The First Time Ever Saw Your

The first time ever saw your
thought the rose in your
and the were the you gave
to the dark and the endless skies,

The first time ever kissed your
felt the move in my
like the trembling of a captive
that was there at my command
my love,

The first time ever lay with you
felt your beat so close to mine
and knew our joy would fill the
and last till the end of time
my love,

The First Time Ever Saw Your
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Hawaiian Wedding Planner Promotes Gay Weddings

Lesbian-owned Royal Hawaiian Weddings has introduced a series of gay and lesbian weddings and commitment ceremonies for those of us with matrimony on our minds. Responding to the desire of hundreds of gay couples and lesbian couples from across the country seeking a safe, supportive environment in which to be married, Royal Hawaiian's Andie 'Andi' Thomas has introduced the program despite a "temporary ban" of same-sex marriages by Hawaii Governor John Wainihe.

"The time has come for us, and we don't want to put people off any longer," said Thomas. "My partner Janet and I have been conducting weddings here for 17 years. We've had thousands of happy heterosexual couples as clients. Why not include our own?" Thomas is a non-denominational minister and performs the ceremonies herself.

The Hawaiian courts have been debating the legality of gay marriage since the 1991 lawsuit of Bahr v. Lewin sued the state for denying same-sex couples the right to marry. Unlike other states, the Hawaiian constitution does not have language that bans same-sex marriage, and as a result of the lawsuit, the Hawaii Supreme Court has ordered the state to defend its position denying the couples marriage.

If same-sex marriages become legal in Hawaii, other states are likely to have to honor the legal union. This has caused a wave of protest and lobbying from out of state as well.

Reports in Island Lifestyle, Hawaii's Gay publication, state that lobbying and debate have been heated. Pitting the Christian "right" against the Hawaiian Equal Rights Marriage Project and other Gay and Lesbian organizations, a bill has passed the legislature specifying the only legal marriages as heterosexual. The question of "why?" remains, and the Hawaii Supreme Court's decision still stands. The issue of equal protection in marriage for same-sex couples goes back to court in April 1995.

But according to Thomas, "There is no need to wait. We welcome gay couples and lesbian couples right now, and we have beautiful weddings and commitment ceremonies to offer." Royal Hawaiian has a variety of packages for all budgets, and a selection of private oceanfront or tropical garden settings for the ceremonies. "As soon as we get legislative approval--whenever that is--we will begin work to get these weddings legalized retroactively. This is an exciting time for gay and lesbian people, and all supporters of equal rights across the country. Come and be part of history."
Gay Marriage
by Marvin Liebman

During the last year, when asked where I believed the primary emphasis of the Gay movement should be, I have been unequivocal in stressing a single priority—the need to organize locally, in our neighborhoods, cities and states.

We are now at the beginning of an historic battle that has started in Hawaii and promises to progress thought the country, state by state. This may give our movement just the impetus it needs. At stake is a crucial legal right, central to our struggle for dignity and acceptance. The issue is Gay marriage.

For the past year and a half, I've followed the Hawaii Gay marriage case with fascination. It has sparked national attention. After brushing aside less than compelling arguments by the state's adversarial lawyers, and tossing off a hostile resolution approved last session by a hastily convened state legislature, Hawaii's Supreme Court is set to strike down discrimination against same-sex couples in the granting of marriage licenses. The state's new Democratic governor publicly supports the court's expected decision. Against the conservative tide of the mid-term elections in most other states, Ben Cayetano parlayed explicit pledges of support for Gay marriage to victory last month. The big issue on the Court's ruling is not if, but when.

The Hawaii victory, when it does come, should not be looked at as any final answer. It is simply the beginning of a long struggle which can be of equal importance to our community as was the stand at Stonewall some twenty-five years ago. If this beginning in Hawaii is to endure and spread, we have our work cut out for us, and we will have to endure the inevitable heat which will come from all sides.

The concept of Gay marriage is highly energizing and, perhaps, the issue which will finally turn American Lesbians and Gay men into a cohesive force and movement. The major opposition, of course, will come from the religious right. I have no doubt that right-wing politicians will introduce bills in state legislatures seeking to restrict the right of Gays to marry. Without an educated, mobilized activist countervoice, such bills may very well be adopted. Similar efforts may also erupt on Capitol Hill, taking shape either as a free-standing bill, or, more insidiously, as an amendment to any other bill before the Congress. Our primary requirement from Congress, therefore, is for inaction. Given popular anxieties about Gay issues, the inclination to make the issue "just go away" may acutely work in our favor on Capitol Hill.

Against these efforts, the basic message is as simple as it is persuasive. Discrimination. For nearly two decades, Gay men and Lesbians across the country have been trying to have the announcements of their commitment ceremonies printed in local newspapers, meeting mixed responses. And, as far back as 1970, Gays have sought redress from the courts following their attempts to do what straight Americans take for granted—enter into a legal union.

As is illustrated by the Hawaii plaintiffs' widely divergent backgrounds, the fight over Gay marriage both showcases and taps the diversity of the Gay community. The issue promises to energize us across the lines of race, class, education, and age. As a Newsweek poll conducted last summer indicates, the equal right to marry is of particular importance to Lesbians.

For men and women alike, though, the issue has a greater poignancy than the quest for more common legal protection from discrimination. The issue also promises to mobilize members of that community who have not been previously tapped or politicized in other battles. While the pivotal voices in this, as in all our other conflicts, will be those of moderate straight allies, the fact that this fight is over family bonds may render even their advocacy all the more pervasive, fervent, and compelling.

Unlike the Gays-in-the-military fiasco, which caught our national groups off-guard and whose perilous traits the ill-equipped Campaign for Military Service proved unable to navigate, the battle over Gay marriage is essentially local. The Constitution's provision regarding "full faith and credit," stipulating the mutual respect which states should grant each other's official acts, suggests that the states will be that battleground on this issue. Each state will decide for itself how much respect it pays Gay marriage certificates stamped in Hawaii.

How the Hawaii decision holds up is soon to rest in all of our hands. Whether each state grants credit to Gay marriages from Hawaii or thumbs its nose at them—and, by extension, the Constitution itself—is very much our responsibility. It is we, Lesbians and Gay men, who must lead the fight for recognition.

The issue will also set another acid test of integrity for conservatives, who have been granted unprecedented influence in scores of state legislatures in the wake of last month's elections. Will Republicans live up to their oft-trumpeted support for small government, state's rights and family values? Will they go down the mean-spirited and hypocritical path of interfering in the state's affairs, of forcing our families into the legal closet, and intensifying discrimination against us? The seriousness with which we take up our task of local organizing around Gay marriage may well dictate the future of Gay civil rights legislation in general. We can no longer hold back and leave the work to our overstretched activist brothers and sisters. We can no longer hang out in the video bars and the dance clubs, wasting our lives and forfeiting our future. We can no longer step out of the closet solely at the prompting of our hormones and then retreat until the next stimulation. Gay marriage is an issue which every Lesbian and Gay man can support. The battle will take place in our state legislatures. The stakes are high. It is the beginning of our acceptance as full and equal citizens of the United States.

Marvin Liebman is the author of Coming Out Conservatively, 1991, Chronicle Books.一口

Sweden
Registers
First
Gay
Marriage

STOCKHOLM, Sweden–Hans Jonsson and Sven-Olov Jansson exchanged wedding vows Monday, becoming the first Swedish couple to marry under a new law allowing homosexual marriages. Sweden is the third Nordic country—after Denmark and Norway—to allow homosexuals to register partnerships with all the rights and obligations of marriage except adopting children or having a church wedding. In other parts of Sweden, at least two more couples, one male and one female, were married Monday, the first working day after the law went into force.

Thanks to The Associated Press and the Anchorage Daily News, 1/3/95. "

Letter from the Emperor

To the people of the Community of Alaska: Last month I asked for your support for our Christmas Ball. Your response was most uplifting. We had over two hundred people in attendance. Good food, a full bar, and new and old friends set the stage for one of the best events we have ever had. Especially gratifying were the new faces and the people who never come out to the bars; seeing you gives me great hope for the new year. Please keep coming to our events.

The food and clothing drive was also a great success. Through your support we raised food for the 4A’s food bank and Christmas basket program, food and warm clothing for the MCC, as well as enough toys for both children’s wards at Providence and Humana hospitals. Knowing that, without your support many would have gone without, should be a great source of pride to our community.

Our next event occurs this month on January 21 at the Blue Moon...this year’s Closet Ball. Doors open at 6:30pm; show starts at 7:30pm. Tickets are $5.00 in advance, and $7.00 at the door. Those in attendance will elect this year’s Closet King and Queen.

I am happy to announce that the Imperial Court has returned to tradition and has secured the Eklutna Campgrounds for next Memorial Day, an event historically known as “the Eklutna picnic.” With the Imperial Court having reserved the lower grounds and the Mt. McKinley Club having reserved the Eklutna Lake Campgrounds above the flats, this year’s picnic promises to be one of the best in its history.

Speaking of tradition, many years ago a group of citizens bought a float which has been a source of pride for the Gay Lesbian community in the Fur Rondy parade. Last year this float did not appear. This year the court has paid some back storage fees and has been given the blessings of the “founders” of the float in our efforts to raise money as we prepare the float for entry in this year’s Fur Rondy parade. The principals in charge are the reigning Imperial Crown Prince and Princess. They desperately need workers and donors to make this float a winner. Meetings, for the sake of an easy location, will be Thursday nights at 7:00pm at the Blue Moon. The float will be entered into the Fur Rondy parade on behalf of the Gay and Lesbian Community and Friends.

Elections for Imperial Crown Prince and Princess are fast approaching. This year, candidates need to have their applications in to the Court no later than midnight on Friday, January 20 to the Empress Jasmine.

Thanks to all of you, the Court functions are going great, and the charity work is going even better. Reinstituting the Eklutna picnic and the Fur Rondy float gives rise to the feeling that, for the time being, all seems to be going well in the Empire. I am most grateful for your support, and I pray that it continues to grow. There is much yet to be done in the year that lies ahead.

With much love and wishes for a glorious new year

Emperor Bob
(279-0046) ▼

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Editorial

This issue of the NorthView represents 2½ years of continuous publication since Ruth and I assumed responsibility for the magazine. And it's also the first issue of the new year, which marks the half-way point through the last decade in the millennium. Can significance be drawn especially from that? Not in my opinion. But humankind tends to like interpreting symbols, and unlike our ancient predecessors who slew animals and humans alike and tried to read signs in their steaming entrails, so do we now read portents into everything from year markers (at least in the Julian Calendar) to natural events to polls in the newspaper. So, here goes.

In the last 30 months our community has been through myriad ups and downs, including the election of a somewhat LesBiGay-positive Mayor and Governor. Of course the Republican takeover of Congress appears to be a setback, but it's also true that the anti-Gay rhetoric used in the national campaigns didn't always signal an automatic win: Lesbian and Gay candidates were elected in many areas of the country despite that rhetoric.

The Plague is now in its 15th year of cutting down our comrades and there is but dim hope for a cure. We have all been affected by AIDS, directly or indirectly. Now how we have persevered is testament to our strength as a Lesbian and Gay peoples. HIV-positive or not, we are doing it together and will continue against the odds. With dignity. With pride.

We will enlist the support of our allies, some of whom will come forth of their own accord, some who will be enlightened by the rhetoric and abiding truth of Civil Rights.

The fact is we are the Alaska LesBiGay Community is doing a commendable job; in our coming out process, in our lobbying of local and state and national organizations and politicians, in our winning elected office, in our personal and in our professional lives. We are taking more time to learn from each other, and we're gaining skill in evaluating our "losses." We're developing more trust in ourselves and each other more and more. There is better communication between the Lesbian and Gay male communities locally. (One indicator of our very real progress is the rising tide of anti-LesBiGay sentiment. Change is sometimes a hard process and just as the Rabid Right couldn't countenance Civil Rights for Blacks (a '60s term) now they can't countenance Civil Rights for Gays and Lesbians. In the face of this hatred, we prevail, we testify before the Assembly, dog the faulty steps of the Equal Rights Commission, support candidates of our choice with a LesBiGay sensibility and visibility, we publish a newspaper.)

"We're a lot further along than we used to be," said co-Editor Ruth Mathes. It's true. Ten years ago, many of the social, educational and political events of today would have been unthinkable—by us, not to mention the non-supportive non-Gay establishment. Now we're in Congress, now we're heavily involved politically at the state and local levels, even at the Community Council level; now we're more visible, and yes, now we're drawing more fire from our detractors who don't want to give up their last vestige of prejudicial thinking and behavior. Too bad. I wonder what they'll do when they don't have us to blame the evils of the world on. Heaven forbid they might look into their own hearts.

Ten years ago, even 5, there couldn't have been a Gay candy bar (see article) much less Gay marriage legislation in Hawaii (sadly, we're far behind our European counterparts in this regard). We're in the middle of the Gay '90s and making progress—safely, sanely—trying to be smart about it. True, we haven't routed the enemy, but they haven't routed us either.

It's tragic that those terms are still needed, because therein lies the problem. Each side sees the other as the "problem." And the problem is that "sides" are being taken. Our mission, I believe, is about healing those rifts and after our Civil Rights are in place, once there is a sense of safety, perhaps that process can begin in earnest.

Our mission also includes, I believe, educating the public (see Fred Hillman's review of Howard Bess' new book, "Pastor, I Am Gay"). Our mission includes discovering who we are. I spoke with a young man on the Helpline the other day, who was astounded when I told him there was such a thing as Gay History and Culture. He honestly believed that our identity is by and about sex. So we need to learn about ourselves, our history, our heritage. We need to support ourselves, help grow our Community and deepen our roots.

There are so many areas we can help each other strengthen ourselves and our community. In an era when the personal is the political, the next time someone in the Community asks for money reach into your pocket and give, but do so knowing that you're making a positive political statement. When you support your community, you give yourself an opportunity to learn and grow. And you can do that by affirming your self through connections. Whether you buy a magazine, go to a function, join a club, it doesn't matter. What's important is to "be there" for yourself and for your compatriots and to know that it is helping. Know you're an active part of a revolution that eventually will free us all—as my friend Doug Frank says, "a world that works for everyone."

F. Kenneth Freedman and Ruth Mathes are co-Editors of the NorthView.

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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, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102. Friday at noon is a luncheon for People With HIV and AIDS. We are always looking for groups willing to donate and provide meals. If you are interested in helping with the luncheons, volunteering with the 4As, or need information, please call the 4As at 276-1400.

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

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

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

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

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

QUAL, Inc: Equal meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. EQUAL provides education and information about political issues to our community. EQUAL is not a political action committee and does not endorse candidates. EQUAL has a social "coffee house" get-together at the Hollywood Canteen (Capri Cinema) from 7:00-9:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month. For more information, call 366-0930.

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.

Family, the (formerly LGBSA): Meets every Saturday from 6-7pm in the Arts Building, Room 121 on the UAA campus. Social group after 7pm (bowling, dinner, etc.) 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! Information--Kimberly at 786-4959.

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

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

Identity: founded to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the Lesbian and Gay communities as well as bridges between the Gay/Lesbian and non-Gay/non-Lesbian communities. Potluck Social: held on the 4th Friday of every month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7pm; program at 7:30. See the Calendar for this month's guest speaker.

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

IMRU: is a group for young people, ages 15-21. IMRU meets every Thursday from 7:00-9:30pm at the Metropolitan Community Church, 615 Hollywood Dr, #5 (Government Hill). The last Thursday of the month is a special program. 258-4777 for information.

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 11:00am and 7:00pm, and Wednesday at 7:00pm at 615 Hollywood Dr. Church is open Sunday through Wednesday 9:00am-4:00pm. Call 258-5266.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


Support Group (Seldotna): a group for people with HIV or AIDS or families or friends. Call Jan at 262-2589.

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.


TLC House Sitting
by Carol VanDyke
Call 271-4620
Plan Ahead - Book Early
Frigid North is a sole proprietorship owned and operated by Tom and Judy McGrath. I interviewed Judy in their new office space across from the Spenard Post Office. Judy was gracious with her time and left me feeling that I had enjoyed a fireside chat with an old friend.

Identity: Have you always worked as a partner in Frigid North?
FN: Tom owns the business. I used to work as a nurse at A.P.I. This job began as a temporary fill-in for an absent office worker. I do special projects, Accounts Receivable, odds and ends. It’s a full-time job now.

Identity: Did Tom start the business?
FN: He bought out his partner and changed it from a hobby store into the complex it is today. We have 26 employees, and we own the buildings we occupy.

Identity: You have a very secure tenant on the end of that building, don’t you?
FN: You mean the Anchorage Police Station? Yes...good tenants! We occupy about 8,000 feet in that building, and another 6500 in our new business offices on Spenard Rd.

Identity: I am curious about your reasons for advertising in the NorthView.
FN: The reason is good business...the (Gay and Lesbian) community appear to us to hold very steady, stable positions in Anchorage. They spend their money just like everyone else does, and they have proportionally as much to spend as does any other segment of the city’s population. We stock 31 thousand different items, and have the broadest line of electronic parts in the city. We believe in advertising to everyone.

Identity: Has any particular section of your business expanded recently?
FN: The computer parts department is showing growth. We don’t sell computers, but we could sell you the parts to build your own computer, if you wished. We also sell power protectors which prevent electrical surges from frying your computers. That is particularly important in Alaska with our extremes in power. But you can get everything from telephone wiring to batteries to electronic parts to television antennas to audio wiring and much much more.

Identity: Do you ever give free advice to your customers?
FN: Sure we do. Lots of folks are really unsure what parts or equipment they really need. A few well-placed questions concerning application of a system help us to help our customers. Satisfaction for all concerned!

Identity: What do you think of the NorthView?
FN: I really enjoy reading it. I am impressed with the obvious effort which goes into the production of such a magazine. If Tom decides to begin a newsletter, he should get in touch with you for advice!

Identity: I’m sure we could give him a pointer or two. I like the decor of your offices, by the way. Did you decorate them yourself?
FN: Yes, and these are my favorite colors. (Note: Shades of deep purple and pale gray...was I impressed? Yessss!)

