<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albums of Potter's Lane (Mike &amp; Steve)</td>
<td>52, 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazon Trail (missing, oops, sorry!)</td>
<td>16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review(s)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Spotlight</td>
<td>46, 47, 48, 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classifieds</td>
<td>36, 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Notes</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dandelion</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for Identity Submissions</td>
<td>Inside Cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directory</td>
<td>26, 27, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination Questionnaire</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye</td>
<td>31, 32, 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity</td>
<td>40, 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to the Editor</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost &amp; Found</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masthead</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Form</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obituaries</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OutLaw</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-FLAG (Anchorage)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potluck/Social</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queer Abby (new!)</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 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.

Advertising: Rates are displayed graphically on the last page of this newspaper. Contact NorthView by mail or through the Helpline at 258-4777. Advertising can be submitted camera-ready or can be composed for you for a negotiated fee. NorthView does not accept Personals, nor does it accept advertising that is sexist, racist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

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

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

Lavender Ladies by Amy English

I can't believe it! That movie the Fed Up With Queers people made is one of the best lesbian films I've ever seen!

The love scene in the woods, with the fog, drifting through the trees, was absolutely beautiful!

Admit it - you got excited! Wait until I tell the others you spent the last half of the movie clutching my hand and moaning in a room full of straights!

That wasn't me!
Editorial

I am outraged but not surprised at the antics of Campbell & Johnston (sounds like a team of hucksters hawking the magic homosexual cure elixir).

As the struggle for basic civil rights for Lesbians and Gays moves into the final stretch, there is more resistance, to be sure. As a straight friend of mine said, "steps to end this oppression are being taken more and more boldly, more now than ever before" and that makes the civil rights detractors mighty frightened.

Of what?

In the August '94 Advocate Richard Posner, in an interview that raised not a little controversy, said "Conservatives believe—correctly, I think—that the more one knows about the variety of sexual practices that exist, the more tolerant people are likely to be, especially when you discover that an admired society like ancient Athens had very different sexual attitudes—ones that were shockingly promiscuous and permissive by our standards. This makes one feel a little less certain that one's own outlook will prevail."

Such insecurity, he adds, leads many religious conservatives to resist discussion of sexuality. "There is a long tradition in Catholicism of believing that if you talk about deviant sexual practices, you give people ideas," he explains. "In medieval literature on confession, there is a debate over how closely priests should examine people about their sexual practices. The concern expressed is that if you are very specific—like asking a person if he has engaged in anal intercourse—you will actually inform the person that there are sexual activities of which the person might not have been aware and might wish to partake of. But at the same time, there is a concern that these practices are extremely common."

The emergence of the sexual liberation movement, Posner contends, has contributed to an "ominous" growth of religious fundamentalism. "There appears to be an international trend toward religious enthusiasm, fundamentalism, and zealotry," he says. "The sexual aspect is just one part of it, but I think any kind of religious zealotry is a cause for concern because historically, intense religious beliefs have been associated with intolerance, persecution, and violence. Religious people whose views have illogical roots strike a chord with populations that are not so much troubled by and hostile to homosexuality itself but to what they view as flaunting or proselytizing."

How to be creative around this issue, or, what I believe:

At the recent statewide conference ("In Search Of... A New Vision For Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals"), there were workshops and meetings and spin-off groups that spoke directly to the civil rights issue. The message was clear: be involved. Whether it's Community Councils (one of us is president of one of them), or groups we form to go into the Wider Community and help folks, or groups we join, or inviting non-Gay/non-Lebanian friends to those groups (or to your home), the point is the same... to educate¹ about our culture.

I believe we have a culture distinct and separate (just as African-Americans have a culture, the Irish, the Israeli, South Americans, Hawaiians...you get the idea. Religion, on the other hand is a lifestyle, a choice). We can ignore our roots but we can't erase them from our psyche as if they were some primeval monster—as seems to be the case with Mr. Johnston.

If we honor who we are (in all our diversity as Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals, as drag queens and 3-piece suits, as feminists and as Lesbian Moms, as leather queens and as jeans and T-shirts and all other flavors of Lesbians/Gay), we will move more substantively toward those civil rights. We cannot demand legislation and then assume that, because of the new laws, we will have arrived and our travails are ended. If, on the other hand, as Bruce Bawer suggests, we whitewash our "national image" to appear homogeneous and "normal," we deny our humanness/diversity and pande to the politics of "appear normal to get a little bit ahead, one step at a time", i.e., push aside the "fringe groups" for the "good of the movement."

We need to invest some serious time and energy in educating non-Lebanian/non-Gay peoples about our rich and diverse culture.

What is clear is that there is a widespread fear of the "special rights" we are said to be demanding (please see the following demands of the March On Washington Committee, furnished along with a letter (denouncing everything Gay (mostly a personal trite and thinly social do-good) by Mr. Johnston and his fear-filled anti-homosexual group).

Many people don't know that there is a difference between the "special rights" the zealots claim we are demanding (which is in actuality what they are demanding for themselves), and the civil rights the Lesbians/Gay Community is demanding in reality (so similar, alas, to the Civil Rights Movement of the '50s and '60s).

But wait! There's another problem. There are serious dollars at stake here. Without us, the "Rabid Reich," as I've heard it called, wouldn't have a whipping-boy to ab/use as fundraising fodder. To be sure, they believe the Lesbians/Gay Community is a threat, but only because they listen solely to the rabid preachings of some rather misguided and very sad hate-mongers. For example, if Johnston and "The Right Reverend Dr. Jerry Prevo" (thanks, Ear) would look honestly at their own personal fear of Homosexuality (how true is it that The Right Reverend has a Gay son living in, perhaps, California? and that there's a Gay underground in the Anchorage Baptist Temple led by you know who ("oops, we slipped didn't we, guess we'd better get on our knees and pray some more"), they would probably spend a lot less time attacking others (in a vapid attempt to eradicate their own inner fears?).

¹educate [ME. educatn < L. educatus, pp. of educare, to bring up, rear, or train < educere < educare, pp. of educare, to bring up, rear, or train < educere < e-, out + ducere, to lead draw, bring. 1. to train or develop the knowledge, skill, mind, or character of, esp. by formal schooling of study; teach; instruct 2. to form and develop (one's taste, etc.) 3. to pay for the schooling of (a person) —Syn. see Teach.]
Thanks to the conference, we do have a new vision (separate and distinct from the dis- and mis-information promulgated by the detractors), one in which we can awaken to our cultural heritage and move forward with our lives, with the issue of civil rights and most importantly, with our bridge building. We are a diverse and very rich people, and from our identity which is gleaned from learning what the history books excluded, not to mention our own oral histories/herstories, we can join hands—with each other, and eventually, with the Wide World.

As Harry Hay, the dean of the homophile movement, is reputed to have said: “What we have in common with straight people is what we do in bed... It’s everything else that’s different.” Let us get on with the business of education.
F. Kenneth Freedman
Co-Chair, Identity, Inc.

Gay & Republican?

ARE YOU TIRED OF BEING POLITICALLY CORRECT?

DO YOU WANT the Republican Party to be more supportive of issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community?

ARE YOU ANGRY enough to work within the Republican Party to ensure that right-wing bigots never again dominate the Party and its National Convention?

ARE YOU TIRED of gay people who demand allegiance to every left/liberal cause and who are blinded by dogma no matter what the outcome?

DO YOU BELIEVE that gay men and lesbians can join together in a bipartisan approach to civil rights and national AIDS efforts?

DO YOU OBJECT to the government in your wallet? Your home? Your bedroom?

If This Grabs You, Join Us.
There Are Lots of Us Out There.

LEG-CABIN
Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights
P.O. BOX 7357
ALOHA, OR 97007

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.

SoloFlex. $650.00. Excellent condition. Call Michael at 258-0516.

Two-Bedroom cabin and sauna on 4+ acres—near Soldotna. No water or electricity. Good terms. Fun and considerate lesbian neighbors. Call Janna at 338-7890.
Platform of the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation

Action Statement Preamble to the Platform

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender movement recognizes that our quest for social justice fundamentally links us to the struggles against racism and sexism, class bias, economic injustice and religious intolerance. We must realize if one of us is oppressed, we all are oppressed. The diversity of our movement requires and compels us to stand in opposition to all forms of oppression that diminish the quality of life for all people. We will be vigilant in our determination to rid our movement and our society of all forms of oppression and exploitation, so that all of us can develop to our full human potential without regard to race, religion, sexual orientation/identification, identity, gender and gender expression, ability, age or class.

PLATFORM DEMANDS AND RELATED ITEMS

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

Passage of "The Civil Rights Amendment Act of 1991" (HR 1430 & SS74).

Repeal of Department of Defense directive 1332.14

Repeal of laws prohibiting sodomy between consenting adults.

Repeal of laws prohibiting cross-gender expression (dress codes) between consenting adults.

Repeal of laws prohibiting non-coercive sexual behavior between consenting adults.

Amendment of the Code of Federal Regulations to recognize same-sex relationships.

Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.


Passage and implementation of graduated age-of-consent laws.

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

The provision of responsive, appropriate health care for people with disabilities, deaf and hard of hearing people.

Revision of the Centers for Disease Control definition of AIDS to include infections particular to women.

Implementation of the recommendation of the National AIDS Commission immediately.

A massive increase in funding for AIDS education, research and care—money for AIDS, not for war. This money should come from the defense budget, not existing social services.

An increase in funding and research to provide an independent study of HIV infection in women, People of Color, Bisexuals, Heterosexuals, children, and women to women transmission.

Access to anonymous testing for HIV.

No mandatory HIV testing.

A cure for AIDS.

The development and legalization of a national needle exchange program.

Free substance abuse treatment on demand.

The re-definition of sexual re-assignment surgeries as medical, not cosmetic, treatment.

The provision of appropriate medical treatment for all transsexualized people in prisons and hospitals.

An increase in funding and research for chronic illness, including breast, ovarian, and other cancers particular to women.

The right of all people with chronic illness, including HIV/AIDS, to choices in medical treatment as well as the right to end such treatment.

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

The recognition and legal protection of whole range of family structures.

An end to abuse and exploitation of and discrimination against youth.

An end to abuse and exploitation of and discrimination against older/old people.

Full implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Health and Human Services Task Force on Youth Suicide.

Recognition of domestic partnerships.

Legalization of same-sex marriages.

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

Culturally inclusive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies program at all levels of education.

Information on abortion at all levels of education.

Information on AIDS/HIV, childcare and sexuality at all levels of education.

Establishment of campus offices and programs to address Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students' special needs.

The ban of all discriminatory ROTC programs and recruiters from learning institutions.

An end to discrimination at all levels of education.

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

The right to control our bodies.

Unrestricted, safe and affordable alternative insemination.

An end to sterilization abuse.

That access to safe and affordable abortion be available to all people on demand, without restriction and regardless of age.

That access to safe and affordable contraception be available to all people on demand, without restriction and regardless of age.

That access to unbiased and complete information about the full range of reproductive options be available to all people, regardless of age.

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

Support for non-racist policies.

Support for affirmative action.
An end to institutionalized racism.
Equal economic opportunity and an end to poverty.
Full reproductive rights, improvement of prenatal services, availability of alternative insemination for Lesbians and Bisexual women of color.
Repeal all "English Only" laws and restore and enforce bilingual education.
Repeal all discriminatory immigration laws based on race and HIV status.
A commitment to ending racism, including internalized racism in our communities and in this country.
A commitment to ending sexism and all forms of religious and ethnic oppression in our communities and in this country.
An end to the genocide of all the indigenous peoples and their cultures.
Restoration of the self-determination of all indigenous people of the world.
We demand an end to discrimination and violent oppression based on actual or perceived sexual orientation/identification, race, religion, identity, sex and gender expression, disability, age, class, AIDS/HIV infection.
An end to anti-Semitism.
An end to sexist oppression.
An end to discrimination against people with disabilities, deaf and hard of hearing people.
An end to discrimination based on sexual orientation in all programs of the Boy Scouts of America.
An end to economic injustice in this country and internationally.
An end to discrimination against prisoners with HIV/AIDS.
An end to discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, and those perceived as having HIV/AIDS.
An end to consideration of gender dysphoria as a psychiatric disorder.
An end to hate crimes including police brutality, rape and bashing.
An end to censorship.

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

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
The Post-Stonewall Generation
by Michelangelo Signorile

[This is a continuation of the article (in series) started in the August, '94 North View.]

Eighteen-year-old Lyn Duff grew up in South Pasadena, California, and now lives in San Francisco. I was 14 and was with some gay friends. We were at a demonstration, and my mom saw me on television. I walked in the house and she said, "Are you?" in this way that she was horrified. I go, "Yeah, Mom, I'm a lesbian! I fuck women! I like pussy!" And she screamed. It was such a stupid thing to do. At the time, I thought, I was like, "All right, wow, I can't believe I did that, that's so, so cool." But now I realize that that was such an immature thing to do. I mean, she was upset. It was like I'd died or something.

One day I was on the street in L.A. with this guy Rob, and my mom showed up and she was all smiles and saying, like, I accept that you're gay. She was hugging me and stuff. Then I felt a hand on my shoulder and I turned around and there were two cops standing there, and I'm like, "Huh?" It just seemed so insane. I didn't do anything, and these cops took both of my wrists and walked me away. I was crying. My mom was hysterical—it was all an act—and she was saying, "She's going to try and kill me. She's going to rape my daughter [Lyn's sister]. She's a lesbian!"

They put me in a car and drove me to a hospital in Pasadena. She told them I was violent and suicidal. The funny thing was, I was one of the few gay youth who wasn't suicidal. After two weeks they discharged me, saying I was a happy, well-adjusted lesbian who was just oppositional.

Then, in December of 1991, I went to visit my grandparents. My grandmother, my grandfather, and I were doing the Christmas tree thing, decorating and stuff. Then they go, "Come out to the car, we have a surprise for you." They said, "Go and sit in the front of the car." I thought it was all weird. All of a sudden I saw my mom. Somebody shoved a sweatshirt over my face. There were suddenly lots of people, lots of cars. People were holding my arms down. My mom is yelling, "Get her hands!" because I was trying to get away. They held me down all the way to Las Vegas.

They took me to Rivendell Hospital in Utah, where I was being incarcerated. In California I would have had the right to a hearing first, but once out of California, they had the right to do this. Rivendell is a hospital for youth that specializes in "sexual disorders." There were lots of kids who were sexual offenders, kids who were promiscuous, and kids who'd run away from home. And then there were a lot of lesbian and gay kids.

These two women strip-searched me. They wore gloves, and they went in places my doctor hasn't even been. They told me to go get dressed—they took my shoes, my backpack, my jacket, and left me only with a T-shirt and jeans. Then they took me to this room that was like eight-by-eight that smelled really bad. It was painted Pepto-Bismol pink and there was nothing but a drain in the floor and a light bulb overhead. I hadn't eaten in 24 hours. I couldn't figure out how long I was there. It seemed like days. I was given a shot at some point—that happened often—and they brought me to my room.

Everything after that is blurry. I remember bits and pieces. It's three kids in a room, all the girls in red rooms, all the boys in gold or green. And then there was blue. But we never saw the blue kids—God knows why they were back there.

You would sit in a room with a shrink. I was being shown pictures of people having sex—every kind of sex, sex with animals, everything. They test how turned on you get. With guys they put a rubber band around [their penises]. For girls it's different; they put these suction cups all over your body, on your chest, on your back. I remember the first time looking at [these drawings] and I remember this electronic box with digital numbers, and they were going up quickly. After that this other kid told me, "Don't look at the pictures, just look right above the pictures. They think you're looking at the pictures, but you don't get turned on and they think it's working." So I did that after the second time, and my test scores dropped and they were so proud of me. I felt like such a shitty person. I mean, here I was convincing everyone that I was a heterosexual. But that was the only way to get out.

You had breakfast with your team—for me that was the red people, which was all the girls—and then went to class with your team. We were all dykes and we were all having sex with each other—I had more sex in that place than I had in my entire life. If you got caught you were in trouble. People would nore on each other because if you nared you got to a higher level. You got every punishment that ever existed; there was a board with all of the punishments on it and who had them that week—standing in front of the room and confessing your guilt, no meals, room restriction, seclusion. You were also regularly tested for HIV, with no choice in the matter.

After being there for six months—I was supposed to be there for three years—I started complaining about my job. It had once been wired shut and didn't heal well. So I planned this all out, as a way to get out. I convinced them that I had to go home to L.A. to have surgery, because my insurance wouldn't cover it in Utah. My mom picked me up.

Once back in L.A., while we were in a store, I ran out the back door and ran away, to San Francisco, where I lived on the streets for a while. But I was found by a private investigator who was with my mother, and was taken back to Utah. In the airport in Salt Lake City I was handcuffed to my mother, but while she was on the phone I managed to make a phone call to some friends. They called the San Francisco Examiner, and a reporter then called the hospital. The hospital freaked out, and they told my mom they wouldn't take me any longer unless I was voluntary. My mom took me back to L.A., to her house, and then I escaped from there and went back to San Francisco and stayed with different people until I met my current parents—two lesbians—who went through a long court battle against my mother and won custody of me. My mom hasn't spoken to me since.

Thanks to Out Magazine, July/August, 1994.

Michelangelo Signorile is the author of Queer in America.
Identity, Inc.
Fourth Friday Potluck & Social

Susan Johnson, lifelong baseball fan, noted author and sociologist joins friends and Family for a chat about women and baseball!

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, desert, chips, dip, pizza, etc. Identity provides the drinks (tea, coffee, punch). Admission is free. Donations are unabashedly appreciated.

Date: Friday, October 28th.

Time: 6:30pm doors open/socialize; 7pm dinner; 7:30pm announcements & program

Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. 3201 Turnagain St.

Program: Many will remember Susan from last year when she shared her thoughts and feelings about her book "Staying Power: Long-term Lesbian Couples." In June of '95 the sequel to "Staying Power" will be released, titled "For Love and for Life." It'll be at the Alaska Women's Bookstore among many other venues. Tonight, however, Susan talks about her book "When Women Played Hardball" and women in baseball (the players' strike notwithstanding). The basis for the book is, of course, the (formerly little known) All American Girl's Professional Baseball League, which was the basis for the book (as it was for the movie "A League of Their Own.") Susan said that she was "a fan of the league, when I was 10 years old in 1950, and now I've had the wonderful opportunity to interview my heroes 40 years later."

