opinions, a Chicago gay market-research and political polling firm, first hired Trans National as its carrier in 1992. A legal battle began in February 1994 when CommunitySpirit terminated its contract with Trans National, “because Trans National was unable or unwilling to honor contractual obligations,” said Jeffrey Vitale, president of CommunitySpirit.

In terminating the contract, CommunitySpirit cited a slew of contractual breaches including poor customer service, overbilling, homophobic comments and treatment towards customers, improper cancellation of service and violation of an agreement regarding customer privacy.

Trans National has denied all of the allegations, saying they have treated customers equally and fairly.

In addition, CommunitySpirit has said that since termination of the contract by CommunitySpirit, Trans National has contacted thousands of gay and lesbian customers to say it was launching its own gay-oriented long-distance program known as “The Pride Network.” The mailing offered two $5 checks for customers, one of which was to go to customers preferred charity. When endorsed, the checks switched customers over to the Pride Network.

CommunitySpirit estimates that they lost 10 to 15 percent of their customer base because of the mailing. They then charged Trans National with trademark infringement, suggesting that Trans National was tricking customers into believing that CommunitySpirit had changed its program name to The Pride Network.

Trans National denies misleading customers, saying that, “CommunitySpirit is not a registered long distance company.”

In addition, CommunitySpirit says that there is a fundamental question involved: Should a “straight” company such as Trans National be allowed to “steal” business away from a gay-owned/operated company like Overlooked? “It’s greed,” Bartelli said, “they realized the power of the gay market and they want the money.”

Trans National has responded with charges that CommunitySpirit did not always serve the gay community as promised.

CommunitySpirit, from its inception, had pledged to donate two percent of all long-distance proceeds to customer-chosen charities. As of March, Trans National claimed that no evidence could be found that CommunitySpirit had made any donations, said Eric McNulty, Trans National’s assistant vice president.

“CommunitySpirit only began to make donations after Trans National began inquiries in February,” McNulty said.

Joe Bartelli, vice president of CommunitySpirit, contends that the issue of donations has never and should never have been in question with Trans National since the contract stated that they would pay donations on an annual basis. Bartelli claims that CommunitySpirit made its first donation in April 1994 for fiscal year 1993, a full month ahead of schedule.

CommunitySpirit continues to do business, using a new long-distance carrier, AmeriConnect.

In the meantime, a federal district court has declined to rule on the request by CommunitySpirit on an injunction against Trans National. The court also declined to rule on an injunction by Trans National against Overlooked from attempting to switch customers back to CommunitySpirit.

Thanks to Frontiers, June 17, 1994.
Lesbian and Gay Couples Can Protect Their Legal Rights

There are over 25 million Gay men and Lesbians in the United States, many in committed relationships. While same-sex couples still can’t legally marry in the United States, they can protect the legal rights to which they are entitled.

Using the new edition of A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples (Nolo Press, 1994) same-sex couples can:

- obtain domestic partnership benefits
- designate each other to make medical & financial decisions in emergencies
- protect their parental rights in a custody fight
- buy property together
- provide for each other at death by creating legally valid estate plans

Couples can use the tear-out forms and sample documents in A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples to create all the documents necessary to safeguard them in the event of break-up, death or disability. Written by three attorneys, A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples is the only book of its kind—a reliable, easy-to-read legal resource for same-sex couples. New in the 8th edition is the latest information on:

- efforts to legalize same-sex marriage
- efforts to expand domestic partners’ benefits
- getting residency for a partner who is not a citizen or legal resident
- parenting options for Lesbians and Gay men
- making the smartest decisions for medical care—emergency and long term

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Notice! Notice! Notice! Notice! Notice! Notice!
Do you wish to receive your NorthView in a "brown paper wrapper"? Several people have said they’d like that. Others have said they would become members of Identity ONLY if they could receive their NorthViews that way. Well, now you can. For only $50 per year, you can have a membership AND receive this rag, by First Class Mail, in a regular mailing. Overseas mail is $75 per year. Drop a note to Identity, P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070. We’ll do the rest!
"In Search Of... a new vision for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals..."
by Matthew T. Fast

Why this conference now? Ever found yourself bitching because everybody else is bitching too much? It’s such a shame that, as human beings, we’re such chronic grippers.

In the gay community, we’re guilty of our share of griping, too. The problem is, while bickering may be an everyday nuisance for the rest of the world, it’s fraught with danger for homosexuals—at least while we’re under siege from certain fringe political groups.

Perhaps it’s time to refocus. Not on our differences or the issues that divide us. But on our common desires. Our collective yearnings.

For the first time in a long time, we now have that opportunity. A wide array of people from the Alaska Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community has developed a conference for the rest of us. Its purpose is to help us identify and take ownership of a new vision for Alaska’s homosexuals. A complete description of the workshop has been included as an insert to this issue of the NorthView.

Mark your calendars for Sept. 30th, Oct. 1st and 2nd.; you’re invited to participate in a conference by, for and about our Community. Take a close look at the insert in this NorthView for details. The conference includes workshops by many fine local and Outside presenters; Ellen Ratner will deliver the keynote address as well as present a workshop; there will be food, fellowship and explorations of our Community.

Zero shame is a goal. It’s so simple. Yet it’s a shame that it must still be stated. But it also illustrates the work we have to do, getting to the point where one’s homosexual relationships can be routinely and candidly discussed. Even in (gasp) mixed company.

Another goal will be spiritual healing.

Ooh... there’s that S word. Just remember: one need not be religious to be spiritual (the opposite is true also — we’ve all met them at church). Healing is for everyone. Whether you have a specific part in need of repair, or you just enjoy the idea of an all-over, inside-out soothing feeling, healing is for everyone.

Regardless of our circumstances, each of us can only get out of life what we put into it. Even if you were able to pull more than your share, it would be stealing.

Imagine a gyroscope. Once it achieves momentum, the forces of nature bring it into perfect balance, resting on a single point in space. The amount of energy to gain the momentum, however, is considerable.

That’s where we are. We need to create momen-tum toward the ultimate goal of balance. The first step is to come together as often as possible to pur-sue our collective happiness. Even if that’s all we do, the energy expended will create considerable momentum. The alternative is no pursuit, no momentum and a limp gyroscope.

See you at UAA.

Matt Fast, like Johnny Carson, was born in Omaha, got to Alaska courtesy of Uncle Sam and currently has a devoted partner (having previously been married with children). ▼

MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE FORM

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

Here is my contribution of: □ $25 □ $35 □ $50 AND □ $25 □ $35 □ $100 □ Other Per Month for one year

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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
A Real Choice for Alaska?
by Dan Carter

On Tuesday, November 9, we will once again go to the polls to elect a new Governor and Lieutenant Governor to lead Alaska. As usual, this election is being billed as one of the most important in Alaska's history. Our community has been battered at the polls in many states and Alaska is not much different...or is it?

In the primary election last month, about 30% of the registered voters bothered to even show up at the polls...that's right, less than 1 out of 3 people voted! As committed as our political "enemies" are, the primary results did offer some positive results. Many candidates supportive of equality for all people made it into the final election. EQUAL will once again submit a survey to each candidate and distribute it to our members (sign up below if you're not a member). If you're not sure who you will vote for and have questions about their position on equal rights, education, a woman's right to choose or any other issue important to you, be sure to contact the candidates before you go to vote. Help elect favourable candidates by encouraging your friends to vote. But, most of all.....VOTE!!!!

Governor/Lt. Governor

Jack Coghill/Margaret Ward* (AFI) 465-3520
Tony Knowles/Fran Ulmer (D) 276-8669
Jim Sykes/Roger Lewis (G) 258-7781
Jim Campbell/Mike Miller (R) 563-1994

U.S. Congress

party has no candidate
Tony Smith (D) 258-8818
Jonni Whitmore (G) 235-7712
Don Young (R) 563-4314

IMPORTANT NOTICES!

• EQUAL will soon be mailing out information concerning candidates and reminder notices for the election-time polls are open, where you vote, etc. If you're not a member of EQUAL, complete the form to the right and mail it as soon as possible.

• The last day to register to vote is October 9. Register at any library or call Dan Carter at 274-9226 for more information.

NOTE: Other candidates & parties may appear on the November ballot.

There are also many races for State Senator and State Representative.

Party Affiliation of candidates for statewide offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Congressperson:
(AFI)–Alaskans for Independence
(D)–Democrat
(G)–Green Party
(R)–Republican

(*at press time, rumours continue that Tom Fink may replace Ward)

Name(s):__________________________
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PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFO, IF YOU KNOW IT:
YOUR VOTER PRECINCT NUMBER:
YOUR VOTER DISTRICT NUMBER:

* If you receive your mail at a post office or any location other than your actual residence, please put your home address or the nearest intersection to your home so we can determine which information will be sent to you. Thanks!

EQUAL
PO Box 244452
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The Amazon Trail:
Sundials and Starlight
by Lee Lynch

I never needed an appointment book until I was thirty-five years old. Then, during some relationship problems and burnout at work I needed a doctor, a chiropractor, a counselor and a whole lot of friends to get through the long, gruesome nights. Fried by overwork and emotional distress I couldn’t keep track of where I had parked my car, much less who I was supposed to meet and when. "This," I tell people still, as I wave the Dayrunner in front of them, "is my memory."

My friend the therapist and I used to meet once a week like clockwork, same day, same time, same little cafe, for years. Then she left her structured nine-to-five job. Our friendship is in chaos. Between her three kids, with their Tai Chi classes, her private practice clients with their crises, and my schedule, it takes the yuppie equivalent of the sundial—appointment books—to get us in the same space for the same three seconds in a row. Time has become so scarce that I wish for an electronic calendar with an alarm to signal appointments. Only I’d never take the time to set it.

What in the world makes the days so complex? My relationship is thriving and stable, I’ve had essentially the same job for the past ten years and haven’t left town for longer than one night for months. Of course, aside from my job, I do have this journalism career with a column and book reviews and occasional features. I do normally have a novel in the works—the equivalent of at least three kids—and any number of short stories at various stages of completion, plus some free-lance editing work. There are the animals, both domesticated and wild, with their attendant feeding and cleaning schedules, vet appointments and play times. There is Lover, with whom I like to while away a spare moment or two now and then. There are Mean Norma Jean’s recent health problems and Georgie whose kitty died and Carol whose birthday present needs wrapping and sending.

And oh, yes! There are the hours on post office lines required of any free-lancer and the organic vegetables to be hunted down and the laundry, always laundry. There’s fighting the radical right, the collapsing universal joint on my eighteen year-old car and the flowers to be watered in summer, the wood to be toted in winter—and sleep? What’s that?

Remember the summers of childhood, when in two months that seemed to stretch forever one lolled about reading all of the Dr. Doolittle books? Remember bicycling to the park, rolling down a hill, sitting under a tree just looking at the world? I keep thinking I’ll get time like that again, but another summer’s gone and the Dayrunner never took a vacation.

There are a thousand little details that suck up seconds like vacuum cleaners. It’s been weeks now since I bought a modular extension jack that will enable me to switch phone lines between my job phone and my home phone without getting behind a door, lifting a table flap, crawling under the table and following written directions about which line goes where—and then reversing the process. When will I find the ten minutes it will take to install? Even knowing that ten minutes one time will save all kinds of ten minutes later, especially when I’m in such a hurry I plug the wrong gizmo into the wrong thingamajig and end up on all fours redoing the mess.

Those phone wires are what brought home to me the frenzy my life has become. I got up from my desk one day and a cord, with obvious malice aforethought, wrapped itself around my ankle and yanked. I watched it happen, couldn’t stop my forward fall, and came to on the other side of the room on my back. A common household fall. No big deal. Wrong.

Once the nausea subsided and my jellied legs held me upright, I went about my business. I thought it was funny that I couldn’t remember the fall after the cord’s yank. Until I told the tale to my therapist friend, who had been though this with her kids. Concussion, she diagnosed. Two months to recover, said my chiropractor. Inability to concentrate, mental confusion, depression, were some symptoms. I couldn’t write and was incapable of directing my characters’ lives, much less my own. I didn’t have time for an injury!
It happens that my job puts me in contact with a program for the brain injured. I was to meet with the director about a client, but got the appointment time mixed up. The director, when I half-jokingly told her about my post-fall level of functioning, only half-jokingly suggested I enroll in her program. Told me I might expect symptoms for up to six months. After I left I realized that I’d forgotten to set up our next meeting. I began living in dread of another lapse, of my declining years when I would no longer be able to keep up with the appointment book that rules my life. Was this a foretaste of what aging would be like? Will I waste more and more time as time becomes more and more precious? How will I survive without the scheduling agility that matches every minute from oblivion and puts it to work?

Lover and I bought tickets to see “Snoopy” at the local outdoor music theater last weekend. I raced through the Saturday errands like an efficiency expert. The first half was not up to this troupe’s usual standards. Were we wasting our time? We considered leaving, but we’d placed our army blanket on the grassy hillside and stars were popping overhead. It was cool. Children rolled down the hill. People chatted on beach chairs. Snoopy resumed singing, dizzy Woodstock tumbled and stumbled, Sally called Linus her sweet baboo. Suddenly the silliness felt exactly right. My appointment book was two parking lots away. The hands on my watch continued their domineering march across the time of my life unnoticed. Lover and I lay back on the hillside, under the stars, and laughed.

Lee Lynch’s newest book of Lesbian stories, Cactus Love will be released from Naiaid Press this fall.

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, 1994. ▼

Thank you! to all our customers, and a special thanks to all who referred their friends and family, and helped make PFC’s first season a success.

We hope you will join us next year for more fishing, wildlife and sightseeing adventures on spectacular Resurrection Bay, Seward, Alaska - Captain Leslie Pemberton

PUFFIN FAMILY CHARTERS
P.O. Box 90743, Anchorage, AK 99509
(907) 278-3346
Dear Reader: hope you'll participate in our newest column. Please send questions for Christopher c/o the NorthView and when he gets his curlers unpacked, you can write him directly. Christopher Fabbro is a certified HIV pre- and post-test counselor and coordinator of the Lifeguard Project—the largest HIV prevention program in California. And he's a nice guy.

Queer Abby,
I was seeing someone for about a year, but things didn't work out, so we split up, but on good terms. Now, I'm having a commitment ceremony with my current partner and I want to invite my ex. What I don't want is for her new lover to come, because she's always been critical of everything about me, as if I was going to steal back my ex. How can I invite just my ex? I don't want the event ruined by someone else's pettiness.
J, L.A.

Queer J,
Congratulations! My best wishes to you, your partner, and your new life together.

You are in a very difficult place. It seems like you will have to make a minimum-damage choice instead of having an option that would satisfy everyone. For me, I'd probably call the new lover on her comments as they happen. You can do this in a number of ways. You can communicate on her level by throwing something Sandra Bernhard-esque right back at her (when she says, "There wasn't enough lavender in the smudge", you point to her purple coat—the one you've always hated—and say, "I see an ample amount."). This would require excellent repartee, however, and more bite than you might want to have. If you're not feeling so cunning, you can always take the Sparrow approach and acknowledge your feelings (like, "Lois, you're embarrassing me in front of all these special people and it hurts me"). I say take the middle ground: silence. When she says something mean-spirited, stand there and smile, letting the awkward quietness fester long enough for her to say something more. Usually it will be a meager attempt to downplay her previous comment, but it will always backfire. The damage has been done, and since you didn't take responsibility for it by responding to her, she has to dig herself out. Try it, you'll love it.

With this in mind, remember that pettiness only ruins what you let it.

Queer Abby,
I've been in a relationship for several months with a wonderful man. The only problem is that he is a slob. I like to keep a neat house and when I go to his place I start to tidy up for him. He gets defensive and blows up, then we fight and I leave. After a couple days we make up but it starts all over again. I think I really love him, but I can't stand him being messy. What can I do to get him to clean up?
Rob
P.S. I don't think I'm A.R.