Ruth Mathes is co-Editor of the NorthView, is happily retired from the Anchorage School District and is still redecorating her kitchen. λ
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
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 KK at 337-8253.

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

All listings are in Anchorage unless otherwise indicated.

AA:
(G) Midnight Sons, see Calendar

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

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050
(A) Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHIIV), (Juneau), Rila, 463-5688
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Found. (WA), 206-383-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5646, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Koolaid, 278-5819

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Gateley, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

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

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

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

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

Automotive:
(A) Courtney’s, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)
(A) S&W Radiator Supply (Fairbanks), RI, 452-2220

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, 345-2533
(A) Beach House, Mary (Homer), 235-5945
(L) The Butterfly Inn, Mary (Hawaii), 808-966-7936
(L) Cheney Lake B&B, Mary/Junetas, 337-4391

(G) The Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 451-6501 (see ad)
(L) Garden Cottage (Orlando, FL), Lisa, 407-894-3595
(G) Gingerbread House, Yves (Montreal), 514-597-2884
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 235-2265 (see ad)
(L) Mermaid Inn, Nancy/Bonnie (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), 305-565-8437
(L) Northern Comfort, Reeda, 278-2106

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

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

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

Books:
(L) Bona Vista: the Alaska Women’s Bookstore, Joann/Marla, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Alaskana, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cyranos Books, Sandy/Jerry, 274-2599

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

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

Chemical Dependency:
(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 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, 561-0064 (see ad)

Colleges:
(A) Tom Croke, 800-727-3684

Computer Bulletin Board:
(A) Metropolitan Community Church, 276-0386; 276-0399
(A) Myths Reality (Berdache), 333-3425; 338-2869
(G) The Wide Side, 333-4639

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

Computer Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(G) All’s P.C. Connections, Alfred, 561-2767
(L) Angle, 337-0253 (see ad)
(G) By-Tech Alaska, Inc., Ken, 248-2402
(L) CDA Services, Wainwright, 276-6962
(A) Computer Magic, Phil, 274-3528
(G) graf/fx, Lucian, 272-0328
(A) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(A) LLR Technologies, Logan, 272-7377
(G) Mark, 338-3357
(G) PC Possibilities, 248-6277

Costume Design:
(G) Every Bloomin’ Thing, Terry, Malcom, 274-3158

Construction:
(L) R I Construction, Lita, 279-4605

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Counseling Alternatives, Connie, 562-1826
(L) Counseling Alternatives, Jania, 562-1626
(A) Jans, 248-9408
(G) Ken, 248-7722 (see ad)
More Directory

(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

Dental Care:
(A) Ward Huibbert, DDS, 245-0022

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

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

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

Electronics:
(A) Frigid North, Tom, 561-4633 (see ad)

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

Entertainment:
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0046, Movieline: 275-3799 (see ad)
(A) Mascorella Music, Diane, 277-9751
(I) Real Talent Productions, Karyn, 562-5777, 278-5683

Finance, Insurance, Investments:
(I) Chris, 561-864/338-3962 (see ad)

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

Fishing:
(I) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346

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

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

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

Gas:
(A) Courtney's, Linny, 562-1237 (see ad)

Gender:
(B) Bercache Society, Nora Jean, 258-9009

General Contracting:
(A) Mat-Su Weatherization Services, L. Hansen, 907-745-4039

Gifts:
(I) Bona Dea: the Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joanna Mariah, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Design Craft, Laura/David, 272-4438 (see ad)
(A) Love of Alaska, Talyne, 243-0876

Hairstyling:
(G) Gabrielle, 272-0945
(A) 36th Ave. Hair Design, Ledja, 561-8967

Health:
(A) Gatekey, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(I) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(I) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816
(A) Nature's Own Way, Roberto/Debby, 561-0181
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433). Also Los Angeles, CA, Coconut Grove, FL and New York City
(A) Skin care, Shari, 345-7451

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

Helpline:
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 458-8288
(G/L) Identity Helpline, 258-7777 (see ad)
(G) Kodiak Gay Info, 494-2996

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

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

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

Housewares:
(A) Design Craft, Laura/David, 272-4438 (see ad)

Imperial Court:
(G) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Jasmine, 563-8650, Bob 272-0842

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

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

Independent Marketer:
(A) Mark, 279-5264 (see ad)

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

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

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

Massage:
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabrielle, 272-0945
(A) Joyce, 562-1916
(L) Leslie (non-sexual), 278-3346 (see ad)
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(I) Viki, 277-5222
(G) Don (CMT), 338-8826

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

Music/Instruments:
(A) Oldtime Music Company, Marge, 561-6862 (see ad)

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

Obstetrics & Gynecology:
(A) Jane, 563-5151

Odd Jobs:
(I) Deb, 275-3018
(A) Service with a Smile (non-sexual), Liz, 274-5290

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

Personnel Services (non-sexual):
(A) Service with a Smile (non-sexual), Liz, 274-5290

Pet Care:
(A) Alaska Pet Palace, Sharon, 276-0666 (see ad)
(A) Doggie Hut, Arild, 279-5861
(A) Doggie Vacations of Alaska, Constance, 344-3647
Photography
(G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 337-3399 (see ad)

Political:
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACAAL), Ruth, 333-1190
(A) Anchorage Women's Political Caucus, Rhonda, 274-9308
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 566-0936 (see ad)
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292

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

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

Producing:
(L) Real Talent Productions, Karyn, 562-5777, 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)
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(G) Omni Properties (Fairbiks), Jonathan, 452-2180 (see ad)
(L) Waltraud Barron, 274-2634 (see ad)

Reiki/Counseling:
(G) Ken, 248-7722 (see ad)
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916 (see ad)
(L) Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-4089

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

Restaurants:
(A) Cyranos Cafe, 274-1173
(G) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 318-1080, 561-1080 (see ad)

Retirement Plans:
(A) Lynn (LaPerriere) Thomas, 263-0720 (see ad)

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

Security Alarm Systems:
(G) Mark, 278-2829

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

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

Social:
(G) Anchorage Garden Buddies, 248-0425
(GLA) Q*Klatch (Fairbanks), Eric, 455-4051

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. Nan Guey, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Hess, 746-1089
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, Jim, 258-5266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276

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

Student Organizations:
(G/L) Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA), Pete, 457-0246 (see Club Notes)
(G/L) The Family (formerly Lesbian, Gay and BI Student Association), UAA, (see Club Notes)

Support Groups:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Anchorage), Sylvia 562-4092, Fred 562-7161 (see ad)
(A) P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fairbanks), Nancy, 479-4944

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

Therapeutic Facilities Out-of-State:
(A) Tom Coote, 800-727-3684

Theatre:
(A) Out North Theatre, Gene/Jay, 279-8099

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Cherese, 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) 452-6855

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

Writing & Editing Assistance:
(L) Kathy, 278-2840
(L) Mei Mei, 276-7269

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Candy Maker Treats Gays to Special Chocolate Bar

BURLINGTON, VT—Linda Grishman found a perfect way to meld her passion for premium chocolate with her devotion to the Gay and Lesbian community. She created the Gay Bar (are you listening, Allison?)—a rich, pure chocolate candy bar, created in the basement of her two-story white ranch home on a quiet, residential Burlington street. It was a risky venture, both personally and professionally. But, like other entrepreneurs marketing products for a largely untapped Gay market, Grishman is finding success.

“I wanted to do a chocolate for the Gay and Lesbian community,” said Grishman, herself a Lesbian. The idea for the Gay Bar, she said, came in the middle of the night. She could envision the product. It would tap the symbol for Gay liberation—a triangle wrapped in pink paper. Like all of Grishman’s chocolates, the Gay Bars are wrapped by hand.

Since the 1980s her candy has been distributed to gourmet shops nationwide. Last year, her most profitable, she sold about $200,000 worth of candy. Her love of premium chocolate sprang from her upbringing in South Africa. Chocolates there were imported from Belgium and Switzerland.

Grishman has set up a separate company called Gay Goodies to market those milk chocolate and semisweet chocolate treats. She hopes to expand eventually into mint, nut and praline bars. Grishman said she’s sending out about 1,000 bars weekly.

Thanks to the Portland Press Herald (Maine) and the Associated Press

Corrections:

In December’s issue we inadvertently put a wrong photo with the Lee Lynch article on page 7. Our apologies.
Additionally, the “I Understand Your Frustration” article by Dan Carter, please note that the deadline for the Equal Rights Commission applications is now past. Call Dan for any further possible developments regarding application submission.
Gettin' There  
(without becoming road kill)  
by Pete Pinney

Only a few shopping weeks left until my birthday, and I advertise. Forty used to sound really old and far, far away. Now I approach that milestone others have celebrated grace-fully. I may not be that mature. I am really hung up on that being MY day. And each passing year brings even better results. Once I became single, money was easier to save. On my next birthday, I bought a house as a present to myself, at least the down payment on a listing on the tax rolls. The indulgence factor is much bigger than Christmas. No one ever thinks the worse of anyone for it.

My friends humor me by letting me do whatever I want. They surprise me with my permission with things that I like. My mom still send me five bucks every year, separately from the annual Valentine’s Day card. But along with all the fun of celebrating another year of being alive comes a increased sense of things continually changing.

Along with the various broken bones, surgeries and fewer sit-ups in the morning, I have gained much through traveling, mourning the loss of friends, coming out to family, buying a house, and keeping up with friends. The adage really is true: "If only I knew then what I know now." This is all normal stuff, but I enjoy having the confidence to use what I am learning and going even further, even if it means setbacks. So I think the passage to forty is going just fine.

New physical limitations force me to view situations creatively. My mind compensates, and I make discoveries, accept new ideas and come up with new solutions to old problems. With this discovery of personal power, I can actually see that I am responsible for my own initiative and my own success. Some might feel others exercise control over their lives. That may be true, if they allow it. If no one makes me feel inferior without my consent, but I let them, then I made that possible. That is now fixable for me. A few years ago I finally gave up the image of what my father wanted, and he now respects me more than ever before.

That doesn't mean that everyone needs to come screaming out to their parents. The power we hold doesn't just come with positive thoughts. As a child in Sunday school, I was told that we would not get sick as long as we were good. Now that I am older I know better. Even when people are good, people do suffer. There are car accidents, earthquakes and drive-by shootings. We can be as positive as we can be, but still be overrun by someone stronger and more prepared. But if we are willing victims, that becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy. Powerless equals victim.

It has nothing to do with sex, race, class or IQ. It has everything to do with accepting our own personal power to dictate what we want out of life. Should we put up with the ranting and abuse of religious zealots just because we can? Why wait for others to provide what we want? So I plot how to eliminate obstacles to achieving what I want.

Along with power comes responsibility. Zealots who claim to have power over others are given that permission. These people make claims of superiority and virtue at the expense of others. A community will allow politicians to hype undefined values that belittle the very people that they represent. A congregation will allow a preacher to rant from a bully pulpit. They are victims. Those who abuse are often released from responsibility for the hurt and conflict they incite.

I think this notion is what makes me want to be a teacher. It isn't enough just to feel good about what I can achieve in life. I have this obsession to have others see what I mean, to have them look at themselves in ways that enable achievement. With nearly a hundred new students every semester, I announce that they should not give me automatic power just because I stand at the front of a room. I don't want to take on that responsibility. I want a give and take relationship where we learn from each other. Respect is earned, not taken. They need to know I cannot take power; I only control my own.

We can refuse to allow these things to happen in both open defiance and private actions of choice through a third aspect of power: doing what is right. Being ethical is a difficult undertaking. Since we all grow up with values, we all gain values in similar ways, and we live our values daily in conflict with other people’s values, the ethical choice enters into the gray area. This is the area where age has helped me the most.

I can't tell you how much frustration I was as a teenager trying to argue with a father who was trained to debate law. I could never win. His logic mysteriously eroded my complaints. He was always so rational. I hated his talent. But now I understand how it worked. I use it to bait and torture my students, sometimes to the point of having them suddenly realize they are arguing my original point while I have taken theirs. Being right didn't help my father’s relationship with me. Now I see that feeling has become a legacy.

One thing that creates difficulty is that when people insist that they are right, there isn't much room for compromise. Maintaining a relationship has either become difficult because I have grown used to my strong opinions or, as a spiritual mentor suggested, maybe I am just becoming more comfortable with being my own best friend. I still can only answer for myself. I take better care of myself.

So as I cross the threshold of forty, instead of dreading what comes naturally, I am actually looking forward to growing older. A few years ago when I was working on a project in San Diego, I marveled at a group of men I met with on Tuesday nights. They had been together, some of them, thirty, thirty-five and forty years. I thought how nice that would be, transcending the pettiness, miscommunication and insecurity that even my divorced parents couldn't avoid.
Anniversaries are nice things. Birthdays are anniversaries. This will be the fortieth year of me being with me. I have noted the changes and watched the progress.

I am looking forward to what comes later, now that I have new goals and hopes for the future. Ever since I was little I have wanted to be just like the picture of the Indian man and made groups of deep lines in his face, weathered skin with the look of experience in his eyes, with a lifetime full of wonderful stories. Stories are my favorite thing. Each one of us creates a personal story that is interesting in its intricate details and its effects on others around us.

We will always be more than what we are today. And if you think about it, being old really shouldn't be that bad. Being kind to old people hasn't disappeared. I am not totally accepting yet, especially when the box boy asks if I need help to the car. But I bet once I have a few more wrinkles, I will start getting the best seats on the bus. And I probably won't even have to be in a dress. Life is good.

Pete Pinney is on the fringe of the third wave of the 21st century and thinks that being a Pisces is the best. 

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**The Triangle Network**

The idea of a community travel network that started as a small meeting during the statewide conference a few months ago is now over a dozen associated Lesbian, Gay and allied travel service vendors working to create a positive experience for tourists in our market when they travel to Alaska. Our network strives to ensure the same professionalism the general traveler receives from the Inside Passage, Anchorage and Fairbanks, or going to Alaska native cultural or wilderness settings. Accommodations and services will create a friendly sightseeing and exploring environment.

Services range from boat charters out into Prince William Sound, on a chance at pulling up a record halibut in the local fishing derby or for a day cruising glaciers along the Kenai Fjords National Park to a fly-in trip to a wilderness lodge in interior Alaska. Our bed and breakfasts cater to individual travelers. And a local package tour operator can arrange personalized group tours or a home-grown package of the Alaskan experience as we know it.

A brochure of the vendors who participate in the network will soon be available if you would like to send one to a friend or family member who is thinking of coming up this coming tour season, or if you would like to arrange a family outing of your own. We will be writing more about the network in the future. For more information on the network, please feel free to write to The Triangle Network, P.O. Box 82290, Fairbanks, AK 99708 or call (907) 389-2582.

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**AGLA**

It is the beginning of a new semester and AGLA, after a long and relaxing winter break, is starting up its frantic pace of activities again. We have a lot planned as a group for this semester, including something we have never tried before such as a community dance on campus to celebrate sexual respect week and a joint trip with the UAA Family group to Chena Hot Springs. We are also planning going into each of the residence halls on campus to talk to the students about lesbiGay sexuality and issues, a program which has been well received in the past. This program, as well as our program speaking about homosexuality in introductory psychology courses, helps a lot with fostering acceptance on campus. Before these programs, many students claimed to never have met a Gay, bisexual, or Lesbian person before. Afterwards, the students at the programs tend to act in a much more understanding manner when faced with lesbiGay issues, something which gives us a lot of hope about the effectiveness of talking to people personally.

The Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association is also planning on holding several of our (in)famous dances at the Musher’s Hall, hosting Tea and Chat Sessions at the University Women’s Center, participating in sporting events, and helping with the organization of the 3rd Annual Fairbanks Gay pride march. If you are interested in AGLA, you can get more information by writing to AGLA PO Box 750123 Fairbanks AK 99777, calling 907-479-7348, or sending us e-mail at FBAGLA@aurora.alaska.edu 

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Member of the "Triangle Network"
Interior Alaska Chapter of EQUAL

What is the Interior Alaska Chapter of EQUAL?
The Interior Chapter of EQUAL is a new organization started by several members of the Fairbanks Lesbian and Gay community. It is an attempt to develop an organization that will allow the Community to take a pro-active stance in defining what and who we are.

What are the goals of EQUAL?
The Interior Alaska Chapter of EQUAL is committed to:
1. Promoting justice under the law;
2. Safeguarding the dignity of individuals;
3. Building a healthy community strengthened by its diversity;
4. Freeing our community of myths and stereotypes used as a basic for discrimination; and
5. Educating our community on political, social and economic issues concerning the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

What do I do to become a member?
Becoming a member is as easy as coming to the first membership meeting on Thursday, Feb. 2nd at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held in Room 531 of the Duckering Building on the UAF campus. There is a $25 membership fee for individuals ($15 for students). A household can join for $40. However, if you can’t afford the membership fee, come anyway. Fees are on a sliding scale based on ones ability to pay. And you can come even if you don’t want to be a member just to see what we’re all about.

How involved do I have to be if I become a member?
The amount of involvement is up to you. You can simply join and receive our mailings and information on our activities, you can be an active volunteer, or you can even run for the Board of Directors. You pick the level of involvement that suits you.

Do I have to be "out" to participate?
NO. Participation in EQUAL does not require you to be "out." You don’t have to be Gay or Lesbian. Anyone who is opposed to discrimination and wants to build a better Alaska can join. Activities will be focused on promoting positive images of the Gay and Lesbian Community, but there will also be focus on fighting discrimination of all types. In addition, the membership list of the organization will be confidential.

What kind of activities does EQUAL have planned?
Right now, the organizers have discussed having a Gay and Lesbian Film festival as a fund-raiser with AGLA, establishing a letter writing tree to respond to issues in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, and establishing a phone tree and e-mail system to promote communications and flow of information within the community. Other ideas include hosting seminars and workshops on topics of interest and starting a news media campaign to promote positive images of the Lesbian and Gay Community.