This program is made possible in part through support from the Alaska Humanities Forum and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
ALASKA WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE AWARD IN FEMINIST STUDIES

The University of Alaska Anchorage is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted until 5pm on December 2nd for the 1995 Alaska Women's Bookstore Award in Feminist Studies. This annual award of $1,000 is offered to encourage and support research and other creative activity which promotes feminist principles. Forms are available in the UAA Financial Aid office, and at the Alaska Women's Bookstore.

Previously funded projects were (1) a research and curriculum development project in the literature of Appalachian women, (2) a curriculum materials project of feminist materials for use in school districts, (3) editing of a book that deals with issues of incest and rape, and (4) a study of homeless women in Anchorage. The 1994 recipient, Mei Mei Evans, is writing a novel that articulates the ideas and values of ecofeminism in a literary art form.

For more information call Shari Olander at 786-6751.

THE HANDS ARE BACK

Leslie Mannerucci Pemberton, CMT is accepting appointments for massage at her office, 4050 Lake Otis and at the office of Dr. Marianne Miller, D.C. home and office visits are also available.

278-3346

STRONG GENTLE NURTURING

NorthView Lost & Found


Please call Ken at 248-7722 if these tapes are yours.

I THOUGHT WE AGREED TO LIVE OPENLY BUT NOT FLAUNT IT
Bedroom Etiquette
by Christopher Fabbro

I trust you." That's a line that goes in the books right next to "I'll call you." Like "Your place or mine?" from the 1970s or "Let's do lunch" from the 1980s, we have heard these phrases so much that they have completely lost their credibility from overuse or abuse. For Gay men, "I trust you" can be the most menacing, not just from broken promises or unmet expectations, but from actually believing it in a passionate moment.

Too often, that line is uttered in place of "I'll help you put the condom on, even if it takes extra work." Sometimes, it's one partner's way of revealing his HIV status; perhaps he is HIV-negative, or perhaps he assumes that he and his partner are both positive, therefore, already tagged (a treacherous mistake considering reinfection). Of course, a person could genuinely trust that he is with an HIV-negative partner and, if he is lucky, will not be exposed. However, it reflects a hope that does not exist—one based on false pretenses.

Let's face it, people; we are worth more than that gamble! Too often, we believe that we aren't, however, and that allows us to take risks that could significantly shorten our lives and drastically deteriorate its quality. As an HIV prevention educator, I have encountered numerous tragic examples of seroconversion. Some of the more heartbreaking examples include the closest young man who could only allow himself to have bathroom sex. He was terrified that he would be discovered to be Gay, and that is what happened when he was arrested for lewd conduct. He tested positive last year and knew that if he only could have allowed himself to talk about it ("it" being safer sex as well as his sexual identity), he would have been able to stay HIV-negative.

There's a friend in Seattle whose HIV-positive lover lost interest in their relationship, so he swore he would do anything to rekindle their romance—including unprotected anal intercourse. The lover was reinterested only briefly—just enough time for the friend to get infected. His lover is now dying and they have not had sex in a year.

Think of your own story. How many times have you taken risks with a sex partner? Why? What were you hoping for? What convinced you to take that chance? Do you know your HIV status? Do you assume you know? Do you assume you know a

sex partner's status? Are you in a relationship? Is it monogamous? Are you sure? Who do you know that is living with HIV? An acquaintance? Some friends? Most of your friends and lovers? Does living with AIDS seem inevitable—no matter how hard you try, sooner or later you'll end up with it?

This barrage of questions only begins to address the issue of relapse—engaging in risk behaviors that a person once successfully avoided. There is a fatalism in our community that reflects our 50% mortality rate as American Gay men; if my friends have it, why don't I? There's survivor's guilt—why them and not me? There's the care that many people with AIDS receive—hey, if they get that kind of loving, so should I. The most frightening part of this reality is its validity. Hell, who wants to survive a lifetime of hardship and oppression, including the ever-prevalent horror of watching a community disintegrate in our AIDS nightmare?

Wouldn't it be easier to take solace in a false god—like drugs, or accepting the "inevitability" of AIDS, or even in Jesus? This seems to be the preferred pattern, whether you're Gastan Dugas ("Patient Zero") or Michael Johnston.

Amid all the suffering in our community, there is solace in unity, and you can find it in the soul beneath any friendly face among us. Whether you are Q*Klatching in Fairbanks or going to discussion groups to learn how to be hot and safe, there is hope—real, proven hope. It was the only thing Pandora could save. Grab onto it and make it last until the next shipment arrives; it's going to be a long, cold winter, and you're going to need to guard it like your soul.

Chris Fabbro is a certified HIV pre- and post-test counselor and a coordinator of the Lifeguard Project, the largest HIV-relapse prevention program in the country.

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The Power of P-FLAG
by Fred Hillman

P-FLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) held its annual convention over the Labor Day weekend in that Gay Mecca and city of bridges, San Francisco. Sylvia Short and I went down from Anchorage, as did Nancy Kalling from the Fairbanks chapter and Mildred Boesser from Juneau. In a sense, each of the four of us attended a different convention (while we were at the same plenaries and saw the same exhibits, we went to different workshops and made different contacts).

Meanwhile, back in Anchorage, Leon Webber, the president of the local P-FLAG chapter, was being interviewed on TV and fielding phone calls as part of a national one-day hotline for people who had questions about Gay issues.

For me the high points were these: First, I learned the power of the "information highway." Not being a computer buff, I had no idea before this about the usefulness of E-mail, bulletin boards, and "chatting." Back home, however, it turns out that P-FLAG's network gets a twenty cent per minute surcharge in Alaska (somewhat inhibiting!). At least the technology is available, and when I get a computer, I'll know how to use it.

Big news on a national level was the announcement of "Project Open Mind," which will be a million dollar effort by P-FLAG over the next two years to change the attitudes of the America people about Gays and Lesbians. P-FLAG plans to enlist some of the best research, publicity and marketing talent in the nation to influence target audiences. You will be hearing more about this.

An interesting workshop for anyone who addresses groups was one about the problem faced by a speaker when someone in the audience asks a hostile question. We all know rough and ready ways to confront a hostile audience, and these are usually counterproductive. There are smooth and effective ways to use a hostile question positively, in teaching an audience even better the points one wants to make. I'll be pleased to pass on what I learned about the techniques.

The people at the convention were definitely an older group, mostly parents plus a smattering of Lesbians and Gays of all ages, some accompanying their parents and some alone and interested in the cause. Rarely have I met such a friendly and enthusiastic crowd. The Gay community is most fortunate to have these dedicated parents and friends to serve, in effect, as their main bridge to the American public. P-FLAG is a credible bridge over the morass of ignorance, misinformation, myths, lies, fear and antipathy that at present characterize much of the public debate about Gay issues.

Dr. Hillman is a retired physician in Anchorage.

Lynn Louise LaPerriere and Grady Scott Thomas were married June 18 in Anchorage.

Lynn works as a mortgage loan specialist for City Mortgage Corp. (see full page ad in this NorthView), and has two children, Colleen Ross and Paul Lally. Lynn has a degree in mathematics, and is an alums of Penn State University in State College, and DeAnza College in Cupertino, Calif. She worked in state government in Alaska for eight years, and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Lynn enjoys gardening, crafts, reading, journalism, computers, crosswords and football.

Grady is an airline captain with peninsula Airways, Inc., and enjoys fishing, computers, real estate and football. Grady studied at junior colleges in Florida and at Anchorage Community College, and is a licensed real estate sales associate. He is a Vietnam War veteran who served as a Sergeant in the Air Force.

The couple met on a blind date lunch at Fletcher's Restaurant in 1992.

Their wedding was a garden ceremony at their home, with a white, black and red color scheme. They described it as a "storybook wedding," including original marriage vows.

After the reception, the couple donated the remaining food and flower arrangements to Bean's Cafe and the Brother Francis Shelter.

Thanks to the Anchorage Daily News, 9/12/94
It's a pleasure to serve the Community!

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There's No Place Like Home
by Lesléa Newman

A
h, here we are, just the two of us: my beloved Flash and I on vacation. I'm sure that you, dear reader, are envious, picturing Flash and I strolling along the beach hand in hand, as the sun goes down. Well, get over it, girlfriend. Our vacation does not resemble a United Airlines commercial. In fact, I have never been so stressed out in my entire life.

The tension started when we began to plan. First of all, it's hard for me to get an entire week off work. My boss is a real bitch. In other words, I work for myself. Flash finally convinces me by brandishing her hedge clippers a little too close to the wires of my FAX machine. I get out my date book and we compare schedules. We can't go during softball season (all of June and July). We can't go when I have PMS (the last week in August). We decide on the third week in August.

"Great," says Flash. "We're there."

Now of course the question is: where?

Out come the brochures. Now things really start to get tense. Flash has to convince me to spend $900.00 to live in a small room for a week instead of $600.00 to live in five big rooms for a month. Flash solves the problem by finding a cabin on the coast of Maine. "It's really cheap," Flash points out. "It's got a kitchenette. We'll hardly spend a penny," she continues. "We won't eat out, except for one nice, romantic dinner. The rest of the time you'll cook." I'll cook? I hate to cook. I don't even cook at home. Why would I want to cook on vacation?

Some people say anticipation is half the fun of vacation. For weeks they boast to their friends what a great time they're going to have. Don't these people have a life? For weeks before we go, I am a wreck. I have to write four columns and three book reviews. I have to do all the errands I've been putting off for months (i.e. send Aunt Yenta a thank you note for the bagel-shaped clock she gave us last July). Flash watches me run back and forth until she is dizzy. "You see how stressed out you are?" she says. "You need a vacation."

"If I wasn't going on vacation," I growl at her, "I wouldn't be this stressed out."

Soon it's time to pack. The experts say lay out all the clothes you'll need and take half of them. I do the opposite: I lay out all the clothes I'll need and double them. What is the point of being on vacation and going out to your one allotted romantic dinner wearing the right dress and the wrong shoes? That is not my idea of a good time. In addition to our clothes we pack beach paraphernalia: beach blankets, beach towels, beach balls, beach chairs, beach umbrellas, boom box, sun screen, sun block, sunglasses, and just for appearance's sake, a Frisbee.

The morning of our departure arrives. Flash loads up the car. We have so much stuff, our neighbor, Mitzi calls out, "I didn't know you were moving."

I hand Raven, who is house-sitting, instructions that are longer than the second draft of my third novel. "And don't forget, make sure the stove is off when you go out," I call as Flash pulls out of the driveway.

"I'm not a total idiot," Raven reminds me, waving back.

At last we arrive at our little cottage. Here we are, just the two of us, away from the phones, the faxes, the stress. What more could a girl want?

Plenty. A mirror for starters so I don't have to look at myself in the toaster to make sure my lipstick's on straight. A television, which Flash forgot to mention does not come with the place. A telephone, though I suppose that's unnecessary since there's no room service. Flash makes up the bed since there's no housekeeping service either, and we fall into a deep sleep.

The next morning my beloved is up with the birds. "Listen to the ocean," she says. "Smell the fresh air. What's for breakfast, baby?"

"Poptarts."

"Poptarts?"

"Poptarts. Strawberry or brown sugar cinnamon."

"What's for lunch?" she asks, ever hopeful.

"Ultra Slim Fast milkshakes. Chocolate or vanilla."

"I'll cook dinner." I didn't think it would take her long to catch on. Flash heads out and comes back with three live lobsters. "You're eating those?" I ask, amazed. Is this the same woman who escorts all wayward spiders out of our apartment, down three flights of stairs and thanks them for visiting?

"Poor Moe," I say. "Poor Larry."

Poor Curly. "Don't name them." Flash glares at me as she puts up a pot of water. I turn away. I can't help it. I feel like I'm married to Son of Sam. I refuse to eat the lobsters and dine instead on dinosaur-shaped rigatoni. Neither of us enjoys our dinner and we go to sleep without having wild, delicious sex, which, as far as I'm concerned is the entire purpose of going on vacation in the first place.

Things get better though. We stroll along the beach. We swim in the ocean. We make love. We send Raven a postcard every day. And all too soon, it's time to depart.

We arrive home exhausted after our long drive. Raven, who has managed not to burn the house down in our absence, meets us at the door with a twenty-seven pound stack of mail. Just looking at it all makes my shoulders creep up to my ears and my blood pressure rise. I've never been happier. There's no place like home.

Lesléa 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.
MEMBERS PRESENT: Nora Jean, Shirley, Kurt, Jennifer, Ruth, Sylvia, Ken, and Tom.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael.

GUESTS PRESENT: None.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER: Kurt presented a financial report on our First Progressive Dinner. It indicated revenues were $1,041 and expenses were $581; therefore, a profit of $460 was made. The Board agreed this was an excellent start and felt future dinners would result in even higher profits for our treasury. Thank you Kurt for a job well done.

HELOLINE: Jennifer reported that Michael is responsible for training volunteers; Don is now scheduling volunteers and updating the Resource Manual. Volunteer Training Session was October 12 and 15 at AUUP. Because several volunteers have dropped out in recent months, we have a shortage of volunteers in October; and we really need more women volunteers. Our computer programmer (Terry) agreed to revise the “Data Form” to make it more conducive to statistic gathering. Kurt agreed to be our liaison with the Imperial Court regarding any funding they might offer.

MEMBERSHIP: Our membership is now in the 250 range, which is an all-time record. Shirley announced she was behind in writing “thank-you notes” and needed help; we will find someone to assist. Kurt has put together a catalog of Identity items for sale, and wondered if other groups should be included. Ken pointed out IRS regulations require those groups to be non-profit as we are, so we must be careful if we let others appear in the catalog.

NORTHVIEW: Our computer has malfunctioned once again, right in the midst of putting the last issue of North View together. Kane was able to solve the problem and has donated his time to us; thank you, Kane. He has also submitted an estimate of $500 to upgrade the computer to 486DX2-66 MHz standards. The Board agreed this would be a vast improvement to our very slow machine but we simply do not have the money at this time. A lengthy discussion ensued on ideas to increase membership and contain expenses. Some ideas mentioned were: offering reduced membership dues of $10 to receive North View only; gradually increasing dues structure with other benefits; increase ads to 40% of total space [now only 18%] [then ads pay for total cost of production]; reduce size of type and decrease margins; reduce articles [which ones do you cut? already an editing nightmare]. We eventually decided a retreat might be the best way to deal with such issues.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Our debt to Sylvia has been repaid. Ken distributed the August Revenue and Expense statements; many of the questions from our previous meetings have been resolved; Ken will continue to refine the appearance of the statements.

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE AND NCOD DANCE: Jennifer, Kurt and a host of other volunteers have done an outstanding job organizing this event (September 30 through October 2); it involved all local gay, lesbian, bi- and transgender organizations. The biggest hurdle was finding a place for the NCOD dance. After much ado, Ruth and Jennifer convinced the folks at the Wendy Williamson Auditorium to allow use of their Stage but we had to put up a deposit of $585 for any damage to the newly finished floor (it hasn’t yet been returned and it might not be, which would be pretty bad).

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Scheduled for 7:00 PM on October 25 at our office.
Such Times could easily be subtitled Such A Book. Author Christopher Coe has used his huge and magnificent talent to give us a story as delicious as one of the many expensive French meals his two main characters, Timothy and Jasper, enjoy within the pages of this extraordinary novel. Though published in 1993, Such Times deserves attention because, unfortunately, we are still living in the kind of times described herein, a time when too many of our finest are dying too young, too fast and too tragically.

The book is narrated by Timothy, whose relationship with Jasper lasted eighteen years. As Such Times begins, Timothy is having dinner with Dominic, a friend who is HIV+ as is Timothy. Through the course of the meal, Timothy tells the story of his and Jasper’s unconventional relationship: Jasper was older than Timothy by seventeen years; Jasper lived with his “partner” Oliver Ingraham all of that time and had other sexual encounters as well, believing that “Monogamy is antithetical to the homosexual life.” (Page 110); and Timothy, with one tortured exception, remained faithful to Jasper all of that time. At the start of the novel, Jasper has already died of AIDS complications, though Oliver has insisted that “heart attack” be written on his death certificate. He tells Timothy, “Well, his heart did stop” (Page 283). Though it’s been more than a year, there are still times when Timothy thinks of Jasper as being very much alive. Then the truth comes rushing back at him in a jolting nanosecond, or as Timothy puts it: “...it only takes a second, maybe not even as long as that; it is quick, not a time you can measure by a watch, but most of my life is contained in that time” (Page 3).

Jasper is Timothy’s all consuming passion. He loves him as all of us want to love and be loved. So much so, he settles for what he can get: two or three nights a week for eighteen years. Of course there are exceptions: weekends when Oliver is away, trips abroad (the two even co-own an apartment in Paris together). But all the while, Timothy knows he is always sharing Jasper with someone else, which means there will always be certain limits on their relationship. For example, the two can never celebrate Christmas together, so to compensate, they celebrate Father’s Day (Timothy’s nickname for Jasper is “Papa”) but it just isn’t the same.

The book is not plot driven and there are few surprises. Jasper and Timothy meet, fall in love, carve out a life together. Given Jasper’s extracurricular activities, it is not surprising he contracts HIV (he and Timothy meet in 1973, long before any of us were practicing safer sex). Nor is it surprising that Timothy becomes positive as well. What is surprising is that Timothy has a very brief affair after hearing that Jasper has HIV, so that if he also tests positive, he won’t be 100% sure that he contracted the virus from his one true love.

Jasper teaches Timothy about the finer things in life: how to dress, how to eat, which wines to drink. Timothy teaches Jasper one thing: to add honey to his tea. This was an especially poignant moment, as it is near the end of the book and near the end of Jasper’s life. Jasper has eaten nothing for six weeks; Timothy’s honey-sweetened tea is the only thing he manages to take into his system. His enjoyment of this simple pleasure breaks Timothy’s heart and the reader’s heart as well.

And where does Dominic fit into all of this? Dominic appears in the first and last chapter of the book, which is framed by Timothy’s dinner with him, a device that seemed unnecessary. Dominic also slept with Jasper at some point. Timothy does not tell Dominic that Jasper has died, nor did he tell Jasper that Dominic had HIV. So in a strange way, the circle is complete.