Queer A.R.,
So why are you cleaning up his place, hon? How would you feel if he came over to your place and started messing it up to make it look like home to him? My cheap advice is to let him be as sloppy as he wishes because he'll never be you. Got it? Just remember, if you two ever move in together, that one half of your bedroom will look like Oscar's from The Odd Couple. (And P.S., I do indeed think you are anal retentive, but there's nothing wrong with that as long as you don't dis my kitchen) λ

Helpline

Make a contribution without leaving the couch...
The Identity HELPLINE provides an invaluable link to the Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transsexual/Gender Community throughout Alaska. You can help by answering the phone one night a month.

The next HELPLINE volunteer training is Wednesday, October 12 (for new volunteers), and Saturday, October 15 (for new AND experienced volunteers).

Call Jen Kohout, 272-7193, for more information.
Thank You
For Making our House a Home!!

This Summer Alaska opened the first ever housing project specifically designed to meet the needs of our loved ones living with HIV and AIDS. This project was made possible through the tremendous amount of community support it received. From fund raisers to work parties the community came together to support this terrific cause. We would like to thank each of you who gave of your time, effort and money.

At this time the first duplex is totally renovated and the residents have started to move in. We are still in the midst of renovating the second duplex. If you are able to donate some elbow grease it would be deeply appreciated. We are specifically looking for people skilled in painting, flooring and plumbing. There is still plenty of general labor things to complete as well! Each Saturday a group gathers at the Hill to complete the weekly “to do” list. We would like to have this duplex open as well before “the snow flies”.

The Housing Project was chosen as a National Model for Replication by the Department of Housing and Urban Development due to the tremendous amount of community support it has received. Much of this has come from the gay and lesbian community and contacts made from them. Thank you once again for your tremendous support.
Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHIV) Fundraising Project

Question: How can I raise money for Alaskans Living with HIV while I save $$$’s on my telephone bill?

Answer: Xenia Oleksa, a Native artist and Katherine Kolkhors Ruddy, have authorized Alaskans Living with HIV to use “Church in Winter” and other artwork for a pre-paid calling card through Amerivox.

Question: Who is Amerivox?

Answer: The No. 1 pre-paid calling card in the United States. Amerivox is a company that not only offers you 70% savings over AT&T, MCI and SPRINT cards, but also gives a percentage of its profits back to ALHIV, at no cost to you. Furthermore, there is no surcharge, no changing carriers, same rate 24 hours a day. The more you use it the cheaper it gets!

Question: Okay. Sounds interesting! Who do I call for more information and how do I purchase an Alaskans Living with HIV pre-paid calling card?

Answer: It’s Easy! Pick up the phone and call the ALHIV OFFICE at (907) 463-5688 or Jaylene at Amerivox (907) 463-6720. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Question: How soon can I begin using the ALHIV pre-paid credit card?

Answer: Immediately. There is absolutely no waiting to change carriers, switch systems, get credit approval, re-wire your home or office, change phones or phone system. Start your savings now!

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CALL: NLGLA at 202/389-0161 or contact your local Lesbian & Gay Law Association
In April of this year, the 4As submitted a Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS grant to HUD to assist couples and families living with AIDS in Alaska. The agency was notified last week that our proposal was chosen to be funded! This grant will provide assistance in a variety of areas which are not currently available in Alaska, including: three permanent housing units designed for couples and/or families, one transitional housing unit for emergency needs (and to allow for people traveling to Anchorage from the Interior for extended medical care), rental assistance for six couples or families, day care for children, purchase of a van for assisting clients to appointments, shopping, and entitlement meetings, and transporting children to/from day-care, financial counseling, short term rent/mortgage/utility assistance, housing search assistance, legal assistance for estate planning, home health care and skilled nursing care.

These services will become available once the funding is released from HUD. We are optimistically looking at January as the earliest possible date. Just a little side-note: couples and families under HUD’s new definitions include persons of the same gender!!!

We would like to thank Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for all their assistance with this grant, especially Mitzi, who has assisted our organization with many grants.

--

**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
Premiering Sept. 16

"An Exceptionally Touching Love Story!"

**The WEDDING GIFT** [PG13]

Also Starting Sept. 16

"A Hilarious Parody That Does For Rap
What "This Is A Spinal Tap" Did For Rock!

**Fear of A Black Hat** [R]

Premiering Sept. 23

"An Exuberant Bite Of Fresh Comic
Thinking."

**Barcelona** [PG13]

Premieres Sept. 30

A Sweeping Drama About Greed, Lust,
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Gerard Depardieu and Miou-Miou in

**GERMINAL** [R]

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From the Director of 'THE WEDDING
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**EAT DRINK
MAN WOMAN**

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A Gripping Comedy About Letting Go!

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"...and you're a disgrace to God!"

Upon entering my room, I immediately called St. Patrick's and talked to the "Head Usher." Before telling him what happened, I explained I was visiting from Alaska and because of the unbearable temperatures was wearing shorts and a tank top. I asked if it was OK to enter St. Pat's dressed as I was. And his response..."OF COURSE, IT'S OK!"

I then went on to explain what had happened. Now he took an entirely different approach. "The pink triangle is an offensive symbol to many." "When you enter a church you should respect the people worshiping there." "This is a church, not a tourist attraction" (couldn't resist here, asked him if the church knew there was a gift shop selling souvenirs inside the cathedral?). I tried to remain calm, all the while listening to a person justifying why it was correct for a church to be rude and inhospitable to two visitors. I asked him if inhospitable and rude behaviour was a sin. He didn't respond. I told him I thought it was. I asked him if discrimination was a sin. Again, he wouldn't respond. I told him I thought it was. He informed me of all the problems St. Pat's has had with ACT-UP. I told him I wasn't a member of ACT-UP and that we were Christians and attended church regularly in Anchorage. I ended our conversation with something our minister (Rev. Jim Morgan) uses quite often in his service. I told him what Jesus said: "You should love your neighbor as you love yourself." I went on to tell him that even though we lived thousands of miles from St. Patrick's, we were still his neighbor. His response, "that's your interpretation of the bible"

I have written letters to Cardinal John O'Connor in New York City, the Apostolic Pronuncio in Washington, DC and to Pope John Paul II concerning this incident and will provide Northview with their responses.

Before condemning Falwell, Prevo or the Pope for saying we can't be "Christian and gay," remember how many in our community say we can't be "gay and Christian." If we truly want equality and expect to "Celebrate Diversity," it must begin within our own community before we expect others to do likewise. As far as groups of people are concerned, we can't be anti-anyone and say we're pro-equality. Think about it...don't allow yourself to be as judgmental as a Prevo, a Pat Robertson or a Michael Johnston!

Dan Carter is a local gay activist
THE EYE
GOES TO CORONATION

Before the festivities actually got under way, there was the foyer. And, in addition to the regular ticket table and the this-is-the-food-you-can-buy-from-the-Sheraton-once-you're-inside table, there were the Belzer's. The T-shirts Stacy designed were on display and very nice. And the Fotos by Frank calendar (something for everyone) was EYEpealing. Many folks stopped by to look, congratulate and take one home. Want one? Look for the FbF ad. λ EYE could fall for WV, resplendent in Tux (alas, he's of the Straight persuasion). λ EYE was taken aback (or maybe affront) when RT showed up with new bf on arm (and pretty, too!). Not to mention a close relative and her bf! Not to mention another close relation and her bf! Talk about All In The Family. Let's go to the movies!! λ Couldn't help but notice the elderly lady at one of the tables. EYE got egg on her face when informed "she" was a, well, guy, and in drag, as a dowager empress. Quite impressive, JH. And a pilot, too! λ Quick Digression: at the BM several nights earlier, MC put on one incredible show doing an imitation of JakaBRB who does a great show in honor of MM—yes, THE MM. But that night belonged to MC, who was outstanding. The dress was perfect, the hair, the makeup, the mustache and the chest hair. Audience rapport was instant and close. Congratulations! λ Back to Coronation: EYE was agog at KP who showed up for one of the command performances in a skimpy 2-piece black, um, number. Bet that was good for a fantasy or two later on. λ D did a wonderful Diana Ross number, complete with audience participation. BW allowed as to how he'd done it better—on a cruise, of all places—oh, so many years ago. (Yes, the same BW from the restaurant.) λ EYE was genuinely pleased to see all the non-Gay/non-Lesbian people there. Entertainment at its best. Come again, y'all! λ Perhaps the most elaborate/outrageous entrance was by MD who showed up cleverly disguised as Chiquita Banana. She, and the Imperial Dancers, were faaabulous. λ There was the Hat Woman, too. EYE can't remember ever seeing her (MF for those who just have to know) in the same hat twice. Well, maybe once. λ ASN did the sets and lights, for those who appreciate the how-it-all-came-together-production-wise stuff. DS and crew did a magnificent job. λ JakaB (who won as Empress) did a number which EYE can only describe as "about as hot as it gets." λ The all Scottish entrance of BB was stunning—with bagpipes galore and that wonderful skirling sound! λ Can't say enough about JakaBRB. The MM ("Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend") number was perfection. She segued into several other pieces, including Madonna, and smoothly segued back to the final verses of "Diamonds." It was dazzling. Encore! λ EYE happened to spot DF who was in the company of a perfectly gorgeous woman (straight, we hear). Her reaction was wonderment, what else. Thanks for sharing! λ And now for the news. Seems a Prevoite (or so he was identified by P&P) was spotted video-taping the proceedings. He was delivered into the hands of DS (or so EYE was told) and you don't want to be delivered into the hands of DS when you know there are gold medals from the Gay Games involved—in martial arts. The Prevoite put up an argument, but DS, all honorable, bought back his ticket, told him to leave. They guy thought he'd get out with the video tape, but DS said no, and the person said he was "just going to look at it," and DS said "I know what you're going to do with it, (Ed. note: make the Alaska version of the "Gay Agenda" series that the Rabid Right is so fond of producing) and you're not leaving with it." Seems hotel security was standing by and the tape never left the hotel. λ In other news, Emperor Ross decreed that the Court would sponsor a Fur Randy float (yea!). λ EYE was moved to hear that Emperor I Craig's vest will be put on a panel for the Names Project Quilt. λ If EYE has left things out, please understand, EYE doesn't see all, just gets around a bit. Apologies for omissions. λ Last but not least were the awards. It was wonderful to see NBY, CT and MM (from the 4As) get scholarships. Yea! λ And the Wayne Hussey Award went to K! Yea! λ And the Peter Dispirito Award went to a very deserving JM from the MCC. λ EYE'll see you next Fall!
"In Search Of... a new vision for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals..."

Don't miss this important event.
Fill out the Registration form inserted in this NorthView.
Mail it now while you're thinking about it--you'll be glad you did.

The first Alaskan Gay, Lesbian, and Bi-sexual Conference since the early '70s will be held at the UAA campus from Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 1994.

Ellen Ratner from the Pride Foundation in Washington, D.C. will give the keynote address and will lead workshops. She is a dynamic speaker and well-known author.

Sarah Eaton and her co-therapist from Seattle will conduct a couples workshop involving relationship issues.

Liz Hendrickson from San Francisco and the National Center for Lesbian Rights will also be joining us.

And there are numerous exciting workshops presented by many Alaskans.

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Obituaries

Jerry Fitzsimonds

Anchorage resident Jerry Fitzsimonds, 45, died August 13 at his home from AIDS.

A memorial service was held at Holy Family Cathedral with Father LaSalle Hallissey officiating.

Mr. Fitzsimonds was born July 28, 1949, in Tacoma, Washington.

He graduated in 1967 from Puyallup High School in Washington. In 1976 he became a hairdresser and moved in 1979 to Anchorage.

He has worked at the following beauty salons in Anchorage: Wende's, Fremont Transfer and most recently Jeannie's Hair Salon.

Jerry was a volunteer with the Four A's. He took first place in the 1993-94 International Gay Bowling Organization.

He was devoted to his dogs, Kelsey and Katie, his gardening and most especially to his family and friends.

His family said, "Jerry touched the hearts of many with his sense of humor and his love of animals, especially Lacey, Katie and Kelsey. His presence incited otherwise well-behaved children to riot, made grumpy old men smile and genuinely made the world more fun."

He was preceded in death by his father, Francis Fitzsimonds and brother, Tim.

Mr. Fitzsimonds is survived by his mother, Doris Fitzsimonds of Puyallup, Washington; sister and brother-in-law, Theresa and Duane Sorensen of Kelso, Washington; four nephews and three nieces.

His urn will be interred at the family plot in Calvary Cemetery in Tacoma.

Memorials may be sent to the Alaska AIDS Assistance Association.

Arrangements were handled by Evergreen Memorial Chapels.

Anchorage Daily News, Monday, August 15, 1994

Stephen Powers

Stephen Powers died August 10 of AIDS in Anchorage.

A service was August 17 at English Mortuary in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Born March 30, 1953, in San Diego, California, he graduated from Pioneer High School in Whittier, California.

Mr. Powers enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. He came to Alaska in 1978 and worked as a liaison to the Korean Embassy, and then as an assistant florist.

Mr. Powers enjoyed many activities, including camping, floral arranging, following the royalty of Europe and collecting jeweled eggs.

His family said, "Stephen was loved by many and a true friend to all."

He was preceded in death by his life partner, Charles Best.

Mr. Powers is survived by his mother, Nancy of California; his father and step-mother, Dave and Jo of California; his daughter, Marissa Castro; his brother and sister-in-law, David and Theresa of California; his sister and brother-in-law, Felicia and Rex Overmeyer of California; his grandmother, Mary of California; two nieces and a nephew, in addition to many friends.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the Alaska AIDS Assistance Association, 1057 Fireweed Lane, Suite 102, Anchorage, 99508.

Anchorage Daily News, Tuesday, August 23, 1994

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Hot air HOTline
Anchorage’s own 5-woman a cappella garage band without a garage, Hot air will be the opening act for two outside groups at Acappella Festivella, September 30 at UAA. (Yes, the same night as the start of the “In Search Of…” conference.) Tickets are astoundingly reasonable—free for students and $17.00 for non-students. Tickets are available at the Alaska Women’s Bookstore and other places, too.
For those who want more, who can never get enough, who want a whole night of babes with tight harmonies but comfortable shoes, on November 5, Hot air will perform in their first concert all by themselves, at UAA in the Arts Building Recital Hall.
Check the NorthView and the KK for future HOT air concert updates.

TLC House Sitting
by Carol VanDyke
Call 271-4620
Plan Ahead - Book Early

Look at Your Mailing Label!
The new NorthView mailing labels now give you the renewal date for your Identity membership. Please refer to the line above your name. If the date is 199406, you are not a current, paid member. Please become one—we need your support! Otherwise, your membership expiration is expressed as year/month, i.e., 199408.

We are struggling to continue our activities, which include the NorthView, the monthly Potlucks and the Helpline, not to mention the Lesbian & Gay Pride Picnic and National Coming Out Day! Please send your membership now (more if you can, less if you can’t) and support your identity!

Members: we send notices on your membership anniversary, but you could help us save money by sending your renewal early.

Thanks! Thanks!
NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE NOSE

Mon chers--she's at it again. EYE couldn't believe EYE's ears. But this is what SRH said (as a person (of the male persuasion and wearing a Jurassic Park T-shirt)) got up to leave the restaurant: "Looks like he belongs in Jurassic Park.... Honestly, those guys with the macho attitude--get 'em into bed and they ain't worth nothin'!" EYE wonders where SRH got that particular bit of information. Dish, girl! λ Of course you remember last month's episode wherein a certain KP was seen at the RR acting, well, wild. This month he's quiet as a mouse, not to mention civilEYEzed and well-mannered. But then, he was sitting near MC (of MC&CO (women, to you)).