How can I get more information?
You can get more information by calling Mark Tumeo at 474-6090 (w) or 457-6818 (h); Laura Burleson at 479-7348; James Cruz at 457-3876 or by dropping an e-mail message to FSLEB@aurora.alaska.edu.
How Do You
Look...Monogamously?
by Karen Carlisle

Well, dear readers. We came to the Big City. Not sweet little Anchortown, but the BIG CITY—Seattle. And lo and behold, the Candy Store. Other Lesbians. Lots of other Lesbians. LOTS. Licorice and lemon and taffy and nougat. I got a crick in my neck as it whirled right to left to right to left and even around.

Now I would be lying if I said my attention was so grabbed simply because it's nice to be amongst so many Lesbians after living in the arid desert devoid of any moisture except what Dear Love and I create, thank goddess. And that is true, but dear readers, its so much more. You know.

I'm going to ditch the candy metaphor now and move to flowers. When I'm surrounded by infinite numbers of beautiful flowers, they become part of the permanent foreground. I cease seeing them, smelling them, wanting to take them home. But if I come across a single flower pushing itself up bravely through the cement in the asphalt devastation, it draws me. I touch it tenderly. I smell it—I long to pick it. But then, if I again move to a place lush and abundant with beautiful flowers, I am drunk with their essence. I want to lay in them—naked, sprinkle them in my bath water, wear them in my hair, fill jars in the house full of them.

That's all this is—a reaction to abundance. Honest. But it made me realize something. Dear Love and I have a hothouse romance. Our relationship has been bred and nurtured in a greenhouse—an environment protected from the stresses of Lesbian community life.

As we contemplate taking our old bones to warmer climes in the next five years, it occurs to me that likely we will become part of a larger Lesbian community again. That means social gatherings, new friends, new boundaries, new choices, new activities. That means sexual and emotional temptations; it means activities not done together because both are not equally interested; it means new, and divided, loyalties; it might mean triangles. And much more.

Does this mean that if there had been other Lesbians in Bushville that I might not have fallen in love with Dear Love? Not at all. But both Dear Love and I have commented on the idea that we might never have even seen each other in Anchorage. Different circles, activities, varying degrees of outness would have prevented us seeing the other even had we crossed each other's worn path. I thank the universe for shining its light on her at just the right moment.

When women are first becoming lovers, we see all the ways that we are alike, all the commonly held values. Any disquieting or conflicting knowledge we push aside as trivial. As we live and love together for longer periods, the ways we are different move closer to center stage and it becomes clear that some will be a challenge to the relationship.

For instance, my sweet love likes to travel in comfort and as much luxury as possible. I'm willing to walk for hours, ride filthy, unsafe buses in India and sleep in a room filled with wall-to-wall bare plywood platforms inhabited by total strangers (honestly, I did this) and hang out with the locals for months and learn their language. You can have a longer trip this way. Dear Love doesn't think this sounds like fun at all. Probably Dear Love and I won't be doing any Peace Corps stints together. And this makes me sad. Does this mean I have to give up this dream? Does it mean that if I keep focused on fulfilling my dreams that I can't have this wondrous woman in my life?

No, it doesn't. It means we have to grapple with choices; it means that we might have to defer a dream, and maybe, even compromise (gasp!). And dreams change. It may mean that I have to accept not having everything I want.

I've spent many years of my life running, and I did that by being excessively busy, by being a seriously devoted political activist in the service of civil rights, the anti-war movement, the women's movement, the anti-nuclear movement and the Lesbian and Gay rights movement. There is not a lover in my life who has not complained about this, and I respected them for it. I thought they were trying to control me. Dear Love hasn't seen this side of me. Much. I'm not sure this drive would be easy to control in a city where so much opportunity is available. More striving for balance would be necessary. It's easier when the choices are limited.

What's new in my life is this quiet place where I came, limping and tired. And in this quietness I found Dear Love and I found my commitment to writing deepening and by hunkering down over my pen and paper, I am more truly becoming who I am. When I am more truly who I am meant to be, I am more loving. And by allowing her warm love to nurture me, many wounds are healing. Once Dear Love said to me, "Thank you for letting me be who I am." And thee.

We talked about Connie and Susan's walking trip in England. I hate London, but like rural England. Dear Love loves London and all the rest. I want to take that walking trip. Dear Love doesn't think she'd enjoy such rigorous activity. The suggested compromise: no tour group; we'd get the itinerary, take longer to walk the trip, and hire a young dyke to accompany us and drive our vehicle. We would stay longer in places we loved or when we were tired. It sounds like it would work, doesn't it? Sometimes we talk like this. Other times we polarize instantly. Not. Too.

There's more. I don't ever want to live in a city again. I want to live rurally. Dear love is a city girl. How are we going to solve this? I don't know. But we're going to do it together, and we don't have to know all the answers and solutions right now.

Dear Love has turned her comment into a joking mantra. How do you look...monogamously? She looks sort of Charlie Chaplinesque when she says it. She almost twirls her cigar and moves her eyebrows up and down and (or is that a Groucho Marx behavior?). After I told her about the candy store, she told me about a woman she had just seen that had attracted her. Good. I'm not worried. I don't think she really is either. (An aside having nothing whatsoever to do with the article; Dear Love's name does not begin with a K and any misapprehension is absolutely my fault.)

Beautiful in Bushville. (Dear Love made me say that. She also made me say "thank you," but I drew the line at "thank you deeply."

Anchorage Gay & Lesbian HELPLINE

258-4777

A Community Service of DIGNITY, Inc. P.O. Box 200076, Anchorage, AK 99520
Recommended reading for everyone...

PASTOR, I AM GAY
by The Reverend Howard H. Bess

...makes it abundantly clear that homosexuality is not an academic subject about which to argue but an intimate family affair to be dealt with in all our own homes, churches, and communities. ...a much needed addition to the resource materials available.

Bishop Melvin Wheatley
United Methodist Church

...a superb entry into the difficult and painful subject of homosexuality. Both pastor and lay person will find this book readable and informative as they seek more insight into the lives of their homosexual friends inside and outside the church.

Bishop Donald Parsons
Alaska Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

...a remarkable understanding of the dignity and sanctity of gay and lesbian people. For pastors and parishioners struggling to understand the real issue of homosexuality, this book is an excellent place to begin.

Jim Bailey
Editor-Publisher
Second Stone Magazine

PASTOR, I AM GAY is now available in the following Anchorage area bookstores:

Women's Bookstore
Tutor near Lake Otis

Borders Books and Music
Dimond Avenue

Chapter One Books
Huffman in Carr's Mall

Cook Inlet Book Company
Downtown on Fifth Avenue

Cyrano's Bookstore
Downtown on D Street

Wild About Books
Eagle River in Carr's Mall

About the author...

The Reverend Howard Bess is the former pastor of First American Baptist Church of Anchorage and presently the pastor of Church of the Covenant in the Matanuska Valley.
Pastor, I Am Gay: Homosexuals and the Ministries of the Church
by The Reverend Howard H. Bess
Reviewed by Fred Hillman

"But I had no right to remain ignorant. As I began to learn about gay and lesbian persons, I also began to realize how many of them there are. I also learned how badly Christian churches have and are treating them. Our churches have committed unspeakable sins against homosexuals, and pastors have perpetuated the sins of neglect...."

S o ends the first chapter of a book that challenges Christian clergy to enter what Jimmy Carter called the "strange territory" of homosexuality and to become leaders in healing this festering social sore which mainline Christian churches have so long neglected. Pastor, I Am Gay is a book that belongs on the desk of every Christian clergyman, every school counselor and every therapist. Why do I say this? Because Christian churches have been a major, if not the major, social institution in America that actively perpetuates hatred against Gay and Lesbian people; because most Americans say they are Christian, whether or not they go to church; and because most Americans, along with their pastors, ministers, and priests, are not only abysmally ignorant about what it is to be Lesbian or Gay, but are thoughtlessly and self-righteously prejudiced in their easy condemnation of Lesbian and Gay people. Pastor, I Am Gay challenges them to learn, to embrace, to become truly Christian.

Pastor Howard Bess is a saint! For over twenty-five years he has been counseling Gay and Lesbian parishioners and others who were referred to him. Yet here is a man who felt called to give spiritual guidance to people for whom nothing in his family of origin, his personal life, his education, or his ministerial training had prepared him. Moreover, these were people who his national culture, his religion, and even the traditions of his own denomination had taught him either to ignore or to despise. To his puzzlement the Lesbian and Gay people who came to him for spiritual counseling early in his career proved not to be the people of the popular stereotypes, and he saw that myth and fact did not square with each other. Lesser men would have retreated into their prejudices. Pastor Bess, with his firm faith in God and the power of the Trinity to forgive and to accept those whom his fellow clergy labeled as sinners, regarded the discrepancies as a challenge. He read what little there was to read at that time, he researched, he talked with his ministerial colleagues, and he sought out Gay people. He pondered, and he came to his own conclusions. Early on he summed up his knowledge of homosexuality in a sixteen page article, The Paper as he called it, which he passed out to friends and to any Gay people whom he thought it might help. As he became acquainted with more and more Lesbians and Gay men, as his understanding gradually deepened, he found over the years that he had to keep revising The Paper.

Bess was well on his way in this personal journey of understanding when he came to Anchorage in 1980. I had just come out of the closet and participated with some trepidation in the annual June Gay Pride Day parade, one of a straggling band of thirty or so men and women, walking with placards through downtown Anchorage on a Sunday morning... I found myself at the side of a stranger who was giving the sidewalk hecklers as good as they gave. When they yelled "Gays will burn in hell", Reverend Bess shouted back "Judge not that ye be not judged! Matthew, seven one." Here was a straight, Baptist clergyman who was public in his support of Gay people. His presence in that brief march was for me a powerful lesson in social activism.

Two observations contribute greatly to my regarding this book as important. The first are the facts that Bess is heterosexual, is happily married, has grown children, and has no homosexual relatives. There is not a trace of special pleading in its pages. Secondly, the integrity and courage of the man shines through his simple factual account of what happened when he became aware of homosexual people. He brings to the debate a clear and independent mind, a boundless, empathic compassion for people, and a deeply-felt commitment to his own Christian ideals. He is not talking idly.

Bess's personal journey was taking place in the larger context of the Gay rights movement in the '70s and of the early AIDS epidemic in the '80s, but he was ahead of his time. As he became more and more involved with the Gay population of Anchorage, he became more and more aware of the discrimination that they suffered and became more outspoken in his efforts to help them, sometimes at a personal cost. For example, as a volunteer chaplain at a state correctional facility he conducted a ceremony for two Lesbian prisoners who pledged commitment to each other. The superintendent called him on the carpet and told Bess that he was no longer welcome. A much greater rebuff occurred when Bess allowed a homeless Gay man with AIDS to use his church's guest apartment as a temporary shelter. Faced with strong opposition from his Deacon Board, he resigned his pastorate. Hoping to secure another one elsewhere, he updated his file with the American Baptist Personnel Service, but refused to delete a reference to his special ministry with homosexuals. He did not get an inquiry from a single church. However, a small congregation in the Matanuska Valley invited him to be their pastor, and he has continued his ministry in that position.

Bess organizes his book into two main sections. The first tells his personal journey over the past twenty-five years, from a beginning theological position of a "rejecting-punitive" orientation, through a "rejecting-nonnupitive" one, through "qualified acceptance", and finally to "full acceptance". (These terms he quotes from the book Embodiment, a theological treatment of sexuality by James B. Nelson.)

The second section discusses homosexuals, the church, and ministry. He gives a brief historical summary of the Gay rights movement from his own perspective, generalizes about the Lesbian and Gay people he has known, and offers twenty-six biographical vignettes of those whom he regards as representative of a wide diversity within the Lesbian and Gay population. He discusses in particular the tragic situation of many Gay teenagers who, along with discovering their innate
Gayness, also learn that most people hate them, that there is no one to talk with about it, and that they are fair game for bullies. They think they are alone. He has a chapter on the special problems faced by parents of Lesbian and Gay people, and the less frequent problems of children of Lesbian and Gay parents. His final chapters are about what he sees as the role of the Christian church. Bess thinks that the churches have done a creditable job with troubled families, marriage and divorce, much less well with alcoholism, and have done very badly with homosexuality. Once aware of their failure, however, congregations can take specific steps to reconcile with the large number of Lesbian and Gay people who retain their faith, who want to be part of a church congregation, and who at present are rejected by most churches. He points out the dearth of positive reading material about homosexuality from a Christian point of view, and the scant training that most church leaders have had regarding homosexuality. He points out that personal contact is better than any argument, that the story of every Lesbian and Gay man is unique and moving, and that parents have their own stories to tell about their own successful journeys toward understanding, acceptance and support of their loved ones.

Bess concludes with three observations. The first is that Christians are called to minister to strangers, and he notes that Lesbian and Gay people are the ultimate strangers in our midst. Second, a homosexual person, because of his or her long acquaintance with discrimination, insult, threat, fear, intense loneliness and searching introspection, is in a strong position to act as a religious healer, to help to heal the modern day church, and to deliver it from its thoughtless hatred and oppressive ways. Third, not only is there hope that Christians will intentionally make room for their Gay and Lesbian friends, but that in the same generous spirit Gay people will find it in their hearts to forgive their non-Gay Christian friends for past wounds of rejection, fear, and loneliness, and will welcome them into their own lives.

A brief review cannot possibly do justice to a rich though slender book. Pastor Bess has many wise things to say about who Lesbian and Gay people are, how the Christian churches are treating them at present, and what well-intentioned people can do to set things right. The book is now available in several bookstores in Anchorage and the Valley (see the ad in this issue). It deserves wide distribution.

Dr. Hillman is a retired physician in Anchorage.

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**HISTORY**

**Twenty-five Years of Courtroom Trauma**

*Thanks to the Advocate, August 23, 1994*

In the coming months each issue of the NorthView will review a couple of years of legal developments in the world of sex and sexual diversity as compiled by the Advocate. As you will probably notice, it is most often we who lead and the law that follows.

'71

In *Baker v. Nelson* the Minnesota supreme court upholds the rejection of a Gay couple's application for a marriage license. The couple argue that the state's refusal to issue them the license violates their right to equal treatment under the law. The court acknowledges that state law does not explicitly forbid same-sex marriages, but rules that there are plenty of instances in which it refers to wives as women and husbands as men.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) approves its first resolution supporting Lesbian rights. A similar resolution was introduced the previous year but was withdrawn after it was attacked by NOW founder Betty Friedan.

In *Younger v. Harris* the Supreme Court rules that a state law cannot be challenged in federal court by people who had not previously been indicted, arrested, or credibly threatened under it. The decision settles a nascent federal appeal of the *Buchanan v. Batchelor* ruling and complicates other sodomy-law cases.

'72

The senate approves the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which would prohibit gender-based discrimination, and sends the measure to the states for ratification. At first it's thought that passage of the ERA will be a breeze, but, in the end, enough state legislatures are persuaded by Eagle Forum founder Phyllis Schlafly and other conservative organizers to withhold their OK so that the amendment dies. Many of the right-wingers then turn their attention to fighting Gay rights protections.

In *Stanley v. Illinois* the Supreme Court rules that unwed fathers cannot automatically be assumed to be unfit parents. The ruling will often be cited by Gay and Lesbian parents in child custody disputes.

East Lansing, Mich., becomes the first city in the United States to ban anti-Gay bias.

In *people v. Triggs* the California Supreme Court rules that routine police spying on public rest rooms violates the privacy rights of patrons. Police had been using the practice to catch Gay men having sex.

John Wojnowicz robs a bank in Manhattan to pay for his boyfriend's sex-change operation. The incident becomes the basis for the Sidney Lumet film *Dog Day Afternoon.*
Exploring Spirituality
By Wes Veatch

I am responding to an invitation to write 2 or 3 articles for the NorthView exploring “Spirituality” from my personal perspective. It is an honor because I have such respect for those of you who are regular readers and my friends. I can only express myself out of my own experience, but look forward to your comments or questions. Your ideas matter very much.

It is my opinion that “Spirituality” is too often viewed as some mysterious experience other people have and inappropriately linked in a confusing way with morality. My own sense is that to honor our capacity to be spiritual is as natural as breathing and as normal a part of our human experience as any other. “Spirit” and “breath” come from a common root word. I have no desire to write about spirituality as something I must tell you, but to honor your spiritual path and join you in the search for ways we can support and respect one another’s journeys.

Spirituality is also linked to sacred writings, which are really not magic books of religious law, but expressions of the spiritual pilgrimages of folks not unlike ourselves who struggled to understand the meaning of life and death in other historical periods. This would suggest that we need to be open as well as to the sacred writings of our own time.

I want to focus this article on four lines of melody and verse well known to you. It is my sense that these lines have become “sacred writings” to most of us and a hymn of affirmation to many, especially gay and lesbian communities across the United States. I share it with the somewhat surprised permission of its author. It is four lines which you probably find yourself humming in the shower and which brings tears to your eyes and mine when shared with a group of friends. It is Libby Roderick’s simple ballad, “How Can Anyone Ever Tell You?”

You know the words: “How can anyone ever tell you you are anything less than beautiful? How can anyone ever tell you you are less than whole? How can anyone fail to notice that your loving is a miracle? How deeply you’re connected to my soul.” (Copyright)

You have undoubtedly heard Libby share with audiences the observation that although the song was written as a specific response to a particular person’s need, the words and music seemed to find their own form. I think there is a reason that they move us so deeply.

These words catch the profound truth that we are indeed beautiful and whole. For any of us, who for whatever reason, question our own sense of worth, this has a ring of authenticity that we need desperately to hear. Whether childhood experiences or strident voices in the community have convinced us that we are “damaged goods,” there is a yearning deep within us to affirm the wholeness that we know to be at the core of our being. That is spiritual sensitivity at its best.

Libby’s words move quickly to affirm the second part of that personal affirmation—that our capacity to be loving is indeed a miracle. It is the marvelous experience of loving for the right reason—because we are loved—not in order to be loved. It is my own faith that such a loving Divine Presence is at the center of my own life—the fact that we are One—with each other, with the Universe and with that quiet space in the center of our own beings which marvelously unites us with all creation and the One who is Creator.