The circuitous nature of the narrative is very effective as it parallels the route of memory, and the story for the most part, takes place in Timothy’s mind. We are not on a linear journey here. We circle, loop and spiral through eighteen years of love, lust, hope and disappointment. As such, the story is very, very real.

One fault I had with the book was the amount of explaining it contained: everything from the workings of certain AIDS medications to the plot of Pinocchio. These explanations, which may or may not have been necessary, were not woven smoothly into the narration; as they came up, I found myself skipping whole paragraphs of text. At the same time, many references were dropped freely
So, by now you all have read the excellent question and answer manual "Is It Choice: Answers To 300 Of The Most Frequently Asked Questions About Gays And Lesbians" by Eric Marcus. You are now ready for the next step "Who Cares If It's A Choice: Snappy Answers To 101 Nosy, Intrusive and Highly Personal Questions About Lesbians And Gay Men" by Ellen Orleans. This is great fun! A read-out-loud-and-laugh-aloud book for bath time, bedtime or party time. The best way to talk about this little tome is to give you a taste.

Is being homosexual natural? Not only that, but for Lesbians it's often organic.

Does just one homosexual experience make you Lesbian or Gay? Absolutely. In fact, if you've even had so much as a homosexual thought, you're automatically Lesbian or Gay. So, if you have had any homosexual experiences, as dull or non-stimulating as they may have been, turn yourself in to the nearest Gay or Lesbian center and register immediately. Your Gay I.D. will be sent to you in ten working days.

Is homosexuality a mental illness? No, but homophobia is.

What is a top? What is a bottom? Top and bottom are sort of like butch and femme except they don't have the historical context and they apply to both men and women and they don't have the wardrobe considerations... so maybe they aren't really like butch and femme.

What kind of sex do Lesbians and Gay men have? Great sex!

Why don't Lesbians wear makeup? Because by the time we finish changing the oil, splitting a cord of firewood, repainting the backyard shed and cleaning the cat box, then finally get out to the store to pick some up, the drag queens have bought the place out.

Is AIDS god's way of punishing Gay people? No, actually AIDS is god's way of testing straight people for compassion and intelligence in dealing with a pandemic disease. So far, society isn't doing too well.

Enjoy and keep on reading!!!

Joann Contini is co-owner of the Alaska Women's Bookstore and someone who enjoys a good laugh. ¬

23 January 77

winter night... a deep breaths... at every cave... stars... sky... snow... between mountain pine... fog... worse than the ever... wood... river... everything... frozen... everything singing...
Show Offs
by Frank Mabry

As I walked into the stadium and heard, "Next is Team Alaska," I then realized the magnitude of the role I was playing in history. The Gay Games (Unity 94) were without a doubt the single most effective statement to America: "We're Queer, We're Here and We're just like you!"

I first learned about The Games from the success of another Alaskan in the Vancouver Games. Then, when I saw the endorsement by Martina Navratilova, I knew, as I did with the March on Washington '93, I had to be part of it.

I have had members of our community and especially my former best friend say, I do things for the purpose of showing off. Well, if it’s speaking before the City Assembly, marching as a symbol of my lifestyle or competing for the pride of being physically fit, I can only say I hope Team Alaska grows even bigger with more showoffs for The Games in Amsterdam!

In New York, most teams dressed alike and had colorful "warm ups," banners, hats and you name it (all sorts of distinguishable items that stated where they were from). On the other hand, Team Alaska was dressed all different. Lou carrying her usually quiet smile had muscle and definition everywhere. Darl looked like, well Darl, ready for action. I had just bought an "outfit" after 6 months of no alcohol-I was proud to show off.

The National Anthem played, we cheered and cried, performers entertained, the choir sang and guest vocalists sang. When the torch was lit I was full of energy. Then I looked around—the party was over. People were here to compete!

Few people know or remember that 10 world records were broken at Unity 94. When the next athlete competes at an event and breaks one of these records, I will take pride when it is announced that the previous record was set in June 1994 at Unity 94. Of course they will not say the Gay Games, but we know The Games, Gay Olympics and Unity 94 are one and the same.

It is important for me to note the records because some will push them off as flukes. I saw the Martial Artists compete. I was disqualified from the gold medal round of my division. I saw sweat. I saw determination. I did my best, I have a bronze medal. I saw the physique competition. I saw 2 softball games. I was at the entire track and field competition, except for 1 1/2 days. I saw wheelchair womyn compete against runners and win! I saw a 7-month pregnant womyn finish. I saw photo finishes. I saw people yelling in tongues I did not understand. I saw competitors pass out. I saw people torn with pain but not stopping. I saw teammates, lovers, friends, parents, movie stars, children, black, white, red, yellow all cheering for their favorites.

I hope others will see, as the world must see us in Amsterdam 98. And if we must be labeled show offs, well, as for me I'll take it because in the end I know I'll look back and reply "Only because I can!"

Frank Mabry is owner of Fotos by Frank, a single parent (Natassia), and lives in Anchorage with his lifetime companion, Steven Kendall.

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Gay Community

Gay Games V
Goes to Europe in 1998

Washington, DC--The Federation of Gay Games announced Amsterdam, the Netherlands, as the site for Gay Games V to be held in 1998. The announcement was made at the Federation's annual meeting held in Washington, DC, November 12-14, 1993. This marks the first time in history the Gay Games will be held off the North American continent.

In making the site announcement, Federation Copresidents Rick Peterson and Susan Kennedy stressed the selection will not be completely official until contractual arrangements are finalized.

Amsterdam is centrally located in Europe with more than 350 million people on its doorstep and within easy reach of the rest of the world through "Europe's hub" Amsterdam Airport.

The Netherlands has welcomed minorities for centuries; homosexuality has long been integrated into the multicultural Dutch society.

"Amsterdam is a very open society with a strong history of tolerance and acceptance, so it's only fitting that Amsterdam's theme for Gay Games V is Friendship," said Peterson and Kennedy.
Sex in America, or, All the News the News Fits to Print
by F. Kenneth Freedman

"W"hile only 2.8 percent of the men and 1.4 percent of the women identified themselves as homosexual or bisexual, the numbers who had had a homosexual experience, or found the idea appealing, were somewhat higher." That is what the Anchorage Daily News chose to print as their contribution to cultural understanding if not accurate reporting.

Now let's look at what the New York Times printed:

"To one of the most politicized questions in human sexuality—how common is homosexuality—the study offers a fuzzy answer: it depends.

"For many years, the conventional wisdom was that 1 in 10 Americans was homosexual, a number that came from a 1948 Kinsey report that 10 percent of the men surveyed had had exclusively homosexual relations for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55. Many recent studies have debunked that figure, including a study last year finding that only 1 percent of the male population was homosexual.

"In the new study, 2.8 percent of the men and 1.4 percent of the women identified themselves as homosexual or bisexual. But when the question is asked differently the numbers change. (Emphasis added.)"

"About 9 percent of the men and 5 percent of the women reported having had at least one homosexual experience since puberty. Forty percent of the men who had a homosexual experience sometime in their life did so before they were 18, and not since. Most women, though, were 18 or older when they had their first homosexual experience.

"When asked whether having sex with someone of the same sex seemed appealing, 5.5 percent of the women said the idea was somewhat or very appealing. About 6 percent of the men said they were attracted to other men."

The survey results are being published in two forms, one a paperback book, "The Social Organization of Sexuality" (University of Chicago Press), written by Mr. Gagnon, Mr. Laumann, Robert T. Michael, and Stuart Michaels. The other version is a general-interest hard cover book, "Sex in America: A Definitive Survey" (except around the "fuzzy" parts—Ed.), (Little, Brown and Company), by Mr. Gagnon, Mr. Laumann, Mr. Michael and Gina Kolata, a science reporter for the New York Times.

What I get out of the contrast in what was chosen for print in the two different papers is the subtle marginalization of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Communities by the News. (To be sure, the survey was wide-ranging, and not specifically focused on LesBiGay issues or questions, and space is a factor. Nonetheless the Times at least, made a fair attempt to put those numbers in perspective.) And while the News has been supportive, I'd like to put that in perspective, well, my perspective. Whenever there's reason to write an article about the LesBiGay Community (other than Editorials), there is this seemingly mandated need to call the Right Reverend Jerry Pervo and his sidekick Mike for their opinion and political comment. As if that constitutes a balanced article. As if there is any need at all for this balancing. When have we seen articles about African-Americans that are "balanced" with an interview with the KKK? Where is it written that an article about Jews must have commentary from a Nazi sympathizer or some skinheads? Why don't we have comments from men when there are articles about, say, successful women? Or, more to the point, why, when there are articles about Native Alaskans, there are no opposing opinions from non-Native Alaskans in that same article (ones that were sought out specifically by the reporter doing the story)? Does the News feel that only certain special categories of article need to "be balanced?" At what point does the LesBiGay culture become known as the LesBiGay culture, and not an afterthought that pivots on the words of Mike & Jerry? When do civil rights become civil rights and not the propaganda on which Mike and Jerry spend oodles of church money? a rumor that reportedly has caught the interest of the IRS! The "special rights," it seems are to help Mike and Jerry earn money, frightening their flock into believing hating us will cure all their ills and get them a seat on the A-Train to Heaven. And all I want is Equality Under Alaskan Law.

Somehow, that last paragraph sounds angry, as I reread it. Perhaps my reaction is fueled by the lessons of the Black Civil Rights Movement of the '50s and '60s and '70s. When, may I ask, will those who understand and embrace the fundamental precepts of civil rights stand up and be counted? When will a responsible attitude be taken rather than a knee-jerk response to the folks who have taken the moral low ground but attempted to cloak it in religious and Biblical teachings? When will our allies speak up independently because they perceive accurately and wish to right the civil wrongs perpetrated by such perpetrators as Mike and Jerry? When will the hundredth monkey heave into view?

F. Kenneth Freedman occasionally gets on his soap box.

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. Your membership expiration is expressed as year/month, i.e., 199410. If your renewal is due in the near future, please help paperwork-and postage-wise—send it early.

We are struggling to continue our activities, which include the North-View, the monthly Pot-lucks 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!

Thanks! Thanks!
EQUAL

EQUAL MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:    ADDRESS:
K.F. Mercedes Kellis    P.O. Box 244452
Amy Menard             Anchorage, AK 99524
Linda Kellen (Sec’ty)   PHONE:
Amy Young (Co-chair)    337-5861 Treasurer/general info
Richard Martin (Treas)  274-9226 Registrar/election info
Dan Carter (Co-chair)   Doug Frank
                        277-3862 General info

Minutes for NorthView:  Linda S. Kellen

Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month. The next general meeting is 7:00pm Thursday, November 3rd, at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St., in the downstairs “social” room.

NOTES:
The list above reflects the new Board members elected at the September Annual meeting. The new members are: K.F. Mercedes Kellis, Amy Menard, and Linda Kellen. The new officers are: Dan Carter and Amy Young, Co-Chairs; Richard Martin, Treasurer, and Linda Kellen, Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Linda Kellen suggested that folks write Letters to the Editor at the Anchorage Daily News thanking everyone for a wonderful conference and expressing their positive feelings about it.

Dan Carter announced that we have eight “Coming Out Day” and “Gay Pride” bus signs up. He also mentioned that Michael Johnston has ten bus signs pertaining to Kerusso Ministries. It would be beneficial if People Mover received phone calls of positive support and thanks for our bus signs.

DISCUSSION:
TREASURER’S REPORT (Richard)—$125.00 in our account; donations-$60.00 was collected at the meeting; Bills owed $25.00 room rent-$96.00 NorthView ad (3 mos); $110.00 needed for reimbursements to board members.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS—Equal’s by-laws were changed at the annual meeting to allow for nine board members instead of seven. Several people have expressed an interest when approached by Equal members and several board members mentioned that they wished to speak to some other people as well. Interested parties can contact any board member.

STATE INCORPORATION FORMS (Linda)—Richard gave Linda the forms to change our Articles of Incorporation to reflect the new board members and a new registered agent.

ELECTION/VOTER REGISTRATION (Dan, AI)—At Equal’s booth at the Conference, Dan and AI registered 44 new voters and increased Equal’s mailing list to 1,117 addresses!

CANDIDATE SURVEY (Dan)—Dan Carter prepared a draft candidate survey to send to the various candidates in order to establish their stands on specific issues. The members provided input toward some changes in the questions. The results of the returned surveys will be mailed to the Equal mailing list in time for the election.

VOTER REMINDER NIGHT (and possible pizza party!) (Amy)—Cracun and Associates has generously donated their phone bank so that volunteers can get together and remind the Equal phone list to vote. This will happen Monday night, November 7th, at 6:00pm until approximately 9:00pm, or until the whole list is called. Cracun and Associates is located at 400 D Street.

FUNDRAISING: LETTER—It was noted that Equal would be sending out a fund-raising letter to our mailing list and that we would solicit some professional help to write it. GAY BINGO (Richard)—Equal is looking into applying for our own gambling permit. Richard will provide more information at the next meeting. “GOOD DEEDS”: KAKM PUBLIC TELEVISION ON-AIR FUNDRAISER—Mercedes has signed Equal up to ‘person’ the phones on December 4th from 7:30pm to 10:30pm. This is a great opportunity for members of our “Family” to have our bright, shiny faces on public TV!

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING MORE “GOOD DEEDS” AROUND THE COMMUNITY, PLEASE COME TO THE NEXT EQUAL MEETING, THURS. NOV. 3RD, AND BRING YOUR IDEAS AND ENTHUSIASM.**

**REGISTER TO VOTE** Or become an official registrar. If you are interested, please call Dan or Al at 274-9226.

EQUAL Under Alaskan Law

1994-1995 Board of Directors
Amy Young & Dan Carter – Co-chairs
Linda Kellen – Secretary
Richard Martin – Treasurer
Doug Frank, Mercedes Kellis & Amy Menard

EQUAL will call our members as part of our get-out-the-vote drive on Monday, November 7, from 6-9pm. If you’re interested in helping us or if you need information about voting, call Dan or Al (274-9226).

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 3
7:00pm – Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 244452   Anchorage, AK 99524-4452
Mommy,
What Do Lesbians Do?
by Andrew Barron

Mommy, what do lesbians do?

They go at it for hours
with no waning of power,
cut short their hair,
wear flannel shirts
and drag in the dirt
your father’s good name

Oh, what a shame!
But don’t they require
a weapon like dad’s
to fill their desire?

So one would think,
so say all the shrinks,
despite ingenious deployment
of tongues, fingers, toes,
and God only knows what implements

Oh, then they’re quite clever
with various parts!
But don’t they like men at all?
Do they seal up their hearts?

Well, since the Fall
men have labeled us witches,
temptresses, bitches,
and this leaves them cold,
so they bar from the fold
all males, young and old

Mommy, that’s cruel!
Daddy should duel
with these man-hating fools
and ensure world-wide rule
of good daddies like him
even in hearts blackened by sin!

Well, so say the priests—but they don’t know my niece
who once offered your mommy
a comfortable shoulder
before you were born,
when daddy was colder—but we’ll discuss that
when you’re older!

© March 2, 1993

Lesbian Veterans

VIRAGO, a quarterly journal dedicated
to providing a safe environment for
Lesbian veterans to explore their
experiences in uniform as well as their past
and current achievements, will begin
publication with the release of its first journal
on November 11, 1994. The new journal is
published by Lesbian veterans and will rely
on interviews, essays, poetry, short stories,
photographs, drawings and oral herstories
to provide content for each issue.

VIRAGO is currently seeking creative
works by Lesbian veterans as well as contact
with women who are willing to share their
experiences (both military and civilian)
through interviews.

Submission and other inquiries may be
made by writing: VIRAGO, P.O. Box 1171,
New Market, VA 22844 (no postcards,
please).

WORD GAYME:
WOMEN OF PARIS, 1910-1940

ACROSS
1. Shari Benstock’s Women of the (with 5 across)
2. Deck (20)
3. See 1 across
4. Type of marriage or season
5. Proust
6. Jai
7. The Mauve of Dada
8. Part of a yen
9. Made used to
10. Men’s club member
11. Cell component
12. ___ a girl?
13. The New Yorker correspondent
14. Oblet (with 27 across)
15. See 24 across
16. T.V. cop show, ___-12

ACROSS (Cont’d)
17. Heavy sleepers?
18. 25a, Viva! (20)
19. Popular houseplant
20. Hot sticks
21. Author Barnes
22. Large antelope
23. Lisa Minnelli movie, The
24. Cackles
25. Vampire, at times
26. On the safe side
27. Carpenter’s necessity
28. Vanilla sex alternative
29. Monthly payments
30. Bribe
31. Plan again
32. Villain’s expression
33. Sylvia Plath’s The Bell__
34. Much About Nothing
35. Viet
36. Share!__
37. Delta of Venus author, Anais
38. Wind direction
39. Female riff
40. Night or day
41. Type, type, for short
42. Greek
43. Diet necessity
44. Small bills
45. ___, A New Spelling of My Name
46. Shook
47. Rip
48. Crip Williamian album, ___
49. Hades
50. Piero play, ___
51. Request
52. Big recording co.
Lesbian/Gay Religious Leaders to Meet at National Council of Churches Meeting

New York, N.Y. September 30, 1994—In conjunction with the fall meeting of the General Board of the National Council of Churches (NCC), representatives of the Lesbian/Gay Christian caucuses, the welcoming congregations programs, and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) will meet in New Orleans, November 9-12.

The Rev. Dr. Mel White, the country’s leading expert on the “Radical Religious Right,” will speak to both the assembled Lesbian and Gay leaders as well as to the delegates to the NCC General Board. While Lesbians and Gay men are the principal target of the Radical Religious Right, the NCC has also been attacked by them for its allegedly revolutionary agenda.

The purpose of the Lesbian/Gay leadership meeting will be twofold. The first is to share concerns and strategies among the various groups struggling within their respective denominations and in society at large. The second purpose is to be present at the National Council of Churches both to support UFMCC’s relationship with that body and to remind delegates of the presence of Gay and Lesbian members in their own denominations.