Wonder if this is a trend. λ Rumors that must be repeated: heard that the ABT (the house of, um, God, up No Lgts) is complaining that the street in front of the, um, church isn't being cleaned, enough. There is a group in Anchortown (yes, they're Family) that has the MUNI "contract" to clean the street. Wonder if the goodly folks at the, um, church are sullying the street on purpose just to wrest control from the good faeries. Wouldn't be the first time the jackals snapped. Stay tuned. λ Rumors that shouldn't be repeated, especially here (but will anyway): the conversation got around to SRS* and the subject, well, came up about women realigning, if you will, to be men. Of course the question, um, came up about how they, well, use the new appendage. K offered that there's a new pump that can be used to accomplish the task. CO turned and asked (in all earnestness) if it worked like a Nike. Stay tuned--this could get exciting. λ Glorious. That's what the new quarters of the Alaska Women's Bookstore is. Glorious. Just after the Ides of August a crowd of Lesbian, Gay and Allied supporters showed up and helped walk everything down the mall a few doors to a wonderful space, open, inviting and BIG. KS&LD made a special presentation to MR&JC--a 4-tier fountain (Italian design) and when set up, it was a delight to the senses. It made EYE go all misty to see such an outpouring of help and support. Take note, men--the AWB is a male-friendly place. Go in and bring your good energy. You'll feel it in return. Can't help a bit of dish, however. Turns out LS really is butt (despite her protestations). She was given an electric "screwdriver" and actually figured out how to make it work. KF, wimp that he is, assisted. Well, MR said he was a wimp and MR knows. Nonetheless, when MR pooped out--yes, you did, MR, don't be shy about this--KF popped a Vitamin B₁₂ under her tongue. She just opened up and KF popped it in. EYE won't comment on the symbolism. During The Move food was served with LD doing the honors. Thanks LD! So many people to notice. There was JAB, fresh in from the East Coast, and AF putting up the "Public" bulletin boards (with the help of many). Computers were moved, along with books and all sort and manner of gift. It was an alphabet of assistance. Thanks, AWB for being such a major part of The Community. λ For those who missed the Jason Stuart concert (see photo), there was a tremendous auction (of Jason Stuart Photos (signed) and KF did it pretty well, considering he doesn't know how and runs off at the mouth anyway), and the money raised went to the 4As! λ Among the audience who suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous humor were BD for admitting to being a Gay Republican. K? for being the object of Jason's desire, DC&AC for being chronologically challenged, and Sky is Blu for being superb. λ Later, at a post-concert soiree at the RR (which became Dyke and Gay heaven (isn't that the same place that the folks from ABT go?)], Jason stopped harassing the very cute waiter after he (the

* Sexual Reassignment Surgery
waiter) revealed his other job is the bomb squad (no, honest, that's what he said!). Now EYE got this, um, straight from Mr. Bomb Squad (MBS), so listen up. In Arkansas, MBS opposed then Governor Bill Clinton on a high school drop-out policy. (MBS wanted to revoke driver's licenses, among other things.) Eventually, Clinton took credit for the program but at a news conference, MBS revealed the deception. Later, when MBS won a trip to Hawaii to "meet the President" the new President, Clinton, refused to meet him (MBS). What a deal! λ

Meanwhile, back at the RR, strange, but not unexpected, the Gay men were at one end of the table and the Lesbians at the other. There's that glass wall, again. Next time, we'll have to try for male-female-male-female rather than butch-fem-butch-fem, which we were! Interesting to note that the Dykes spent their time processing while the Gay men were discussing opera and musicals. Go figure.

λ Then there was the Progressive Dinner, put on by Identity (yes, it was a smashing success and will be repeated, perhaps annually and perhaps more). SM put on a mouth-watering appetizer course and is still single. Line up, folks! GS&SS put on a simply scrumptious salad course and they have a new bedroom. TR&AK outdid themselves with the main course but the weird thing was it was Gay upstairs and Lesbian down. Isn't that a, um, hoot.

Interesting to note that upstairs the talk was sex in advertising while downstairs the talk was motorcycles and friendship. (Incidentally, at that dinner were RM&MF who had recently been in P-Town and were walking down the street with their dog dressed in a Harley Outfit and all the Gay men stopped and took pictures! Couldn't you just scream?!) Then there were GS&SS who got lost on their way to TR&AK's place. They crashed the wrong party and were actually eating hors d'oeuvres when they realized they didn't know a soul there, and beat a hasty retreat. KF suddenly found himself in heels--accidentally put on the wrong shoes as he was leaving. They fit him perfectly and he paraded around shamelessly--must say he walks as if he were born in them. Then again, he probably was. On to LI&AS's place where S&M (just friends) were hostessing. They've got a great new space up in Redneck City and the pre-desert palate-cleaners were beautifully served. At the new restaurant over across from the AWB was BW's totally scrumptious offering--desert! The auction was a great success, again, performed by KF. Seems KF outbid himself and got the Leopard/Tiger donated by the AWB. VC got a bunch of posters that were wonderful depictions of men in various states.... MM got a simply divine soapstone sculpture by GM. There was a signed book by SJ (hint: baseball) and tickets to the Capri and a CD of "Cowgirls..." Also brunch at BW's new restaurant. JH got the videos, and EYE can't remember all the other things that so many wonderful people donated. λ One last note: seems SS went to an ASD meeting because the issue was going to be raised that Identity was included in the Alaska Community Share program and they weren't sure Identity was a, how shall we say, deserving group to get donations through the ASD. SS showed up wearing pink socks--she claims it wasn't intentional, but EYE knows all about that subliminal stuff. Anyhow, the ASD probably kept Identity on the list, EYE isn't sure. Seems a couple members of the Board tried all sorts of ways to try to exclude us, but couldn't make the end run around the majority. Or something like that. λ

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* Formerly LaFerriere
The Total Zone by Martina Navratilova and Liz Nickles
Villard Books, 1994, [$21.00]
Reviewed by Lee Lynch

I am very conservative when it comes to defining the concept of the Lesbian book. Lesbian books are written by Lesbians, about Lesbians, and primarily for Lesbians. Although there is at least one Lesbian character in The Total Zone, it is not a Lesbian book. But then it was not intended to be. Despite that impediment, I decided to review The Total Zone simply because with Martina Navratilova as a co-author, dyke readers, and probably dykes-who-never-read are going to make up far more than our usual share of the market, as we did with Martina, her autobiography.

So what will dykes find in this first fiction volley from one of our sports heroines—and from Liz Nickles, who has five other books to her credit? An appealing mystery chock full of the guts of the tennis jet-set. Presumably Ms. Navratilova supplied the detailed background of that lofty world where champions are pampered and the pamperers build lucrative careers. The authors describe everything from the manufacture of custom tennis rackets, which the top players apparently go through by the hundreds, to the Hollywood-like pressures to keep Gay players closeted.

The plot is basically solid, though it sometimes lags like a tired competitor too long on a cement court in the dog days of summer. A troubled teen tennis champion nears her breaking point. Her stage mother and coach father, both of whom are neurotically overprotective, lose control of the girl. The sleuth, a former teenaged circuit player herself, hears the girl’s lightly veiled cries for help and gets involved first in finding her, and as it becomes clear that something is badly amiss in the family, in rescuing her. By the time the requisite deaths come along the sleuth, Jordan Myles, is far too involved to extricate herself.

During a series of lively crises Jordan’s life and livelihood repeatedly come under attack. She changes locations as often as players change sweaty court clothes: Palm Springs, Key Biscayne, South Beach, Manhattan, Boca Raton, and of course Wimbledon and Forest Hills. The authors are perhaps at their best when trying to capture the feel of the hallowed courts of tennis. There is a particularly telling as well as delightful scene in which Jordan Myles gets entangled with the traditional queers at Wimbledon, hearty and loyal cousins to the Deadheads who, in this country, camp out for Grateful Dead concerts.

The protagonist is an independent jock loner. She is non-Gay, which is unfortunate because she comes across as a major closet case. In the course of her adventures Jordan Myles solves a personal mystery—why she opted to leave behind her championship days to pursue a career as a physical therapist. Part of the decision was made for her by a climbing accident, but the character has enough depth to plumb for deeper reasons, and enough insight into herself and competition tennis to find those reasons.

Like Sue Grafton’s popular gumshoe, Kinsey Millhone, Jordan eschews fancy clothing for more practical garb. Unlike Kinsey Millhone, she has no financial problems, having established with male partners the Desert Springs Sports Science Clinic, which attracts the creme de la creme of athletes and their largesse. She is a bit of a bumbler, a trait often assigned to female amateur detectives, perhaps to make them seem less tough in a tough-guy racket. Like many other women in the genre, Jordan is moved to solve the crime out of empathy for the victim.

A.M. is the sparkling touch that brings Jordan to life. Alice Marble, named for a tennis great, is a Jack Russell terrier, one of those nifty little scene-stealers writers use to humanize their characters. Although A.M. doesn’t run away with any scenes, Jordan’s devotion to her—and to the home they share—add some anchoring touches to this promising heroine.

Speaking of partners, Jordan picks up a good one in a professional private eye she comes to call the Fish, an initially unattractive fellow-bumbler who turns out to be a retired Green Beret, police chief and inventor of nifty spy paraphernalia. Though caricature-like, he brings a touch of humor to a story sometimes weighted down by lumbering moments.

Now and then the novel seems to turn into a gallery of tennis rogues and settings. The plot at those times is almost overshadowed by the writers’ needs to recreate the milieu of the tennis pro, but eventually the action takes over and The Total Zone becomes an enjoyable read because of, as well as despite, this tendency to trip over its particulars. There is even a handsome butch tennis star/iron curtain defector!

In the growing and growing and growing mystery field, the Navratilova-Nickles match adds to the sub-
genre of sports mysteries of which Dick Francis is the
reigning master. Next year perhaps we'll see, aptly
enough, a winter sports plot about someone whacking
the knee of a figure-skiing queen. Although a mystery
fan, it's likely that I would never have read this one
were it co-authored by any other celebrity. I don't
know much about sports, but I'm learning a little about
courage, and I have great respect for Martina
Navratilova, who, on top of her athletic gifts, has a
whole lot of that particular quality. Who was willing to
stand up as one of us at the March On Washington.
Who was willing to sue the state of Colorado for our
rights.
Yeah, I'll read just about anything she wants to offer,
Lesbian book or not, and she and Liz Nickles make a
good team. I'd like to think that they could pull this off
again. An immigration who-dunnit might be timely, or
there's always a chance that Jordan Myles will come
out and take on the radical right ...
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 ©

Mine Is Not The Law
Greg Johnson

Mine is not the law,
Spirit, perhaps:
thick ice on Lake Eklutna,
sage, the rooster, communion.
Certainly solitude:
Montaigne at midnight,
my bicycle.
At times sweat:
the Portland Marathon,
basketball with the boys.
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Where in the World?
by Bob De Loach

Mardi Gras

Where in the world indeed. The Where for the first part of next year seems to be down under in Australia. All areas of the Gay Community have a great deal of activity, especially for Mardi Gras, which takes place during the month of February and climaxes in early March. Two major players, Men on Vacation and Above and Beyond Tours, are offering trips to Sydney for the celebration, as well as, pre- and post-trips to Cairns, the Barrier Reef and New Zealand. Prices start as low as $1,519.00 dbl, which includes round-trip airfare from LA, 6 nights and 7 days hotel in Sydney, tickets to the Mardi Gras Party and other gala events, an escorted bar hop, and all of the extras which Men on Vacation are famous for. Not to be outdone, Above and Beyond Tours is offering their own package for the same time. Departures start as early as February 23 and return as late as March 14. In between is just the trip for you. This is without a doubt the highlight of the Gay & Lesbian season and over 25,000 participants are expected in this Gay friendly country. Both of the major tour operators have experience in Gay Australia and other areas on the South Pacific. Will this be the year for you?

Goin' my way?

One of the unique ways to see this country is by bus. No, I'm not speaking about the old gray dog, but first-class tours in style aboard a custom luxury motorcoach with passage limited to only 18 people per trip. This exclusively Gay Tour company, Executive Tour Associates, uses coaches fitted with couches, dinettes, and armchairs, as well as VCR's, TV and a complete stereo system and panoramic windows. Spend your nights at first-class hotels with meals included. Taxes and tips are included as well. Some of the tours offered are: California Coastal Experience for 8 days in November, December '94 as well as dates throughout '95; Southwest Resorts Experience 8 days; Color Country Experience, 9 days; Southwest Native American Experience for 8 days; Eastern USA experience for 8 days; Eastern Canada for 8 days; Boston, Cape Cod experience for 8 days; And Experience America Coast to Coast for 21 days; San Francisco Christmas Experience for 7 days from December 23-29 in '94 and '95. Christmas in San Francisco is a special offering this year which includes Xmas Eve dinner cruise, Xmas dinner, Xmas shopping at Union Square, Cruisin' the Castro, Roaring Camp redwood in Monterey, Carmel and the Monterey Aquarium. Price is $1499.00 dbl.

Snow Experience

New England Vacation Tour, Inc., an IGTA member, offers two packages to Mount Snow, Vermont this winter: January 21-27 and January 28 - February 3. They include round trip air fare from most major cities to Hartford, CT, bus transfers to the slopes, 6 nights' hotel stay, 5 days of lift tickets, 11 full meals, nightly entertainment, and most gratuities. From Seattle, the price is $1,674.00 sgl, $1,737.00 dbl, $1,324.00 tpl and $1,274 quad.

Costa Rica

Gay Ventures is offering a Halloween Cruise to Costa Rica. Cruises are October 29 - November 4, 1994 and May 20-26, 1995. The MV Temptress is a 174' ship which caters to 63 Gay passengers and features spacious cabins with panoramic views, private baths and air conditioning. Every meal is prepared with the finest of ingredients. This ship is small enough to get into the great coves with choices each day of "hard" or "soft" excursions including horseback riding, snorkeling, diving, water-skiing, sea kayaking, and stimulating nature tracks. All meals and snacks, as well as an open bar and nightly entertainment are included. All of this for $1,595.00 dbl. Air packages are available to San Jose from Anchorage to join the Temptress I can personally say that this cruise is a not-to-be-forgotten experience.

Bob DeLoach, president of Apollo Travel, BG Tax and Accounting, The Electric Doctor, Apollo Real Estate, Lock Doc, is an insurance broker and still finds time to write novels for adults, take part in Community Theatre, write this column, and be active in the Community. ▼
Dear Ken:

I'm writing this as just one example of the misconception and fear people still have about us. It's sad to think, and worse to read about the fears our family, friends or co-workers have in regards to our orientation. In my opinion we must educate ourselves first with the knowledge of the prejudices we face on a daily basis. In return we can help others face and conquer their fears.

Before I go any further, let me state that I'm extremely pleased at the responses provided by my employer. I think it sets an unprecedented example to other employers in the community to follow. Any idea or suggestion such as this can not be tolerated in any way, regardless whom it may be directed at.

On Wednesday evening a copy of our employee suggestion letter happened to catch my attention. Attached is a copy, please read suggestion #6040 and it's response from the company.

Suggestion #6040:

I think it would be a good idea to have the homosexuals that work here wear a special pin or badge so they can be recognized immediately in case one might walk into the bathroom when a normal person was using it.

Response:

Please note that according to the Center for Disease Control, there is nothing to fear about sharing a restroom with someone of a different sexual orientation. If you have any doubt about or concern about this, please contact Human Resources for more information.

The only badge an individual wears here at the Daily News is one for security purposes - and we ask that of everyone. The Daily News has a diverse work force, similar to our community. That means we have people from all different backgrounds, generations, religions, political views, and sexual orientations. Each person contributes her or his unique skills and experience. Work force diversity helps us better serve our community.