Spirituality is not foreign and unnatural; it is the spontaneous response which connects us with all that is truly beautiful, whole and loving. On behalf of us all, thank you, Libby, for allowing yourself to be the instrument of Divine Presence. We are blessed!

Wes Veatch recently retired as Minister of the First Christian Church and is now the Human Resources Coordinator at the 4A’s.
OutLaw
by Sylvia L. Short

As the new year starts and the resolutions begin to look less inviting, as writing "95" instead of "94" becomes more of a habit, and our winter, as compared with California, for instance, seems less severe, I find myself wondering where I am going and what, if anything, I have accomplished this past year.

Probably one of the things I have enjoyed most was being a member of the Identity Board of Directors, so that's a good place to start. This organization, in my mind, has done great things in bringing the Gay community in Alaska together and giving it a sense of pride, honesty, integrity. We have enjoyed the good fellowship of the potlucks and our other gatherings; this publication itself has made its place as a statement of what we are; the Helpline has fulfilled its mission of assistance, compassion, information. And it's good to be a part of all this.

Maybe I wasn't the inspiration or the operational force, but I was a part of it, so I count that as an accomplishment. And that leads, inevitably, to the other question of where I am going.

Because the situation fostered by the radical right is still creating unhappiness, unease, and suffering on undeserving persons because they are perceived as different, there is still much to be done. I conceive a partnership with the non-Gay community as the active force in making a change. Identity's own "One in Ten" study showed that those of the non-Gay community who knew Gays were more accepting and tolerant. Since there are no obvious differences in our looks, we might as well join forces and hands, in an overt display of our similarities, and then let the bigots take their pick. Pretty soon nobody would know who's who, and everybody would be the same. It may be only a dream, but it's worth dreaming and worth trying.

What to do? We already have allies who supported us during the municipality ordinance and election fracas. There are the good people who belong to P-FLAG. There are the Unitarian Universalists and other enlightened denominations. If we made a purposeful effort to bring them into our group, how could we lose? Even if only as a participating "advisory" group, or an "auxiliary." I am convinced we need them, and after all, I am one of "them."

The other route is to push for more punishing legislation; to seek to achieve what is deserved by making opposition to it unlawful. This is the way of force, and it is currently being advocated. The following are excerpts from the testimony of Suzanne Stendal, Jaribu Hill and Margaret Carey of the Center for Constitutional Rights before the subcommittee on constitutional and civil rights of the House Judiciary Committee on July 2, 1994:

"...So alienated, frightened, and used to official hostility are the victims of unspeakable crimes that many often do not even report the incidents. People rightfully fear being victimized a second time, not by the assailant, but by the system. Up to 90% of Lesbian and Gay victims do not report attacks against them to the police.

"Having felt the sting of societal contempt and witnessed law enforcement officers give their nod of approval when called to a crime scene to investigate an anti-Gay/lesbian attack, they know that their chances of getting justice are virtually non-existent. The cynicism of survivors is well justified...

"The court system rarely does better when a bias attack actually is reported... Insensitivity and incompetence best characterize the performance of most police departments in handling violence against Lesbians and Gay men. While the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force reported 1,588 incidents one year in six cities, the police reported only 265 such crimes. Sometimes police officers are not only indifferent to, but the perpetrators of, biased violence...

"Unfortunately, the involvement of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has not always been one of assistance to, but rather harassment, surveillance and repression of, the victims of discrimination and biased violence and activists supporting them...

"In order to combat the rise in bias-motivated crimes, it is necessary for progressive forces to work together to defeat anti-Gay and Gay initiatives...

"We put forward these components as critical:

"Vigorous prosecution of wrong-doing by the U.S. Attorney General; immediate passage of local laws to curb anti-Gay violence and other bias crimes... mandatory training programs for all law enforcement personnel... required educational programs in the schools, churches and wider community; vigorous condemnation of anti-Gay prejudice and biased violence by leaders in government, religions, education, business and the media; formation of effective [local task forces to work to eliminate anti-Gay and anti-Gay prejudice and violence; continued outreach... and support to groups and individuals who are working toward bringing an end to hate crimes."

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

Sylvia L. Short
Attorney and Counselor at Law

705 West 47th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Telephone (907) 662-3992

Deadlines: All articles must be received by
the 5th of the month for inclusion in that month's NorthView.
'94 Voters Reject Anti-Gay Discrimination

The political earthquake of the '94 elections guarantees that the next session of congress will present us with a host of challenges. Yet, despite the loss of several good friends of the Lesbian and Gay community on Capitol Hill, the elections also sent a clear message that anti-Gay appeals do not guarantee success at the ballot box. In addition to defeating the anti-Gay initiatives supported by the Radical Right in Idaho and Oregon, several prominent anti-Gay candidates were sent to defeat and pro-Gay candidates were elected to Congress.

In Virginia, Oliver North's well-funded effort to defeat Senator Chuck Robb was unsuccessful. Hundreds of Campaign Fund members and our staff worked long hours to support Senator Robb, who has a 100 percent HRCF voting record. In Massachusetts, Senator Edward Kennedy, the Lesbian and Gay community's most powerful champion on Capitol Hill, came from behind to win his bid for reelection. In fact, all 13 Senate co-sponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) up for reelection were successful in the campaigns. On the House side, only ten of 120 ENDA cosponsors were defeated, and eleven new cosponsors were elected.

The shift in Congressional leadership to the Republican Party assures that some of our community's most aggressive opponents, such as Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Congressman Robert Dornan (R-CA) will now have greater opportunities to push anti-Gay amendments. At the same time, other Republicans, such as Senators John Chafee (R-RI) and Jim Jeffords (R-VT) who are among our most vocal supporters, will become influential committee chairmen. Our Public Policy Department will work closely with our Republican allies on Capitol Hill to create effective strategies that deal with the new reality of power on Capitol Hill.

As most Campaign Fund Members know, or long-term goals require bipartisan support for them to be successful. That is on reason our political action committee (PAC) has consistently provided funds to pro-Gay Republicans. In addition, the strategy we initiated earlier this year, a long-term approach built around the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, is designed to move forward even in a conservative political environment. Public Policy Director Daniel Zingale notes that "ending job discrimination is neither a partisan nor a liberal issue."

There is no question that the election will sometimes place us on the defensive and present difficult obstacles to our maintaining a pro-active strategy. Now, more than ever, we need to broaden our involvement in the legislative process, ensuring that legislators hear from the Lesbian and Gay community and our non-Gay supporters. HRCF, through lobbying and programs such as Speak Out and the Federal Advocacy Network (FAN), will continue to take the lead in representing our community on Capitol Hill, educating legislators and building bridges with the new leadership in Congress.

All That Glitters
Is Golden Showers
by Christopher Fabbro

Unprotected sex is especially savory when you’re stoned. It makes you go with the kinda gusto you would with a watermelon on a hot day. You just dig right in!

Did I just say that? Lord, I must be stoned! Heaven knows I would never say that in polite company. Or even impolite company! Geez, what the hell would I say on crystal? “I’m gonna take your arm!” And X? Hell, “Gimme the whole leg!”

Some top!

How much does substance (whether controlled or not) alter the personality? Some say it just fades inhibitions, and others would call that temporary insanity. Take alcohol. When you’re drunk, is that the real you? Or does the real you present itself when you’re sober? Personally, if that’s the “real me” who comes out with a little sociot, then blow me down—I’m the meanest, most cynical, ugliest bastard to ever get super-obnoxious.

I’d like to think that the real me is the silly, sober quee who laughs as he tells himself bad jokes. And the added advantage of having that personality is that I can still operate heavy machinery like, oh, a car. Or my confusing answering machine.

But I digress.

It’s balley to say, but here it goes: drugs, including alcohol, change who we are—usually for the worse. Sure, substance may loosen us up for a bit, but too often, it ends up abused. It makes us take chances that the real, sane us would at best only occasionally take.

Ask yourself this: when you’re sober, how much thought do you give to protecting yourself? Some, perhaps. Even if you don’t end up using a condom and just worrying about AIDS, you’re still thinking about it. Now, add substance and stir. So would you still even entertain the thought of a condom? Almost definitely not. And even the worrying usually doesn’t start until you crash.

Is there a pattern here? Let’s face it: yes. Each drug in a person’s system brings out a different Cybil: coke makes anything gorgeous, pot makes a guy happy, X makes him love everything, crystal makes him want to fuck everything, beer makes him belch-oh, and sometimes impotent. Now throw a couple of those in at the same time and—presto change-o—he’s getting pissed on or pissed off or having the best sex of his life or all of the above. What a night, eh!!

One thing that is clear: moralizing or slapping hands won’t help. For too long, our community has been guilt-motivated. I can’t quite say what our community really needs. Certainly, it’s clear what we don’t need—what the things are that don’t contribute to our community. What we need is vision to show us all what it will take to create a fabulous future for ourselves. That vision is there in each of us—underneath the layers of fear and abuse and you-fill-in-the-blank. It includes the secret to making relationships work. It will keep you HIV negative or, if you’re positive, it will help you keep every one of your T-cells.

Try to envision it. Sometimes it hard to imagine that things will ever get better...it’s so fucking hard as it is, isn’t it? It seems like the whole world is against us—hell, sometimes we’re even against ourselves. Is there really an answer, or do we have to stop thinking so hard and just start letting the other half of our brains take over. Will “An Answer” guide us? Or will it instead take a dream, one in which we can celebrate our lives starting now, as the real us—unaltered by fear or substance or despair.

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.

Change of Life - Chapter II
by Shirley Randall-Harris

Here it is January, 1995 and I am bereft of a roommate! My new friend has decided to go back to her husband and they are both moving to Arizona around the middle of January. I am both sad and glad that she is moving away from me. Sad because I have really enjoyed her company, her sense of humor, and her need and ability to open up and talk about things on her mind. I am glad because her leaving relieves me of getting too emotionally attached to her as a "mother/mentor." We talked about that one day last week when she came over to be "mothered." I asked her who would mother her in Arizona, and she said she believed that someone would be waiting for her there to pick up where I left off.

I hope she finds what she is looking for on her road of life. I could not live as she does, picking up and leaving friends and locations whenever the mood strikes. I need roots. I have rationalized her leaving by saying to myself, "it’s her life, she can do whatever she wants to with it, no matter whether I agree with her actions or not." I hope she benefited as much as I did from our relationship, and that our experience of living together will help her in the years to come. I will miss her.

Sometimes I wonder if I will ever be able to live with someone and not want to take care of them? One would think after all my years of therapy that I could do that, but it is difficult for me not to care for the people I care about. This experience has taught me some interesting things. One is that I can still care for and love my friends without enabling them. The other is that I like living with a woman! No offense intended to my wonderful and loving gay men friends, but the harmony of two women living together is an incredible experience. It is like a blending of energies rather than a conflict of energies. Of course, I’ve never lived with a gay man, so maybe they are the male exception!!

So, my NorthView friends here I am ready to start on a new adventure in life!! Yes, I am looking for a new roommate, so if you know of someone who would like to share my condo, and does not want to be enabled, let me know!

Shirley Randall-Harris has been very active in the Gay community over the past three years and has many friends who have offered her support and love during this growing time.
The Journey Toward a Safe World for All: We've Got a Long Way to Go
by Don Naff

I try to live by the principle of "Celebrating Diversity." I think I'm pretty "in tune" much of the time, too. I use non-sexist language. I go to rallies for the rights of African-Americans and Women. I volunteer at the Bona Dea Women's Bookstore. I talk at length about, and vote based on, such issues as Gay rights, a Woman's right to choose how her body participates in reproduction, and affirmative action. And, being a Gay Man who has felt the sting of oppression myself (being kicked out of an apartment recently because of issues around my sexuality), I think and feel that I have a certain camaraderie with others who also are oppressed. I guess I like to think I am at least trying.

However, in spite of all of my effort and good intention, I find myself lulled into thinking the problems of intolerance, prejudice and bias are much less present than they are. Women and African-Americans are working in many more fields than they ever have before, and earning more than ever before. Most schools are integrated. Any club that is "White's only" or "Men only" is seen as uncultured at best and vicious at worst. And when I am in this place of pseudo-security and pompous "everything's-alright-with-the-world" ness, I find myself getting aggravated with friends like Mariah and Joann and Craig and Joe who assure me that things aren't really as bright as they may seem from my rather elevated place as a middle-class White man in our culture.

Without fail, my peaceful delusion is always interrupted by some experience that pierces my own layers of ignorance and helps me see the world as it really is. Something happens that let's me see just how far we have to go. Two such experiences have happened just recently.

The first involves the murders of the two children in South Carolina by their mother. I bought the mother's story completely. Along with the rest of America, I hoped and even prayed that the children would be found in good health, and that the perpetrator would be caught and punished. I wept when the true story came out. Then, some days later I was talking to a friend at work, Joe, about the incident. Joe just happens to be Black. I observed that I had been suspicious from the point of seeing the mother on national TV and watching her lack of emotion. Joe responded by saying that he and the Black community hadn't been suckered for an instant. His reason? Black men don't kidnap White children. I thought back over all I knew of kidnapping incidents and realized he was right. In every case I have ever heard of where children who have been kidnapped by someone of a race other than their own, the perpetrator has been White. The mother's story wasn't of a carjacking that had happened too quickly for the perpetrator to discover their were children in the car he took. It was of riding around for some time and then having the person who took her car order her out and take the children... conscious of the children's presence and deciding to take them. I realized that I had fallen for the story because my own image of a criminal is that he would more likely be Black.

The second disturbing but enlightening incident happened right here in our own Anchorage at Identity, Inc.'s Christmas Potluck. This was the clearest example of "male privilege" or "male dominance" I have ever seen. We sang Christmas carols as our activity. When we started, no one seemed to be too sure what to sing, so a man started something, and the rest of us joined in. At the end of that song, the same man started something else, and so on. At one point there was a pause of several seconds. Then a woman's voice started out singing another song from our word sheets. Several other women joined her, and they sang their song for several seconds. I joined them. Then a man's voice started singing another song. Several other men joined him. And before long the women's song had been stopped and everyone was singing with the men. It had seemed totally natural to us that the man should be the one to choose the song. It hit me how often I take it for granted that men are the natural leaders and that women are the followers.

These two experiences have shown me once again that REAL change from intolerance to celebration of diversity is about "little" things, not "big" ones. Most of us realize that overt discrimination and violence against anyone because of who they are is horrible. The real difficulty, and the essential act if we are to ever succeed in making this world a safe place for everyone, is working on, and changing, personal attitudes. Experiences like these show me I, too, still have a long way to go.

Don Naff is a Gay Man, a new "return" member of Identity's Board and an activist in reaching for the goal of equal rights for all.

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EQUAL
Equality Under Alaskan Law

Meets on Thursday, February 2 (7:00pm) at the Metropolitan Community Church, 615 Hollywood Drive (Govt. Hill).

EQUAL will be hosting the Imperial Court of All Alaska with the construction of a float for the 1995 Anchorage Fur Rendezvous parade. If you would like to help give Dan a call (274-9226)

Don't forget about EQUAL's "coffee house." It takes place at the Hollywood Canteen (Capri Cinema) on the third Thursday of each month from 7:00-9:00pm. Join us on January 19 & February 16!

1994-1995 Board of Directors
Amy Young & Dan Carter - Co-Chairs
Linda Kellen - Secretary
Richard Martin - Treasurer
Doug Frank, Mercedes Kellis, Frank Mabry, Amy Menard & Rev. Jim Morgan, Jr.

P.O. Box 244452 Anchorage, AK 99524-4452
Identity, Inc. and NCOD:

*** Catalogue of Great Gifts ***

Identity T-shirts: $10.00 each
100% cotton; will shrink some in first wash. Pink & Black logo on white background.
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL

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Identity Lapel Pins: $5.00 each
1" enamel and silver, 2-color logo

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NCOD T-shirts: $10.00 each
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL

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NCOD Poster: $12.00 each
Full color Keith Haring logo (24" x 26")

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NCOD Mate Cube: $5.00 each
B & W Keith Haring color logo printed on all 4 sides of 300 sheet memo pad.

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NCOD Lapel Pins: $5.00 each
1" enamel & gold, 4-color Keith Haring logo

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NCOD Buttons: $1.00 each
B & W Keith Haring logo

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NCOD Bumper Stickers: $1.00 each
"National Coming Out Day"

How many: ___________ Sub-Total: ___________

Shipping: First add $1.50; T-shirts add $2.50; Sub-Total: ___________

50% cotton, 50% polyester; no shrink. Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

How many: ___________ Sub-Total: ___________

Alaska "Bla" "Bla" License-Plate T-shirt: $15; Sweatshirt: $25
50% cotton, 50% polyester; no shrink. Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

How many: ___________ Sub-Total: ___________

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Total:

Name: ___________ Address: ___________
City: ___________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Phone: ___________

Please make check payable to Identity, Inc. and mail your order to:
Identity, Inc., P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 9952
The Albums of Potter’s Lane
(remembering)
by Dan Cook

Part 21
"Robert’s and Mona’s Law"
The massive holes of hay stood high like volcanoes of gold, steam billowing from them as the sun embraced each with a dose of old Sol. They dotted the landscape like cornerstones presented by Mother Earth for a job well done.

All were blessed with a bumper harvest. Only the good earth took a four month breather.

The social season stretched from November to the first of March; it started with the town hall meeting, then there was Thanksgiving, and Mona Gibbon’s tea and social (ladies only) at the Mercantile, Christmas and now New Year’s Eve at the ranch, hosted by Mike, Steve, Ettu and Mary. Next came the Cattleman’s dinner and dance in January; and each winter ended with the Co-op’s Sweetheart Cotillion around Valentine’s Day, which was an elaborate affair resembling a quadrille. It was also a perfect time for a young lady making her entrance into society as a débutante. Yes, even John Day had a little class.

There was nothing dull about winter. Every album was full of photos from these events each year—and at each event one woman stood out. She was the pillar of society, the Grand Dame of all busy socials and proud of it! Just ask her.