This will be the third meeting of the Lesbian/Gay leaders in as many years. Last year’s meeting in Baltimore witnessed a silent protest by the assembled representatives on the floor of the General Board. No actions were taken in 1993 on Lesbian/Gay issues, unlike at the 1992 meeting when the NCC’s General Board rejected the application of the UFMCC for Observer status by a vote of 90 to 81. UFMCC had applied for Observer status following the termination of an eleven-year process of investigation and dialogue which resulted from UFMCC’s application for NCC membership in 1981. That year angry Lesbian and Gay Christian leaders conducted an extensive demonstration on the floor of the General Board meeting.

Leaders from caucuses in the Disciples of Christ [GLAD], United Church of Christ [UCC/LGC], Episcopal [Integrity], United Methodist [Affirmation], Eastern Orthodox [Axiom], and Roman Catholic [Dignity] Churches together with those of the American Baptists Concerned, Presbyterians Concerned, Brethren-Mennonite Council, Christian Lesbians Out & Uniting Together, Lutherans Concerned, Friends for Lesbian/Gay Concerns, Seventh Day Adventist/Kinship International, Unity Fellowship, and Unitarian Universalists Concerned are expected to join UFMCC in the meeting.

UFMCC has not reapplied for Observer status so there will be no repeat of 1992’s vote. However, supportive delegations from the United Church of Christ and other denominations are expected to raise the issue of greater inclusion of Lesbians and Gay men during the meeting.

Although a plan was announced at a meeting of the NCC’s Executive Coordinating Committee in May, 1993 calling for the NCC to initiate a discussion involving representatives of its member churches, UFMCC, and the LesGay caucuses within the member churches, no such meeting has yet been held. The

Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, NCC’s General Secretary, initially said she hoped it would be held before the November, 1993 General Board meeting. All that has been done in 1994 is a single teleconference of General Board delegates particularly supportive of or opposed to the inclusion of Lesbians and Gay men.

Dr. White will address the delegates and Lesbian/Gay leaders on the topic “Our God Too: Religious Communities Confronting the Radical Religious Right,” beginning at 2:00pm on Saturday, November 12. No one is more intimately familiar with the Radical Religious Right than is Dr. White nor more prepared to suggest antidotes to their venom.

White was a husband, father of two children, pastor, professor, author and filmmaker. After years of hiding, self-hatred, suicide attempts, tranquilizers, shock therapy, psychotherapy, exorcism and “ex-Gay” therapy, White gave it all up to live a new, more serene life as an openly Gay man. As might be expected, his life as a conservative Christian celebrity fell apart. He had a long list of clients for whom he had ghostwritten: Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Jim Bakker, Billy Graham and Oliver North. All of them disassociated from him. He was, however, invited to become Dean of the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas—the last Lesbian/Gay congregation in America—where he has served since June, 1993.

White believes that the anti-Gay propaganda generated by the Radical Religious Right is responsible for the deaths of many Gays, either by encouraging hate crimes or by creating a climate that makes suicide an attractive option.

“They are David Koresh and Jim Jones gone sophisticated,” says White, who has ghostwritten 16 best-selling books for religious celebrities. “They don’t believe in democracy. They believe in a theocracy.” White says of Falwell and Robertson. “They really believe God should be in charge of this nation and they are the closest link to God.” He accuses them of disseminating “half-truths, hyperbole and lies.”

White is a best-selling author on his own (Tested by Fire and Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America released this year by Simon & Schuster), award-winning film maker (Deceived: The Jonestown Tragedy, and In the Presence of Mine Enemies) and holds doctoral degrees in communications and religious studies.

“Falwell, Robertson and the others have gone too far,” White says. “They are blaming Gay people for everything bad that’s happening in this country and, one by one, thoughtful Americans are beginning to wonder if this Gay bashing isn’t getting out of hand. This is not a Gay and Lesbian issue. This is a threat to the warp and woof of American society.”

All meetings will be held at the Clarion Hotel in New Orleans. An opening meeting of the leaders, perhaps with representatives of the concerned churches, will be at 2:00pm Wednesday, November 9.
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Teens Matter
Talking with Ann Heron
by Owen Keehnen

In 1983 Alyson Publications and editor Ann Heron compiled One Teenager In Ten, a series of writings by Gay and Lesbian youth about their lives. It was a great success and also helped spawn the Alyson Pen Pal Program. Now, over a decade later, Alyson Publications and Ann Heron have redone the book as Two Teenagers In Twenty. Ms. Heron, who is also the author of How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay?, recently talked with me about the updating and also a little about the lives of Gay and Lesbian youth.

Owen: 12 years ago you compiled One Teenager In Ten, and recently Alyson released Two Teenagers In Twenty, what made it time for a new addition?

Ann: Sasha Alyson approached me a couple years ago and asked if I was interested in updating the book. I was, so I took on the project.

Owen: What did you notice was the greatest difference in the emerging group of teens?

Ann: It’s not necessarily a representative sample, but the most striking thing was that more kids talked about having considered or attempted suicide than did the first time. Sasha suggested the title thinking things would be less lonely, that increased media attention and Gay visibility would have made things easier on this generation of kids.

Owen: I think I’d probably make the same assumption.

Ann: I can only speak from the book’s samples, but I did do a lot of thinking about it. As Gay adults we go about our lives and see the world at large at least getting more Gay acknowledging. AIDS has caused increased media attention, more “sympathetic” portrayals. The military issue was a popular topic. But when I thought about it I realized that what it does is causes the discussion to come up where it might not have been if it wasn’t for the military debate or ‘Rosanne’. I’m not saying those things aren’t good, I’m just saying I think it also causes an open discussion of what people think of homosexuals.

Owen: From the submissions you received for Two Teenagers was parental rejection the greatest fear?

Ann: Rejection overall was the biggest. Religion is still a very strong factor. Fear of loss is a big thing, but before they get to fear of loss there’s the fear of being Gay. There’s a great fear of what that means about them, that there is something wrong with them or they’re perverse or have sinned.

Owen: The Alyson Pen Pal Program emerged out of the first book, are you actively involved with that?

Ann: It was Sasha’s program. The idea was if you’re too afraid to come out to a person in your everyday life or just needed someone your own age to talk to there would be someone. Sasha has always been committed to helping kids through the period of isolation. Many adolescents still live at home and can’t drive or get to cities. Many live under the roof of someone who feels free to check through their mail or rooms at any time. They don’t have privacy. He even tells them how to set up a P.O. Box in case they can’t trust getting mail at home.

Owen: So if a youth, 21 years or younger, wants more information they should write for details to Letter Exchange, c/o Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston, MA 02118.

Ann: That’s correct.

Owen: What sparked your interest in the field anyway?

Ann: My training was in child development before going to work at Alyson so it was great when I was offered this project because it gave me a chance to reconnect with kids, a group of people who I strongly felt needed a voice.

Owen: What can the individual adult do to help facilitate the process for Gay teens?

Ann: There are a number of things. If people go to the library they can spot check a couple of titles like Two Teenagers in Twenty. Find out if the books are in reference. If they are and you have the nerve you can go to the reference desk and ask why these books aren’t categorized with the general collection. Kids can’t get out the books they need. If they have to go to the reference desk to ask for a book about being Gay they’re not going to do it. People can donate books to libraries as well, anything that can make the information available.

Owen: Have you had any of the censorship problems with either of your teen books or your children’s book How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay?

Ann: When we first came out with One Teenager in Ten it was not allowed in certain libraries. It contained a sexually explicit story that for that reason is not in the new book. It wasn’t worth keeping the whole book out of access. Also in general there is a resistance to Gay books in certain libraries and at Alyson we certainly heard about that all the time.

Owen: What made writing the children’s book How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay? a memorable experience for you?

Ann: The best thing about it for me was that we did it with our kids. My partner, Meredith, came up with the plot, the characters, and events, some of which were loosely based on things that happened to our kids. Then I defined what issues we could address in a book of this scope and age range. Our kids, who were 10 and 11 at the time, edited it with us. I remember sitting down and having them read it out loud.

They gave us really good feedback. I felt delight when on
said, "You forgot to put in here when people make fun of Gays and you do too so they won't guess." It's such a true thing. In the world of children there's pressure all the time. Often kids go the way of a group even though their own values might differ. As Gay parents we have to realize that our kids can't fight the political battle for us.

Owen: What's the main thing you and Meredith try to do in the raising of your children?

Ann: The first thing that comes to mind is communicate. We can't instill anything if we're not communicating as best we can. And honesty. We've always been very honest that we were Gay and made it clear to them that it didn't mean they were. Mostly we just love them.

Owen: Thanks Ann.

Ann: Thank you Owen.

Owen Keehnen is a nationally syndicated interviewer and a monthly columnist for *Forum Magazine*. His fiction has appeared in *Christopher Street*, *Hyphen* and *The Evergreen Chronicles*, among others.

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The Directory

This directory is our "yellow pages" and reference guide. Want to be listed? Know someone who you think wants to be listed? It's free! Write Identity or call Ken at 248-7722 or Angie/Linda at the AA at 337-0253.
The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (A)ly indicate that the business or service is owned by (L)esbians, (G)ays or (A)lies. All peoples (regardless of sexual orientation) are encouraged and welcome to call for further information. NOTE: in some instances you might encounter employees who are unaware of this Directory and its significance. Don't be offended: it's an opportunity to enlighten them.
All listings are in Anchorage unless otherwise indicated.

AA:
(G) Midnight Sons, see Calendar

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

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050
(A) Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHIV), (263-5688)
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 263-5688 (see ad)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Juneau, 278-5019

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330

Amusements:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 561-8064

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

Architectural Design:
(G/A) Lipson/Brown Design, 274-8913

Astrology:
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-8582

Automotive:
(A) Courtney's, Linny, 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 (Homer), 235-5945
(L) The Butterfly Inn, Kay (Hawaii), 808-966-7936
(L) Cherry Lake B&B, Mary/Janetta, 337-4391
(G) The Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 451-6591 (see ad)
(L) Garden Cottage (Orlando, FL), Lisa, 407-894-5395

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

Boarding School Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 800-727-3641

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

Books:
(L) Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joanna/Marish, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Alaskaana, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cyranos 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, 338-1088, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 243-8457 (see ad)
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-8828

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

Coffee Houses:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 561-8064

College Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 800-727-3641

Computer Bulletin Board:
(A) Metropolitan Community Church, 276-0380; 276-0399
(A) Myths Reality (Berdache), 333-3425; 338-2869
(G) The Wilde Side, 333-4839

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

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, Waaltra, 276-6862

Graphic Design, &

Computer Consultants, Graphic Design, &

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Duran, 258-2561
(A) Counselling Alternatives, Connie, 562-1826
(L) Counselling Alternatives, Janine, 562-1826
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(G) Ken, 248-7272 (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., 277-3456 voice, 258-2232, tty
Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-8460
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
(A) Timeframe, 562-3222 (see ad)

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

Producing:
(I) Real Talent Productions, Karyn, 562-7777, 578-5683

Recreation:
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346
(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)
(I) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(G) Omni Properties (Fairbanks), Jonathan, 452-2100 (see ad)
(L) Waltraud Barron, 274-2634 (see ad)

Reiki/Counseling:
(G) Ken, 248-7772 (see ad)
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916
(L) Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-4089

Research:
(L) Gradon & Associates, 279-3982 (see ad)

Restaurants:
(A) Cyrano's Cafe, 274-1173
(G) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080 (see ad)

Retirement Plans:
(A) Lynn (LaPerriere) Thomas, 263-9720 (see ad)

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

Security Alarm Systems:
(G) Murl, 278-2029

Self-Healing:
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916 (see ad)

Sightseeing:
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346

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

Social:
(G) Anchorage Garden Buddies, 248-0425 (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. Naneece Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Bess, 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, 688-2226
(A) Flies by Lane (Eagle River), 694-6946
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221

Student Organizations:
(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks), Pete, 457-0246 (see Club Notes)
(G/L) Lesbian, Gay and Bi Student Association, UAA, soon to be "the Family" (see Club Notes)

Support Groups:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 258-2661
(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

Therapeutic Facilities Out-of-State:
(A) Tom Croke, 800-727-3864

Theatre:
(A) Out North Theatre, Gene/Jay, 279-9099

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Cheresse, 561-0661 (see ad)
(L) Apollo Travel Agency, Karyn, 561-0661 (see ad)
(L) DreamQuest Tours, Karyn, 562-5777, 278-5683
(G) World Express Travel, Greg, 786-3701

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
(L) Mei Mei, 276-7269

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

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
BY RUTH MATHES

One of the most visible businesses in the LeaBiGay Community is also the flower patch of the Anchorage Parking Fairies. Courtney’s Gas and Automotive on Tudor Road has the singular distinction of being one of two remaining independently owned gas stations in this city. Linny Pacillo hails from Homer, and has been in Anchorage for 20+ years. She stopped her whirlwind pace long enough to chat, and gave some attention to two cocker spaniels while we talked.

IDENTITY: Who is “Courtney”? 
LINNY: Tom Courtney. He was my uncle, and the first owner of this station. That was back in ‘52 when there were plenty of independent stations. Nowadays, the big guys have all the territory. But they don’t have the personality that we have, or the individual service that we have. That counts for a large part of our business, especially the return customers.

IDENTITY: Was there anything special about Tom Courtney?
LINNY: He was the first fire chief on Tudor Road, and housed the fire truck in the station. Except for a brief period the station has remained in our family. My brother, Michael, and I have been operating the station for the past six years.

IDENTITY: What are the advantages of being an independent owner are fairly obvious. What are the advantages?
LINNY: The electric sign out front says it all. If we have an issue to air before the public or our customers, we can do it there. We can praise, protest, point a finger, or pat a back using that sign, and we do. It says what we believe is the truth. A company station doesn’t have that freedom.

IDENTITY: What about the coffee wagon out front... “Not the Same Old Grind”...is that yours as well?
LINNY: It is, and I expect it to be a real draw this winter. We are finishing the concrete pour around the pumps, and are installing speakers at each pump. The customer will be able to pump gas, order a latte, pay the bill and pick up the coffee on departure. Should be really popular as the weather gets colder.

IDENTITY: What is the hardest part about this business?
LINNY: The sad stories really get to me. You’d be surprised how many sad stories of hard-luck times we hear in this place. They really pull at your heart. We listen to ‘em all, help when we can, and hope the rest can make it on their own.

IDENTITY: Anything you’d like to specifically say to the customers who so regularly patronize your business?
LINNY: You bet. I wouldn’t be in business today if it weren’t for you guys. You buy gas here when other places are more convenient. You have patronized this business when you could have gotten the work done nearer your home or job. We want you to know that we recognize that and that we appreciate it. That sort of support is what makes us a family! Thanks to you we’re still in business, long after the corporation guys had given us up for lost. We appreciate you all!

Ruth Mathes is co-Editor of the NorthView and is happily retired from the Anchorage School District and is learning to make pasta from scratch.

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Pamela R. Montgomery A.C.S.W.

Family Mediation, Child Custody Evaluation Services

Phone/Fax: 907-345-9626
1101 W. Seventh Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501

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No Profit, No Drugs

And now, the latest investment information from Barron’s Business and Financial Weekly:

With more than one million Americans infected with H-I-V, it’s hard to believe that anyone would want to slowdown the government’s approval process for drugs to treat AIDS, but this week’s Barron’s says that’s just what AIDS-activists want to do. They claim too many largely untested AIDS drugs are coming to market.

Delaying the approval of new AIDS drugs, which is now a distinct possibility, could be a setback for Hoffmann-La Roche in particular. That firm is the front-runner in the race to bring a new type of AIDS drug to market—a development that would generate hundreds of millions of dollars in annual sales.

But any other company preparing to submit new AIDS drugs for FDA approval will also be affected. The field ranges from giants like Glaxo and Wellcome to small start-ups like Vertex Pharmaceuticals and Agouron Pharmaceuticals.

The small companies are particularly vulnerable because every year of delay heightens the risk their new drugs will be made obsolete by bigger rivals.

From Dow Jones and Company

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Linny Pacillo
Manager
Financial News
by Chris Olson
"Are You Self-Employed?"

There are a number of "employee benefits" available to you if you run your own business. It doesn't matter if you have employees or an office outside the home. You can actually save money on payroll, taxes, and other expenses while providing benefits for yourself and your staff.

Insurance. Some insurance carriers will offer group coverage to groups as low as one person. If you have been in business for two years you can obtain health, dental, short- and long-term disability, vision, accident, and life insurance. The benefits are comprehensive and cost less than individual coverage. You can implement a 125 Cafeteria Plan and have your staff pay for premiums with pre-tax income. This saves about 30% on their costs. If you are an employee of your own corporation you can access this benefit, too. You can also pay for many medical expenses such as deductibles and co-insurance costs with pre-tax dollars. Additionally, you needn't pay FICA taxes on employee paid premiums for these benefits. Most carriers require that the boss pay a portion of the employee premium. You do not have to contribute to the cost of dependent coverage.

If you are a sole proprietor or an independent contractor and have no other employees you can obtain individual coverage (this is also true if you have been in operation for less than two years). If you are a member of a professional or trade association you may be eligible for group insurance sponsored by their national association.

Note: Most group insurance plans do not cover you for work related illness or injury. If you are the owner or a corporate executive in the business you probably know that you can waive Worker's Compensation insurance coverage. Worker's Compensation covers only work-related illness and injury and the premiums can be spennly. Many 'principals' have insured themselves for what is called 24 hour coverage through private insurance plans—and not carried Worker's Compensation on themselves. Your insurance agent should carefully review all of the pro's and con's of this move as it could leave you with exposed (depending on the line of work you are in).

Investments. An IRA allows annual contributions of $2,000. A Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) allows as much as 15% of your income to be deposited, tax deferred on your behalf. If you have employees then you must contribute to their SEP/IRA as well. This money is deposited in an IRA. Again, you escape the FICA tax with these deposits. You get to pick the investment format whether bank CD's, mutual funds, or annuities. With both the IRA and SEP plans you have until the time you file your tax return to figure contributions. If you have a bad year you don't have to contribute anything. Many small business owners use the SEP format for awarding a bonus to their employees if the company had a good year. The best feature about a SEP is that there are no IRS filing requirements. All of the deposits and earnings grow tax deferred until withdrawal. IRA's and SEP's are 100% vested to you or the employee. They are portable and can accept future private contributions without penalty if you change jobs. As always, it is a good idea to consult with a tax expert on which retirement plan is the best one for your particular situation.