After a discussion with others, I discovered the company had several meetings to decide if the “suggestion” should be printed. After all, this was a very sensitive topic. The company holds the policy to print all suggestions submitted by employees. The day after the first suggestion letter was distributed, it was rescinded and additional comments were added. The word “normal” was deleted from the original suggestion. In its place was inserted in brackets, [other people are]. Please see the additional comment added after the first printing of the employee suggestion letter.

Additional response added:

We weren’t sure whether bigotry or ignorance motivated this suggestion. It was bigotry, it doesn’t deserve a response. But it does provide an opportunity for education which is why we’re responding.

Both the original and additional responses were excellent, but ... please, indulge me for a few
moments. Someone “normal” wants to be able to recognize homosexuals when they walk into the bathroom. Well suppose your sitting on the toilet doing your business and one walks in? You wouldn’t be able to see who they were, the door is closed. Unless the door is open, then you’re an exhibitionist. Maybe you’re at the urinal and one walks in. You have your hands busy, now don’t you. What are you going to do? Run on the fly? Oh ... I’m sorry, that’s not exactly what you meant. Then what did you want to say ... exactly? You think homosexuals should wear a pin or badge around all the time so you know who we are. Then all your insecurities with your own masculinity, femininity and sexuality would go away. Wrong!

Suppose you return to your desk from the bathroom. Look, there goes that one you always avoid. You just know beyond a shadow of a doubt that one’s a homosexual. Surprise! They don’t have a pin or badge. Guess you misjudged that one. You strike up a conversation with your best friend and co-worker about that one. You know, the one you’ve confided in for years. The one who’s helped you through all your rough times emotionally and financially. Remember? Your divorce, the problem in school with the kids, the financial troubles. Wait a second, what’s this ... they’re wearing a ... a ... badge and a pin! All of the things you’ve accomplished together. All the secrets you’ve shared. All the intimate details of your life you’ve confided. We’re supposed to go bowling this weekend! All this time you’ve been best friends with a ... a ... Say it! A homosexual. There now that wasn’t so bad was it. Look, nothing has changed. I’m still your friend and we both have a shared past of experiences. Now don’t you feel silly?

The point I’m trying to make is regardless if people know about you or me, we’ll not change. They will create an insecurity in themselves, suspecting everyone of being what they’re most afraid of. All of us have fears. Fears are not good or bad in themselves. They are simply a fact of our conscious mind based partly on that which we don’t understand. Because of someone’s fear, they suggested we be made to wear a pin. I, as a gay human being, will not consent to take part in someone’s fear based prejudices. I will make an attempt to educate them with as much information as I know. If they still persist with their radical views, we must then encourage them to seek counseling.

After reading this “good idea”, several thoughts raced through my mind. Hitler, KKK and “please sit in the back of the bus.” I was appalled at the thought of someone even conceiving such an idea in this day and age. As we look back on the past, we see these very things were done not only to us but to huge numbers of other people. Their eventual outcome proven many times doesn’t work. We’re still here today and we’ll be here tomorrow. Proud to be who we are.

Thanks for your time,
Mark Lanz
Two-Step Fun!
by Katie Hickey

Yikes! I'm under deadline here. Gotta get this article in. Gotta write about the Women's Two-Step Dances. But I don't want to write. I just wanna dance!

Our research staff had a busy summer preparing. We've traveled to Seattle's Timberline, the Michigan Women's Music Festival, and even lured some of the nation's hottest two-stappers (and/or their video likenesses) into our living rooms. All to bring home the latest, greatest, and easiest to learn stuff back to our monthly dances at the Pioneer Schoolhouse.

There'll be more teaching and reviewing going on this year, starting with October's dance. We'll spend most of the evening brushing up on the basics, reviewing old favorites and figuring out the stuff we never quite got last year.

Beginners and the rhythmically impaired are always welcome. And if you've never two-stepped or line-danced before, be sure to come to October's dance.

OCTOBER: 2nd Saturday, 10/8 @ The Pioneer Schoolhouse (3rd & Eagle), 7:30pm: Lessons/Review of The Basics. You'll learn enough to be dangerous—and have fun out there—starting with the basic two-step and a couple turns. Next we'll tackle the Tush Push & the Thunderbolt (the one Donna E. taught last Spring). If you're a beginner, don't miss this first hour! Intermediate, advanced, and fanatic dancers are welcome to come—and help teach!

8:30ish: Lessons/Review of Newer Stuff. We'll review two-step stuff like the cuddle, sweetheart, and a few swing moves. We'll also go over the Tush Push, Thunderbolt, Circle Jig, and Oil Can Slide. Phew! Then we'll introduce SYNCPATION. This line dance, compliments of Donna E., will take us a while to learn—but it's way cool.

FUTURE DANCES

Other way-cool stuff on the horizon includes the TAHOE KICK, ROMEO, ARMADILLO, HANKY-PANKY, and ARLENE line dances. Plus lots of swing-ish and fun two-step moves.

1994/95 Schedule

Oct 8: 7:30pm
Nov 5: 10:00pm Following Hot Air Concert
Dec 3: TBA—Donna E to host workshop & dance
Jan 7: 7:30pm
Feb 4: 7:30pm
Mar 4: 7:30pm
Apr 1: 7:30pm
May 6: 7:30pm

OCTOBER'S DANCE TIP

For smoother two-stepping, practice "air" dancing at home—without a partner.

1. Turn on music that works with the basic SLOW, SLOW, QUICK-QUICK-SLOW step (preferably a song you already know).
2. Listen to the music and slide your feet through the steps to the beat. Whisper the SLOW, SLOW, QUICK-QUICK-SLOWs out loud.
3. Glide—don't bounce—over to the refrigerator...turn slowly and head for the dining room. Then the living room. Then the bathroom. Cover your entire house (go up or down stairs between songs).
4. Try holding a cat or small child (don't let their paws or feet touch the ground) and move gently with them in your arms. Think about rocking them to sleep. Concentrate on gliding. Remember, if you bounce, the cat will scratch you and the child will throw up...so stay smooth. Good luck!

A pleasant reminder from a Hunterpuk baby sitter and the owner of a large, fully clawed cat.

Katie Hickey coordinates the Two-Step dances has a advertising business in Anchorage. λ
Acting "Out"
by Pete Pinney

I clearly remember that first step into the pitch dark interior of Club Rendezvous, my initial experience of Gay life in Anchorage. California was thousands of miles behind me. At nineteen I was finally old enough to go into that bar, but scared I'd run into someone I might know who might find out I was–you know. Everything queer I had carefully kept out of my vocabulary. Once I was inside, the facade fell apart. Two of my fellow college mates, glitter queens by night, spotted me. "I knew it all along!" they screamed. "You coulda just said so." From that point I finally acknowledged to myself that I was family. But only to myself.

That next summer I worked for a tour company, hunting down lost luggage and fixing reservation screw ups. Several other expediters in the office were Gay, but we never acknowledged that we knew, even though we knew. Ex-seminarians and flight attendant wannabes? What more proof did we need? Not until the end of the season, thinking it was safe to be ourselves, did we finally end up at the bar to dance to Donna Summer in our polyester.

A few years later I was being trained to drive motor coaches. As I made the turn into Earthquake Park, the instructor asked me point blank if I was Gay. As my voice tried to cover the panic, I told him that maybe I was strange, but I wasn't weird—as if that was supposed to mean something. I still couldn't tell you if his smile was all-knowing or just reassuring. He just wanted to know if I was offended by the faggot jokes he collected from his Gay friends. I couldn't tell him I was mortified by each one that I heard, each one that might make me stumble in my cover. At twenty-one, I was still very na"ive.

Living carefully in a straight world, I made friends first before coming out to them. When I had finally gained the courage to join the college support group, I still looked over my shoulder whenever I put up meeting announcements on campus bulletin boards. When I was bold enough to speak about Gay issues on the radio (at least they wouldn't recognize a face) I would flash on the possibility that the driver in the car outside the radio station was probably out to gun me or my friend down on our way to the car. Then, I came across the words of Eleanor Roosevelt: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." The idea stuck a chord. I could commit myself to living as I truly am. I still had fears, but they no longer controlled my life.

Those small beginning steps finally culminated in finding myself at a job doing what I like to do and being appreciated for who I am. In the interview for my position, the search committee asked if I was prepared to work within a multicultural setting. In my response I pointed out that, although my sexual orientation was not an issue in the classroom, understanding such issues as well as I did lent itself to exploring different perspectives in a safe setting. The committee agreed. Basically, I was hired because I was Gay.

At each step of this process—and it is a process that doesn't come overnight—I had to test my limits. I had to educate others. I still set myself up as a victim when I am surprised that others accept me, so I still have to work on being more out to myself.

And I understand why my friend can't advertize her business in Northview because of the possible repercussions in her industry. But if we didn't keep trying those little steps, we would not have any forward movement. I would not achieve personal goals. If we, collectively, didn't continue working at coming out, there would no political clout for standing up for establishing civil rights.

As a person goes through serious trauma, others around that person face their worst fears. If a loved one is paralyzed in an accident, friends wonder whether he or she will ever be able to get around again, ever have sex again, or ever be able to feed
themselves again. For those who are afraid of equal rights, our coming out brings out THEIR worst fears: amendments in Colorado, initiatives in Oregon, supremacistists in Idaho and hate crimes everywhere. There are always reasons why we shouldn’t. But there are more to why we should.

Coming out teaches people that we are just like them. We still are all those wonderful things they liked in us as friends. We don’t suddenly change, because sexuality is not the sole definition of an individual, much less a group. We are just as human before we come out as we are after we are out, and much more fun as well.

Moving people to a new level of awareness is not accomplished in public acts alone. Each of us has internal blocks to creating what we want out of life. Those fears constantly remind us of that first step into dark and secret places. I cannot make judgments against those who feel the pressure. Being out brings both positive and negative consequences. But what has helped my forward momentum has been that internal struggle to accept who I am and what I am. I find it then makes it so much easier for others to do the same.

Pete Pinney is currently recruiting Gay and Lesbian businesses to join together in a tourism association promoting Alaska’s friendlier side.

P-FLAG Fairbanks

by Steve Kailing

August 16th Meeting:

Upcoming events were the focus of the August meeting. Nancy Kailing reported on her plans for attending the P-FLAG convention in San Francisco. She also let the group know that she and Steve are planning to retire from their jobs (the money making ones) on June 2, 1995. They will be in or near Fairbanks (mostly at a very remote cabin in the vicinity of Manley Hot Springs) March through June of each year, and then in Wisconsin and New Mexico the remainder of the year. The Chapter needs to start thinking about a new President. The Kailings plan to be active in a chapter in Iron Mountain, Michigan and one in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

National Family-to-Family Helpline was announced and Chapter participation decided upon. The Smith-Helms Elementary and Secondary School Amendment was discussed, and members were encouraged to contact their Congresspersons.

Steve later wrote letters to Senators Murkowski and Stevens.

Steve Kailing is Chapter correspondent for P-FLAG Fairbanks.

After The Rain

Beaded sweat sparkling dew
Your glowing face asleep
Upon my damp red thicket

Adagio synchronous
Breathing and heartbeat after
Playing at clouds and rain

michael stephen queen
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Fond as we are of our loved ones, there comes at times during their absence an unexplained peace.

Anne Shaw (1904-1982), American writer
U.S. Anti-Gay Legislation Aimed at Public Schools
by Jeff Walters

In August, an ominous anti-Gay amendment was passed by the United States Senate in Washington. Sponsored by Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina) and R. Smith (R-New Hampshire), the Smith-Helms Amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Senate Bill 1513) states that no local educational agency that receives funds under this Act shall implement or carry out a program or activity that encourages or supports homosexuality as a positive "lifestyle" alternative. In other words, homosexuality may not be portrayed in a positive manner in a public school or else that school will lose its federal funding. Gay youth may not even be counseled in public schools; in deed, these students may not even be referred to supportive organizations or other counselors!

In effect, a gag order may be imposed on all public school personnel in regards to Gay issues.

This anti-Gay amendment passed the Senate 63-36 on August 1. (Of course, Stevens and Murkowski both voted in favor of it.) A similar bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives earlier. The Senate did, however, adopt a Kennedy amendment as well. This amendment could be accepted as an alternative to the Helms Amendment. The Kennedy Amendment prohibits the use of ESEA funds only for materials or programs that promote or encourage sexual activity, whether heterosexual or homosexual. But the adoption of the less damaging Kennedy language is not guaranteed.

Why should you be concerned? Our Gay youth in public schools need support. They don't need condemnation or a wall of silence. These students are at increased risk for depression, school failure, and suicide. They need information on safe sexual practices (and, yes, abstinence) so that they do not become infected with the HIV virus or other STD's. They should be able to receive counseling or, at the very least, be referred to a reputable agency that can listen to and support them!

Our school personnel should not be muzzled and forced to ignore this sensitive issue. Lives of young people may literally be in danger.

What's next? This anti-Gay resolution is not a law yet. Since the bills passed by the House and Senate were not identical, a conference committee will meet in September to reconcile the two bills. We hope that this conference committee will throw out the anti-Gay language, but this is not guaranteed.

What can you do? The following senators are on the conference committee which will meet sometime between Sept. 12 and Oct. 7 to work out the final version of the Education Act. Contact them to express your concern and to reject the Helms-Smith Amendment and to oppose any anti-Gay legislation.

Sen. Dan Coates (R-IN)
404 Senate Russell Office Bldg.
Constitution and Delaware N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Durbin (R-MN)
154 Senate Russell Office Bldg.
Constitution and Delaware N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. J. Gregg (R-NH)
513 Senate Hart Office Bldg.
Constitution and Second N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
135 Senate Russell Office Bldg.
Constitution and Delaware N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS)
302 Senate Russell Office Bldg.
Constitution and Delaware N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC)
217 Senate Russell Office Bldg.
Constitution and Delaware N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. H. Wofford (D-PA)*
283 Senate Russell Office Bldg.
Constitution and Delaware N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. J. Jeffords (R-VT)*
513 Senate Hart Office Bldg.
Constitution and Second N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Senators Wofford and Jeffords have already opposed the amendment. Thank them, and urge them to continue to oppose it.

Jeff Walters has lived in Fairbanks for three years. λ

Deadlines: All articles must be received by the 5th of the month for inclusion in that month's NorthView.
Out Law
by Sylvia L. Short

The August 22 meeting of the Anchorage School Board was an exercise in learning, thanks in part to Identity! In particular, item 8 on the “consent agenda” (whatever that means), resulted in four separate votes. Patience was sorely tried!

I went to the meeting at a last-minute request because it was reported that there would be difficulty over Identity’s participation in Alaska Community Share, which was seeking to renew its permission to act as a solicitation-organization for donations from school employees. Item 8 covered this, as well as the similar request from United Way of Anchorage. We had been advised that School Board Member Lorraine M. Ferrell had indicated that she would question the inclusion of Identity in Community Share’s request.

When item 8 was called, Ferrell spoke at once stating that she desired to divide the question and would first recommend acceptance of United Way pursuant to its application. Duly seconded, United Way was thus accepted by a unanimous vote.

Then Ferrell made a similar motion in regard to Community Share and immediately queried the criteria used by Community Share for acceptance of its listed charities. The executive director of Community Share made herself available to answer questions, and described the criteria ably and clearly. Despite this, Ferrell then queried what criteria the school administration had used in approving Community Share’s application for the agenda. Patricia Gold, of the superintendent’s office responded, reading at length the criteria used by the school district. Obviously not satisfied, Ferrell asked for particulars with respect to one of Community Share’s charities, the Alaska Civil Liberties Union Foundation. Again, her request was met by Gold reading the itemization of the work of the ACLU.