"Mona Gibbons... she was quicker than Ma Bell or Western Union." Mike pointed at a snapshot. The Post Office in the Mercantile, Mona behind the teller’s cage with rows of cabinets full of mail. She had an information network of cronies outside the mercantile, but inside the store was her “grand central station of gossip.” The four areas from which she got her tid-bits were the post office, the ladies notions section (ladies only), the new soda fountain (all the teen gossip came from her new soda jerk), and Miss Mills Embers.

The face of an angel and the body of Joan Harlow, and knew it.

Then there was Mr. Gibbon’s circle of friends in hardware. Men sitting around a large pot belly stove. They were usually talking about crops prices or Miss Embers’ latest conquest. Mike and Steve and the “whisper machine” were well acquainted. They learned years ago that if you told Mona something or let her “overhear” a conversation, well, you were under the “MONA LAW.” It was her domain and it was the “whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me Mona.”

A few years ago, before Mike and Steve even asked Parry and Brisk to move to John Day, they had used the “Mona Law” to perfection with the help of some friends. The guys knew they had to set Mona up, so Mike had Vince send a letter each week from Mexico to Parry or Brisk in care of Mike. Prior to this time, the only foreign stamps Mona had seen were on mail addressed to the Kroggers or the Bergstroms. The flag was up and the race was about to start.

As Mona handed Steve the mail she asked, “Mexico?” looking for information. Steve glanced at the two letters, shook his head, put one finger to his lips and whispered, “Those poor fellas.” Then he turned to leave.

Mona wanted to hear more. “What do you mean ‘poor fellas’?” Steve shook his head and walked out. Mona knew she could have the scoop of the week if Steve would give her just five more minutes.

Steve went back to the clinic and told Mike she was “hooked, lined and sinking,” and should go to the mercantile as soon as possible. “Tell her I forgot stamps and then reel her in.”

Mike did just that. He let Mona twist his arm, beg and plead. “All right, Mona, but no one but you.” Mike told this tragic, bizarre story, BS for short.

These two men loved their wives, but the women joined a religious sect while in Mexico while doing missionary work for this grand guru. The last time they saw their wives they were boarding the train wearing saris and sporting a red dot on their foreheads. They were chanting something. Mona listened to every tidbit, all ears and short gasps. This wasn’t the scoop of the week, month or year, it was the scoop of the decade. She had seen the envelopes from Mexico—that was proof enough. The “Mona Law” was in effect as soon as Mike drove away.

The whisper machine worked as long as you knew how to pull the right strings and had Mona on your side. That had been a few years ago. Now that Parry and Brisk were very much part of the community the letters stopped and no one, not even Mona asked why.

Now they needed to do the same thing for Charles and Roland. The cops were probing into the private lives of single men in Astoria. Already one couple had to leave town because they refused to pay a weekly blackmail, and they had been severely beaten by the Chief of Police and his deputy. Even though Mike and Steve had never met that couple, they were thankful the two owned their own fishing boat and were able to escape to a place called San Pedro, in California.

The “Mona Law” was about to go into effect once again. Henry Puckett owed Mike and Steve a favor. Not only did they campaign for him, they gave him $5,000 to boot. He had promised them more teachers.

Charles and Roland had already laid the groundwork. They helped the School Board set up the John Day Vocational Training via Astoria, so there would be no problem on this side. They already worked for the State and now they needed to be transferred. Henry Puckett would have to ask the Department of Education for a favor. If he got the OK, Roland and Charles could start teaching in the fall of 1937.

Mr. Gibbons was the mayor (honorary) but still mayor, ask Mona. She had waited a long time to see her husband mayor once again.

Reverse psychology really worked with Mona. Let her believe the transfer of two highly educated teachers was due to her efforts. Give her enough information, then let her comment and congratulate herself for having such foresight and wisdom. Puckett did come through, thank God, but Mona and her husband were the ones who did the work. For the guys it meant that two more were now safe from harm’s way.
Robert was finally coming home. Mike and Steve gave the Holts round trip tickets from Portland to L.A. on Western Airlines and a one-way for Robert.

Fingers, Snap, Mike and Steve saw them off but they also had two other things they had to take care of. The first was to buy Robert his graduation gift, a sedan, and then they were going to Astoria to help Charles and Roland move from their beautiful Victorian to the small house on the ranch. They would all see Robert in a few days. The ranch was very busy the day the Holt family came home. Everyone was unloading two large trucks, Mary and Etta were in the kitchen unpacking boxes marked "kitchen," and Parry, Brisk, Mike, Steve, Charles and Roland were carrying in furniture. There were many pieces that would go to the barn for storage as they were too large for the little house.

Suddenly everything stopped. Robert shot out of the car screaming "I'm home, I'm really home," the happy tears flowing down his checks. The little house came alive with, "Robert's home." This was their son, their little brother, and the adopted child none of them would ever have. He had come to the ranch at the age of 16. Now he was a man of 26. He was introduced to Parry and Brisk, the Gay couple he had heard about in so many letters; then to Charles and Roland, the newest family members. Everyone was in working clothes and Robert wanted to help. "I'm going to change," he said, and headed off to the big house. Dove and Rose were on the promenade waving their handkerchiefs and using their long white aprons to wipe away the tears of joy. One of their own would no longer be called a domestic. To Robert's surprise, Mike and Steve had Rose and Dove move Robert's personal things into the formal guest room. It would be his as long as he wanted it; he was no longer a valet.

Mike and Steve took it one step further. They converted the large storage room next to Robert's old room into a large apartment in honor of the Holt's ten years of service. In the upstairs parlor they placed the silver tea cart with hot coffee and mugs. That gesture, they figured, would have been Robert's way of saying thank you.

He was out in the barn with his Dad. It was Saturday and time to take the supplies to Bob and David, his buddies. The guys had given him the "thumbs up" the night before.

Charles, Roland, Mike and Steve could see Robert riding off with two pack horses. Robert had gifts—new boots and chaps made in Mexico. Charles drooled, "I might have to call for a doctor if I see all three of them in chaps."

The four still had a lot of unpacking to do so they headed for the cabin. By noon Parry and Brisk had come to help and the 6 of them were at the hot springs by 4:00pm soaking away tired muscles.

All the guys were in the cabin the following day getting the last boxes emptied when Robert came back from the range. He made quite a picture standing in the doorway silhouetted by the rays of the sun behind him. "Could I help?" he asked as he wiped his bare chest with his shirt. The four just nodded "no." They watched him turn and walk up to the house.

The chaps Robert wore pushed everything up and out. And very much like a Mae West bra helped support every straight man's dream so did the chaps hold every Gay man's fantasy. If Mae West were standing there she would say, "We got something in common, Mister! I've got a double D cup and my guess is your cup runneth around D for Delightful and H for Hold my heart 'cause I'm in love, Cowboy."

Boy's will be boys. Mike and Steve knew the story about Robert, Bob and David, but even they were curious about this threesome that had lasted so many years. They hadn't asked anyone about their sexual habits and weren't about to start now. Robert would tell them everything sooner or later. He had been totally honest about everything so far. Sometimes too vivid even for a doctor.

Robert's office was located on the second floor of the town hall. It was perfect for a new attorney. There were three empty offices. The only thing they had been used for were storage for the Town records. The original plans called for a judge, a district attorney, and either a Chief of Police, or a dog catcher. They had stayed vacant all these years. John Day always took care of their own problems. The town hall meetings were both the judge and jury for the community; the town clerk took care of everything else. Records were kept, all the births, deaths and anything in between. He performed marriages, transfers of title, and was a crack CPA. Everything else went to Salem. Robert was about to find out the lot of people had been waiting for legal council. Up to now there was little more than the "Mona Law."

Turning the page....

Cherressa 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 Cherressa, who will send the missing sections at no charge.] ▼
Where in the World?
by Bob De Loach

How Safe is Flying?

Travel Weekly, a leading trade journal has compiled data on the safety of flying. According to their information you have a
1 in 2 chance of being killed by a heart attack, 1 in 4000 of
death by age 35 from smoking, 1 in 14,000 of being killed in a
cross country car trip, 1 in 8,000 of being killed in a bicycle
accident, 1 in 500,000 of being killed by a tornado, 1 in
1,000,000 of death on a cross country train trip, 1 in 5.3
million of death from a bee sting and 1 in 10 million of being
killed in an airplane accident. The International Airline
Passengers Association warns that in a few areas of the world
airline safety practices, air traffic control or security
considerations warrant caution. If possible, you should avoid
Asia (to or within China and Korea), and domestic flights in
India, Central Africa (all countries), the Commonwealth of
Independent States (all countries), and South America (flights
through the Andes and to or within Columbia.)

Holbrook Travel

Holbrook Travel is offering some unusual trips in the first
quarter of this year. February 10-25 they are offering a
Natural History Expedition to Guyana South America (note:
this is not Columbia or the Andes!). The trip departs from
Miami and goes for 16 days into one of the most remote areas
of South America: you’ll go by light plane to Guyana’s interior
to Orinduik Falls on the Ireng river. From there it’s camping,
dugout canoes and hiking. You’ll camp out in native made
“bush” frames with hammocks or cots. Your guide, Terry
Henkel is a field trained botanist who has organized plant
collecting expeditions for The Smithsonian. This is NOT the
trip for those who love room service, but IS for those hardy
souls of you who really want to get in tune with nature and
tavel the centuries-old trails of the Indians. Most meals are
included and are cooked over open fires by the native guides.
The land portion is $1,107.00 based on two people sharing
accommodations (does that mean the same hammock?) with
airfare from Miami at $1526.95.

March 11-21 Tom Ulrich leads a group to The Galapagos
Islands and features an 8 day cruise of the Galapagos
Archipelago and the colonial city of Quito. You will be able to
hike on trails among animals, swim with sea lions, penguins,
and scores of beautiful tropical fish. You can trek through
forests of giant tree cacti, and hike within colonies of boobies,
albatross, frigate birds and storm petrels. Your base of
operations for the cruise is the M/V Dorado and meals are
included. Land cost is $1,777.00 based on double occupancy.

March 20-26 Tom Ulrich will be your host for a trip to
Ecuador, which will feature The Mindo Cloud Forest,
Cotopaxi Volcano National Park and The Otavalo Market.

Land portion is $827.00 per person, double occupancy, and
airfare from Miami is $410.00.

Gaiety ’95 in Ireland

Kenny Tours is offering two St. Patrick’s Day tours. The
first is a 9 day tour of Ireland with airfare from Seattle at
$1,249.00 and includes RT airfare, twin-bed rooms for 7
nights, 7 breakfasts, and 3 dinners, and daily sightseeing by
Deluxe Motor Coach with a professional driver guide.
Departing March 12-20 the cities include Cork, Waterford,
Kerry, Dublin and Dalkey. The second trip departs March 10-
18 and includes London and Dublin with The Miss Gay
Emerald Isle Pageant on day 7 and the St. Patrick’s Day
Parade on day 8 in Dublin.

Atlantis’ All Inclusive Club Med

Starts out at Cancun Feb. 4-11 at the beautiful 37 acre
village on one of the world’s best known beach resort. This
package is priced at $1,195.00 per person and offers some low
airfares. April 23-30 finds you in Playa Blanca which emerges
from the foothills of Mexico’s Gold Coast. This all-inclusive
package is just $895.00 for the land package. July 15-22 will
find the fun gang from Atlantis at Sonora Bay, their largest
and most active resort with extensive sports facilities.

These packages include accommodations based on
double occupancy, and include all meals with unlimited beer and wine
included, sports from sunrise to sunset, activities every day
with a wide variety of events, entertainment every night, a
night club from late to early until the last person leaves, with
live music and theme events, special events and surprises,
tips, gratuities, and resort taxes.

RSVP Women’s Cruise

February 4-11 the ‘SeaSpirit’ will be hosting an all-woman
cruise from St. Maarten in the Caribbean. Ports of call will
include Anguilla, St. Barthlemy, St. Kitts and Nevis. This
100-passenger ship is perfect for getting to know your fellow
travelers.

Mariah Wilderness Expeditions

From February 3-12 it’s an adventure trip to Honduras for
women. You’ll visit Mayan ruines, go sea kayaking, rafting,
and scuba diving. The cost for the land portion is $1,500.00
with airfare extra.

Skylink for Women

The well-known travel company for women has a full plate of
tavel to serve up to the Lesbian Women’s Week traveler
for 1995. Included is the Caribbean, Lesbian & Gay Mardi
Gras in Sydney, Dinah Shore Women’s week in March, New
Orleans’ Jazzfest, Costa Rica, Greece with a Mykonos Island
cruise, the Alaska cruise, and the annual Provincetown hadj.

Alaska Women of the Wilderness

Offers programs for woman of all ages as well as mother
and child programs. Some of their activities include
backpacking, sea kayaking, canoeing, skiing, dog mushing,
bicycle and horsepacking trips.

Gay Ski Weeks 1995

Across the ski belt of America they are gearing up for the
parade of ski weeks. It’s all kicked off by Winterfest ’95 at
Park City, Utah January 14-21st. This event, founded by
LA’s gayest gym, The Athletic Club, is expected to draw
crowds from near and far. Aspen’s 18th annual Gay Ski
Week will be Jan 21-28 (the 17th attracted over 3,000 people
for the events). The welcome party is being held at the Hotel
Jerome at 7:00pm on the 22nd. The famous Whistler’s Gay
Ski Week takes place in Whistler, British Columbia February 6-12th. 24 events are planned for the week including kick-off parties, a charity auction, a mountain-top Tea dance and a beach party. Gay Ski East takes place February 24-27th in Mount Snow, Vermont. This small but growing event offers packages from $230.00 including lodging, meals and lift tickets. Winterfest, March 16-19 at Lake Tahoe, Nevada is a project of Incline Village and the Tahoe visitor's Bureau. This is a fundraising event for the Lake Tahoe AIDS Task Force.

Bona Dea: The Alaska Women's Bookstore Award in Feminist Studies

The Alaska Women's Bookstore Award in Feminist Studies is pleased to announce the 1995 recipient is Eugenia Serden.

Ms. Derden holds a B.A. in Telecommunications from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and is presently working on a Master's degree in Public Administration. Ms. Derden's winning project is a documentary videotape of 10-12 women currently working in the field of Public Administration. Her project will capture on videotape some of the history of Alaska women in public service and will have great value both in establishing role models as well as documenting the history of women in Alaska public administration. The final tape will be on file in the Learning Resource Center and will be available to students and faculty, as well as the media and school districts statewide, for future use.

Some 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, (4) a study of homeless women in Anchorage, and (5) a novel that articulated the ideas and values of ecofeminism in a literary art form.

For more information on the Alaska Women's Bookstore Award in Feminist Studies call Shari Olander at 786-6751.
**First African-American Woman To Make Studio Movie**

When Columbia Pictures agreed to produce her film *I Like It Like That*, writer-director Darnell Martin didn't simply become the first African American woman to make a major studio movie. She also proved that you can go home again - to Findlay and 167th streets in the heart of the Bronx - to tell an authentic, compelling story about a young woman's coming of age amid the push and pull of three barrio families.

*I Like It Like That* is a drama with romance and comedy about the emotional, sexual and economic tug of war between a young black and Latino couple - Lisette and Chino Linares (Lauren Velez and Jon Seda), kids themselves raising three children on their own. Set against the vibrant, colorful and passionate mores of Bronx street life, the story follows events unfolding in the Linares family after a citywide blackout on a hot summer night changes their lives.

The soundtrack includes previously unreleased tracks by C+C Music Factory and Lighter Shade of Brown; K7's recent rap hit *Come Baby Come* and more.

**Premiering Jan. 20th**

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**MASTROIANNI**

("SUPERB!")

-Richard Corliss, TIME MAGAZINE

"*SUPERB!*"

-ONE OF 1994'S

-VERY BEST!"

-Hasty Work, NEW YORK POST

*I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT*

-A Fairy Tale

by Maria Luisa Bertrand

"If there was a misnomer for a film this could be it, since the one thing that most people will want to do is see this truly moving work is talk about it."

Sheila Whitaker, London Film Festival

Leonor (Luisina Brando) is a young widow living in a small town in Argentina whose young daughter Charlotte is destined to grow only to the height of a seven-year-old. Over the years she forces the town to accept her daughter and ignore her difference, all the while ensuring her the broadest education. Nearby lives handsome, mysterious bachelor Ludovico D'Andrea (Marcello Mastroianni), who sets all the ladies' hearts fluttering, visits the local brothel, and tells young Charlotte tales of travel and foreign places. On her 15th birthday Charlotte receives a white horse and learns to ride, and while watching her one day, Ludovico realizes that the young, tiny girl is now a woman that he loves and wants to marry. Director Bemberg has crafted a superbly original, complex tale that wastes not one frame as it gently but inexorably spins out its spider's web of lives and meditates on love and happiness. Mastroianni's performance is as touching and generous as always, and Brando superbly matches Bemberg's achievement.

-Text Courtesy of the Seattle International Film Festival.

**Premiering Jan. 27**
The Amazon Trail: 
Queer Counting by Lee Lynch

Yesterday we went out hiking with a nature group. The majority of participants were Lesbians. New friends in the group were telling us about their friends who are active in another nature group. We went to a gathering not long ago where, after over a decade in this community, we met yet more women who'd been here all along. At the play last night we learned of a couple who moved here within the last few years who only met the women we know because they became neighbors. A dyke who called for an action to the play said, "This is Lydia." I asked, "Oh, Lydia of Decade?" "No, Lydia and Geri." Two more Lesbians.

We crawl out of the woodwork, as that unfortunate but accurate saying goes. Or at least many of us do. The more country dykes we meet the more we hear about.

There is an underground beyond the underground. These are often old Lesbians who have little interest in contemporary dyke culture or have lived with the closet habit so long they're simply not comfortable out and about. I always feel honored when they reveal themselves to me. They are only a small percent of the underground in rural America.

I know some Lesbians who aren't even interested in meeting other Lesbians because they've heard that country dykes are too weird and witchy. Wrong, but that uncovers still another hidden group. On the other hand there are dykes of urban dykes who are familiar with the dyke community, and with whom we can talk about our experiences. Why do we live here with our homemade culture and our isolation from the riches of more urban life? Speaking for myself, it's cheaper and I can spend a little more time writing. The air is clean. It's easier to be a hermit. I like the distance from Gays and straights alike. I like the independent spirits of my peers. It smells like pine trees out here. There's a creek up the road. We have a resident piloted woodpecker.