If you want to 'discriminate' in favor of certain key employees or yourself then you should consider a private, non-qualified executive bonus program. This allows you to deposit any amount that you choose, which grows on a tax favored basis, to whomever you choose.

There are myriad choices for self-employed and/or small business owners to enhance the quality of their business. And there are significant benefits not the least of which are staff retention and morale. And financially, these plans provide business deductions that work in your company's favor.

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.
IIAA News

On October 26 the IAA will be hosting our 6th Annual Meeting at the Noel Wien Library. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the large auditorium. Please join our membership for a recap of our services for the past year and our award ceremony for AIDS Worker of the Year and IAA Volunteer of the Year. The evening will be highlighted with three special guests: Dave Purchase, from Point Defiance AIDS Project, will be the main speaker. Dave began a street syringe exchange program in 1989 in Tacoma. Other speakers include DeeJay Johannessen of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4A’s) and Mitzi Barker of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation who will be joining us to discuss the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Grant which was awarded to AHFC, with the 4A’s as project sponsor.

IAA is proud to announce the coming of the Names Project Quilt again to Fairbanks. By special arrangement with the Names Project, we have scheduled to receive two 12x12 panels for the three weeks prior to World AIDS Day. We have requested Alaskan panels, and hope to receive the panels dedicated here in 1992. At the present time, we are arranging different locations around town to display the quilts.

Having the Quilt for World AIDS Day will present a wonderful opportunity for Fairbanksans to dedicate new quilts and visit those dedicated in 1992. World AIDS Day this year is looking to be the best ever! "AIDS and FAMILIES: Protect And Care For The Ones We Love" is the theme for this year and we encourage all of our Fairbanks Family to unite with us for our special celebrations. (Hopefully the weather won't be as cold as last year's 20 or so below!) During the next two months IAA will be sponsoring "Quilting Bees" to assist anyone interested in creating a quilt in memory of loved ones. For more information on these and other IAA functions, please call our office at 452-4222.
From Fairbanks, With Love
by Michael Funk

Something has happened to Anchorage....

I used to live in Anchorage. I went to high school there, attended a year of college there, came out of the closet there in 1988. I moved to Fairbanks in 1990 and have since become an active member of that town's gay community. I drove down with my partner to the big conference last weekend expecting to participate in a few workshops and maybe a spinoff social event or two. As I drove back, I found myself reminiscing and reevaluating the port town of my past; marveling at the changes that had taken place in the gay community in my absence, fantasizing about how far the potential of this renewed community might travel, and also realizing what a success the conference was. I had been overwhelmed....

Basically, I remember a minimal context: a bar scene, Memorial Day picnics, drag queens in September trying to raise scholarship money. The bar was smoke-filled and predatory, but at least it was a place...Eklutna Flats was dusty and windy, and the overflow of alcohol created soft textured paintings out of the impressionist era for my memory to hold on to. I have never seen a funnier thing in my life than a footrace in high heels...Coronation was difficult to sit through and I never quite understood the point of it all. But they were organized and I was looking for something I could support....

In retrospect, my coming out in Anchorage was not a very positive experience. I was looking more for a circle of supportive friends than I was looking for a high school party scene. When the music stopped and the lights came back on, I felt good at having danced with, and just been with, a roomful of other gay people, but at the same time I did not feel better about being gay. As I came to realize that I felt that way, I began withdrawing from the bar scene and thus the Anchorage gay scene, for me, and began looking elsewhere for what I thought I needed, a more nurturing aspect of our culture.

Again in retrospect, if I were to have described my disappointment with my coming out experience, it would have been the lack of opportunity to participate with other gay people set about the business of promoting ourselves in other venues in addition to the bar.

So I was a little blown away by my recent visit. The very things I had decided were not to be found or developed in Anchorage are not only present and accounted for, but in a frenzied state of activity. I swear to you it is springtime in October there. So healthy, so green, so enthusiastic about being alive. A sweet Washington D.C., cherry blossom smell adrift in the currents of our moments. It was shorts weather inside of ourselves and we were honey bees.

As individuals, as small groups, as a congregation it was visible and became obvious to me that we are a special group of people. Deep, ripeing, diverse, intelligent, intuitive, sensitive, encouraging, responsible, competent, committed, resourceful, insightful, funny, healthy, informed, cooperative leaders with a vision.

The workshops were helpful. Ellen Ratner, as a catalyst, is superb. Period. We walked out of there with solid, tangible goals for ourselves and our community. We walked out of there with pie-in-the-sky, irrational dreams as well. I felt honored to be gay there, in that meeting room full of us. My pride in us as well as my own self-esteem underwent construction just being there!

I am not the type to apply praise gratuitously. My partner will confirm this. I was just that impressed. It was just that powerful. Something has happened to Anchorage....

Confronted by a strong conservative family values coalition and the Baptist temple home of Mr. Prevo, in the face of recent setbacks, I think that the leadership of the Anchorage Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Community should stand up and be recognized for the work they have done, for their success in making Anchorage a safer place for those of us still trying to take those first impossible steps out of the closet.

I think a milestone has been reached in the State of Alaska. Thank You, Anchorage.
The Social Season
by Pete Pinney

People have finally realized that summer is indeed over, as evidenced by the bare branches and musty smell of dead leaves. The last minute scramble of stacking firewood marks the end of putting away the lawn mower, rolling up the hoses, checking the antifreeze levels, and watching for the flat, gray clouds that bring snow. But the bright spot for getting into winter is only a few weeks away. Halloween is more than just a cultural extravaganza here in Fairbanks. The event marks the beginning of the social season.

Since we live in a place where extremes in climate bring out an even-handed attitude towards life, it is fitting that people who are no longer out climbing rocks or padding down rivers turn inward. Now is the time to think about the list of books that would make great reading, plan for those indoor do-it-yourself projects, and pick some fantastic place to fly to with a dividend check. (I get to stay home with my new septic system that I am sure I will really appreciate.) But first, above all else, I have to pull a costume together.

It happens the same way every year. As the end of the month approaches, the sense of urgency grows into a controlled panic. Why didn’t I get enough material? Where is my friend with his hot glue gun when I need him? Can one really overdress for this occasion? All activity came to a screeching halt last year when a straight friend, helping attach some antlers to the brim of my hat, announced, “Gay guys really are way into drama.” I am momentarily stunned, then finally collect myself. Pulling orange fishnet stockings out of their bag, I replied, “What else is there?”

I understood exactly what he meant. It went beyond just looking at environment. Small town gossip is easy to fall into when the temperature drops, especially if we don’t get out much. Social isolation is easy to spot; cabin fever is gone out shopping while wearing little pink bunny fu-fu slippers and hair curlers by the time February rolls around. And that’s just the guys. What my insightful buddy was talking about was how we take on a heightened sense of communication, or lack of, with the onset of winter.

Just when we thought we were prepared, things happen. The caulking around the shower leaks. The furnace breaks down. The car loses a universal joint. The dog needs surgery. Friends are evicted from their apartments and need a place to stay, for just a few days. Then they need help moving all their stuff. Meanwhile all our own stuff gets put on the back burner, bubbling and simmering unattended. I need to get my well pump replaced, and no one can come out for two weeks because everyone else has already experienced the same thing. They were just faster in communicating their panic.

Most gay men don’t deal well with such unpleasant things in the first place. Beyond being thankful that I have lesbian friends, I find that having a man around the house who CAN deal with such things is a rare commodity. When my ex left, I lost my maintenance man. So now everything becomes a big deal. I get to worry about all things I have little or no control over. And sure enough, it all becomes a crisis. With control queens, drama comes naturally.

Rising above the ordinary requires more effort than I can muster sometimes. Understanding how to talk about it, however, helps a great deal. Just this weekend I found that even though I teach communication skills, I have a problem communicating myself. Often, what I say is not what other people hear, and vice versa. And I also learned about basic differences between how men and women process what they hear. Silence during a conversation between men usually indicates tacit agreement. With women it usually means they are still thinking and may need more input. Such misunderstanding clues lead to big time drama. Trust me. I need to remember that others may take what I say personally, even though I don’t think of them while reacting to my own fears or concerns. I liken this to my experience with psychologists and social workers I have worked with. They are great solving other people’s problems, but they themselves are a mess. But it’s not all bad.

The interaction we create through misconceptions leads us to learning about ourselves and others. While I am capable of falling victim to gossipmongering, I work hard at recognizing the signs: acting on hearsay, making judgments based on stereotypes—all those things we accuse others of doing to us. Drama is actually universal. It’s just that we tend to do it with more style. Drama is a good thing if we learn from it, if we can catch ourselves and laugh.

But none of this helps me out with my costume. I can hardly wait for the dance, to see how creative others have been for the national holiday. This is fun. Even straight people get into being who they really want to be. This celebration sets the tone for how we go into another winter of looking out for each other, coming over to discuss those books on that list, trekking out to a hot springs, sharing an aurora, or even going ice fishing. Winter is a beautiful time in Fairbanks, friends included.

Pete still hasn’t figured out why the wommin love to run their hands over fishnet stockings. ▲

Clarence disguised as the Ghostbusters Editor of the NorthView. Eric Wolton attempts to pass as a normal person. It is clear, however, that the lack of running water and electricity in his home has had some deleterious effects, rendering him hopelessly warped, doomed to live eternally (at least until his next costume change) as a Hallowe’en exquisite.
Queer Abby,

I'm bored with sex. I'll meet a guy and we'll go out, but it's not fun anymore. They're all boring. I tried to watch a porno with my last boyfriend, but even the guys in the porn act bored. There's no love in sex anymore—I mean, it's tired, it's worn out. Why do people just get off and act like nothing's happened? What's wrong with the guys I'm dating? I'd say something's wrong with me, but I try to do new things, like that porno. I can't think of anything else. What's wrong with this picture?

Luis

With your Latin background, I wonder if you grew up Catholic. If you did, do you remember the 40 days before Easter called Lent, when you sacrificed something for those few weeks? Did you give up chocolate, or name-calling? Come Easter, chocolate never tasted sweeter (or name-calling never sounded better?). Try it with sex. Go ahead, it ain't gonna vanish from lack of use. Try it for a week, two weeks, a month, a few months. Face yourself, and you might appreciate it more.

Better yet, look at the body as a sensual, not sexual, organ. Try everything but getting off: kissing, fantasizing, rubbing, caressing... it's all there inside you, waiting to flourish. Kiss his back, his stomach, his armpit—French kiss the little crook on the other side of his elbow. Rub your lips across his thighs so lightly that it tickles. Breathe onto his face. Touch his eyelids with your tongue. Tell him how handsome his smile is, and how beautiful his eyes are. Take his hand and nibble on the fingers. Lick him behind the ears and rub your hand across it before the saliva cools. Look at him passionately and say, "You're so..." When he asks what, tell him the truth... whatever you're feeling. Well enough on kissing... Abby needs a little down time to regain her professionalism!

Fantasizing... there are unlimited possibilities. Tell him what you want to do to him. To ready do to him. Tell him what you've always wanted to try. Tell him where, how, with what foods or appliances, when you want it (after work, after a long, sweaty hike?), and why you need him, of all people, to be the one you do it with. Try uniforms... not just military or cop, but something sporty, like baseball (mmm!) who knows? Really, you don't even need a costume to play the part, honey!

Goodness, I've written so much and said only a bit of what's on my mind (thanks for firing me up)! One serious thing for you, love... boring is as boring does. Read, read, read! Open that imagination up, then you can put the love back into lovemaking.

Queer Abby,

I met a guy who rocks my world. He is everything I've ever dreamed about. It's hard for me because I've been with someone for over five years, and very happily at that. We have a home, two pets, and a very supportive circle of friends. My heart says to go for the new man, but the rest of me thinks I should leave things alone. I know the right thing to do but all I hear inside me is "Follow your heart." Help!

Queer Help!

Remember those multiple-choice tests from school? The teacher always said, "Go with your first instinct if you're not sure, and you'll probably get it right." There's a reason that you've been with your man for five years (I'm lucky to make it five months!). Unless you and your partner are ready for a significant change, don't give in— you even said you already know the right thing to do. My cheapest advice would be to go into a room by yourself and have a fantastic fantasy, and then it'll seem less severe.

Queer Abby,


A.J.

Queer A.J.,

Good question! What do the rest of you think?

Queer Abby's waiting to hear from you at P.O. Box 41-380, Los Angeles, CA 90041. Go ahead, tell it to her!

[Editor's Note: last month we incorrectly attributed this column to another source. Sorry. Queer Abby remains anonymous.]
Out Law
by Sylvia L. Short

September was a great month, weatherwise and otherwise. On the first day of the month we traveled to San Francisco for the P-FLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transsexuals and Gays) convention, and what an exhilarating experience it was! Delightful people from all over, and nobody a stranger! We were richly entertained by an all-Gay, Lesbian contingent, and the multitude of workshops, luncheons and talk-fests was unrivaled.

California was at its best, and, second only to our Alaska, there's no place like San Francisco on a good day! The great weather kept up during our sojourn through the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, up through Northern California and Oregon to the Antiquarian Book Fair in Portland. When we returned to Alaska, summer had turned into Fall, and brilliant colors continued! Yes, it was a beautiful September for us—how was yours?

October is starting rather auspiciously as well. I had signed up for the conference at UAA, but then I re-read the brochure and discovered it was "by and for" members of the gay community, so I regretfully stayed away. Only at Coming Out Day did I discover that I could have come anyway as one Teresa Obermeyer did (or tried to!). I understand it was a great success.

Another great success was Coming Out Day itself. There weren't many of us present, but we were instantly if not already friends, and an informal, warm discussion ensued. We talked about anything and everything but mostly in the theme of the day, and below are some excerpts (paraphrased) from the "coming-out" stories:

[Gay] My mother is a psychiatrist, and when I wrote for the first time that I was gay, her response was that I needed psychiatric help. ... Most of her experience with the gay community was in Juneau where she worked with various legislative types and somehow formed the opinion that being gay meant "one night stands" and "back alleys." It has taken a long time, but today she says that if I start dating a girl she'll send me to psychiatric counseling!

[Lesbian] I was invited to participate in a TV program on alternative lifestyles, and afterwards I had nothing but positive response. The support I received from my co-workers even extended to their making gifts to gay organizations and appearing at gay rallies.

[Gay] I knew his (another gay) parents professionally, but they didn't know I was gay. When we met at a professional convention, we had lunch together, and they confided that their son had told them that he was gay. I responded "there's something you need to know about me." ... My wife died in 1977, and I remained in the closet until 1980, when I came out by writing an article about gay issues in the mental health magazine COPING. Before I wrote the article I asked my superior at API if it was all right, and the director said not to show any connection to API as he didn't want to have any trouble with Juneau.

[Lesbian] My mother won't talk to me. When I left home in the South, she said I "left the country." She has lived in the same house for 20 years and still knows only three neighbors. Despite this, when I came out to her her first response was "what will the neighbors say?" 

[Gay] This city has a very active gay/lesbian community, far more than other communities of its size. It has been commented that it is easier to know people in Anchorage than in Seattle. A group of Anchorage physicians was reported as more knowledgeable than any similar group outside, possibly because they're more on their own. We probably have more Harvard graduates in Anchorage, too.

[Lesbian] I keep hoping the 90's is really the "Gay 90's." Living a lie takes a lot of energy. I came out to my employer after five years, and she said she knew from the minute I hit the building.

[Gay] Our family communicates by letter which circulates around the country, taking about six months. While I haven't directly come out, I write about my partner and our traveling together. When I contacted one member of my family in Oregon to oppose the anti-gay initiative there, I found him to be on the right side anyway, and I have never had any repercussion from my family.

[Lesbian] My father is career military, and both my parents have shunned me since I came out. However, my mother's mother, who is an Indian, has always been protective and supportive. And my children say my mother talks about me all the time.

[Gay] Coming out is something you do for yourself. Sometimes you have to remember how it was before you came out.

And then they asked me about my coming out. I have always felt I am completely "up front," and my husband agrees. But there is a history to my connection with the Anchorage gay community, so I came out with that. One day, about ten years ago, in a conversation with a close friend, he confided that he was terribly depressed about the recent suicides in the community. Innocently I inquired about them, and it was at that point that he told me he is gay and that he was talking about the gay community. It was like turning on a switch—to discover that here, in my beloved Alaska, there was the same kind of hatred and bias that I had fled when I came up here. I became a supporter of the Empire and helped them incorporate and then "hired" myself as free legal counsel whenever anything went wrong. We founded the "Four A's" and I became involved with Identity, and now my life turns around this community where I am most at home. All I can say is, "thank you for accepting me...."

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

Sylvia L. Short
Attorney and Counselor at Law

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Telephone (907) 562-4992
Groups & Gatherings
Circles and Clubs
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
other. 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 wel-
come. 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 com-
munities. Potluck Social: held on the 4th Friday of
every month at the Anchorage Unitarian Univer-
salist 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.

**Cast Frontier Men’s Club:** a members only club for the Leather/Bear communities of Alaska. Meetings once/month, campouts & weekend 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-naC):** 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):** 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):** holds meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For information call Sylvia at 562-4992 or Fred at 562-7161.

**Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA):** organization for Gay Men and Lesbians of Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter "Perspective." P.O. Box 211371, Auke Bay, AK 99921-1371.

**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 Kathy at 455-6358 or Eric at 455-4051.

**Shanti of Juneau** offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS prevention and educational information. Offices: 222 Seward, Suite 200; mail: P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437).

**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.

**Women’s Two-Step Dance:** first Saturday of every month. Pioneer School House, 3rd & Eagle, $3. Lessons at 7:30pm, dancing at 8:30. Come learn, meet new women, and enjoy.

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**Self-Healing Massage & Reiki**

Joyce Laine, C.M.T.
by Appointment
562-9166
Dancing Close Up and Personal
by Karen Carlisle

Dear Love and I were crabbing at each other last night. It was a conflagration waiting for a spark. It wasn’t really about six bags of trash sitting in the middle of the kitchen waiting for the good fairy to take them to the dump; we needed a good fairy because it was Friday night after a long, hard work week. It wasn’t really because she wanted to keep hanging her drapes instead of holding me RIGHT NOW. It wasn’t even that both of us have very many things to do that must be done apart, too many things, or even that the things we tried to schedule to do together aren’t working out.