At this point, Board Member Joe A. Marks spoke up, something about did the ACLU feed hungry people. From the tenor of his questioning, it appeared that Marks felt this was the sole or at least most important criterion for an agency to qualify as a “charity.” (I glanced at the listing of United Way charities he had just approved, and noted that to my knowledge, Anchorage Literary Project, the Center for Drug Problems, and Standing Together Against Rape, among others, do not seem to be set up to feed the hungry!) It was patiently explained to Marks the criteria which had just been read to Ferrell (and which he was in an even better position to hear, as he was sitting next to Ferrell and closer to the speakers). He rejoined that he was unsatisfied about the criteria, there being much similarity between that of Community Share and the District. It was then explained that both United Way and Community Share had helped the District formulate the criteria which was accepted by the District administration.

Marks suggested that the criteria itself should be presented to the Board for Board approval before being used, and there was a general resort to the various regulations governing such situations, it being finally determined that the administration first passes on the applications using its own judgment and the Board merely acts on the applications approved by the administration.

At this point Ferrell again took up the microphone. This time she questioned the qualifications of Identity. Both Fred Hillman and I were seated in the front row right next to the executive director and the president of the board of Community Share, and I was proudly wearing my Identity pin. We were ready if questions regarding Identity needed to be answered beyond the scope of the information given in the application. Gold read the application information on the work of Identity.

Marks, again questioning the concept of “charity”, moved that the application of Community Share be postponed until the administration could bring to the Board for approval a new criteria and a definition of “charity.” This was duly seconded and discussion began. Stating that she was an employee of the YWCA of Anchorage, another of Community Share’s charities, Board Member Sharon Richards advised that she would oppose the motion to postpone but would not vote on the main question. Marks stated that her conflict of interest disqualified her from voting on the motion to postpone as well, so the question of her conflict of interest was then debated. Finally, when everything possible had been said, including a request by Marks that the administration submit a policy on conflict of interest, the vote ensued. This was vote 2 and went as follows: Those who felt she should not vote at all (ever?): Marks; Ferrell. Those who felt her conflict, if any, did not extend to the motion to postpone: Higgins, Drummond, Robinson-Wilson, chairman Ossander.

Over that hurdle, then the motion to postpone came to a vote. The vote was: In favor of
postponement: Marks; Ferrell. Opposed: Higgins, Drummons, Robinson-Wilson, Richards, Osiander.

That out of the way, it was finally time for vote 4 - whether to accept Community Share as a solicitation agent in the School District. The vote was: In favor: Higgins, Drummons, Robinson-Wilson, Osiander; opposed: Ferrell, Marks.

There are a number of problems troubling the education system in Anchorage, as well as in the United States in general. Certainly it would appear that School Board time would be better spent considering matters directly related to the education of our future citizens and leaving items like this to the administration. The movement of the radical right to elect to school boards persons just because they adhere to their particular agenda does an injustice to the education of the community, and while the board members who brought about this sad exercise in futility may not be examples of this movement, it well illustrates the necessity to examine all candidates for school board carefully to determine as best we can their qualifications on issues of education.

If two other Board members had been absent, or disqualified, the many good charitable organizations represented by Community Share, including Identity, might have had to do with less—or disappear into oblivion.

Sylvia L. Short, Attorney at Law, lives in Anchorage

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Groups & Gatherings
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News from Gay & Lesbian Organizations from around the State

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): offers HIV testing Wednesday afternoons (2-4pm) at their offices, 730 'I' St., Suite 100. Friday at noon is a luncheon for People With HIV and AIDS. We are always looking for groups willing to donate and provide these meals. If you are interested in helping with the luncheons, volunteering with the 4As, or need information, please call the 4As at 276-1400.

Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association of Fairbanks (AGLA): a UAF Student Organization, has regular meeting open to Gays, Lesbians and allies, every other Friday. For further information about meeting time and place, contact Pete at 457-0246.

Anchorage Garden Buddies (AGB): a social group for Gay men looking for an alternative to the "bar scene." For next meeting time and place or to get on the mailing list, call Kurt at 248-0425.

Anchorage Lesbian Families' Alliance (ALFA) (formerly Lesbian Moms): usually meets every 4th Sunday at various locations (mostly at Susan & Janet's) to socialize and provide support for one another. Adults, children, Lesbians, allies and newcomers are welcome. Call Mary or Val at 276-3478 for more information.

Anchorage Women's Political Caucus: for Lesbians and non-Lesbians, meets 7pm at the First United Methodist Church (Anchorage) on the first Wednesday of every month.

Berdache Society of Anchorage: a meeting and support group for transgendered persons. The Berdache Society is active in all areas of the community. For more information call Nora Jean at 258-9909 or see the North-View Directory for the Berdache Society address.

EQUAL, Inc: meets regularly on the 1st Thursday (only) of each month, usually from 7-9pm at the Unitarian Fellowship in Room A. EQUAL is a politically active group addressing such issues as political issues and races, Gay/Lesbian Rights Ordinance at the Municipal Assembly (last year) and many other areas of concern. Please see NorthView Calendar for current agenda or call 566-0930 for more information.

Fairbanks Dance Club: the Palace Saloon in Alaskaland is still the hottest spot in town to meet. You can go dancing on Friday and Saturday nights from 11:00pm 'til the wee hours of the morning. It's a straight tourist bar at all other times. The DJ will be spinning Country, Disco, Top 40 and Oldies for your dancing pleasures.

Fairbanks Gay Youth Group: for more information call Jeff or Andy at 457-6818.

Feminist Sing-a-Long, women only: third Saturday of every month. 1741 Westview Cir. (maps available at the Alaska Women's Bookstore) or call Lucy at 337-3543. Non-singers are more than welcome. 6:30 potluck, 7:30 singing (from the KK. Thanks!)

Gay Bar: free legal question and answer sessions on issues of interest to Lesbians and Gays. Second Monday of every month, 7:00-8:30pm at 845 'K' St. 279-5001.

Identity: is founded to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the Lesbian and Gay communities as well as bridges between the Gay/Lesbian and non-Gay/non-Lesbian communities.

Potluck Social: held on the 4th Friday of every month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7pm; program at 7:30. See the Calendar for this month's guest speaker.

Imperial Court of all Alaska (ICOAA): is a social and support group that contributes to our Community by being active in many causes; we plan and present wonderful entertainment, and donate money to needy organizations for them to carry out their important goals. See Calendar for this month's planned activities, or contact Empress XXII Jasmine at 563-8650.

Interior AIDS Association (IAA): offers medical and dental program assistance, "buddies" (volunteers who help HIV & People Living With AIDS), meal delivery, food supplement program, a
lending library and counseling support. If you're interested in volunteering or need assistance, please call the IAA in Fairbanks at 452-4222.

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC): holds Sunday services at 10:45am and 7pm at 615 Hollywood Dr. There is a study group on Tuesday evenings -- "The Bible and Gay and Lesbian People." Call 258-5266.

Last Frontier Men's Club: a members only club for the Leather/Bear communities of Alaska. Meetings once/month, campouts & week-end trips, too. Write T.L.F.M.C., P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99520-2054.

Lesbian/Gay/Bi- Student Association (soon to be "the Family"): Meets every Saturday from 6-8pm in the Arts Building, Room 121 on the UAA campus. Social group. Wednesdays from 11am-4pm there is an information booth in the Campus Student Center. High school people, bi-sexual men & women, transvestites and transsexuals most welcome! A Teen Group is being formed/has been formed. Watch this space and the Calendar for more information!

Midnight Sons: Gay Men's AA Meetings, Fri & Sun. Check calendar for times and locations.

Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club (MMC(na)C): is a social group open to anyone Gay, Lesbian, or ally. Look for upcoming events in the Calendar, or call Dan Cook at 561-8744.

Northern Exposure Bowling League: each Sunday afternoon at 3:00pm, Park Lanes. 561-8744 (Bob).

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Fairbanks (PFLAG(F)): meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Log Cabin (Noble & 5th). Contact Nancy at 479-4944 for more information.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Southcentral (P-FLAG(SC)): holds meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For information call Sylvia at 562-4992 or Fred at 562-7161.


"Perspective." P.O. Box 211371, Auke Bay, AK 99821-1371.

Klatch, formerly the Fairbanks Think Tank, is an informal gathering of lesbians, gay men and friends with diverse interests, tastes and views. Our goal is to encourage enlightenment and growth, both within and throughout our Community. Volunteerism creates success. Members lead trips, organize activities and offer social gatherings. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, and enjoy events scattered throughout (check the NorthView calendar). For more information please contact Eric at 455-4051.

SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous): 12-step meeting; Tues., Thurs., Sat. Check calendar for times and locations. 566-1133

Women's Coffeehouse: every 4th Saturday, 7:30-9:30pm, Alaska Women's Bookstore. Sliding scale, suggested donation $2. Call Barbara or Candy at 337-2011 for information or if you wish to perform. Check the calendar for this month's program.


NorthView Classifieds

& Want Ads

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE wants to relocate to Alaska. Any available information you have concerning potential job vacancies (GS 6-7) in Alaska would be very much appreciated.

Write Mark Dunn, P.O. Box 2041, Seattle, WA 98111.

House for Rent, Fairbanks. One bedroom, includes heat. Has garage. Mile 11½ on Elliot Hwy. $600. Call 365-2709, Barb or Laura.

Looking for inexpensive apartment or room to rent. I will be moving from Fairbanks to Anchorage the first of October due to a job promotion. I'm not a smoker and I don't own pets. If you know of the perfect place, give me a call at 452-4172 between 8:00am and 5:00pm. Ask for Brad.

Responsible, together guy, 38, seeks roommate situation in Fairbanks. Andy, P.O. Box 1764, Willits, CA 95490-1764.
An Open Letter to
Michael Johnston
by Tom Croke

I read with great interest your guest opinion article in the July 16, 1994 Fairbanks News-Miner. Congratulations on your writing ability, which is clearly a gift from God. Your writing is inspiring and persuasive. I praise God for your peace and joy in finding Jesus in your life.

I was particularly moved by your final paragraph indicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ shows "no hate ... no intolerance ... no bigotry ... " and goes on to point out that "it is no freedom ... to do as [a person] wish[es] to the detriment of all that is sacred sure and secure."

I was curious as to whether your references to Gays and Lesbians were intended to be about orientation or about behavior. Since much of my own ministry is to teenagers who are aware of homosexual attraction but are not sexually active, I am poignantly aware of the difference. Because rhetoric such as yours is so often the principal motivating factor in suicides among these young people, I was saddened that you were unclear on this point, as I cannot find any suggestion in scripture or anywhere else that God desires intolerance of this group.

Having said that, I was saddened by your choice to advocate intolerance of other human beings in any context. For me, it is hard to reconcile that choice with the sense of your final paragraph—or with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I also disagree that the debate between you and the folks who were quoted in the June 26, 1994 article on Gays and Lesbians in Fairbanks is about "the fundamental belief that there are no objective truths." One of the fundamental truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that our first obligation as His follower is to love God and our neighbor. Who is our neighbor? In the Gospel according to St. Luke, Jesus shares the parable of the Good Samaritan, specifically to answer the question, "Who is our neighbor?" As we repeat this parable today, we often forget that the Samaritans were the people living in the neighboring territory, whom most of the religious people of Jesus' day hated just as deeply as so many Christians of our day hate homosexuals. Just as many of today's religious leaders insist upon intolerance of homosexuals because they are believed to act against God's ordinances, so did the "Scribes, Pharisees, and teachers of the law" of Jesus' day insist upon intolerance of Samaritans for allegedly violating God's ordinances. Jesus pointed out, that in this parable, it was the [hated] Samaritan who was neighbor to the victim of thieves, while the supposedly righteous religious people passed by leaving the victim for dead—apparently to maintain their ritual cleanliness.

In Chapter 25 of the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus approaches the same point in a different way. He warns that at the final judgment, all who seek entry into the kingdom will be reminded that "inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me."

These very pointed encounters pass on to those of us who love and fear God a very difficult objective truth, which many of us do not like to hear: We are held accountable before God for doing to Jesus what we have done to the most despised and rejected of society. What we as Christians do to homosexuals, we have done to Jesus. If we are intolerant toward homosexuals, we are intolerant to Jesus. The specifics of our personal treatment of Jesus comes very close to home, when we note that in the Gospel according to John, Jesus is depicted as having a special love relationship with the author of that Gospel, and is reported on several occasions to have "reclined" with Him or next to Him (John 13:23; 19:26; 21:20). I personally do not understand these references to mean that Jesus and John were homosexual lovers. I do, however, know of situations in which contemporary men have been accused and condemned by self-defined "Christian" inquisitors, on the basis of similar behavior. I suggest that you and your followers give careful and prayerful consideration to what you are doing to Jesus.

These are but a few illustrations of points Jesus makes repeatedly in His teaching ministry. To set these examples into their original context only strengthens the point I am making.

As an exclamation point to these teachings, we also might note Mark 7:7, where Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees for paying lip service to commandments of God, while in fact clinging to human traditions. While homosexual behavior has never been popular with majority populations in any culture, there is no scriptural basis for giving it greater attention than greed, heterosexual lewdness, nor lack of generosity to the poor. Those who put great emphasis on intolerance of homosexuals might do well to pray over the meaning of Mark 7:7.

Those who advocate intolerance toward homosexuals on scriptural grounds, generally refer to six scriptures which specifically mention...
(negatively) to homosexual behavior. These are references we would do well to consider, among many others, if you and I were to contemplate homosexual behavior for ourselves or to consider how to advise our own children on their own sexual behavior. But not one contains the remotest justification for a Christian to condemn, judge, mistreat, or withhold tolerance for others on the grounds of their sexual orientation.

Actually, you raise not only religious arguments against tolerance toward homosexuality; you also raise secular arguments. You speak eloquently of the promise of acceptance and freedom, then the disappointment of learning that this promise was a lie. You refer to the fact your homosexual behavior "gave [you] emotional and sexual bondage." You raise a very telling point. Having related quite extensively both to homosexuals and to people addicted to [compulsive; in bondage about] sex, both homosexual and heterosexual, I can point out without fear of contradiction that the pain you describe is common to the sex addicts I have known, but is not common to Gays who are not sex addicts.

I praise God for your deliverance from sex addiction and for your newly found peace. I am thankful that you are reaching out to other sex addicts and helping them to find peace. I am sure that is a ministry to which God has called you.

Oops! Did I just change the agenda? Yes, I did. You claim to be reorienting homosexuals and I am expressing gratitude for your ministry to sex addicts. I say that, because I have reviewed the literature of Christian efforts at "rehabilitating" homosexuals over the years. In each case study I have read, it is clear that what has actually happened—if the facts reported are correct—is that sex addiction (compulsion, bondage), an affliction known to respond better to a spiritual awakening than to any other form of intervention, is what has been addressed.

How, then, you may ask, do people who have been at the extremes of promiscuous homosexual behavior become husbands and fathers in stable marriages? Simple. Time spent among sex addiction groups will show case after case in which people who were introduced to sex through any sexual abuse and/or people who are addicted to sex will often find an entirely different kind of person sexually attractive as they enter into recovery from the addiction, and this sometimes means a change of gender of the likely sex partner. It is these cases—and only these cases—being reported by the "Christian" press.

Sexual orientation is like being right-handed or left-handed. I don't know whether it is established before or after birth, but once set it doesn't change much. Just as a right-handed person can, as a result of injury, be forced to do things with his/her left hand, and may otherwise learn to take on certain tasks left-handed, the handedness does not change. Similarly, people who are heterosexual, but who compensate for the injury of sexual abuse through homosexual behavior, may, after intervention, live comfortable heterosexual life styles. People introduced to the sensations of sex through homosexual activity, may become addicted to that activity, but return to healthy sexual activity in the context of a basic heterosexual orientation, once addiction has given way to recovery. I praise God for your successful intervention with many people like this, and with others who are liberated from compulsion or addiction.