If Lesbians are invisible in this great nation, then magnify that times ten for country Lesbians. If we're not hooked into the great white able-bodied middle class wave of dykes-about-town, we are pumping out our own newsletters and putting out our own shows. If we're not getting counted by hot-shot surveys--getting defined as a Lesbian market--you won't see us out there hobbling and hollering to be included. Exclusion has always made dykes tougher. We'll survive the survivors. Don't forget, survey-takers, we're here, we're queer, we're too busy to answer your questions.

Lee Lynch is a columnist-author based in southern Oregon. She writes "The Amazon Trail" regularly for The Dallas Voice, Just Out, The Washington Blade, the Identity NorthView (some 16 papers, in all) and the author of ten books. Copyright © Lee Lynch, 1994.
Coffee With Camille
by Owen Keenlen

One of the most controversial figures in contemporary society is explosive critic, art historian, pop-philosopher, and author Camille Paglia. Her newest collection of essays, Vamps and Tramps, includes swords drawn and driven into the current direction of Gay activism, feminist thought, and academia. Her criticism is fierce, at once educated and adolescent, she is a rebel thinker whose mind seems in constant overdrive. The book also contains her thoughts on all aspects of sex and sexuality, AIDS, prostitution, abortion, rape, and homosexuality. Vamps and Tramps contains a blistering essay on Susan Sontag, an examination of Lady Di’s popularity, Foucault slams, and much more. This volcanic book also contains book reviews, interviews, cartoons, and even her “Spy” advice column, all executed in her bloodthirsty style.

Recently I had the opportunity to have coffee with Ms. Paglia. She and caffeine are a more than stimulating combination at eight in the morning.

Owen: In your writing you often talk about being an Aries. I’m curious how deeply you think that influences your behavior?

Camille: I never had any consciousness of it. Then, my first week in college I went into the bookstore and picked up an astrology book and read the thing for Aries, it was a revelation. Every single thing about my personality that people had criticized was there, obnoxious, egotistical, pushy, the willful demand to be first, all that stuff. It showed the positive aspects of that and also the negatives. It’s not something I passively accept, but I can see it as a tendency.

Owen: Your warrior nature has been most visible in your criticism of current feminism. You cite the movement as going astray in 1969, if you were in charge of the movement where would you have taken it?

Camille: Well...late 60s early 70s. At that time the Stalinists, the weepy whiny types who are into groups and consciousness raising sessions, ran off with the scene. Before Kate Millett’s Sexual Politics, there were a number of women interested in feminism and when that book hit it was like a bomb. Any truly intellectual person wouldn’t go near her—the way she treated D.H. Lawrence and Hemingway with her trashy style. She has the Stalinist way of looking at things with her checklist going “Check, check, check. This does not come up to my agenda, my agenda, MY AGENDA!” That’s not the way you look at art. That is not done to art. All the great texts of philosophy

and art are very complex. They will never conform to any agenda. That is fascism just as much as someone of the Christian right saying something doesn’t meet their standards.

Owen: What’s your solution?

Camille: The Paglia vision is, I came on the scene and said, “I’m a lapsed Catholic. I’m not going to accept what the religious conservatives are saying about art and I’m not going to accept what Catharine Mackinnon, Andrea Dworkin, Kate Millett, Marilyn French, and the Fascists in the other extreme are saying about art either.”

Owen: Where do you think the general public lies in all this?

Camille: You saw it with ‘Basic Instinct’. I was shocked. Those protests show the complete disintegration of Gay politics. It was a pornographic film receiving national distribution, it should have been rightly hailed as extreme and beautiful and bizarre. When I saw the beauty of the movie I realized Gay activism had gone so far into a coterie of Kremlin mentality they had completely lost touch with the people. The more you get in groups the more you lose your instincts, you become so truncated by activist philosophy you can’t just enjoy it and say “Boy this is a hoot! Wow! Look at Sharon Stone.” It was a revolutionary film that pushed a porn style and language into middle America. It makes me sick that instead of being seen as revolutionary it was seen as reactionary.

Owen: In Vamps and Tramps you blast Gay activism as narrow, elitist, and Fascist...

Camille: Leftism should be about the people. We cannot have the situation where we have white middle class Gay activists preaching like they have the truth. “We know truth, and you people out there, you’re benighted. You’re against homosexuality because you read the Bible, then you’re a bigot. We are the hip people.” No, that is the opposite of leftism.

Owen: So where do you think Gay activism should go to have the greatest impact?

Camille: The whole psychology is wrong. Right from the start I felt Gay liberation should be about the liberation of Gay eroticism, not about the liberation of Gay versus straight people. The focus should have been that there is a continuum of sexuality and we live in a society right now that happens to forbid us to express these desires. That would include people who want to experiment and go back and forth sexually.

Owen: So the problem is in the western definition of sexuality itself?

Camille: If a man is married and has children and now and again likes to go pick up a hustler, he’s Gay. In our culture he’s Gay, he’s homophobic, he’s hiding. In history that is actually more the fact of homosexuality. In the Greek and Arab worlds everyone marries and many still have beautiful
Your Writing & Poetry Is Wanted!


Co-editors Karen X. Tuchinsky and James Johnstone are accepting submissions for an international anthology of short short stories (750 to 1000 words) by Lesbians and Gay men. The book will be an album of snapshots that reflect the spectrum of Lesbian and Gay life experience. Deadline: March 31, 1995. For full guidelines send a self-addressed stamped envelope (must have correct Canadian postage or International Reply Coupons) to: Queer Glances, Queer Moments, #1002-1340 Burnaby Street, Vancouver, B.C., CANADA V6E 1R1

Lesbians Off the Rag! A Menopausal Anthology


Personal narratives and short fiction about your menopausal experience as a Lesbian, including helpful, useful and funny material. Send submissions to: Anthology, P.O. Box 804, Grants Pass, OR 97526.
The Comedy of Suzanne Westenhoefer
By John Schutz
Reprinted by permission

Suzanne Westenhoefer says, "I spend an incredible amount of time explaining my jokes to my mother...", but to the average Gay or Lesbian, no explanation is necessary. Westenhoefer is aware, political (both correctly and incorrectly so) and very, very funny.

There are plenty of good comics but Suzanne Westenhoefer has something special. She's at home on stage and I mean, she's always at home.

Though Suzanne is by no means "G" rated (in fact, I couldn't print whole sections of her act), she does so without the use of four-letter words every five seconds. Hurray! A comedian who is able to be funny (and racy) without resorting to adolescent phrasing and shock value language. Don't get me wrong, I have no objection to the use of four-letter words in comedy, but when I see that the only thing an audience is laughing at is a comedian's repeated use of the "F" word, I wonder what that person is doing in comedy to begin with. Suzanne Westenhoefer is funny without having to resort to shocking her audience, and her humor is the type we can relate to in everyday life.

Speaking of the sexy parts of her act, one of her funniest segments has to do with her view of S & M and other "non-vanilla" sexual appetites. She feels that "Sex has gotten too weird. I mean how do you get into S & M? Are you going at it one day and fall out of bed hitting your head and go "Wow! That's it!'" Her "PC" friends remind her that some straight people call homosexuality abnormal in much the way she claims S & M is. Her retort: "Homosexuality is found in every mammal species in the world. Now, when was the last time you saw two cows tying each other up?"

Her story of an unwilling visit to a sex toys shop brought gales of laughter from the audience, as did her recounting of the time her farmer father came to see her (in a sports jacket, no less) perform in a Lesbian bar. Another audience favorite, which many of us had no problem relating to, was her description of Lesbians and Gays at wedding showers. Her solution to this upsetting experience: "I don't bring a gift anymore, I take one!"

Perhaps her best segment of all comes right from real life. She volunteers to speak to teenagers in high schools about being a Lesbian. One teacher had the students write questions to Suzanne on 3 x 5 cards which she has kept (and laminated!) In their innocence they ask some incredibly amusing questions, to which, during her stand-up routine, Westenhoefer gives the answers she would have liked to have given. Extremely funny.

The very funny, very talented, very beautiful (hey, I'm Gay, not dead) Suzanne Westenhoefer can be seen in Anchorage on February 4th, 8:00pm at UAA's Wendy Williamson Auditorium. Tickets are available at the Alaska Women's Bookstore or by calling 349-6480.

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

Yes! \[ \square \]

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Per Month for one year

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Received By
Sparks Might Fly
by Cris Newport
New Victoria Publishers
1994, $9.95?
Review by Lee Lynch

Pip Martin must choose between her music and her lover. As it turns out, making the choice is the least of her troubles. The consequences are the real story.

Classically trained, world famous pianist, Pip has lived a life of glamour and emotional deprivation. As a small child she watched as her mother took off in a sports car with a new husband, essentially never to return. Pip's grandfather, a conductor, raised her, or rather, raised a gifted child, to have a successful performing career he was unable to achieve.

About the only thing Pip has learned about herself, other than her joy of music, is that she is a lesbian, but her affairs are not much more than a convenience until she falls in love with Corinne, the woman who wants her to leave touring life to settle down and raise a family.

This is the first novel, a romance, a story of the internal struggles of an artist. Newport has made Pip Martin quite believable and surrounded her with a cast of equally believable characters, all of whom function to lead the story to its satisfying resolution. There is a struggling maturity to the lessons described, and an evolving wisdom that feels hard won, both by Pip and by her creator.

One of the most appealing elements of the book is the setting, which is mainly in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and in Boston. Pip's attempt at teaching music when she is unable to play takes her into the hallowed halls of the Boston classical and jazz music worlds. Newport seems to know these and other musician's haunts well and has captured the camaraderie of fellow artists moving in their distinctive milieu.

Pip, in trying to choose between her art and her love, has squelched her musical spirit. Unable to play, hardly able even to listen to music, she reaches out to Emma, a beguiling Irish piano tuner. Emma teaches her craft to pip and also teaches her something about friendship and boundaries.

Gradually, Pip learns to live in one place, a place of her own, and, though financially hurting, to earn her own keep as a tuner. It is a difficult time for her and the novel reaches universality in the portrayal of emotional anguish. Classical musician or motel housekeeper, we all need to build our nests and sit in them a good long while before we know who we really are and therefore, what we really want. Newport is generous with what she has learned, and gentle with her readers, sparing us from the all too common characters of contemporary lesbian literature who wallow in addictions or brutality to find their way.

Gradually, she learns that it might not have been Corinne she loved, but the urges awakened in her by Corinne. A home, stability, a depth of experience she cannot experience by forever touring. Gradually, she learns that she need not look to another person for what she needs — it is, as with all of us, within her. Privilege runs through this book like underlining. Her grandfather had the means to train Pip. When she struck out on her own, with no means of support, he handed her a check for three thousand dollars which was not a loan. An inheritance gives her a freedom that makes her final choice possible. Money does not alleviate struggle or pain, but it makes life a lot neater. Readers may be drawn to the romance of ease.

Newport has structured Pip's story with short scenes and flashbacks which keep the reader turning pages. This author does not get bogged down in emotions, nor does she overextend action. She almost flits from dramatic point to dramatic point, luring the reader until we care about Emma and Pip and Corinne, that stinker. See what I mean?

It's refreshing to watch an author get off to such a good start, with obvious support of good editing. Newport's book is clean and her story well-knit. She begins an exploration of the lesbian artist which I hope will continue. There have been so many lesbians in the arts, and for so long they were hidden so deep in closets, that we know little about their particular relationships with their creativity.

On the last pages a character, referring to their relationship and to Pip's career, asks, "What happens now?"

Pip turns and taps the character's chest, answering, "Listen."

An apt answer for a musician seeking her way—and for Cris Newport's new readers, waiting for more.

Lee Lynch is a columnist/author based in southern Oregon.

She writes "The Amazon Trail" regularly for The Dallas Voice, Just Out, The Washington Blade, the Identity NorthView (some 16 papers, in all) and is the author of ten books. Copyright © Lee Lynch, 1994.

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

Imagine a cavernous, dusty cathedral with lines of black-robed, somber-faced men singing their early morning prayers. Now, flip from the 15th century to California and the new age sounds of dolphins, waves and crickets. It’s an intriguing combination that works on "Oracle," a new CD by Joe Taylor and BMG Music. Adding a breath of fresh air to the soothing tones of the Mount Angel Abbey Choir, Taylor gently mixes in guitars, synclavier and nature sounds.

The chinking is smooth as silk, reminiscent of canoeing across a glassy lake. It’s Taylor’s sound effects that give each track its flavor. The effects evoke images of nature–"Fjords," "Canyon," "Morning Dew"–and of mysterious places–"Amazon," "Kilimanjaro." If you can overlook the dolphin noises in "Kauai" and the sound of synthetic bullfrogs in "Morning Dew," listening to "Oracle" is a lot like going on a very cheap vacation (with 20 monks).

Switching gears to the energetic pace of trapeze artists and jugglers, BMG Music’s next release is "Alegría," the sound track to this year’s Cirque du Soleil. The Cirque du Soleil is a phenomenal circus based in Montreal, Canada. Half Barnum and Bailey, half Andrew Lloyd Webber, Cirque du Soleil is a site to behold. While the sound track captures some of the wonderment and silliness, it’s still background music. The few tracks which feature vocalists are in French; everything else is instrumental. In other words, "Alegría" might inspire to take a few twirls around the living room with the vacuum cleaner but unless you’re bilingual, you probably won’t be singing along.

If background music makes your heart pound, pick up a copy of the soundtrack to Love Affair, the Warren Beatty & Annette Bening movie of this summer. Composed, orchestrated and conducted by Ennio Morricone, the music is dull, dull, dull. The epitome of background. The only relief comes in the first three tracks which reverberate with soul thanks to Bobby Short, Louis Jordan, and Ray Charles singing snappy tunes like "Never Let Your Left Hand Know What Your Right Hand’s Doing" and "Life Is So Peculiar." Unfortunately, the thrill doesn’t last. So save 16 dollars and listen to your hard drive hum instead.

Jen Kohout, sometimes aka The Queen of Easy Listening Music.

LAVENDER LADIES

BY AMY ENGLISH

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF OUR MOVIE, DYKES AFTER DARK?

MY GOODNESS, SO THAT’S WHAT LESBIANS DO UMH...WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU RENTED THAT FILM?

WE DIDN’T RENT IT–WE COULDN’T FIND ONE WE LIKED SO WE PERSUADED TWO MEMBERS OF FUG, WHO HAD SOME ACTING EXPERIENCE TO PLAY THE PARTS AND WE MADE THE FILM OURSELVES!

THE MINISTER’S WIFE AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER–HEAVILY DISGUISED, OF COURSE!

THEY WERE WONDERFULLY REALISTIC! I’D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THEM!

UNFORTUNATELY, THEY’RE NOT HERE TONIGHT.

WHY, THE LAST WE HEARD FROM THEM WAS A POSTCARD FROM BORA BORA, SAYING THEY’VE OPENED A BED AND BREAKFAST THERE!
Financial News
by Chris Olson
"Living Beneath Your Means"

I have received quite a bit of feedback about last month's article, "Are You A Penny Pincher?" The majority dealt with my contention that you need to live beneath your means in order to achieve financial independence. I would like to address that concept in this month's column.

Living above your means is characterized as not always being able to meet the fixed monthly expenses. You juggle bills each month sometimes not paying some so you can afford others. You have maxed out on some credit cards. You have a car loan with a lease or repayment period of more than three years. If you live above your means you are spending or consuming at a level greater than what you are earning.

Living within your means is defined as spending or consuming at a rate close to what you earn. You are not substantially in debt. You have enough money to cover all of your fixed expenses. You also have enough money to fund whatever extras that you want. You have a little in savings and put a minimum amount into a retirement plan through work. You have to go into debt by taking out a loan for a new car, a remodeling project, or a vacation. You carry low balances on your credit cards.

Living beneath your means indicates you are able to meet all your financial obligations and still manage to save 10-20% of your earnings. You pay your credit cards off each month. You prepay the big ticket items by saving first and buying later so as to avoid the monthly installments and high interest on loans. You find it easier to say "no" or "wait" to new expenses such as a trip, new car, or new furniture. You are aware of how much money you spend and know where you can cut back if needed. You have opportunity money available for extraordinarily good buys and once in a lifetime chances. You always have 3-6 months’ savings set aside for emergencies. You invest 10-20% of your income for long-term dreams. You are on the road to financial freedom.

Living beneath your means is a very routine and chosen lifestyle for many people. There is no sacrifice or pain involved.

What you need to change is your outlook on how powerful money can be. You can start to attain this lifestyle by creating a budget of last month's expenses. Every penny should be accounted for. Look at your budget and shave 1% off the top of each item. This is your budget for next month. See if you can live on 1% less than last month. Try to shave a little more off each month until you reach a true budget that reflects your spending needs.

Every budget needs a discretionary category. This can be fun money if you want but make sure you build in a cushion for yourself. Your budget should also include a savings category. Pay yourself $20, $200, or $2,000—just make sure you pay yourself.

A budget is a fluid and dynamic tool. You should change it as often as you find that you were unrealistic in setting a particular goal. Move amounts from under-spent categories into over-spent ones. Eventually you will have a lot of under-

spent categories. Your surplus, then, is not spent. The surplus goes to paying off credit cards, installment loans, or into your summer of '95 vacation fund.

Throughout the course of each month you are watching and recording every expenditure. Do not go above last month's budgetary limits. If you want to spend more, put it into next month's budget. I admit that it is hard to stop spending money. It is harder, however, to not spend money saved. Put the savings away and forget about it.

There are hundreds of books devoted to ways people can cut down on their living expenses. Each expert starts out by recommending a budget. The historical budget helps you visualize your spending habits. The future budget helps you keep within your limits. The end product is a true budget that allows for saving, fun money, prepaying big items, and creates a lifestyle that lets you painlessly live beneath your means. It will soon be a reality that you can quit working because you have prepaid the largest expense of all—retirement! Knowing and controlling the power of money is the cornerstone to achieving financial independence.