No, it was because we were hungry, yea starving, to be together because we haven’t had a weekend together IN A MONTH! No wonder we are as prickly as growing-out shaved legs. Love does not thrive without sweet time together—time to be quietly touching, without the empty space for the flame of passion to ignite. . . slow time to see the love eyes we give when the minutes aren’t speeding by like Bonnie Blair.

We both broke down crying in each other’s arms and that’s when we figured it out. We needed some time together—quiet, slow, soft time. There it is: six months later we can’t find the time to be together. Six months ago we couldn’t stay apart. Now I couldn’t keep up that whirlwind forever, but LIFE has encroached too much.

Since our weekend was already heavily planned, we decided to make a date Sunday night at a rental cottage up the road. Alas, it was not available—so we took the trash to the dump where we were rewarded with a brown bear sighting. Then home to her house, I to cook dinner, she to finish the drapes hanging. After a relaxed, amiable dinner—then home to my house where she pushed through my it’s-too-late resistance and took me, as they say in romance novels. And I surrendered, dear readers, I surrendered.

And this morning, all bound together by the silk web of the endorphins, we splashed all over each other last night, it was hard to send her away so I could have my one little island of writing time a week. And here resides a major relationship dilemma: how do we carve out the space for us and the space for I? It seems that the time available to us, and for I, is a very small amount of the total time available to be.

Now I know you Louise Hay devotees (of which my love is one) will say that we have all the time in the world. Horseshit! Maybe in the next life or perhaps Louise is including all the lives. From everything I hear, I’m likely to wind up in the bed of Genghis Khan in my next life. So I’m going to make the best of this one with Dear Love, thank you.

The hours of my present life are constrained by the artificial hours of the corporate work world, by the airline schedules by which I must abide (I travel 2-4 times weekly), by the triple load of work I, a lone worker, must do; and I am constrained by the fact that, as a lesbian, I am financially responsible for myself every minute until the day I die or transition or whatever the death deniers are calling it these days. And while another reality might insert itself into my consciousness if this really is THE LOVE THAT WILL LAST, or if I receive an unexpected inheritance, I’m not counting on it.

Having not been able to give myself an “A” for past relationships, I scoured my relationship books for guidance, reassurance, whatever, even though I’ve never actualized any info in them in my relationships. And I talk to my friends whose relationships are those that are a priority to both the lovers.

Is this before survival or after? Is this before creative life or after? Is it before the spiritual practice or after? Or can it be part of it? If you think I know the answers to these questions, I must disappoint you.

But this woman, this woman that I love (did I tell you she is a wonderful lover?) is willing to struggle over these questions. At a workshop at the LesBiGay conference the other week, S.E. told us that each time we start a new relationship, the period of limerence (lust to us common folk) becomes shorter and the period of power-struggling begins sooner, lasts longer (no translation necessary). Great, bloody good.

And it’s true for Dear Love and...the sooner part anyway. I was suspicious right from the start having a scared heart from getting so many bumps and bruises. It wasn’t anytime at all before she stopped trying to please me and reassure me. I’m glad for that, I think. We both are vigilant about our respective forms of codependency and got over quickly the belief that conflict=THE END—more or less most of the time.

The agreement to conflict without violence and the belief that honesty will keep the bright sun of intimacy shimmering keeps us clean with each other. Nothing is hidden between us for long. Silence equals death in more ways than one.

I no longer feel like I have to rein in my power so as not to overwhelm my delicate southern flower (How do you verbalize a snort on a piece of paper?). My girlfriend went on a Project Adventure ropes training. And she came back assertive as hell, and is that ever sexy. Now I trust her to stand up for herself and stand up to me. It makes me feel safe and desirous. A balance of power is sexy. Did I say that already? Makes me want to slide right down.

It was also good to hear in that workshop that every relationship has issues that can’t be solved overnight. I knew that. I just forgot. I’m so glad to know that neither I, nor Dear Love, are bad people if we can’t solve an issue before we go to bed. Or by the time I’ve finished this article.

Now I’m going to my honey’s house to help her repair a futon, and then she’s coming to my house to help me hang boot racks and cabinets. And then I’m going to spend the night with her and we get to stay in bed together Sunday morning. MMMM. My favorite thing.

All you girls and boys who haven’t met Dear Love—we’ll be the cowgirls at the OPAL Halloween dance, and now I hear Kurt is hosting a soiree at Illusions so we’ll dance there also. We know cowgirls aren’t very original but we want to dance closely—you know belly to belly and breast to breast. And if we get a chance to dance the Texas T’s, Dear Love and I will get to make spoons with our bodies and rock...rock...hitch, right-two-three; hitch, left-two-three; hitch, back-two-three; hitch, front-two-three and rock...rock. I’ll teach it to anyone if you can get Leslie to play a country blues with a soft, rocking beat.

But I digress. You can’t dance up close and personal if you’re a pumpkin or a princess, or if you have lots of goopy stuff on your face. And we’ve never gotten to dance together (except alone of course) in Bushville, and you girls know how much I love to dance. It’s one of my favorite things.

Karen Carlisle, balancing in Bushville.
N
ow it can be told. The Republican Party of Alaska, along with the Right Reverend Jerry Perno and Mike the Sidekick, have transcended even their own demented thinking. Now it's down to English as we don't know it. As written in "Alaska Ear," in the Anchorage Remaining Daily, 9/11/94: "Verbatim ... From the "Resolutions of the Republican Party of Alaska--1994. WHEREAS, organized pediactrics are seeking to lower the age of sexual consent, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Republican Party of Alaska adamantly opposes lowering the ages of sexual consent for any purposes." (Not only that, but how many ages can it lower?) After that there was nowhere to go but the Roxanna Ward concert. EYE met all her cohorts and colleagues and good friends there (including the energetic and scrumpulous CB) and filed the following: Roxanna said to the audience (who'd been singing along with some of the tunes): "...all this singing—you guys should put on your own show." There was a chorus of replies, "We do! It's called the Celebration of Chains!" Now EYE didn't get this one, but thought she'd better repeat it in case it was, you know, significant. Roxanna allowed as how she was the father of Winona Judd's baby. Then there was the Lesbian in the audience who didn't like Country Western. (EYE was soooo pleased to know there's another. EYE is not alone!) Tears of laughter rolled down cheeks as Roxanna sang the other lyrics to "Funfical Funfical" while she impersonated Aunt Bea from Andy Griffith. She went on to sing "The Drag Queen and the Bull Dyke should be friends" to the tune of the farmer and the cowboy song. For the first time, EYE understood what that song meant! Roxanna found out about MR's new hairdo—said she was "so cute." And it's true! She is cute. Many repaired to ABB after the show for a "reception," lavishly catered (on the spur of the moment) by Illusions (the Pumpkin Cheese Cake was divine). It's no illusion—EYE scarfed, EYE saw EYE! EYE learned that AM and NC were leaving the State (frown) "to wander" (smile). CH's brother, EYE discovered, dated Roxanna Ward (yes, the one who was performing earlier in this gossipy column), in the second grade in California. (During the show CH and Roxanna singled each other out—a trip down sibling-dating-memory-lane, or words to that effect.) Couldn't help but feel all warm inside watching folks dancing to "Baby, Baby," including RM&MF. Then it switched and MF played polka music (on the Bookstore's piano) while others danced. Lovely! EYE would have joined in, but she's all thumbs when it comes to fancy footwork. HOT Air sang beautifully as did CAL ("Heartbreak Hotel") (complete with swipe hips) (EYE loves CAL), and KL ("You Send Me"), and others. A HEYEdight was PB doing a great Katherine Hepburn imitation (almost as good as EYE's), keeping up nicely with Roxanna's own version of the Great Kate. Alas, it was over all too soon, and most lent a hand to clean up the wonderful new space the Bookstore occupies (same strip mall, just a few doors West). EYE found out that the "Phantom" cast donated tickets to the 4As. That they made the effort to look up the Helpline was heartwarming, and that they made the connection and the donation was most considerate. Kisses all around. EYE was seen at The Conference but wasn’t toting her EYE notepad (and everyone knows her memory is note too sharp), so there isn’t a lot of dish.... But EYE’ll try anyway. For example, there was the refrigeration brush-up class that was going on EYEmultaneously with The Conference. Several of the men (no women, strangely enough) were snarling up the coffee and muffins that were there for The Conference goers. He swallowed hard when DC told them they were Lesbian and Gay muffins, but gamely said (after some schmoozing with DC) "More power to you!" Nice, DC, nice. The energy in the Business Building during workshops and during "class changes" was divine. The atmosphere was charged with strong, proud and inquisitive minds and hearts. EYE went all misty to see nearly 200 LesBGays being creative, loving and connected. EYE must take a moment to note the oh-so-sharp contrast to the Anchorage (Hate-Bap-Filled-tst Temple). Ellen Ratner (the keynote speaker at the Saturday lunch and a workshop presenter ("Community Building"), was called by the White House the day before she was to board the plane for Alaska. "No," she is reported to have said, "I can’t do it. I am committed to go the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Conference in Alaska, and to Alaska I’m going. We’ll have to reschedule for when I get back." Mr. Bill said that was OK, as she was the one he wanted to interview him. EYE can just imagine the foaming at the mouth of some of the Rabid Reichers around here. But, maybe not. Bill isn’t George and George was their man. Smile. Then EYE showed up at the Kate Clinton concert. The Wendy Williamson lobby was abuzz with the glitterati (and the rest of us, too), and illusions once again put one on a spread that was mouth-watering (the food) and sooo tempting. EYE gave in several times. Several times. Several times. EYE loved Kate, didn’t care for the warm up. (EYE’s taste runs to the somewhat calmer presentations.) EYE was also seen at the National Coming Out Day Dance, held on the Wendy Williamson stage after the Kate Clinton show. Now EYE doesn’t want to tell stories out of, how shall we say, school, but wasn’t EYE dancing awfully close with someone? Oh, dear, telling tales about our own person. So many personalities were there that EYE could dish about, but it’s time to be discreet. Shall we just say that EYE, along with others, seemed enamored of many, friends to all and lover to some (even if only in our mind (or something)’s EYE).
Letters to the Editor

[The following letter was sent to Libby who forwarded it to us. Romanovsky and Phillips have performed here to enthusiastic audiences and standing ovations. Ed.]

Sept. 20, 1994
Dear Libby:

I'm sorry this is a form letter but I've got a bunch of these to mail out before I leave on another tour.

I wrote to many of you a few months ago about the duplicator who refused business to the Lesbian a capella group "The Rhythm Method." Well, the bigots are at it again, they're a different set of assholes but the same bullshit. This time, it happened to Romanovsky and Phillips and it involved three companies. Here's what happened, in R & P's own words:

The release of our new album "Brave Boys - The Best and More of Romanovsky and Phillips" has been delayed three times now, first due to a homophbic printer (Richard Hadley at Whitney Russell Printers), who accepted the job only to refuse to run it two weeks later, then to a like-minded color-separator (John Matey of Hollis Digital Imaging), who pulled the same stunt the following week. Matey's response said, "It's not about (their) orientation, it's about presentation." Then, Michael Carroll (their art director) received the artwork for our promotional postcard C.O.D. from a different printer (Marty Broom at U.S. Press), returned because, as Marty stated in a message left on Mr. Carroll's answering machine, "... We took a look at it and basically ... we're gonna refuse to print it. Some of the terms on it are ... uh ... offensive. And basically we're just ... uh ... not gonna print it!"

I've seen the so-called offensive material and guess what ... it doesn't show violent images, it isn't racist, and it isn't pornographic but it is blatantly Gay. Also, there's a photo of the guys with little clothing on BUT all private parts are covered. It's a more tasteful picture than what I've seen on the cover of Rolling Stone (who have recently featured the Red Hot Chili Peppers in their birthday suits) or on other albums.

If you're as angry as I am, write some letters:
Richard Hadley
Whitney Russell Printers
PO Box 664
Amarillo, TX 79105-0664
800-753-7773
806-374-7005

John Matey
Hollis Digital Imaging
383 N. Commerce Pk Loop
Tucson, AZ 85745
602-623-7589

Marty Broom
U.S. Press
1628-A James A. Rodgers Dr.
Valdosta, GA 31601
800-227-3777
912-244-5634

If you want to send a note to Ron and Paul, they can be reached at: 369 Montezuma #209, Santa Fe, NM 87501, 505-989-8647.

Well, that's enough political action for now. I hope to see some of you on upcoming tours. Be safe —

Jamie Anderson
PO Box 42282
Tucson, AZ 85733
602-325-7928

P.S. I was just in Alaska in July. Had a terrific time! Hope all is well with you.

Dear Ken,

Our many thanks for your support.

On behalf of all Idaho, we thank you for your commitment to the Don't Sign On campaign.

With your support, Don't Sign On will continue to oppose Idaho Citizens Alliance efforts to discriminate against a group of Idahoans merely because of their sexual orientation. The ICA's anti-gay initiative can be defeated and must be defeated. This imported campaign can be stopped before it tears apart the many tolerant communities of our great state. We know this campaign can be won—and we know that your support will be crucial to the victory.

Thank you for standing up with us—for letting your friends, family and neighbors know that you Don't Sign On to Discrimination!

Tom Knappenberger and Brian Bergquist
Co-Chairs, The Don't Sign On Committee
P.O. Box 797
Boise, ID 83701-0797

Dear Ken:

Thanks for publishing my article about Log Cabin Federation in the January issue. Thanks also for sending me the succeeding issues. Unfortunately, so far no one has replied either to the article or the advertisement, so again, if you know any poor closete gay Republicans and should happen to mention to them that we would like to start a Log Cabin club in Alaska, we—meaning the Log Cabin Federation—would be most grateful for the contact.

Sorry I missed you in New York. I had some distinct thoughts I wanted to communicate about us and where we are after the 25 years of the second phase of gay liberation (the first phase having been the Mattachine Society and SIR). In the realm of unpaid advertising, what can you do for "No on 13," the lead organization in fighting the Oregon Citizens Alliance and in the creation and placement of advertising directed to the people of Oregon. At a CEO breakfast in Portland in early August, corporate executives rose and spoke to the issue of buying TV time in this political year and the overwhelming need to make the time buys. We've raised $400,000 so far and need $2,000,000 more. The best contact is Executive Director Julie Davis at 222-6151 (o) or 234-2684 (h). Another is the co-chair of its steering committee, Don Powell 682-7877 (h) or (o) 248-9272 (h) (NOTE: Don is also co-chair of Right to Privacy, an equivalent to Equal that distributes cash and endorsements to political candidates).

Very truly yours,
LEE COLEMAN

P.S.: The address for ZIP 97007 can be either Beaverton (which the Post Office and all address programs default to) or Aloha — it doesn't matter. So, I use Beaverton because at least
it's on the map. Nevertheless, the enclosed ad copy uses Aloha instead of Beaverton and it can't be changed; oh, well.

Defeat hate-mongering

The biggest nonnews to hit the media lately is the emergence of Michael Johnston and his hate-cult in the gubernatorial race. This is not news because this type of unpleasantness and tragedy historically surfaces from time to time, as witness the activities of the Ku Klux Klan or Hitlerite Nazism.

The underlying purpose of Johnston and crew is not solely to support a candidate so much as to gain public recognition and to spread their distorted story. That a candidate would embrace such support says something about his caliber. That the media gives it countenance and coverage is reprehensible.

The gay rights Johnston deprecates are not an issue in the upcoming election, and in fact there is no such thing as gay rights. As American people we all have certain rights, and the only differences legislatively arise when it becomes necessary to protect these rights. The need of the gay community is for protection against those who, like Johnston and his confederates, would not only deprive them of rights but would prey upon them.

Enlightenment and the compassion taught by true Christianity are the best defenses against such hate-mongering. That and defeat of candidates who court or are swayed by it.

Sylvia L. Short
Impressions in Leather
Anonymous

In an article I wrote last month I quoted a friend of mine; going to the bookstore was a "rite of passage" into Gaydom. I went. yuck. I did not drop to my knees and suck dick. I thought about it. A person, married, single, male, female ("*all womyn need to get out more*), or somewhere in between, can go there, get their rocks off, and no one is screaming rape, or abuse, or spouting any of the other TV pop culture psycho-armchair-analyst talk show babble. I will go again, and who knows.

What was missing in there was PRIDE. No one made eye contact. No smiles. No friendly chattering. Just an odd formal dance with a porno sound track moan, for background music. The person making the first move, goes into a booth, throws a dollar into the movie machine, and leaves their door unlocked. The peak of the minute waltz is split out 60 seconds later in a dark corner. As the screen fades to black, his partner wipes his wedding ring off on his jeans.

If this seems bleak, it was. I guess whose houses are not that great, either. But in the movies everyone seems to enjoy themselves. Remember "The Best Little Whore House in Texas," with Dolly Parton, and Burt Reynolds. The "Chicken Ranch" was a fun, happy place, where everybody knew everyone else. Miss Kitty on Gunsmoke, was a madam. There was no shame in going there. I just got hit by the reality of the booths in an adult bookstore. It's a rude awakening. I know there is more to Gay life then potlucks, dancing, and talking for hours on the phone about some cute co-worker whom you would do just about anything for, even put their youngest child through college. I just thought none of Gay life could be as dismal as what I saw in the backrooms.

My impressions of leather are exactly the opposite of what I saw in the bookstore. Leathermen & womyn, tops and bottoms are a proud, sturdy people, who don't hide their sexuality in shame. It is just there. No hanky code, no boots, no vest, or a tattoo of Satan is going to make a man display PRIDE, dignity, or self respect. A proud person walks upright, in a dignified manner. They're not stuck up. They have some self-respect, and for some reason the confidence shows. REALITY CHECK: Ego's exist in all cultures. Some leatherpeople have ego's the size of all outdoors.

A person can have a same-sex relationship without losing their self respect. One of the fondest memories I have is kissing my X on the floor of Walden Books in University Center. Someone told me to go to a bookstore. I was really naïve. We were in the Star Trek section. I guess it was OK—people were stepping over us. He will not come within 3 feet of me when we are shopping. We had a kiss once, that really lasted 3 days. We've had several that lasted 2 days, but 3 seems to be some magic number, he says. I remember those kisses; all warm, wet and sloppy (*grins*). There was something tender and sweet in each of them. Some were stolen in the movies, in restaurants, in the airport. Some were given—offered to him as a sign of affection—at some of the oddest moments. Each was very special. REALITY CHECK, part deux: I must remind myself of the definable, not to be overlooked reasons, why we are not together.