I am concerned about the manner in which you present the political agenda which you attribute to Gays. You and I both know that political opinion is as diverse among Gays as among straight folk. You refer to "homosexual education" in our public schools. If by that you mean education to promote homosexual activity by children and teenagers, you and I both know that has never been part of the agenda of any group enjoying widespread support within the Gay community. If you mean education to teach all human beings, Gay and straight, are children of God, worthy of respect and love, that is Biblical, and we cannot profess belief in the Divine inspiration of scripture and reject that notion. If it is an expression of concern that programs designed to promote love and respect for Gays and Lesbians may be misinterpreted as advocating homosexual activity among children, that is a meritorious concern. But it is clearly a solvable problem if Christians, who believe in the objective truth that we are all called to love our neighbor, sit down with Gays and Lesbians, who ask only for love, respect, and personal dignity, to find a way to present these issues in a manner which respects the concerns of both.

Another example is the suggestion that it is part of the "Gay political agenda" to reduce the age of consent for sexual activity. I do not know exactly what you are referring to here, but if you mean to suggest that there is a widespread effort by mainstream Gay and Lesbian groups to legalize sexual contact between adults and children, you and I both know this is not true. One group of self-acknowledged pedophiles has advocated that and run into solid opposition from Gay and Lesbian leaders.
Similar problems arise throughout your characterization of the Gay political agenda.

Part of the ministry to which God calls me is outreach to teenagers who, with the onset of puberty, discover a strong attraction to others of the same gender. Most of those to whom I refer are homosexual but have never had a voluntary sexual encounter with another person. They may masturbate, dominated by homosexual fantasies. They may have been sexually abused by an adult of either gender.

But those of whom I speak are not voluntarily sexually active. But they are among those whom you say should not be tolerated. Feeling the hatred and rejection largely inspired by those who profess Christianity as their motivation, they are at high risk for self-destruction. This is the highest risk population we have for suicide attempts, many of which are successful. Yet, clearly, they have committed no sin, by any Biblical or reasonable human standard. The driving force behind these suicides is the intolerance preached by self-styled Christian leaders. I cannot believe that God desires His people to condemn the innocent in this way.

Too often, when I tell people I am a Christian, people understand that this is a code word for bigotry and intolerance, reflecting the political agenda of many of our leaders who claim to define Christianity. People seeking the peace, love, comfort and acceptance, which Jesus promised, look away from Christian sources, as the name "Christian" has been co-opted by twenty-first century leaders who are in fact the heirs of the tradition of "Scribes, Pharisees, and teachers of the Law" who were Jesus' prime example of how to get it wrong.

I pray for the day that the love which Jesus exemplified through his death on the cross for all humankind—Gay and straight— is also exemplified by all Christians in their outreach to all who are now rejected by much of society including Gays and Lesbians. Through that kind of expression of love, we have the opportunity to witness to the love which knows no boundaries and to live in a world which functions according to your quotation from the South Sea Islander, which you included.

As people come face to face with the love of Jesus Christ they are freed from the bonds of hatred, bigotry, intolerance, sexual addiction, and moral depravity. With that freedom, all can accept the peace and joy of living by the will of God, as God speaks to each of us through scripture and personal inspiration. When that day comes we will not need to concern ourselves with what others do in their bedrooms; you and I need only be concerned that each of us is at peace with God, and that we have been God's hands and feet and voice in sharing his love with all. When that day comes, those of us who earnestly seek the will of God for ourselves and for our children will be led down the path of righteousness, in matters of sexual expression and in all other matters. That, my brother in Christ, is what the Christian Gospel is all about.

Tom Croak is an educational consultant, with a specialty in Gay and Lesbian outreach, practicing in Latrobe, PA and Anchorage, AK. He works with families helping them select the best in educational and therapeutic resources for their sons and daughters. 

Alaska Women's Bookstore

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- "Edited Out: A Carmen Ramirez Mystery" by Lisa Haddock
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INSURANCE FRAUD HURTS
by Chris Olson

Up until now I have been offering little tidbits of factual and sometimes dry information to the NorthView readers. My opinion has sometimes filtered through these lines. Usually I have given you just the facts. This month, however, I'm going to speak to an issue I feel strongly about. I feel strongly about Insurance Fraud.

Insurance Fraud is the single worst enemy to everyone involved in the insurance business. If you have any kind of insurance YOU ARE AFFECTED by insurance fraud. You and I are hurt by every little misrepresentation that is made. I have been shocked by the number of dishonest, unethical, and lazy people who feel that the insurance system owes them money and they will get it any way they can.

Here are some examples I have personally encountered:

* Faking a death to collect the life insurance benefits;
* Asking the doctor to code a physical as a non-elective procedure so her medical insurance would cover the bill;
* Re-carpeting the entire house from the insurance company check when the actual damage was in a tiny corner in the basement;
* Having $2,000 of personal property paid for by the insurance company because she said the burglar stole more than just the cassettes out of her car. In fact, she had nothing but cassettes in her car when the burglary occurred;
* A close friend of mine collected $25,000 in liability and medical payments after an auto accident from both her insurance carrier and from the company of the guy that hit her. Additionally, she collected sick leave and disability payments from work. Her losses totaled about $15,000 as a result of the accident. She received a total of $58,000 for her hardship.

My friends, each time you do this, our insurance premiums go up. Each of these acts is illegal and constitutes Insurance Fraud. One reason that we face a no-win situation with national health care reform is because millions of dollars are paid out annually in fraudulent claims to people who have lied on their claims statements. Do you think people will lie less if they are submitting claims to the single payor USA Health Plan instead of to Blue Cross or Aetna?

I lost a piece of business today and I'm pissed off about it. This guy applied for life insurance and stated on his application that he did not use nicotine products. The rates for a preferred non-tobacco policy are about 20% less than for a 'user.' It turns out that he uses smokeless tobacco and lied about it on his application. He was caught by the underwriters and offered a preferred tobacco policy. He turned down the offer because he was embarrassed for getting caught. I suppose that his family is the loser since now he has no coverage at all. He would rather have had a policy based on a fraudulent application (for 20% less) than a policy that would pay his family if/when he dies.

The point is that we all are victims if you lie on an insurance application or claim. Insurance companies would rather pay than contest most questionable claims. Instead, they pass on the cost to you and me in the form of increased premiums. Please reconsider the next time you are tempted with cheating the big bad company out of just a little more than you rightfully deserve.

Chris Olson is a fully licensed insurance and securities representative, has lived in Alaska for 13 years and welcomes new clients and referrals, especially from the Gay & Lesbian Community.
The Post-Stonewall Generation
by Michelangelo Signorile

This generation is weird because it's like the Post-Queer generation," declares 22-year old Sean Bumgarner. "It's post the generation that was so visual and inspiring.

True enough. But how much do the rest of us really know about Bumgarner's generation -- the 15-to 23-year-olds coming out all around us, for the most part, don't remember a time before Pat Robertson, Larry Kramer, the information superhighway, and MTV? AIDS, to most of the gay community a napalm bomb that came out of nowhere and profoundly changed the world we live in, is to Post-Queers a hazard of life that has always been there, much as the San Andreas fault is to Southern Californians: It hasn't changed their lives -- it has shaped them.

Accounts of suicide among gay teens and reports about increased rates of HIV infection have been the extent of most of the gay community's concern about the new generation, to the point that the gay press milks such stories for all they're worth. Many adult gay activists have found such accounts useful in their push for gay rights in the political arena. But there seems to be little genuine interest among many gay adults in how the next generation of out homosexuals really thinks about themselves, the rest of us, and the world.

On one hand, a queer youth movement is upon us. Coming out younger than any previous generation, gay and lesbian teens are, for the first time, networking with each other, starting magazines, establishing their own organizations, opening their own nightclubs, pushing gay groups to include them, and demanding that straight America see them.

On the other hand, the vast majority of gay and lesbian adolescents today, like those of previous generations, are fear ridden, hiding in tortured closets, and dealing with less than understanding reactions from parents. Still, today's closeted youth can take advantage of resources that weren't available to previous generations. Over a dozen cities now have gay and lesbian youth centers where gay teens can connect, and gay and lesbian community centers across the country have established programs for gay youth. Parents, meanwhile, can turn to groups like Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) to help them and their children through the rough spots.

The profiles that follow are voices of our youth today. Their lives have been greatly shaped by the fact that, though most come from families that fell in the middle, many of their generation are the children of very liberal boomers who themselves came of age in the '60s -- some of whom are even queer, while others are the children of the followers of the rigid and increasingly powerful religious Right.

Whatever their background, lesbian and gay youth of the '90s are focused more on personal issues and less on national political ones. For Post-Queers, it's not about a lesbian and gay civil rights bill, gay marriage, or gays in military. It's about coming out and taking whomever they want to the prom.

John Erwin, 15, lives with his parents in South San Jose, California. I think I'd known since about the sixth grade. That was when I was 10, 1989. I really didn't analyze it much. I didn't label myself gay. I had thought a lot about boys. Three years later, in 1992, I read a newspaper article by Eric Marcus. I thought I must be gay, so I went on America OnLine (AOL) and went into the gay forum; I'd seen it before, but I was always too shy.

Now I was determined.

On AOL I learned about an entire world that never existed. I met lots of people on-line, some people my age. I had AOL sex with them: You go to a private room on-line you just talk about sex.

I'd never had real sex, but you use your imagination. My alias was John Teen.

My parents knew something was going on. They wanted to know why I was always in my room on the computer. They took me to a psychiatrist. I told him, "I know what's wrong." I said, "It's not a problem. It's just something inside of me." He said, "You're gay." I said yes, and he was totally supportive.

He helped prepare me for talking to my parents. I just sat them down -- this was last year -- and I just said, "I'm gay." I gave them some books and P-FLAG's address. They weren't angry but my mom cried. She said she was worried about AIDS. She had always been in for gay rights. She watched a tape about the March on Washington and had been supportive. My father didn't say much at all, but it bothered him. They came to the psychiatrist to try to understand, and he answered a lot of questions.

They went to a class last September at San Jose State that was on gay youth. They talked to Heidi (a facilitator at the Billy de Frank Lesbian and Gay
Community Center in San Jose), and they thought I should go to the youth group there.

I wasn’t secure enough to just say to the straight kids at school, “I’m gay.” So I wore a pink triangle to school for like a month, and no one said anything. I recall this girl named Hillary asked me, “What does the pink triangle mean?” I started shaking and said, “I’ll call you later,” but I didn’t tell her. And then this other girl had been to the Holocaust Museum, and she knew what pink triangles were, and she said, “You’re gay.” She was really supportive and she told lots of other people and people started coming up to me and asking if I’m gay. I said yeah and they said, “OK, that’s cool.” But then after a while there were other people who were saying, “Oh, there’s the queer.” I’d never been called anything like that. I didn’t really know what to do. Knowing other gay people created a buffer though. It helped me, because I had support at the group.

I wanted a boyfriend. I went to the Billy de Frank Center with a mission; to get a boyfriend. My parents just keep telling me, and are still stressing -- don’t have sex yet. Wait until you’re older. My mom actually once said, “Wait until there’s a cure for AIDS.”

I went out on a date with one guy. He was 18. The date was a mess. He was so demanding, I didn’t want to go but I told my parents that I was asked out on a date by a new guy in the group, and I said that he was going to Harvard. They said, “Oh, you’ve got to go out with him.” My sister was jumping up and down, saying, “Harvard!”

So I went. It started out, we went to the youth group. Then we went to Hamburger Mary’s. Then we went to his house and his parents were there. And he was not out to his parents! That was his first strike. Then he was totally into science fiction and his room was a plethora of science fiction books. And I don’t like science fiction. Strike two. Then he said that it was okay for him to be Republican, even though he was gay. That was strike three.

He drove me home and he talked to my parents for like an hour and a half. Then we went to my room and I said, “Look, I really want to go to sleep now, so maybe you should go.” Then he said, “Well, I guess we can’t do anything tonight.” And I said, “No, I don’t think so.” He said, “Where do you think our relationship is going?” I wanted to say, “Hopefully, to the gutter.”

I haven’t liked anyone I’ve met (at the youth center) in terms of a boyfriend. I like older guys, guys who are, like, 20. I think most older people (and the larger gay movement) are disconnected from queer youth.

Whenever you read gay magazines, there are always articles about domestic partnership and stuff. And domestic partnership is not nearly as important an issue as queer youth. People don’t kill themselves over domestic partnership. If someone could pick up a guy magazine and read a column by a gay kid, it might save some people.

Thanks to Out Magazine, July/August, 1994.

Michelangelo Signorile is the author of Queer in America. 

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Slaves to Love
by Lesléa Newman

My girlfriend Flash and I are love slaves. Not to each other, unfortunately. To our cats. Now why is this, I ask myself, usually at 3:00 a.m. when I can’t sleep because the cats have stretched themselves out luxuriously on top of the covers and Flash and I are huddled together in a tiny corner of the bed. Flash and I are both strong women. We are childless by choice because we treasure our independence. We like to think we can come and go as we please. Yet, if the truth be known, we are completely controlled by our cats.

Of course our cats are by no means ordinary cats. My cat is a 14 year old femme fatale named Couscous Kerouac (I was going through a vegetarian, beat-poet phase when I named her.) I found her in a mall in Boulder, Colorado where I lived at the time. A kid was standing over a box of kittens and the kid’s mother was standing over him, shrieking, “I’ll drown them, I swear to Gawd I’ll drown them” in an unmistakable Long Island accent. You’d think Couscous would be forever indebted to me, given the fact that I saved her from her fate at the bottom of the Colorado River. But no. Couscous is a brat-cat. She is very, very pretty (which she knows) and this makes people want to pet her. A big mistake. Couscous has to be in the mood, and her mood changes as quickly as the weather in New England. Her purr can change to a growl in two seconds flat, and usually a bite is not far behind. Consequently, Flash and I fall all over ourselves to please her. “Couscous, want to sit on this towel?” Flash will ask, spreading my very best bath towel from Bloomingdales across the kitchen floor. “It’s hot from the dryer.” Whenever Flash or I can get Couscous to sit on our laps for more than two minutes, we gloat in triumph, “See, she loves me.” Recently I bought Couscous a black velvet collar studded with rhinestones, which she lets me fasten around her neck on occasion. I tried to convince her to teach a workshop called “Hot To Be A Femme Top: A Feline Approach,” but she refused. (Thank God,” Flash said. “You don’t need any more tricks.”)

PC, our other cat, gives new meaning to the word mellow. You could pick this cat up and swirl him around by the tail, and his purr wouldn’t miss a beat. PC is Flash’s cat. Actually, PC, which stands not for Personal Computer or Politically Correct, but for Pussy Cat, originally belonged to Flash’s ex who lived on the third floor of her apartment building. One day PC got tired of climbing three flights of stairs, so he just moved into the first floor apartment, Flash’s place. When the ex moved out, hardly pausing to kiss either Flash or PC good-bye, PC stayed. I found the two of them years later, a pair of happy bachelors living on Dirty Mooe beef stew and Hamburger Helper.

Now the remarkable thing about PC is that he is 21 years old. Twenty-one human years; he was born in 1972. In cat years, this makes him older than George Burns and Rose Kennedy combined. We did have a close call with PC a few years back when he was only 17. The vet thought his kidneys were shutting down, and recommended special low-protein cat food, which he happened to sell at $2 a can. Flash and I bought a case home and of course PC wouldn’t eat it.