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.
Hope everyone had a great holiday season and enjoyed seeing EQUAL's holiday greetings on People Mover buses. The signs carried a message of "On Earth Peace and Goodwill to ALL." I understand there were less than five (5) complaints about these signs although a complaint concerning "our" use of a Christian holiday confounds me. As though none of "us" could be Christian and the complaint also reveals a lot about "their" concept of "goodwill to all."

The sign shown below is scheduled to be displayed on ten (10) buses during the second week in February. The sign shows symbols representing various couples (bisexual, gay, lesbian and straight). The Fur Rondy will be taking place during this week which assures an even greater number of people will see the sign. Printing and display costs will be approximately $1,400. Please help with this display by using the form at the bottom of this page to send your donation. Thanks!

Happy Valentine's Day!

from your lesbian, bi and gay neighbors and their friends and families

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Anchorage Equal Rights Commission will have 3 (or 4) seats available on February 14.

If you or anyone you know is interested in serving on the ERC, give Dan a call for info at 274-9226.
"...I understand your frustration"

With these words our community may be on the verge of seeing an end of an era when it seemed the only requirement for appointment to the Municipality of Anchorage Equal Rights Commission (ERC) was a public stand against equal rights based on sexual orientation. As I have reported during the past few months, I wrote a letter to Mayor Rick Mystrom on October 18 requesting information concerning the ERC. I also specifically requesting a review of the actions of Commissioner Michael Johnston—his harassment of the gay/lesbian/bi community and his attempts to create dissension among different groups of Alaskans in order to obtain his political objectives.

I did not receive a rapid response to my original letter and faxed a second request on November 29. This fax resulted in a letter informing me a full response would be sent during the week of December 19. On January 2, 1995, I sent another fax as I still had not received a response.

This fax informed the mayor of my decision to bypass his office and send my request for information to the Anchorage Assembly and to the Municipal Ombudsperson's Office as I felt twelve (12) weeks was more than adequate for his office to reply to my request.

I received a fax response from the Office of the Mayor on January 6. The following excerpts are included for your information:

"I am responding concerning your concerns raised in your letter and faxes. Having had the opportunity to review your correspondence and receiving a historical overview of the Equal Rights Commission from our staff, I feel I understand your frustration.

I agree commissioners must not harass any segment of our population. Accountability must come from the other Commission members. The Mayor plans to appoint three new members (to the commission) in February. When these appointments are confirmed, I will request a mission statement and goals and objectives be written (this was one of my requests in my initial letter to the mayor).

The Mayor is committed to make Anchorage the most livable city and this will be accomplished with the efforts of citizens like you. Please continue to attend the Commission meetings. Contact us if you see the positive direction we want for the commission is not being met by the new appointments we have made. We want you to feel good about the city in which you live."

The letter was signed by Manuel Wallace. Manny is the Manager of Boards and Commissions and works directly for Mayor Rick Mystrom. While there was no promise the ERC will improve, there is hope in the positive words of Manny Wallace and a refreshing change from the comments made by the Fink Administration. I encourage any of you who may be interested in being considered for appointment to the ERC to contact Manny Wallace by calling the Mayor's Office (343-4431) and obtain an application for this important commission.

Although many political events of the past year have seemed to be setbacks for our community, this letter does offer hope that 1995 is starting out on the right foot.

Additional victories were achieved through the country. Some of them are listed below:

- More than half of the members of Congress issued nondiscrimination policies to protect lesbian/gay employees on their staff.
- Gay rights law in the US Congress has 32 cosponsors in the Senate and 138 in the House (a record number of cosponsors).
- More than 250 Coming Out Day events took place in all 50 states.
- Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts (DEM) and former Senator Barry Goldwater (REP-AZ) agreed to cochair Americans Against Discrimination, a project to create a national response to anti-gay initiatives.
- Tony Knowles was elected governor of Alaska. Tony was the cochair of Alaskans for Civil Rights during the recent effort to provide protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

...and last but not least, most of us survived the bitter political struggles of the past two years!

On a lighter note, one of the nation's most OUT AND PROUD lesbian performers will be in Anchorage, Saturday, February 4 (tickets are available at the Women's Bookstore, of course). Suzanne Westenhoefer performed at the Gay Games in New York and Al and I had the pleasure of seeing her. How great is she...well, we will be going to see her instead of seeing the Seawolves play Colorado—the 2nd ranked hockey team in the country. People who know us well will understand just how much we like Suzanne!

Dan Carter is a local gay activist.
Bay Positives Poster Campaign Targets Youth With HIV
World AIDS Day Kickoff Touts Care, Support for HIV-Infected Youth

Bay Area Young (BAY) Positives, a peer-support group for young people with HIV, has released a poster campaign touting the agency's counseling services and social events for HIV-positive Bay Area youth. The agency's programs include one-to-one peer counseling, a wide variety of support groups, health and social services, educational workshops, and a buddy program to help young people with HIV connect with another BAY Positives member.

The campaign kickoff coincides with the seventh annual World AIDS Day, a global event commemorating and celebrating those affected by HIV and AIDS.

"No HIV-infected youth is an island, although it can feel that way at times," said Hodgins, who is living with HIV. "We are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters."

With the headline, "Young People With HIV Supporting Young People With HIV," the BAY Positives billboards, posters, and internal bus cards feature HIV-positive young women and men of all colors in photos emblazoned with the words "friendship," "fear," "relief," and "hope."

"With this new poster campaign, we hope to reach our peers who may feel isolated and alone because they're HIV-positive," Hodgins said. "When diagnosed with HIV, many young people find they have no direct access to health and medical care. Many are underinsured, or not insured at all, and are employed in low-paying jobs. Some do not have a regular doctor. Others have been kicked out of their homes for their sexual orientation or their HIV status. BAY Positives offers an alternative to the fear and panic some young people experience when they're HIV-positive."

Recent studies show there have been 2,542 cases of AIDS diagnosed in San Francisco among young people aged 20-29, representing one in eight cases. The vast majority of them contracted HIV in their teens or early twenties. New HIV infections in the city are expected to occur at a rate of 4% annually among gay and bisexual men ages 17 to 25, as against an annual rate of 1.5% among adult gay and bisexual men. That is about 200 young gay and bisexual men becoming infected with HIV each year.

Statewide, nearly one in six AIDS cases is among young people in their twenties, and youth are among the fastest growing populations of people with AIDS. It is estimated that the average age of infection with HIV has dropped from over 30 in the early 1980s to 25 today.

Hodgins said young people living with the virus are more likely to accept support from someone in a similar situation who is speaking with a similar voice.

"Given the stigma, ignorance, and fear associated with young people and HIV, it is most effective for HIV-positive youth to offer emotional support and educational services to youth who are newly infected or who have ongoing concerns about living with the virus," Hodgins said.

Bay Area Young Positives was founded in January 1990, when two HIV service providers began facilitating a Monday night drop-in support group after concluding city HIV services lacked youth sensitivity. Soon that group was youth-led; the peer facilitation model proved highly effective in supporting the nearly 200 HIV-positive youth that attended over the next few years. It remains the only purely peer-based program run by and for HIV-positive young people in the Bay Area.

Identity, Inc. - Fourth Friday Potluck & Social

Four-footed fur and feathers!
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 unashamedly appreciated.

Date: Friday, January 27
Time: 6:30pm doors open/socialize; 7pm dinner; 7:30pm announcements & program
Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St.
Program: The famed Drs. Joyce Murphy and partner Gunny Johnson bring the joy of pets to the Potluck! Pets, pet care, and the rites of "parenthood," or bring your own questions.
Looking to reach out to your community???

Do you have 2 or 3 free hours this year???

Can you boil water???

Then you are just the people we are looking for!!!

Every Friday at Noon the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (a.k.a. The 4A's) hosts a pot-luck lunch for all of our clients, volunteers and staff. Over the past few years this weekly event has become a vital part of the 4A's services. It is a relaxed social atmosphere that provides those living with HIV/AIDS with a place to find support, to find friends, to find peace. More importantly, it encourages those living in isolation to come into the office, and to seek the services they so desperately need. The meals are provided by area religious communities, and local businesses. The lunch has always been a great opportunity for client support, and it is a time for everyone to relax from the all too stressful environment that is unavoidable in the fight against AIDS.

Right now we’re are in great need of new enthusiastic groups and individuals to volunteer for our weekly Friday Potluck lunch. We are looking for groups of friends, coworkers, parishioners, etc., to volunteer to organize 1 or 3 (or more) lunches within the next year. It’s a simple project that yields much joy. All it involves is a group of people to organize a hot lunch for 30-40 people. The meal need not be elaborate, just healthy. We suggest that it include a hot entree and side dish, vegetables or a salad, fruit, and a desert. The meal is then delivered to the 4A’s office on the scheduled Friday at 11:30 am. The lunch begins at noon, and all volunteers are encouraged to stick around to join in the meal and visit.

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NorthView Classifieds & Want Ads

G


S

Share my condo. Seeking a pleasant, caring woman who does not drink in excess, does not smoke, and likes cats. She would have her own room and share the rest of the home. $325 per month includes utilities except long distance phone calls. Please call Shirley Randall-Harris at 338-3708(H) or 269-4592(W).

W

Woman wanted for small room in Lesbian household. $200/mo plus utilities. No smoke, no drink. Call 338-3962.
Scott Olson's Legacy
by Jan Olson

I've been a member of the Soldotna community since June of 1990. I'm a volunteer for the AIDS Task Force and chairperson for World AIDS Awareness Day Committee. I have been married for 40 years to a very loving and caring person. We have two precious daughters, one great son-in-law and three wonderful grandchildren.

Also, I'm Scott Olson's mother—Scott died 2 years ago this April from complications arising from AIDS.

I'm telling my story because of my son, my other loved ones, and because of all the other people out there that have or will be going through what I've gone through.

I now understand that if I tell my story, and only one other person ever benefits from hearing it, than my commitment to this cause, and the memory of my son, will have all been worth it. Sharing is one of the hardest things I have ever done.

God loaned Scott to me on Dec. 17, 1954, in the small town of Lisbon, ND. He was born with a cleft palate and cleft lip. I didn't get to take him home for six weeks as they did surgery, and he developed an infection in the lip and lungs.

When he was six months old, we discovered that he was afflicted with congenital glaucoma. Since this was not discovered at birth, the result was a loss of sight in his left eye. So significant was this loss, that the eye was able to see only fuzzy images, with no clarity possible.

At age 16, Scott was already the veteran of 16 major surgeries. At times it seemed like his life was being ruled by his appointment schedule with the doctors. Later, there was the necessity of orthodontics, speech classes and plastic surgery for palatal repair. In the end it all seemed to be worth it as the surgeries were successful. After our family moved to Anchorage, in 1971, there were no further operations needed.

Scott was always such a loving, likable child, teen-aged and finally adult. He was given the gift of being able to talk easily with young and old alike. After high school graduation, however, there was an uneasiness about him. After twice moving between Anchorage and Minnesota, he finally decided on living in Denver, Colo.

Being responsible by nature, he was never without work for very long. Mother's intuition finally worked, and I knew that something was troubling him. Looking back, I honestly can't remember if Scott told me himself or if it came up in conversation with his youngest sister, but we finally came to terms with his being Gay. I remember being very upset, but as he was our son, it didn't change the fact that we loved him dearly.

Love ran deep and turning him away was never an option. Who are we to choose out children's sexual orientation? Did someone choose ours? I've always been one not to judge people.

After a time, Scott was back in Anchorage, working in a men's clothing store. When he moved to Juneau to manage one of his company's stores. I knew something was wrong. He had changed so much, and his closeness to me was different. He did come out and tell our friends and relatives he was Gay, and about all the work he was doing for AIDS.

The next thing he told me was that he was HIV positive. I knew nothing about HIV/AIDS at that time. I was angry, and really didn’t know why.

In April of 1990, he came back to Anchorage.

Scott got a job at an Anchorage department store selling men's suits. A problem came up with the fact that he was HIV positive, and he was let go. He could have fought it, but by then he was starting to have health problems.

Nonetheless, he started his own house-cleaning business and worked at his own pace for a while. It soon came to a point where he started having more problems. He would never tell us how bad he really was. He always wanted to protect us.

Then, came Thanksgiving Eve 1992, and his first stay in the hospital.

From then on he was in and out of the hospital all too regularly. He was able to be at his sister's for Christmas. She had a baby on Dec. 18, the day after Scott's birthday. She called him Joshua Scott. How proud Scott was. He loved his niece and nephews so much. Christmas was about the last time he could be with them at home.

By then we just watched him wither away, day after day, getting weaker and thinner. It wasn't easy for any of us, but what must it have been for him, knowing there was no cure. He'd been HIV positive for eight or nine years—he knew the end was near.

He found the continual taking of medications intolerable. Oh, God, the strength it took him to say, “Doc, take me off all my medicine.” Then he asked, “How long do I have without it?” I will never forget the look on his face when the doctor said 10 days to three weeks. My heart broke, along with everyone else's who was in his room.

By the grace of God, we had the strength to make it. Scott gave us courage, because of how he handled everything. His AIDS buddy and his pastor did such a wonderful job preparing him, and being there to support all of us.

He had made amends to everyone he felt he should.

For two weeks my husband and I spent as much time as we could at the hospital. Those last two weeks we slept in his room. The hospital staff was wonderful. We even had Easter dinner brought in his room with our family all present. I couldn't believe all the people that came by. How the unconditional love flowed and all the hugs that went with it—and from people we never had met. The doctors said he wouldn't have lasted as long as he did if it hadn't been for all the love he got. Isn't it something, I had to learn what unconditional love is from the Gay community.

It made it a little easier to know Scott had made peace with his maker, and I only had a couple of regrets. Once, late at night, he wanted to talk. I was so tired that I asked if we could do it later. Well, we never had that talk. Also, I never got to hear him give one of his talks, which he did in several parts of the state. It's too bad he had to leave us because he had so much more to give.

He always wanted me to volunteer and I never did. But I promised him someday I would. It's been a year and a half now and hopefully I have healed enough that I can start doing more by coming out and telling my story.

For seven months I tried to get someone to come to the AIDS support group I organized. I would go and wait each alternating Thursday for one hour each and every month but no one came. I'm not giving up though. In October, I started
again. This time it's only once a month for a while. I have a
ew place so you can call hospice at 262-0453 or me at 262-
2589 for more information.

If you only knew how healing it is to talk with someone that
has gone through the same thing. Hospice, the AIDS Task
Force and myself all have a pamphlet that give all the phone
numbers for AIDS testing, hot lines and other help.

I beg you, don't let all the effort that people like Scott put in
telling his story and people that are teaching our loved ones,
all go down the drain. Some day, and unfortunately it is
probably not in the too distant future, you will come to know
someone who has been affected by the disease itself, or
someone very close to them who now has this dreaded
problem to deal with.

This is just the beginning of my story. The rest will come
in time, as I continue to heal and share with others.

Clarion Editor's Note: According to information from the
State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology, through June 30,
1994, 226 Alaskans have been confirmed to have AIDS. Of
these, 139 are known to have died. Through the same date,
520 of the 70,182 individuals voluntarily tested through the
Section of Laboratories, Division of Public Health, are positive
for HIV infection. Nationwide, more than 240,000 people
with AIDS have died since the disease was first reported in
the United States in 1981. According to the U.S. Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention, through June of 1994,
396,015 AIDS cases have been diagnosed in the United States.

Thanks to The Clarion (Soldotna), Nov 30, 1994, for this edited
version of Jan Olson's letter.

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Self-Healing
Massage
&
Reiki

Joyce Laing, C.M.T.
by Appointment
562-9166

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THE EYE

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE
MEDULLA OBLONGATA

Heard the one about FKF who complained that the P.O.
stole his NorthView? Seems he didn't receive it "on

time" and whined a lot. Come to find out he forgot to
pay his membership dues. Normal enough except that
he "is who he is." EYE doesn't think that sets a good
example, dear. Put a ticking in your checkbook for next year.

The saga of RMMF continues: we find our intrepid
couple at the Potluck. Seems it's dessert time and there's MT
(recent relocation from Southeast) talking to RM but holding a
cookie whilst doing so. MF, EYE notices, is fixating on the
cookie. Not your normal fixating, this. To EYE it appears
serious. Says MF, "where'd you get that--I didn't see those"
EYE notices some drooling, which, apparently, so did MT,
who graciously says "you can have it." MF takes cookie,
nibbles, eyes close, that feeling of ecstasy can be noticed, she
pounds the table--she's in heaven. EYE is a bit jealous--after
all and alas, EYE hasn't had that kind of relationship in years
and here MF's doing it with a cookie!! Alors, mes amis.

Quel fromage or words to that effect. Congrats to the
Court for such a "feed" at the Elks Club. EYE was impressed
by such a big "DO" for a measly $10! Same congrats for a
packed house go to Michelle for selling the most tickets
(honestly, the girl sold to practically everyone there!)

Large congrats to having live piano music (très classique!) during dinner, and to the sound crew for having perfect cues
for the performers' music. Shades of "Miss Myla:" the
dish in the skimpy Santa suit (suit?) took total command of
the stage and had the audience on their collective feet cheering
before she had finished her number. Go girl! Did our illustrious NV cover designer have his, er, ahem, lap full
during the evening's performance? Alours, darlings - eye
couldn't help but stare! In another arena, if you will, EYE
couldn't help but notice JS&LC. Item? Item? If you
weren't at the Capri New Year's party, you missed a very fun
evening. NJY won a door prize and EYE judged VC to be
scintillating in his New Year's SR-H, resplendent in her new
independence. One last note. EYE got the skinny that TL
is up to 8 on the Stair Master. Gracious goodness! EYE
would positively break a sweat at that level. EYE hears TL is
good with dates. Of a sort.
The Post-Stonewall Generation
by Michelangelo Signorile

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

Sara Marxck is an 18-year-old who lives with her mom in West Seattle, Washington. I went through a lot of stages of trying to figure things out. There was never any question in my mind as to whom I was attracted to, but I just didn’t identify myself as a lesbian at first. I was really afraid of how my family would react. I grew up in West Seattle, a small town, with my mother. She’s a born-again Christian. My father has been involved in my life, but my parents are divorced. My father was more supportive when I told him. My mother and I didn’t speak for three months. She still doesn’t talk about it much, but I do.