There are good parts and bad parts to this lifestyle. Being Gay does not give me an exclusive right to whine about my life being unsatisfying. From what I have seen, Gay, straight and whatever people all have about the same questions and problems. "Do they love me? Why am I here? Am I successful? Whoever invented those little packets of ketchup, that explode all over your new white shirt needs to be found, tied down and up, and beaten..." But, I digress.

Sex in a bookstore is easy. Sex in general is easy to get from somewhere. My emotional needs are not going to be appeased through a hole in the wall. But what is a guy to do, join the Navy? It has been done.

Anonymous λ

F. Kenneth Freedman
Counseling
by appointment:

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AIDS ACTION ALERT
DON’T LET HELMS BLOCK HIV EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS
Lobby Congress and Let the Radical Right Pick Up the Tab!

What’s going on?
The radical right has sent over 20,000 letters to Congress urging them to KEEP the
discriminatory anti-HIV education Helms-Smith-Hancock amendments to S.1513, the Elementary and Secondary
Education Authorization bill (ESEA), amendments which will
forbid schools from presenting any program or activity that can
be construed as condoning homosexuality in any form,
including HIV prevention education. In addition, the anti-gay
Traditional Values Coalition has set up a toll-free phone
number (800-786-2221) so that their supporters can call
Congress and lobby them at no charge. It is vitally important
that those of us who OPPOSE these amendments make our
voices heard LOUD and CLEAR in the halls of Congress.

What will these amendments do?
They will prohibit ANY school receiving federal funding
from presenting any program or activity that could be inferred
to promote (or even simply accept) homosexuality “as a positive
lifestyle alternative.” This would require libraries to remove
books, prevent school counselors from advising students on
outside counseling options and resources, and seriously
interfere with STD and HIV prevention education in schools.
In addition, the amendments are counter to the American
tradition of keeping oversight of schools within their local
communities, and they set a dangerous precedent for federal
censorship in our schools.

What can you do to oppose them?
It is important that you send the following message to your
members of Congress: that they should NOT support the
Helms-Smith-Hancock amendments to ESEA because they will
interfere with local control of program content at schools, and
will seriously hinder attempts to teach students about STD and
HIV prevention. You should send your message to Congress
by calling and/or writing letters:

CALL YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: 800-768-2221
The toll free number set up by the pro-Helms forces will
connect you directly to the Capitol switchboard - anyone can
use this number - no questions asked! Using it will allow you
to lobby free of charge, with the radical right picking up the
tab - so please call your Congressional representatives and give
them the message outlined above.

SEND LETTERS TO YOUR SENATORS
If you are a service provider who will be adversely affected
by these amendments, it is especially important that you send
letters to your Senators telling them how these amendments
would detrimentally affect the work that you do. It is also
important that you fax (202-986-1345) or mail (address below)
a copy of your letters to AIDS Action Council. We need to
collect stories like yours to use as ammunition in the fight
against the amendments.

What’s going to happen next?
Soon, probably in late September, members of the House
and Senate will meet in conference on the ESEA to decide,
among other things, whether or not they will keep the Helms-
Smith-Hancock amendments. The message to NOT support
these amendments needs to go to them TODAY.
AIDS Action Council - 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite

From the Four A’s

Heart felt appreciation and rounds of applause to our
friends whose efforts made the Conference “In Search
of...” a phenomenal success! There were many hours
of work and introspection that were spent between April and
the end of September, culminating in a real first. I know
the momentum won’t be lost. Special thanks to Doug, Kurt,
Jennifer and Richard for making the collaboration between our
office and the conference so smooth! The advance publicity
certainly makes a difference; thanks Ken for your energy.
Ross, beloved friend and co-worker, is off on a new
adventure...by the time you read this he’ll be ensconced in his
new home in the Castro! He is, of course, irreplaceable—both
as a friend and professionally—and we send him off with all
our love, knowing that wherever he goes the world will never
be the same! Interestingly enough, we are scheduling him to
do contract classes for government agencies that need to
comply with the Federal mandate to provide HIV education.
So, we’ll see him again in December, and schedule Helpline
training and a Prevention Update at that time.

World AIDS Day is December 1 and this year’s theme is
"AIDS and Families." The InterFaith Council’s HIV Task
Force and the 4As are sponsoring two panels of the Names
Project Quilt to be brought up from November to December.
The panels will be on display at Loussac Library November 6-
15, then seen in the schools, travel to Dillingham, and finally,
displayed at the History Museum Nov. 21st through the
first of December. Doug Frank will be the attendant.

The HIV Client Needs Assessment questionnaire has been
developed and volunteers are training to conduct interviews.
To participate in this critical endeavor please call the 4As and
schedule an appointment for an interview. This information
will be the basis of decisions made by the Ryan White
Consortium, for funding future services.

Apollo Travel Service
Your Community Travel Agent

Robert DeLoach, President
Dan Cook, aka "Cherresse", Agent
1207 West 47th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Voice/TTY: 561-0661
Fax 561-5802
Three Days of the Conference
(or what I did last weekend instead of cleaning my refrigerator)
by Jen Kohout

For those of you not convinced by the barrage of preconference publicity to attend the event, Siskel & Ebert gave it two thumbs up (or at least they would have, had it been a movie... "See Lesbians, Gays, bisexuals, transgendered folks, and allies discuss meaningful topics and have a ball!"). Even though Siskel & Ebert didn’t make it, nor did Greg Louganis or k.d. lang for that matter, 180 courageous and motivated people decided to forgo their usual weekend routines to attend the three-day event. It certainly beat standing in line at the Johnston’s tire store or a trip to Eagle hardware for new bathroom fixtures.

Early on, organizers knew the conference would be a good barometer of the community (and the weather—whenever we had an organizing meeting scheduled, it was beautiful outside). The conference, however, turned out to be much more. It was an inspiration to those of us who organized the event and, hopefully, to everyone who attended. With workshop topics ranging from same-sex relationships and self-defense (note: two distinct topics) to media strategies and community building, participants grew individually and communally. At least I did. I went from learning about the stages of Lesbian relationships (from "Velcro" to breakup as far as I could tell) to a discussion about humor as a mechanism of social change. While many of the ideas I heard discussed were common sense, I came away feeling affirmed as a Lesbian and connected both to the specific individuals whose names I learned and to the community that was being revealed before my very eyes.

There are dozens of wonderful groups and organizations in this town—everything from the monthly sing-alongs at Lucy’s to the sometimes contentious EQUAL meetings. And there are individuals who volunteer on the Gay/Lesbian Helpline or put on the Celebration of Change each year, while still others hang out at the Blue Moon. Lacking the opportunity or the desire to gather, many simply live their lives openly and with pride. Those of us who make up the "Gay community" participate or choose not to participate in that community in an endless variety of ways. The conference gave us the opportunity to learn and appreciate that diversity.

Just add water? We wish. This year’s conference blossomed from the energy and creativity of a wonderful group of folks—who at various points since last spring had a free evening and decided to attend a conference organizing meeting. Then motivated by the enthusiasm (or maybe just peer pressure), they dove in, taking on bits and pieces until we had speakers with plane tickets (thanks Amy Young and Ann Milton!), conference flyers and programs (courtesy of Lucian Chilks, Beth Vann, Katie Hickey, and Doug Frank, among others), a wonderful space (via Michael Covone, Burt Pettit and the rest of the "The Family"), and a fabulous selection of workshops (thanks to Deb with help from Maria and 20 talented workshop leaders). By the end, we had registered, confirmed, and labeled (with nametags) almost 200 people (take a bow Dot, Stacia, and Richard). Social events went off without a hitch (under the direction of Darl Schauf, Linda Kellen, and Ruth). With heart and soul provided by Doug, Carol Annie, Ken Freedman, and everyone who put on a nametag, we walked out of the Campus Center on Sunday with our heads up and our arms linked (figuratively, of course. In all honesty, I was too busy sneaking off with leftover muffins from Brian’s excellent spread to join arms with anyone).

Thanks to the great turnout and to the fundraising efforts of Darl and others, our treasurer-extraordinaire (Richard) tells us that we have money left over for the 1995 conference. I, for one, am eagerly looking forward to "Return of the Gay/Lesbian/Bl Conference."

Jen Kohout (who is not the most objective person around to write about the conference) would also like to thank her co-coordinator, Kurt Parish. "Kurt, I love you!"

Contrary to popular belief, volunteering can be a lot of fun—as a dozen lucky Helpline volunteers discovered at the October training. Not only do you get free food but you learn the answers to those all important questions like "what do Lesbians do in bed?" and "what do the Anchorage Garden Buddies do if they don’t garden?"

Furthermore, as a qualified volunteer, you get to feel really good about your contribution to the community as you sit at home eating Häagen Dazs and entertaining the cat (and answering phone calls from people who really need to know they are not alone).

Although the training was a complete success, we are always soliciting new volunteers. Call Michael (258-0516) to learn the dates of the next training. In the meantime, join us at a quarterly potluck Jan 23rd to find out what the line is all about and meet the other volunteers. Call Jen (272-7193) or Don (338-9068) for more information.
Notes Au Jú
by Barbara J. Soule

At the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual conference at UAA, the keynote speaker, Ellen Ratner was quite good, politically savvy and down to earth. She made it a point to go around during the Friday opening and introduce herself which was refreshing. Ms. Ratner was quite eye catching in red lipstick and dress with black pumps. Those "Lesbians of the lipstick sort" can be the most unusual women. For the political activist, Ellen Ratner conducted a Saturday afternoon-long workshop on strategy.

The Gay men of this community are developing into some amazing people and starting to become more political. I can remember when the politico's were few beyond Dan, Al and Fred. A few years ago, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross came to Anchorage and gave a series of lectures and a workshop on death and dying. Ms. Kubler-Ross said that those closest to death are our spiritual teachers. I remember being incredulous at first.

Ms. Kubler-Ross's statement meant, with the advent of the AIDS epidemic, Gay men who used to have nothing in their heads but what expensive designer dress they were going to wear, what room to decorate or who they were going to have sex with in the men's room would make a quantum spiritual leap. I think Elizabeth Kubler-Ross's prediction is coming true. There are many more men politically involved. It was mentioned at the conference that AIDS has or will kill off almost an entire generation of men. AIDS has already killed more men than lost in any of the world wars. That may account for the ratio of men to women not being equal. I have much more respect and love for the gentle, spiritual, Gay men of this community then when I came out in 1976.

The conference had something for everyone. Ellen Ratner's workshop was for the political activists. The workshops with information and insight into Gay and Lesbian relationships stated that men have the most difficulty developing intimacy and women have problems developing autonomy and personal power in a long-term relationship. My partner decided that was the phase in which we are struggling. She and I have been together almost two years. When our relationship comes through this section, there are three more phases: commitment, contentment and the co-creative.

Queer Literature and Publishing hosted by Mei Mei Evans, Gretchen Legler and Martin Brewer was packed with information on anthologies of Gay literature. Gay literature has developed so far as to have recognizable categories. The first venue is the "coming out" novel or story. There has apparently been so many that the "coming out" novel was declared dead.

Personally, I wanted more information on how to get Gay literature published. I can't seem to keep silent about what I think any more and writing is a new passion. My friend, Mel Green, has the potential to write the great Lesbian novel that will mothaal the "Well of Loneliness" in the antique category where it belongs. A few years ago, my friend, JMC and I were swapping personal history stories. At one point JMC exclaimed, "If women would tell the stories of their lives, it would give the 'good old boys' something else to talk about for the next two thousand years!"

My table mate, Rachel King, stated that she felt invisible not having any bisexual literature included in the presentation. Terry Bi-Les stood up at the closing and told us that being recognized and included facilitated great healing for her as a bisexual. After being married to the same man for over twenty years with four living adult children, three son-in-laws and seven grandchildren, I'm probably more bisexual than a Lesbian. Transgender people participated at the conference, but even less was said about their issues to my regret. An organizational and planning meeting for the next conference is already scheduled. Perhaps, bisexual and transgender issues will be better addressed at the next conference.

My partner reported that the Beyond Burn Out and Addictions and Relationships were informative and helpful. There were many workshops on sexual abuse and physical abuse in Lesbian relationships, others reported as interesting. Andrea Listening Deer and I did the "Trusting Your Psychic Self." Andrea and I just began doing workshops together this Fall and are still working out the dynamics and "bugs". We got some constructive feedback which will help in the future.

Dan summed up the conference well when we were asked to stand up and state what vision we would be taking away with us. I'm sorry I can't directly quote him. What I heard Dan say was that despite our differences and diversity, we were able to come together.

The young Native man from Stîka who drummed and sang during the closing said that the Gay community is not against family values, rather we are part of the family and wish to be loved, cherished and recognized in the family of humanity and values as family members. Gay men, Lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons need to take their place in the family.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Conference, "In Search of... a New Vision" has come and gone. In a way, the conference seemed to be so much like an old fashion family reunion. I have to admit I went home feeling sad, not about anything that went on at the conference, but because of having to leave behind the other members of my family. Fortunately, other participants felt the same and maybe if we all put out a little more effort we will see each other more than just once a year. I need to be with my "family." We need each other.

Barbara Soule is a Reiki Master and clairvoyant psychic, and a Lesbian artist, performer and writer.

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.

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If you have any information or corrections for the Calendar, please call:
Ruth: 563-1324
Angie/Linda: 337-0253
Ken: 248-7722
Identity Helpline: 258-4777

Oct. 21, Fri:
λ PLWA lunch, 4As, 12-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
λ Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7pm, 637 A St., (non-smoking)
λ Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
◊ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskanland.
◊ Q-Klatch Writes (Fairbanks), 7pm: Eric, 455-4051, Kathy, 455-6358

Oct. 22, Sat:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
12-Step meeting, 12:00, 566-1133
λ Celebration of Change Sound Workshop, noon-4pm, Beth, Red Cross Bldg.; 274-8006
λ Feminist Sing-a-Long/Potluck at 6:30; sing at 7:30, 337-3543
◊ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskanland.
λ Women’s Coffeehouse, 8pm, Alaska Women’s Bookstore, 8pm: Kim Acuna.

Oct. 23, Sun:
λ AUUF Services "Roman Catholic Religious Women of the 90’s" 9:30am, "When It’s Wrong To Be Right" 10:30am: 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
λ Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am and 7pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
λ Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1pm (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
λ Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3pm, Park Lanes. Call Bob for info: 551-8744
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Oct. 24, Mon:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
λ Gay, Joyous and Free, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
λ Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7-9pm; call 786-4846 to make on-air requests

Oct. 25, Tues:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
12-Step meeting, 8pm; call 566-1133
λ Identity Board Meeting: 7pm, AUUF, 248-7722
◊ Cards, Fairbanks. Bobby & Phil’s, 7:30pm, 451-6501

Oct. 26, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2-4pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
λ Blue Moon Folies, 10:00pm. $3 cover.
◊ Fairbanks: IAA Annual Membership Meeting & Halowe’en Costume Party; 6:30-8:30pm; Noel Wien Library, 452-4222
◊ Minority Community Police Relations Task Force, 7pm, 586-4404, Juneau
◊ "In The Life," KTOO, 11pm, Juneau

Oct. 27, Thurs:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
λ Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th (non-smoking)

Oct. 28, Fri:
λ PLWA lunch, 4As, 12-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
λ Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
λ 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 Alaskanland
λ ICOAA Halowe’en Costume Party: Train Station (1st Ave.) Prizes/ music/fun. Jasmine 563-8650

Oct. 29, Sat:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous)
12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
◊ Halowe’en Dance at Musher’s Hall, 9pm. Palace Saloon in Alaskanland closed!
λ OPAL Halowe’en Dance: (women only) Spenard Rec. Center. Tickets $8 at bookstore, $10 at the door. Costumes/prizes/ dancing/food/BYOB
Nov. 4, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4As, 12-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Women's Video Night "Out in Paradise," 7pm, location-586-2410, Juneau
- 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.
- GLA (Ak. Gay and Lesbian Assn., Fairbanks), UAF Women's Center, call 457-0246
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Nov. 5, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- Celebration of Change Lighting Workshop, noon-4pm, Elaine, Red Cross Bldg.; 274-8006
- HOT AIR: Performance at UAA Recital Hall (Arts Bldg), 8pm. Tickets at Women's Bookstore
- Women's Video Night, 7pm, Carol & Sudie's, 586-2410, Juneau
- Women's Two-Step: Pioneer School House, 7:30pm
- Jade Room Follies: Upstairs at the Blue Moon., 7pm, $5 (goes to College of Monarchs)
- DEADLINE FOR NORTHVIEW

Nov. 6, 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.
- 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

Nov. 7, 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 and Free, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women's music show on KRUA 88.1FM, 7-9pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- ICOAA (Imperial Court Of All Alaska), 7:30pm, John Thomas Center.

May 30, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:30am, "The Liberal Religious Search for Truth", 10:30 "Here It Comes; The Holiday Whirl", 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am & 7pm. call: 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. 561-8744 (Bob) for 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

Nov. 1, Tues:
- Cards, Fairbanks. Bobby & Phil's, 7:30pm, 451-6501
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8pm; call 566-1133

Nov. 2, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2-4pm. 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm, $3 Cover
- Q-Klatch Gathering; 6:30pm; info/directions: Jonathan 456-2835

Nov. 3, Thurs:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30; call 566-1133
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th (non-smoking)
- Equal meeting, 7pm, AUUF, call 337-5861
- Kim Acuna, 9pm, Java Joint
Nov. 8, Tues:
△ Cards, Fairbanks. Bobby & Phil's, 7:30pm, 451-6501
△ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8pm; call 566-1133

Nov. 9, Wed:
△ Alaska Women's Political Caucus
△ Free HIV TEST at 4As. 2-4pm. 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
△ Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm. $3 Cover

Nov. 10, 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)

Nov. 11, 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

Nov. 12, Sat:
△ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
△ AGLA (Ak. Gay and Lesbian Assn. Fairbanks)

Nov. 13, Sun:
△ AUUF Services, 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
△ Metropolitan Community Church, 10:45am and 7pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
△ November Brunch at Tracy's, Juneau
△ Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
△ Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Nov. 14, 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.