I called the vet for advice, and to see if I could get my money back. “Fry it,” the vet said. “He’ll love it.” Fry it? It’s embarrassing to admit, but yes, there I was standing over the stove, spatula in hand, sautéing a gob of chicken flavored Science Diet in polyunsaturated fat. “Hey, what’s for supper?” Flash asked, coming into the kitchen. “It smells great.” Of course PC wasn’t so easily fooled. I called the vet again. “Pour some chicken broth over it,” he advised. So I went out and bought a chicken. This time Flash entered the kitchen more cautiously. “Boiled chicken?” her eyebrows rose. “Are you having trouble with your gall bladder again?” PC wouldn’t eat his Science-Diet-drenched-in-broth of course, but he did enjoy the chicken, both wings and a thigh.
Eventually we went back to PC's favorite food, reasoning the quality of his life was more important than the quantity. I think he agrees, as four years later, he's still going strong. Flash thinks he lives on love and I agree. I mean, it's not every cat whose owner shleps his favorite chair from room to room all day long, placing it in direct line of whatever window the sun happens to be streaming through (never mind the fact that it used to be my favorite chair). Not every cat has an owner who will sleep in incredibly contorted positions because the cat is taking up 3/4 of the pillow ("What in the world did you do to put your neck out like that?" my chiropractor asks). And how many cat owners will stop in the middle of a big O (feline interruptus) to dash out of the house stark naked because their beloved kitty is yowling from the top of some tree? Not many.

Why do we put up with this? Flash, who has gotten into Zen lately, thinks our cats have lessons to teach us. I got a lesson the other day when I returned home from a three-week book tour. I was feeling pretty full of myself: audiences had been enthusiastic about my work, and I had been sufficiently wined, dined and adored. Surely I was on my way to being rich and famous any minute. So why wasn't my family home to greet its rising star? Where were the flowers, the balloons, the champagne? Flash was at work and the cats were nowhere to be found. What did greet me at the front door was a puddle of cat puke: evidence of Couscous's bulimic revenge. I cleaned up the mess and proceeded straight to the litter box which very clearly had to be changed. One minute a standing ovation, I thought, the next minute down on my knees scooping out shit. Was that my lesson? No, there was more. As I lined the litter box with newspaper, I happened to look down and catch a headline, "Local Writer Causes Brouhaha with Heather Has Two Mummies." And right underneath was a picture of the smiling author, disappearing under gravels of kitty litter. And two seconds later, Couscous squatted over my photo to take a pee. I'm still not sure what the lesson is here, but I probably deserved it.

Leslèa Newman is the author of seventeen books, the newest ones being a young adult novel, Fat Chance, and a short story collection, Every Woman's Dream. She is currently working on a book of columns called Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear.

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AA:
(G) Midnight Sons, see Calendar

Advertising:
(L) KT Creative, Katie, 278-9174 (see ad)

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 276-1400
(A) Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHIV), Rita, 463-5688
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Found. (WA), 206-393-2565
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Kulu, 278-5019

Alaska Native Networking:
(G) Kitsa Consulting, Roy, 272-1334

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Gateley, Keti/Jaimini, 561-7432
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

Amusements:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 561-0064

Apparel:
(A) The Look, Kari, 278-5665

Architectural Design:
(G/A) Lipson/Brown Design, 274-0913

Astrology:
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0582

Automotive
(A) Courtyard's, Michael, 562-1227 (see ad)

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

Bars:
(G) The Blue Moon, 277-0441
(G) Palace Saloon (Fairbanks), Alaskaland (Fri and Sat ONLY)
(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 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533 (see ad)
(A) Beach House, Mary (Honem), 235-5945
(L) The Butterfly Inn, Kay (Hawaii), 808-966-7936
(L) Cheney Lake B&B, Mary/Janetta, 337-4391

(C) The Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 451-6501 (see ad)
(L) Garden Cottage (Orlando, FL), Lisa, 407-894-5395
(G) Gingerbread House, Yves (Montreal), 514-597-2804
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Honem), 235-2265 (see ad)
(L) Mermaid Inn, Nancy/Bonnie (Fl. Lauderdale, FL), 305-565-8437
(L) Northern Comfort, Reeda, 278-2106

Bicycle Repair:
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221

Boarding School Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 800-727-3684

Pfëndkráis:
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816

Books:
(L) Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joann/Marish, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Alaskaana, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cyrano's Books, Sandy/Jerry, 274-2599

Carpet & Linoleum Installation:
(A) Big Bob's, Mark, 561-2121
(A) Don, 349-1065

Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 243-8457 (see ad)
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

Chemical Dependency:
(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minneapolis), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433). Also Los Angeles, CA, Coconut Grove, FL and New York City.

Child Care:
(G) Kid Zone, Andrew, 337-3082

Churches:
see Spiritual

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College Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 800-727-3684

Computer Bulletin Board:
(A) Myths Reality (Berdache), 333-3425; 338-2869
(G) The Wilde Side, 333-4039

Computer Supplies:
(A) Frigil North, Tom, 561-4633 (see ad)

Computer Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(G) Al's P.C. Connections, Alfred, 561-2767
(L) Angle, 337-0253 (see ad)
(G) By-Teq Alaska Inc., Ken, 248-2422
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 276-6862
(A) Computer Magik, Phil, 274-3528
(A) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(A) LRR Technologies, Logan, 272-7377
(G) Lucian, 272-0328
(G) Mark, 338-3357
(G) PC Possibilities, 248-6277

Costume Design:
(G) Every Bloomin' Thing, Jerry, Malcolm, 274-3158

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 258-2561 (see ad)
(A) Counseling Alternatives, Connie, 562-1826
(L) Counseling Alternatives, Janna, 562-1826
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(G) Ken, 248-7722 (see ad)
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
Deaf Support:
(A) Interpreter Referral Line, 277-3323 voice, 277-0735 tty
(A) Deaf Rehabilitation Serv., 277-3645 voice, 258-2232, tty

Dental Care:
(A) Ward Hubert, DDS, 248-0822

Dog Boarding:
(A) Doggie Vacations, 344-3647

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

Electronics:
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Electrolysis:
(A) Anchorage Skin Care Clinic, Barbara, 277-4247
(A) Gentle Touch, 561-6608 (see ad)

Entertainment:
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064, Movieline: 275-3799 (see ad)
(A) Mascaloppa Music, Diane, 277-9751
(L) Real Talent Productions, Karyn, 562-5777, 278-5683
(A) Syzygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-8040/338-3962 (see ad)

Feidenkrais:
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816

Fishing:
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)

Floors & Tile:
(A) Quality Floors, Bob & Ruth, 248-3900

Florists:
(G) Every Bloomin' Thing, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3158

Furniture:
(A) Design Craft, Laura/David, 279-0638 (see ad)

Gender:
(B) Berdache Society, Nora Jean, 258-9909 (see ad)

General Contracting:
(L) R & L Construction, Lita, 279-4606

Gifts:
(L) Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joan/Marion, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Design Craft, Laura/David, 272-4438 (see ad)
(A) Love of Alaska, Talyne, 243-0876

Haity Styling:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) 36th Ave. Hair Design, Ledha, 561-8967

Health:
(A) Gatekey, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(L) Health Advocacy/Medical/Legal Research, Lnda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
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(A) Nature's Own Way, Roberto/Debby, 561-0851 (see ad)
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(A) Hope, 561-2330

Helping:
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 458-8288

Identity Helpline, 258-4777 (see ad)
(G) Kodiak Gay Info, 486-2986

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

Home Products:
(G) Watkins Products, Jim, 243-5854

House Cleaning:
(L) Connie's House Cleaning Svcs., Connie, 276-3147
(A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4657
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

House Sitting:
(L) Carol, 271-4620 (see ad, TLC)

Imperial Court:
(G) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Jasmine, 563-8650, Bob 272-3042 (see Club Notes)

Hypnotherapy:
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0582

Income Tax Preparation:
(A) Lynn (LaPerriere) Thomas, 263-0720 (see ad)

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Kites, Games, Banners, Puzzles:
(A) Northwind Kites, Pat, 279-4386
(L) Wood Nymph Landscaping, Valerie, 338-0338

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

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(G) Don, 338-8826
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(L) Leslie, 278-2198
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Mortgage Brokers:
(A) City Mortgage, Lynn LaPerriere, 277-0700 (see ad)

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

Pet Care:
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(A) Doggie Vacations of Alaska, Constance, 344-3647

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

Picture Framing:
(L) Studio Designs, Lita, 275-4606

Political:
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth, 333-1196
(A) Anchorage Women's Political Caucus, Rhonda, 274-9308
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 566-0930 (see ad) (see Club Notes)

Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-8460
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
Private Investigators:
(L) K & K Investigating, Karyn, 561-3665

Producing:
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Recreation:
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226

Real Estate:
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-7481 (see ad)
(A) Bronwyn Hillman, 248-2804; 563-5156 (see ad)
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(L) Dynamic Properties, Lucille, 279-7600 (see ad)
(G) Omni Properties (Fairbanks), Jonathan, 452-2100 (see ad)

Reiki/Counseling:
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(L) Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-4089

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Social:
(G) Anchorage Garden Buddies, 248-8425 (see Club Notes)
(GLA) Q’Klatch (Fairbanks), Eric, 455-4051 (see Club Notes)

Social Research Design, Student Consultation, Evaluation:
(L) Susan E. Johnson, PhD, 272-4113

Spiritual:
(A) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(A) Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive Living, Rev. Nanice Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Bass, 746-1089
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, Jim, 258-5266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276
(A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824

Sports:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 658-2226
(A) Flies by Horse (Eagle River), 694-6946
(G) Roy’s Bikes, Roy, 333-8221

Student Organizations:
(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks), Pete, 457-8246 (see Club Notes)

Support Groups:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 258-2561 (see ad)
(A) P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Anchorage), Sylvia 562-4992, Fred 562-7161 (see Club Notes)
(A) P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fairbanks), Nancy, 479-4944 (see Club Notes)

Tarot/Psychic:
(L) Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-4089

Theatrical Facilities Out-of-State:
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Theatre:
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Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Cheressa, 561-0661 (see ad)
(L) Apollo Travel Agency, Karyn, 561-0661 (see ad)
(L) Dream Quest Tours, Karyn, 562-5777, 278-5683

Tutoring:
(A) James, Biology, 248-6412
(L) Pam, Math & Physics, 561-2634

Veterinarian:
(A) Dr. Jean Battig (Fairbanks) 452-6055

Woodworking:
(L) North Star Signs, Rusty, 333-7900

Writing & Editing Assistance:
(L) Kathy, 278-2840
(G) Kilta Consulting, Roy, 272-1334
(L) Mei Mei, 276-7269

Yardwork, Hauling, Snowplowing:
(L) Jade Services, Julie, 688-1126

DO WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO’S OUT OF THE RUNNING FOR MISS CONGENIALITY?
The Albums of Potter's Lane
(remembering)
by Dan Cook

Part 17
"Pulling Together"

The cattle had been culled, and now they were in 4 large holding corrals, waiting for the wholesaler's call.

"How many head and what do you think they're worth?" The buyer listened to the price Steve asked. "Well, I'll have to see them," he said, "but no one's paying that much these days." (The rancher starts high and the buyer always much lower: there's always heckling and throwing down of hats, spitting of tobacco, a lot of BS, and so on—the show usually makes both sides happy.)

12 brand new cattle trucks arrived and headed for the corrals. Steve rode out to meet them. He really loved to dicker and he was ready to win. Always a little small talk before the fun started. This time the buyer told him that his company was building a stockyard and meat processing plant just outside of Bend. He was hoping Steve would sell to them first next season. Steve responded "you bet, if the price is right." Enough of the small talk, he thought: he was primed for a good price fight. He had dealt with this guy before and knew he was tough. The anticipation had him licking his chops. "You want how much for this sorry herd?" the buyer asked, spitting tobacco. But those were wonderful fighting words to Steve. "We're off to the races", Steve thought, as he told him the price again. "All right, I'll take the lot. Your boys will help me load 'em up, and we'll sign the papers. The money will be in your account at the Association today.

Steve had saved enough hot air over the last few weeks to raise a blimp, and his bubble had been burst. That buyer laid down without a fight. Steve was confused and disappointed though he was happy about the price—but that buyer could have given him at least one fit. Mike was overjoyed and tried to reason with Steve, but for once Steve wasn't saying much. Mike knew only one sure way to get Steve's mind to clear. He raised his eyebrows a couple of times and said "come on." Steve knew what that meant, thank God.

Later, at the Town Hall meeting the Parson announced that he and his wife would be departing in November. They were being replaced at the first of the year. There wasn't a dry eye—everyone had their hankies out as each one praised them. Their soft spoken words and manner had been a comfort for so many years. Churches were having a hard time, but the one in John Day had been doing very well and the mother church wanted them to do the same for a large church in Seattle (large church, but no people).

Mike and Lottie were working with two high school girls who wanted to be nurses, but he realized no one could ever replace Lottie.

"We'll never forget that Sunday," both Steve and Mike said, trying to talk at the same time.

The Preacher, Lottie and the Parson standing outside greeting the congregation before the Sunday service, January, 1933.

"Praise the Lord," the new preacher said to each one and shook their hand. They were all singing the opening hymn as the parson and the preacher sat down both in prayer. As the parson was saying his last farewell, the new preacher checked out the congregation with a malevolent grin. He got up and walked back and forth. The congregation was returning his smile. Mike said "that smile of his reminded us of Vince smiling at someone at the Calico, and then turning around and saying 'she's a bitch.'"

His first word was "YOU," and his smile never came back. He screamed, "sinners, fornicators" and anything he could think of. He threw the Bible on the floor. "Repent!" He picked up the Good Book and repeated his words. There wasn't one word of love or caring for your fellow man or a forgiving God. "Well, you can forget that one, too," said Mike, telling the last of the story. "Whoever the Preacher was talking about was not forgiving and pretty hateful to boot. He kept saying a new word: 'ANDA.' We looked it up and it's not even in the dictionary. Anda this anda that. The Parson's eyes were just as wide as everyone else's. Some of the women let out little screams as the Bible hit the floor, but the clincher was when we knew he didn't know what he was talking about.

"You're hungry, broke and your neighbor doesn't care. Your health has been poor, brothers and sisters. It's because you've been sinning."

Well, there it was. No one was any of those things, so everything else the man said must be BS, too, or so thought most in the congregation.
One of the men in the back pew couldn’t control his laughter. Then one by one the rest of the congregation joined in. They were shaking their heads as they gathered children, and went to get their hats and coats. Parents were telling their children “never, ever do that with the Good Book;” they would answer first to the strap, and then to the Lord. The small choir walked out and that was that.

By the summer of 1933 the church was closed, and the home church would not send a parson. John Day would be without a church until 1942, and that was on record.

March 4, 1933. Franklin D. Roosevelt became the 32nd President of the United States. In his first 100 days he permanently altered the conduct of American life: new laws assured concerted government action, employed the jobless, supported crop prices, developed the backward Tennessee Valley, repealed prohibition and stopped home foreclosures. Even insured bank deposits. And much more. For the first time in many years bank deposits exceeded withdrawals. It was called the "New Deal."

Mrs. Potter knew that if FDR got in, Prohibition would be history and so would her lucrative business. She had accumulated more than just wealth. She and her two partners were backing candidates for high office in DC. The "other guys" had won and now she had to pull some major strings. She had Government contracts, was leasing one of her piers to the state, and had another contract for pharmaceuticals, but she wanted more. Over the years she had bought controlling interest in a variety of businesses. One of those was a meat packing company. Now she had a huge contract to fill. Mike’s uncle pulled strings to get that one.

Mike and Steve never involved themselves with mother’s business. When they found out about the new meat processing plant in Bend and that the fleet of new cattle trucks belonged to mother’s corporation, everything finally made sense. No wonder the buyer had bought their beef without fighting over the price.

The realization that Mother Potter had always kept Steve and Mike’s best interests in mind finally sank in. The two had done a lot of growing up in the last few years. Now that Prohibition was over, there was no need to keep hiding the cash and jewels in the two safes. There was no way Mother Potter could get busted now.

Prohibition ended in December, 1933. On the phone, she told the guys very calmly that she could use the jewels, but they could keep the money and invest it. There was a little more small talk and they hung up.

Steve went bonkers, running around the bedroom screaming "we’re rich! Holy mackerel, baby, oh, boy, oh, boy, are we rich." They fell on the bed laughing, then they sat up and looked at each other with big smiles and said, "YAH."

From the time Mother Potter placed the money in the two safes and handed them the combination years prior, they had never touched or opened them. All they remembered was that both safes were packed. The big one in Mother’s bedroom was stuffed with hundred dollar bills, and the smaller one in Mike’s was packed with fifty dollar bills.

"We have to admit it was a lot of fun counting all that cash." Both of them were talking: "when we got through the grand total was close to nine hundred thousand dollars, and Mother said to invest it. But on what."

Mr. and Mrs. Holt standing with Robert and his suitcase.

Mike’s uncle had been sending law books for the last four years to Robert. He had read and reread everything he could get his hands on. He wanted to go to law school. Invest: that’s what mother had said.

The guys told him if he could pass the exams, the ranch would pay for his education. In return he would have to practice law in John Day for three years, even though there wasn’t much need for a lawyer. If he did that the ranch would help him get established in any city of his choice.

He was off to USC. Cha Cha and Vince said they would help him get settled and "be there" if he needed anything.

It was time for Steve to become a full time rancher. He gave his two week’s notice even though "no one gave up a job in 1933." And then he put his plans into motion. The first thing to do was plant 800 acres of rich hay and winter fodder. Feeding over a thousand head each winter had cut into their profit. They had the land and the money--so Steve finally got his tractor: not one, but two.

Two new tractors with every attachment. The auction block in Bend provided the perfect opportunity. They got everything for the price of just one tractor.

Rolling Hills of rich black soil all seeded.

Roland and Charles came over on spring break and helped put in the first 400 acres; then Mary and Etta followed up by helping the guys finish the job--and it was massive.
Steve's youngest sister's wedding invitation, and a photo of the bride and groom, August, 1933.
The groom was wearing his uniform. He was in the Salvation Army—a Captain. Mama would have grandbabies to spoil, and God only knew how Mama and Papa wanted that.

Steve and Mike met him the day before the wedding. Yes, he was handsome, but he was as cold as a witch's tit. A man of very few words, he and his parents looked like they had just smelled an old out house—they were real uptight. Everyone thought these people were a little strange, but if that's what Sister wanted, so be it. After all, he was a Captain in the service of the Lord, and that should count for something.

Mike quickly learned there was no need for a hospital: a clinic with a small staff fit the bill a lot better.

And the travelers' aid station behind the clinic was holding it's own. Too, the community was grateful to have field-hands and day laborers ready and able to work. And Mike did his best to keep them clean and patched up, and even more important, he could rely on the young couple to keep everything running smoothly. If there were an emergency they would call him at home.

Mike made sure the travelers' aid station had a good supply of elk meat (you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours). Just as our country was starting to feel that there was light at the end of a very long tunnel (3 years of depression had been a nightmare), the Great Plains had floods and drought. In November, 1933 the storm picked up the earth and blasted out the sun and stars. It was called the BLACK BLIZZARD and wreaked havoc from Canada to Texas. It lasted for the next two years, and in its wake million of acres were lost. It was not the "Bread Basket" any more. They called it the "DUST BOWL."

The migration became staggering: close to a million hungry people started west. They were desperate and alone, and, for comfort, banded together in groups just like the wagon trains had done so many years ago. Most people tried to stay with people from the same state—they felt they had something in common even though their state had been destroyed. It was still home, somewhere under all that dust. For now, however, it was a car or truck that held all their possessions.

It was the spring of 1934 when the first caravan entered John Day. Once again, Blue Mountain Family Foods had a banner year, and at the annual November Town Hall meeting Mike became the honorary Mayor.

Mike holding the gavel as Mayor.

Everyone was working now and the children were staying in school. Oh, the roads were terrible and they needed more teachers, but the State wasn't about to let them have either of those. Nonetheless, they all knew they were far better off than 98% of the country.

Turning the page....

Cherokee AKA Dan Cook was Empress I of Eugene, Oregon, Empress 18 of All Alaska and very active in gay politics over a long period of time.

[Note: if you've been following the saga of Steve and Mike and are missing sections of the storyline, please write or call Cherokee, who will send the missing sections at no charge.]

EQUAL
EQuality Under Alaskan Law

Like to be on panels? Good at speaking to Unions? Want to talk with STAR? Want to be on the team encouraging openly Gay/Lesbian candidates to run? Want to be part of a workshop to help reduce your own homophobia? Have your own ideas about what EQUAL might do?

Next Meeting: October 6, 7:00pm, Room 'A' at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (meetings are on the first Thursday of every month).

Equal, Inc., P.O. Box 244452 Anchorage, AK 99524-4452 337-5861
Media Watch
by GLAAD/LA

We’re GLAAD that CNN and CBS have expressed interest in covering Gay Games IV in New York City during the week of June 18. Such coverage could be a first for the Games and a milestone in mainstream media recognition of this international sporting event. You can encourage these networks to include the Gay Games, the results and personality profiles of the athletes by contacting: Jim Walton, Sports Director, CNN, 1 CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30348; (404) 737-3323; CBS-TV Sports, 524 West 57 Street, New York, NY 10019.

We’re GLAAD that a full-page ad in the Los Angeles Times carried a message from Tanqueray, the English gin, entitled “The End of the Road is Just the Beginning,” the ad, consisting of text only, paid homage to the bicyclists who rode in the California AIDS Ride. “(Tanqueray) Proudly Salutes The Riders. Here’s to the end of the road,” proclaimed the ad. At the very bottom of the page were the logo and name of The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center. Your comments to: Mr. Jack Schaeffer, President, Tanqueray, 1412 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

We’re MAD that the virulently anti-gay American Family Association, is now targeting Helene Curtis (makers of Finesse, Salon Selectives and Suave haircare products) for its advertising on “pro-homosexual” television programs. AFA has identified Helene Curtis as one of the top advertisers of “Melrose Place,” a program it describes as “among the leading champions of the homosexual activist agenda.”

Help Helene Curtis to get the AFA out of its hair by writing: Gerald Gidwitz, Chair, Helene Curtis, 325 North Wells Street, Chicago, IL, 60610; FAX (312) 836-0125.

We’re GLAAD that GLAAD/USA has announced a campaign to target the Coca-Cola Company, headquartered in Atlanta, the host city for the 1996 International Olympic Games, and a prominent sponsor of the Games, for its refusal to denounce or disavow the decision of the Atlanta Committee on the Olympic Games to hold an Olympic volleyball event in neighboring Cobb County, GA. A resolution was passed in Cobb County last year that declared “the gay lifestyle” incompatible with community standards.

Calls can be made to Coca-Cola Company’s toll-free phone line, (800) GET-COKE [438-2653]. Or contact Billy Payne, President, ACOG, P. O. Box 1996, Atlanta, GA 30301-1996, (404) 224-1901; FAX (404) 224-1969.

We’re MAD that America OnLine has been targeted by the religious right. Anti-gay America OnLine users have asked president Steve Case to remove the “Gay Teen Folder” from the service. This feature of America OnLine offers a potentially lifesaving opportunity for teens to talk to others, offer support and share experiences in struggling with their sexual identities. The bigots claim that this “provides a bridge for children who are experiencing some sexual confusion to meet more experienced pedophiles, bestiality practitioners, sadomasochists, homosexuals and others. We need to ... get this folder shut down.” An article in Newsweek, entitled “Child Abuse in Cyberspace,” related an incident about a child being lured through electronic conversations by a pedophile. While the possibility for abuse of electronic communication exists, censorship is not the answer. Responsibility begins at home and America OnLine already has “parental control” options which allow parents to filter out objectionable electronic material.

Let America OnLine know that gays and lesbians share the same concerns for children as everyone else, and that pedophilia, bestiality and sadomasochistic behavior are not synonymous with being gay or lesbian. Write Steve Case, America OnLine, 8619 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna, VA 22182; (800) 544-7750.

It was with high expectations that the movie version of Tom Robbins’ 1976 pop culture bestseller, “Even Cowgirls Get the Blues,” was awaited. But we’re MAD that FineLine Features and gay director Gus Van Sant managed to turn out a flat, insulting and blatantly misogynistic film. For instance, The Countess, a grotesque drag queen, makes feminine hygiene products because women smell so bad. In a long harangue he spews, “I loathe the stink of females. Once they start fooling around with men they stink like rotten mushrooms, like a tuna fish’s retirement party.” In the book’s version of this women-hating diatribe, it is presented
as the ravings of a twisted soul. Van Sant has
weighted this aspect of the story so it grabs center
stage. When we do get to the lesbian love scenes
they feel empty and forced. In the context of this
picture, who cares anyway? Your comments to:
Gus Van Sant, “Even Cowgirls Get the Blues,”
FineLine Features, 888 7th Avenue, 20th Floor,
New York, NY 10106; (212) 649-4800. ▼

A Momentary Irony
from the Corner Table
Andrew Barron

In the sweat-steamed college bar
Chinoed athletes fuzz-faced boys
Are poised to note the slightest chance
To meet, impress, nuzzle, dance

Any breasted half alive
Can rule the whole hormonal throng
The fat, lame, pock-marked, dumb
All command with slightest nod

Cruel God, who made me broad and
bearded?
Who severed heart and form from
birth?
Can my anguish, helpless, bitter
Yield a good, an awful mirth?

*1993▼

INTRODUCING —

Beatrice Hitchcock
as Intern Minister

Our church welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons
who have a variety of spiritual beliefs

Both Beatrice and the Rev. Art Curtis are available to perform
services of holy union for lesbian and gay couples

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3201 Turnagain Street, Anchorage, Alaska
Tel: 248-3737 ▼▼▼ Recorded Message: 248-0715
Sept. 16, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4As, 12-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7pm, 637 A St., (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land.

Sept. 17, Sat:
- SLAA Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- Feminist Sing-a-Long potluck at 6:30 sing at
  7:30; call 337-3543
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land.

Sept. 18, Sun:
- AUUF Services “Can Unitarian Universalism Be A Healing Religion?” 10:30am 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am and
  7pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1pm (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3pm, Park Lanes. Call Bob for info: 561-8744
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W.
  27th Ave.

Sept. 19, Mon:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- Gay, Joyous and Free, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1 FM,
  7-9pm; call 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- 4As: AIDS 101, 6:30-8:30pm, 1057 W.
  Fireweed Ln., Ste 102, 263-2050

Sept. 20, Tues:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 8pm; call 566-1133

Sept. 21, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2-4pm, 1057 W.
  Fireweed Ln., Ste. 102, 263-2050
- P-FLAG, (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 7pm (562-4992)
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm. $3 cover.

Sept. 22, Thurs:
- Anchorage Garden Buddies, Don 338-9068
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W.
  27th (non-smoking)
- Kim Acuna, 9:00pm, Java Joint

Sept. 23, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4As, 12-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7pm, 637 A St.
  (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Identity Potluck
(non-smoking)
6:30pm: See Ad...
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land

Sept. 24, Sat:
- 4As Buddy Training, Part I, 10am-4pm, 1057 W.
  Fireweed Ln., Ste 102, 263-2050
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- Kim Acuna, 7:30pm, Resurrect Art (Seward)
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land
- Women’s Coffeeshouse, 7pm, Alaska Women’s Bookstore: Leigh Weickert—slide show & gear
demo on Denali climb

Sept. 25, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 10:30am, “The Lost American Folk Songs:” Paul Roseland, Folksinger 3201
  Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am
  & 7pm; call: 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Anchorage Lesbian Families’ Alliance,
  call Mary or Val at 276-3478
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1pm (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3pm, Park Lanes. 561-8744 (Bob) for info.
AGLA (Ak. Gay and Lesbian Assn., Fairbanks); luncheon at UAF Women's Center, call 457-0246

Oct. 2, Sun:
\- AUUF Services, 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
\- Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am, 7pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
\- Northern Exposure Bowling League: 3pm, Park Lanes. 561-8744 (Bob) for info.
\- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1pm, (Gay, Lesbian only) MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
\- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Oct. 3, Mon:
\- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 5:30; call 566-1133
\- HIV+ Men's Support Group, 5:30pm, call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
\- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
\- Women's music show on KRUA 88.1FM, 7-9pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests

Oct. 4, Tues:
\- 4As Helpline training, 6:30-8:30pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
\- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 8pm; call 566-0930

Oct. 5, Wed:
\- Alaska Women's Political Caucus
\- Free HIV TEST at 4As. 2-4pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
\- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 6pm; call 566-0930

Oct. 6, Thurs:
\- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
  12-Step meeting, 5:30; call 566-1133
\- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)
\- Acappella Festivalia, HOT air, UAA (see notice "HOT air HOTline")
\- Kim Acuna, 9:00pm, Java Joint

Oct. 7, Fri:
\- PLWA lunch, 4As, 12-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
\- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
\- Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
\- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland
Oct. 8, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- Women's Two-Step Dancing: Pioneer School House. 7:30pm lessons; 8:30pm dancing.
- AGLA (Ak. Gay and Lesbian Assn. Fairbanks); dance at Mashers' Hall, call 457-0246

Oct. 9, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am and 7pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Oct. 10, Mon:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30; call 566-1133
- HIV+ Men's Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
- Gay Bar, legal Q and A., 7-8:30pm, call 279-5001
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women's music show on KRUA 88.1FM, 7-9pm, 786-4846, make on-air requests.

Oct. 11, Tues:
- 4As Help Line training, 6:30-8:30pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8pm; call 566-1133
- AIDS 101 Training at 4 A's 6:30-8:30
  call 276-1400

Oct. 12, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2-4pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Identity Help Line Training (for new volunteers and brush up for experienced ones). Call Jen, 272-7193 for info (see article this NorthView)
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm. $3 Cover

Oct. 13, Thurs:
- 4As Help Line training, 6:30-8:30pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30; call 566-1133
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Oct. 14, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4As, 12-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7pm, 637 A. St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskanland

Oct. 15, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- Identity Help Line Training (for new volunteers and brush up for experienced ones). Call Jen, 272-7193 for info (see article this NorthView)
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskanland

Oct. 16, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 10:30am, TBA
- Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am & 7pm. call: 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Anchorage Lesbian Families' Alliance, call Mary or Val at 276-3478
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1pm (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3pm, Park Lanes. 561-8744 (Bob) for info.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Imperial Court of All Alaska:
Investitures, 7:00pm, location TBA, tickets at Blue Moon.
Food so fresh you have to slap it!

For the tastiest, juiciest burgers in town, there can only be one place...O'Brady's Burgers & Brew.

Walk, run, roll or ski your way to O'Brady's, snap up a free burger and support Identity! When it comes to great value, selection and atmosphere, O'Brady's is the one.

O'Brady's is proud to feature Spaten Beer - Munich's Best. When you want an exceptional beer, try the best, try the original, try Spaten.

Dimond Center
800 E. Dimond
344-8033

Chugach Square
6901 E. Tudor Rd.
338-1080

O'Brady's Burgers & Brew proudly supports the efforts of Identity, Inc. Now you can share your support!
Stop in to either O'Brady's Burgers & Brew and get a free burger with the purchase of another of equal or greater value. Not only do you get a great deal on a great burger but O'Brady's will donate $4.00 to Identity, Inc. for every coupon received.

Limit one coupon per person per visit please. Offer not valid with other offers, discounts or promotions. This coupon valid at both O'Brady's locations. Contributions are sent to Identity, Inc. on an irregular schedule based on redemption traffic. Maximum value $5.75. Expires 10/26/94.

FREE BURGER
Full Page: $100

1/4 page: $40

Business Card: $25

1/2 page: $65

3 months: 10% discount
6 months: 15% discount
12 months: 20% discount

Full inside back page: $125