Nov. 15, Tues:
△ P-FLAG Fairbanks, 5:30, 479-4944
△ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8pm; call 566-1133
△ Cards, Fairbanks. Bobby & Phil's, 7:30pm, 451-6501

Nov. 16, Wed:
△ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2-4pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
△ Gay Men's Discussion Group, 7:30pm, 451-6501
△ Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm. $3 Cover
△ P-FLAG, 7pm, AUUF, Fred 562-7161; Sylvia 562-4992

Nov. 17, 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)
△ Kim Acuna, 9pm, Java Joint

Nov. 18, Fri:
△ PLWA lunch, 4As, 12-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
△ Q-Klatch Writes (Fairbanks), 7pm: Eric, 455-4051; Kathy, 455-6358
△ 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

Nov. 19, Sat:
△ Celebration of Change Presentation Workshop, noon-4pm, Denise, Red Cross Bldg.; 274-8006
△ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
△ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand
△ Feminist Sing-a-long and pot luck: 1741 Westview, 6:30
Nov. 20, 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.

How Queer

At 18 I thought Daryl very queer,
to hold so dear his rituals and routine—
dinner unfailingly at seven, menage at his desk
a toss-off and a nap following lunch
(a light salad, but heavy on the wine)

Even his teeth I thought peculiar—how,
mixed to a professor, and blessed with a MacArthur
he preferred his own married, uneven, ragged
fangs to the height of dental art

And how, which seemed the strangest,
with seven published volumes and incomparable wit,
"because I'm not a party girl," as he expressed it,
he refused all social evenings in favor of reading in bed

Sex with his brilliant lover he unaccountably dispelled—passion having fled, though sweat companionship
remained—
and as for the odd paper boy or grocery clerk,
for years he'd lazily preferred to give himself a jerk

Oh friend, how I thought you inexplicable and queer
Now I'm 37, and though I've no MacArthur, I am
almost there

Andrew Barron
April 17, 1993
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
Where in the World?  
by Bob De Loach

Such a deal!

It's that time of year again, when anybody with something to sell tries to get you to part with your Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Check. Mark Air, in a successful attempt to raise money to help them out of bankruptcy has offered their program for three years now (with Alaska, Delta and United joining in on a good thing). This year, these players are again bidding for your check: Alaska and Delta offer three round trip tickets (coach class) to many of their West coast cities, but only go as far East as Denver. For an additional fee these tickets can be extended to Mexico or Hawaii.

Mark Air sweetens the pot by offering four coach class tickets (instead of three) to any of their cities, which also include Chicago, Atlanta and New York City among others. Mark Air does require that the passenger pay the applicable taxes to the destination of their choice, which in some cases can be a considerable sum.

United Airlines has what I feel is by far the best deal (as of this writing) for your hard earned PFD buck. Not only are they matching Mark Air's offer of four tickets but they do not charge the tax. United allows travel from Fairbanks or Anchorage to Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Colorado Springs, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Eugene, Fresno, Kansas City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New York City, Oakland, Phoenix, Portland, Reno, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, Tucson, and Washington DC. For an additional payment of $198.00 (per ticket) you can add a First Class upgrade or a Mexico trip; for an additional $298.00 (per ticket) you can add Hawaii (from the west coast).

All the airlines list PFC's (Passenger Facility Charges) and they are extra but the maximum for any one round trip is $12.00 per ticket. Each airline is offering frequent flyer credits on these tickets—there are blackout times when you may not travel (for United those times are Nov. 23-27, Dec. 16-18, 22-24, 26, 30-31, Jan. 1-2, 1995, Mar. 9-12, 17-20, Apr. 14-16, 21-23, and Nov. 22-26, 1995). In all cases seats are limited and you should book as early as you can for prime dates. The tickets cannot legally be sold, but can be issued in other person's names—and travel does not have to originate in Alaska.

To be eligible to purchase the tickets or the vouchers exchangeable for tickets you must present the original of your State of Alaska Batch card, or your permanent fund check stub, or automatic deposit PFD slip. With Alaska, Delta and United your travel agent can make reservations for you. With Mark Air, the reservations must be made by Mark Air. Any change after a ticket has been issued will result in a $35.00 fee (United allows same day standby for earlier or later flight at no cost). I can see where the Mark Air offer could be very valuable for travel on Mark Air's routes in the State of Alaska (like Prudhoe) or other cities if frequent travel were required to these areas.

I strongly urge anyone planning to travel to one of the listed cities, or to other US cities reasonably close by to purchase one of these deals. Credit cards, cash and checks are accepted. For my money the United offer is best with no drawbacks considering the number of tickets and cities offered.

Tickets must be purchased by Jan. 18, 1995 and travel must be completed by Dec. 15, 1995. For more information contact your travel agent.

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.
The Albums of Potter's Lane
(remembering)
by Dan Cook

Part 18
"reality check"

The Calico Club made it's necessary transition from a Gay speakeasy to a fancy public night club. The owners and their employees warned the members they were in real danger—that any public display of affection between same-sex couples, even touching knees, could get you arrested (the police had undercover cops all over). The speakeasy money was history.

The Men in Blue had been accustomed to the finer things in life (having easy money for the last 13 years, and now they wanted to capitalize on the affluent Gay community).

They weren't particular; if they could intimidate a shop clerk for $20 so be it. Just the threat of prison or exposure was worth 20 to 50 bucks. They sold protection to the wealthy and they were there each month to get paid. But, the more you paid the more they wanted. It was legalized blackmail and the Gay community had no legal leg to stand on.

Celibacy was no shield—the fact of being Gay was as much against the law as the act.

Once labeled, never forgotten; caught in your apartment, home or even on the street, you could be severely beaten and still have to pay up. For most of our brothers and sisters, they had to quit a job with no prospects of finding another one, and move to a strange city where they knew no one. To marry the opposite sex was the alternative, a miserable life but good cover.

The horror stories were just that, ridicule, beatings, blackmail and out and out harassment. It put a lot of our community over the edge. Now it was very common to hear of suicides, and of people being stripped of their dignity, money, jobs and even the privacy of their own home. All this so some cops could line their pockets.

They were called "witch hunts" and they would go on for decades.

Fingers was the only one that went to the club now. At New Year's, Etta and Mary came to the ranch and the four played cards all night long.

Mike and Steve gave each of the couples round trip tickets to L.A. for a May reunion with Cha Cha and Vince. The guys wanted to see how Robert was doing. (They all had to wait for Charles and Roland to finish the school year.) Mary and Etta had never been there and it had been a long time since Fingers and Snap saw those California beaches. Vince said the Pink Lady would be ready. Now that sounded a lot better than the Calico anyway.

Parry White, M.D. and his lover Brisk worked for a trucking firm. They lived and worked in Vancouver, Washington. Mary and Etta had introduced them to the guys 3 years prior at the Calico. Now they were marked. The only thing that saved them so far was they lived in this small town in Washington and for the moment the Portland cops didn't trade names with small towns—so far.

Fingers and Snap told the girls the Doc and his lover didn't dare show their faces at the new club. The guy's were having to lie low. Fingers asked Mike if he could use an extra Doctor. They had money but no safety. Parry also knew if he was branded he would lose his license to practice. All those years shot down "just because" he wouldn't give up his love for Brisk.

Mike and Steve thought about what it would be like if their positions were reversed—and told them to come on. Etta and Mary knew of a small farm no one wanted. There were only 10 acres, but it had a nice house. (Anything under 20 acres was usually a dead horse on the market.) They could pick it up for under 2,000, and in Grant County they would be safe. Right now that's what the two men needed.

April, 1933. Mike and Parry standing in front of the clinic, in long white coats.

April, 1933. Five cars and 3 trucks loaded (all from Nebraska—"Okies"). The travelers' aid station was almost full.

April, 1933. Feeding Elk stew to some 20 hungry people.

These weary travelers had been treated like scum, white trash and worse. Their vehicles had been stoned and they had been spit on as they went West. The police made them pay toll fees on roads that were free for anyone but them.

Smiling faces greeted these visitors and helpful directions were given to them. Pointing to the clinic and station, you can only imagine what must have been going through their minds.

Large sign over the young couples' tent, read: "Office. Please check in." If there was work they would be given directions and that's where they would stay, so the turn-around was very fast at first.

Hot food and a cozy tent felt very secure.

Mike was grateful having Parry as his assistant—now he could plan a vacation.

The four couples were off to California to meet Cha Cha and Vince, who were waiting at the depot with Miss Monty (the natty little dog had gone to doggie heaven..."It got sucked out of Cha Cha's plane," Vince told the guys with a big smile. "I could have sworn I had that door closed." Another big smile).

The four guys got in one car and the ladies in another. Every day was planned. The ocean cruise on the Pink Lady (12 days at sea) finishing up with a tour of Paramount Studios. They all had to go to know Cha Cha and Vince a year ago last summer, but it was as though no time had passed—the conversations resumed where they left off.

Steve and Mike were anxious to find out how Robert was doing. They were all at Cha Cha's pink pool when Robert showed up. Before Mike or Steve could turn around Cha Cha and Vince in unison said "Bobby Darling," everyone else said "hello sport," or "hello Robert." Mike and Steve looked at each other and whispered "Bobby darling?"

Well they had to admit Robert was one hunk. Bobby darling standing there in his swim trunks and a towel over his bare shoulders. True Californian now. Miss Monty swished by and said "Hi, sweet cheeks." Once again the guy's whispered "sweet cheeks?" Robert was very proper (all those years of training as a valet) with lots of "Doctor Potter," "Mr. Lane," "Miss This" and "Mr. That." Then Cha Cha and Vince with "Baby." Bobby darling, sweet cheeks, and now baby?

Everyone was in the pool, except Cha Cha and Vince. Mike popped out and asked Vince could he have a moment. "Is there something I should know?" Vince told Mike that Robert
had come out of his closet. He had done the "boys will be boys thing," and even gave his all to the girls and to Mike's two maids, but he is Gay and the Holts know.

"They know about Robert? How about Steve and me?"
"Yes, they know but not from Robert—from your Mother. Your mother did a great song and dance. If it were not for your Mother, Robert would have ended up in a juvenile home or a mental institution.

Robert was saved by your Mother. She heard about Robert and another young man getting caught by one of her friends, that friend was going to fire the Holts and report Robert to the authorities.

Robert had been listening at the door and finally stepped inside. "I'm glad Vince let you know, I couldn't. Private lives are just that, private. I know there are dangers but I'm not ashamed to be myself anymore." "Well, sport, Mr. Lane is going to mess his pants, but from this day forward, you call me Mike and Mr. Lane, Steve. And from now on there will be no more secrets between the three of us.

"They told Steve together, and if Steve hadn't just used the toilet, there would have been a mess.

Robert told them everything, even about his friendship with his buddies David and Bob at the ranch. The three of them had this thing going on for years.

The crew of the Pink Lady had seen just about everything now. Over the last few years Cha Cha had catered some real wild parties. Nothing seemed to phase them. Cha Cha added another suite using the small bar and breakfast room. Now she had three master suites and two cabins.

Catalina, The Mexican coast, whales and dolphins, small villages, San Diego. Photos of everyone swimming and beach combing. The hotel Cha Cha bought was almost finished, bar, restaurant and all. Monty's mother and sister were running it. The two weeks went by way too fast. They were all able to put the troubles of the world behind them.

Their trip to Paramount Studios, two thousand people outside the gate. Snap and Fingers talking to some ladies in wardrobe. Paramount put out a cast call for three hundred extras, two thousand showed up. "It did make us all very uncomfortable," Steve recalled, "but once behind the walls, we were all-ga. It really is a world all its own. They only met one Star, Lionel Barrymore. Cha Cha kneeling besides his wheelchair and the rest of them behind the star.

Before they all headed home, Mike and Steve let Robert know how proud they were of him. They told Robert if they had a son they couldn't love him anymore than they did him right now.

All vacations do come to an end, and that train trip seemed way too fast.

It had only been two weeks, but when they pulled into John Day, there was a line of cars on the side of the road leading into the travelers aid station, about 10 in all. John Day was just doing their thing. Lucy, the Lees and Mrs. Brewster serving sandwiches, milk, coffee and apples. It was lunch time.

Lucy smiled and said, "I think we're going to have a busy summer."

Turning the page....

Cherese 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 Cherese, who will send the missing sections at no charge.]
Well, here we go again! As in the race for Mayor of Anchorage, candidates are using the issue of gay rights as a weapon to turn one group of Alaskans against another—-the tired old “divide and conquer” strategy. In an attempt to express our concerns and to re- mind candidates and voters there are “real people” being affected by their rhetoric, five members of EQUAL sent a letter to the Daily News stressing the importance of “real issues” in the race for Governor. The letter was published on October 8 and several people have called to add their support. Kathryn Carovano, Jennifer Kohcut, Doug Frank, Amy Young and Dan Carter met to strategize and work on EQUAL’s response. Special thanks to Kathryn for writing the final draft—an informative and moving letter expressing, what we feel, was the most appropriate response to a move to add “hate” to the gubernatorial election.

Regardless of which candidate you support for Governor, I encourage you to call any candidate attempting to divide us into competing groups in order to win this election. While EQUAL does not endorse candidates for office, all candidates elected using these tactics or allowing other groups to influence the election must know we will no longer sit quietly while they “trash” us. It reminds me of one of my favorite lapel buttons… “We’ve been too nice for too long!”

The major candidates for Governor/Lt. Governor and their phone numbers (Anchorage offices) are shown to the left. If you live outside Anchorage, call information (411) for your local campaign office. This should also be done for candidates running for other offices.

There is a tendency by the media, political candidates and even some members of the LesBiGay community to see our community as a monolithic force when it comes to politics. As the top of this page reveals, EQUAL is made up of people from all sides of the political spectrum. Our diversity, including our political diversity, is something to respect and nourish, not something to fear.

IMPORTANT NOTICES!
• The next meeting of the Municipal Equal Rights Commission will be Thursday, November 10, 1994 at 6:00pm on the ground floor of the Loussac Library (conference room near Assembly Chambers). At least two members of EQUAL have monitored each ERC meeting over the past two years. It's not always exciting but it's interesting to see how this Commission works (or in some cases doesn't work).
At Last, the Truth About...

Are you as confused as I am about this notion of a "Gay Agenda"? Does it make you think you're not quite gay enough? Not Lesbian enough to be in with the "in crowd"? It seems as though it's been impossible to read your newspaper or turn on your television or radio without hearing about the "Gay Agenda". Of course, as a gay man, I am even more surprised that most of the talk about "our" agenda is coming from Far Right Extremists—sometimes ministers and sometimes politicians, but always Far Right Extremists!

They seem to have no problem understanding EXACTLY what I want out of life! What all LesBiGays want! Trouble is, almost every time I hear or see their list of what "we" want, it includes items I have never heard "us" say we want. Does that make sense to you? Of course, it does to them, because they know us—even better than we know ourselves. Yeah, right!

My own agenda, probably very similar to yours, is to be loved, to be responsible with the decisions I make for my life, to enjoy the friendship of the people that make up my "Alaskan Family," to be productive in my vocation, to respect others—and myself. Although there are many more things involved in my "agenda," I think you get the point. My agenda is very much like most other people's. Not only like most other LesBiGays, but like ALL people. We want to live our lives to the fullest and be healthy and happy. Sounds revolutionary, huh? Well, according to the Far Right Extremists, this "agenda" will bring about the downfall of this country. Get a life, Jerry!

Before you misunderstand where I'm coming from, let me say I do believe there's a real "Gay Agenda". I just don't believe it has much to do with LesBiGays! No, the real "Gay Agenda" is more a part of the people who are constantly talking about it than it is part of the community of people I know as my LesBiGay brothers and sisters. We have witnessed up close—and sometimes too personal—the wrath of this "Gay Agenda" over the past two years. The hate-filled testimony before the Assembly over the Sexual Orientation ordinance. The mixing of theology and politics during the election for Mayor during the spring. Now the same forces attempting to turn the "Gay Agenda" into a major issue in the elections for Governor, State Representatives and U.S. Congressperson. Yes, there is a "Gay Agenda" and the people who are most vociferous in opposing it are the ones who actually have a "Gay Agenda"! With the fall of Communism and the election of a pro-choice President of the U.S., these Far Right Extremists—both political extremists and the so-called religious right (as I've said before, as a gay Christian, I find it an insult to Christianity to allow the goals of this political group to be confused with real religious principles)—have realized they can win elections and, most importantly, raise vast sums of money by attacking us.

This is the true "Gay Agenda"!

Not an agenda of what we as LesBiGays want, but a movement to encourage discrimination against groups of people purely for political gain. Despicable as it is to turn groups of people against other groups and to encourage discrimination, it is made even worse because this is a purely political movement being done in the name of religion. Next time someone mentions the "Gay Agenda," tell him/her you know all about it. It has made a lot of money for its leaders, it preaches hate and its headquarters in Anchorage is located in that big church at the corner of East Northern Lights and Baxter.

Dan Carter is a local gay activist
Psycho' author dies: Robert Bloch, a master of fantasy and horror whose novel, "Psycho" became the classic Alfred Hitchcock film, died September 23rd. He was 76.

Bloch died at his Los Angeles home of cancer of the liver and esophagus, said his longtime friend, Harlan Ellison.

Bloch wrote more than 400 stories, more than 20 novels and dozens of film and television scripts. Many of his stories have been adapted for radio, TV and film and won him numerous awards.

Tomás Fábregas Hailed as Champion of HIV-Positive Immigrants. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation mourned the passing of AIDS activist and former Board member Tomás Fábregas who died September 22 of AIDS-related complications. He was 36.

Fábregas, who learned he had AIDS in 1989, attained global renown at the 1992 International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam, where he defied a U.S. immigration policy barring people with HIV from entering the country. Fábregas returned to San Francisco from Holland without incident, although immigration officials could have detained him and returned him to Spain, where he was born and raised.

"Tomás Fábregas was a fighter who battled for immigrants' rights as courageously and fearlessly as he battled the disease that ultimately claimed him," said Pat Christen, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "All of us are deeply saddened by the loss."

It was Fábregas's publicly stated hope that people with HIV and AIDS could live without discrimination, and with a sense of respect and dignity.
Join us this November

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