I feel really lucky to be a gay person right now. I mean, there’s a lot of polarization, and it’s really exciting, and it’s great to be right smack in the middle of it! People are either drastically against it or drastically for it. It’s in the news. It’s on people’s minds. I mean, everyone at my school knows—literally everyone. Sometimes it’s pressuring because I feel like a representative of the gay movement, or something. It’s important to me as an individual to be out. I didn’t do it to further the gay movement or anything. It’s just an issue that’s important to me, and I don’t keep quiet about issues that are important to me.

At school, my best friend, he’s out. And there’s one bisexual girl out. And that’s basically it. I mean, there are plenty of gay people there, but a lot of them are afraid.

At least two or three times a day I get called a dyke, but at the same time, being out, I have the opportunity to say what I really mean and to speak up for things that are important to me.

Being called a dyke and a bitch and a lezbie, those are words of power for me because those are words I’ve accepted. “Yeah,” I say, “I am a dyke,” you know? I mean, OK, sometimes it gets to me. People have pushed me. People have threatened me. I’ve gotten hate mail. One teacher tried to keep me out of his class. But being out, for all the good it’s done, it’s a worthy thing to take heat for. For me, it’s done a lot of positive things, and they really outweigh being called a dyke once in a while.

Jamie Stuart Nabozny, 18, lives in South St. Paul, Minnesota. I grew up in Ashland, Wisconsin. My dad does odd jobs, construction, plumbing, whatever he can get. We were on welfare for a while.

When I was 13 people started talking about me, because it came out in the newspaper that a youth minister in our town had abused someone, and everyone figured out it was me. It was a small town. After abusing me, he had abused my little brother, and I had caught him doing it, and at that point I called the police. That was when it went public. But I had been sexually abused since I was four years old by baby-sitters, relatives, friends of my parents. I felt like I was everybody’s sexual toy. Everybody had rights to my body, it seemed.

By the time I was a teenager I was having mutual, consensual sex with other boys my age. Some people say, “Well, didn’t the abuse make you gay?” But it’s just not true. I knew I was gay even before the first sexually abusive situation. I knew I was different from as far back as I can remember. Then, when my uncle and his lover came to visit when I was seven, I heard them talking about being gay and I realized I must be that too. I told my parents when I was 12, in a big meeting that included my grandmother, my school counselor, and others. My dad left the room, upset. My mom said she loved me anyway.

After the incident with the minister, people were always talking about me and asking me questions in that homophobic town. So when I was 15 I decided I had had enough. I decided to make up posters from gay magazines of men together and women together, and I put them on my locker, just like the kid was put pictures of people they liked on their lockers. That’s when I started having a lot of problems, in school and out of school. I stayed in Ashland until I was 17. I was severely depressed. I was trying to kill myself. I had all kinds of problems. And I ran away as a last resort. I called my parents and told them, “Either you won’t see me for a year until I turn 18, or you’ll let me move to Minneapolis and you’ll know where I’m at and you’ll know that I’m safe and I’ll visit you.” So they let me move.

I came out by my own choice. Most people think that I’m crazy and stupid for doing that. But I would not have had it any other way. I knew in my heart that the love I had for other guys could not be wrong in God’s eyes. And therefore I knew I was OK. One of my biggest heroes in life—besides Oprah Winfrey, because I love all that she’s done—is Martin Luther King. I really related to him, because in my town I felt like what it might be like to be the only black person in town. I knew that even though the whole town was saying that I was evil and wrong and perverted, I really wasn’t, and that some people out there agreed that what I was doing was right.

From the beginning, my dad didn’t talk about it. That went on for a few years. Then, when I was 15, he started having to talk about it, because I was coming out in school, wearing T-shirts saying that I was gay, going to Minneapolis for Gay Pride. My mom decided she had to start dealing with it. So she started buying every book she could possibly buy, and called all of these hot lines. She came to a great understanding and last year marched in the Pride parade with me and my boyfriend.

My dad has come so far. When he was younger, he used to beat up gay people and talk about how they should be killed. Now I talk to him about my sex life, my dating life, everything. He’s coming down for Pride next year.

I felt that I had to do all of this because I’m close with my family, and they just wouldn’t know their gay son if I didn’t tell them. But I feel that I have to work so hard, as a gay young person, and the adult gay people are just sitting back and saying, “It’s not our problem.” There aren’t very many positive role models. There are a lot of good gay and lesbian people out there, but they’re not visible—they’re closeted. It makes me angry.

I’ve been to the bars a couple of times, and I hate them. I don’t like going there. I don’t like the meat-market atmosphere. People think that I want what is considered a
straight lifestyle. No, I want everything that I deserve to have because I'm an American, because I'm human. I do want to get married. I do want kids. I do want to buy a house. I don't want to live in a big city. I want to live in the country, and I think I should be able to do that. And I will do that, whether or not people around me like it.

Thanks to Out Magazine, July/August, 1994.
Michelangelo Signorile is the author of Queer in America.

A gay in the life. by John Sieruta

Buy, a lesbian's apartment sure is different from a gay guys.

That's because everything here has meaning.

I painted the living room green because it symbolizes earth, peace and someone who community minded. The crystals have many purposes! I wear them to intuitively understand other people. Labradorite helps me connect with the energies of the universe. I beat that drum over there for spiritual reasons. But don't touch it, cause you're not grounded enough to reach a common ground.

What about that lamp?

I just have great taste.

Angie Slingluff
337-0253
COMPUTER SERVICES
Your Job Done Your Way
Layout, Simple Accounting, Mailing Lists, Thesis, Projects, Charts, Graphs, Overheads, Slides, You name it!

Alaska Pet Palace
Professional Grooming 276-0668
Between Fabricland and REI in the Northern Lights Center, Spenard & Northern Lights
272-0428

Permanent Hair Removal
GENTLE TOUCH ELECTROLYSIS CLINIC
- Thermolysis or Blend
- Medically Approved
- For Women and Men
- By Appointment
- Free Consultation

Anchorage:
Member: AEA, ISPE
Lake Otis Prof of Med. Center
4050 Lake Otis Parkway
Suite 203 561-6608

Island Watch Bed & Breakfast
"A room with a view"
Elise Mullin
POB 1294, Homer, AK 99603
907/235-2265
Queer Abby,

I think you missed an important point with your advice to "Double Standard". When her lover threatened to go to a hotel when they were at DS's mother's and put in separate bedrooms, DS told her that she never complained about being put in separate rooms at the lover's parents. You told them to either always get a hotel or put up with the parents. Why didn't you tell her to put her foot down and insist on always sleeping together no matter where they were? They're adults in the closest thing they could get to marriage, so why are they putting up with that bullshit? Your advice to them was weak at best.

Anon

Queer Anonymous Soul,

Yes, I didn't give that as an option. It was pretty clear that none of the parents were going to ever allow the couple to sleep together in their homes, so what good would obstinacy do? They'd just end up having to pay for a hotel anyway.

I still think sneaking together is viable (and infinitely cheaper). Besides, if they're anything like me, how could they possibly make any noise with Mom and Dad in the next room?

Queer Abby,

I just came out last summer and it's been the greatest thing. But there is one thing that I wish could change—the premium on a perfect body. Everywhere I look, abs and pecs and quads are all the biggest thing. A year ago, I couldn't have even located things like quads, but it seems like that's the most important thing now with my new friends. I'm sure you probably think the same thing, but I just needed to get it off my chest. I want to tell everyone that it doesn't matter what you look like, and the ones who care so much about looking good do it because they don't have anything else to offer—like brains.

Mike

Queer Abby,

Yeah, well...all I can add is that there are some well-built boys with incredible minds. You'll befriend them. Take a deep breath and smile.

Queer Abby,

How much of your column is real, and how much do you just make up? Tell the truth.

Anon

Queer soul,

Truth is stranger than fiction. Plus, chances are that if you sent it in a letter, others would have as well. But thanks—I'm flattered that you'd think me so creative!

Queer Abby,

What's the big deal about passing for straight?

David

Queer David,

Big deal? Do you mean the hyper-masculine images that choke the gay 'zines? Or the personal ads strewn with redundant "straight-acting, masculine" guys? Or the amazement of some straight people when they find out you're gay: "David, you?! But you don't act like it."

Oh, that big deal. Some call it internalized homophobia. You know, hating yourself for being gay. Perhaps it doesn't seem like it, but what else explains the fact that most of us cringe when we realize that a disproportionate number of men who lie are gay. But so what? I'll tell you what. Butchness is a conspiracy that starts with baby boys dressed in blue. But that's not all.

You see, the biggest insult for a man in our society is to be called a woman. What's that all about? Sexism, of course. Some guys are so terrified of losing their weenies that they'll go to outrageous lengths to make sure it's still there. Look at Atilla the Hun. As the comic said, "Oh, that Atilla. Who does she think she's fooling?" Honestly, how butch is a guy who is forever afraid that he might not be?

As Donald from HBO's "Brothers" said as he flung his slinky silk scarf over his shoulder, "It takes a real man to be seen like this in public!"

Queer Readers,

A couple months ago, someone asked what the best name is for our community, and I was surprised at the response. Here are my top five:

5. Los Angeles: I think that Queer describes us perfectly. Even non-radical people are using it.

4. Anchorage: Family is the best because nobody's left out.

3. San Bernardino: What was wrong with "gay"? For some reason, it's not for women anymore. Why not?

2. LesbiaGay. It covers everyone.

1. How about "fabulous"? (Where did I hear that one before?)

Most of the replies favored "Gay" with a capital G, or some variation, although now I'm stuck on fabulous!

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

Out North Theatre is seeking photos taken by both amateurs and professionals for an exhibition entitled "PEOPLE'S PHOTOS: Russian and the Soviet Union." The non-competitive exhibit will open in Grandview Gardens Cultural Center on February 2, in conjunction with the west coast premiere of SLAVS!, a new play by Tony Kushner set in Moscow before perestroika as well as in present-day Siberia.

Entries for "PEOPLE'S PHOTOS" may be of any subject, provided that they were taken in Russia or the Soviet Union, or countries that were once part of the U.S.S.R. Photos of people are particularly welcome. There are no size restrictions, and photos need not be framed, but must be ready to hang. On the back of each photo should be the photographer's name, address, and phone numbers, as well as information about the photo such as date, location, subject, and any interesting details. Narrative descriptions are encouraged. Up to six photos per photographer will be accepted, and all will be displayed, space permitting.

Photographers may make their work available for sale or for exhibit only. A 40% commission of any sales will go toward the fund to provide track lighting for visual arts displays at Grandview Gardens Cultural Center.

Photos must be received by January 28 and should be delivered or mailed to Out North, Grandview Gardens' Cultural Center, 1325 Primrose, Anchorage AK 99508. For more information call Gene Dugan at 279-8099.

Historic Merger Between ONE and The Archives

The Directors of ONE Incorporated are pleased to announce that after long negotiation and hard work, the ONE Institute of Homophile Studies and the International Gay and Lesbian Archives are merging their collections of Lesbian and Gay research material and their programs for Gay studies into a single organization. The new organization will go by the name of The ONE Institute, and the combined collection of books, magazines, files, videos, and archival material will continue with the name of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives. In this way, the names and traditions of both original institutions are persevered. The collection will be housed in a two-story building on Adams Boulevard that was formerly the offices of the Child Guidance Clinic of Los Angeles, now owned by the University of Southern California.

ONE, Incorporated, founded in 1952, is the oldest continuous Gay organization in the United States. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, ONE Incorporated hosted lectures and discussion groups, provided counseling and legal assistance to homosexuals, and published the first Gay magazine in the United States. The ONE Magazine (subtitled "The Homosexual Viewpoint") was the primary source of accurate and unbiased information about homosexuality for thousands of Gays and Lesbians throughout the world during the pre-Stonewall era. ONE's library began with the donation of several hundred books by member and former President (1957) Jim Kepner. At the time, the ONE board of directors agreed to provide as much accurate information as was available to meet the needs of the many Gays and Lesbians who came to ONE for support and understanding. The Blanche M. Baker Library (named after the psychiatrist who wrote an advice column for the ONE magazine) was at first an informal collection of any and all books about homosexuality. Members contributed what little they had in their private collections and shared hard-to-come-by information at a time when few libraries or bookstores would even consider carrying books on homosexuals.

Thanks to ONEletter, November-December 1994, P.O. Box 19028A, LA, CA 90019-1028.
Calendar

If you have any information or corrections for the Calendar, please call:
Toni: 333-3319, Ruth: 563-1324
Angie/Linda: 337-0253, Ken: 288-7722
Identity Hotline: 258-4777

◊ = Fairbanks
anyak = Juneau

Jan. 20, Fri:
- Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4A’s) Helpline training, 10:00am-4:00pm, call 263-2050
- PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian Parents, Partners & Prospective Parents evening, Potluck 6:30pm, video 7:30pm “Not All Parents Are Straight” (discussion follows), Woody/France at 364-2526
- Out North presents June Bride, Sara Felder, Jewish Lesbian juggler & comedian, 7:00pm, 279-8200
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A. St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska

Jan. 21, Sat:
- Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4A’s) Helpline training, 10:00am-4:00pm, call 263-2050
- Out North Performance Workshop: Sara Felder-Juggling Words and Objects, 1:00pm, $10.00, 279-8200
- KSUA, 103.9fm, 6:00-8:00pm, “Queer Beans” (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- Feminist Sing-a-long, 6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm singing, 1741 Westview Cir., Carol & Fran 333-0871
- Imperial Court Closet Ball, doors open at 6:30pm, show at 7:30pm, Blue Moon
- Out North presents June Bride, Sara Felder, Jewish Lesbian juggler & comedian, 7:00pm, 279-8200
- AGLA Fairbanks Dance, 9:00pm until... Dog Musher’s Hall
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska

Jan. 22, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00am (“How Do We Know What We Know?,” Art Curtis), and 10:30am (Congregational Meeting), 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3:00pm, Park Lanes. Call Bob for info: 561-8744
- Anchorage Lesbian Families’ Alliance (ALFA), 4:00-6:00pm. Mary & Val Jean’s, 276-3478
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jan. 23, Mon:
- Gay, Joyous and Free, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1FM, 7:00-9:00pm; call 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- Out North presents June Bride, Sara Felder, Jewish Lesbian juggler & comedian, 7:00pm, 279-8200
- Identity Hotline Volunteer Potluck, 7:00pm, call 258-4777 for information, directions

Jan. 24, Tues:
- 4A’s Volunteer Orientation, 5:30-7:30pm, light supper served. Call Wes Veatch at 263-2049
- Identity Board Meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF, 248-7722
- Out North presents June Bride, Sara Felder, Jewish Lesbian juggler & comedian, 7:00pm, 279-8200
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

Jan. 25, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4A’s, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- MCR&T meeting (Juneau), 7:00pm, call 586-6623 for info.
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- “Women’s Prerogative,” KTOO-FM, 9:00-10:00pm, Juneau
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm. $3 cover

Jan. 26, Thurs:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th (non-smoking)
- Imperial Court Fur Ready float work session, 7:00pm, Blue Moon, Scott, 243-2008
- L.M.R.U. Youth Group (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Metropolitan Community Church. Jerry Pendergrass speaks on HIV/AIDS. 258-4777

Jan. 27, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12:00-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A. St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Identity Potluck
(House Critters & Pet Care)
6:30pm: See Ad...
More Calendar

**Jan. 28, Sat:**
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- Mt. McKinley Bowl-a-thon, 2:00pm, Park Lanes, benefit for women with breast cancer & Breastshop. Call Cherrisse at 561-8744.
- KSUA, 103.9fm, 6:00-8:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- The Family (formerly LGBSA), 6:00-7:00pm, Arts Bldg, Rm 121, UAA. Social group after 7:00pm (bowling, dinner, etc.)
- Olivia Vacations Party, 7:00pm, call Suki, 789-4886
- Women's Coffee House, 8:00pm, Gretchen Legler and colleagues read from their works, Bona Dea: the Alaska Women's Bookstore, Barbara at 337-2011
- **Dancing in Fairbanks!** 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land.
- Ice Crystal Princess, Debut Review, "no later than midnight," Palace Saloon, $7.00

**Jan. 29, Sun:**
- AUUF Services, 9:00am, ("Zen Buddhism in Everyday Life," Judith Haggar, 10:30am, "Physician-Assisted Dying is Legal in Oregon," Peter Goodwin. 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am & 7:00pm, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- AGLA Sunday Chat, Fairbanks, 1:00pm-4:00pm at the Women's Center
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

**Jan. 30, Mon:**
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- HIV+ Men's Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women's music show on KRUA 88.1FM, 7:00-9:00pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests

**Jan. 31, Tues:**
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

**Feb. 1, Wed:**
- Free HIV TEST at 4As. 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- Alaska Women's Political Caucus, 7:00pm, United Methodist Church
- Q*Klatch Gathering, Time & Place TBA, call Eric, 455-4051
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- Blue Moon Folies, 10:00pm, S3 Cover
- "Women's Prerogative." KTOO-FM, 9:00-10:00pm, Juneau

**Feb. 2, Thurs:**
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- I.M.R.U. Youth Group (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Metropolitan Community Church. Jerry Pendergrass speaks on HIV/AIDS. 258-4777.
- Equal meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF, 337-5861
- Equal meeting, Interior Alaska Chapter, Fairbanks, 7:00pm, UAF Duckering, Rm. 531. Call Mark T at 457-6818
- Imperial Court Far Rondy float work session, 7:00pm, Blue Moon, Scott, 243-2008
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th (non-smoking)

**Feb. 3, Fri:**
- PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- **Dancing in Fairbanks!** 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land, Phil is DJ

**Feb. 4, Sat:**
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00noon, call 566-1133
- AGLA at Chena Hot Springs. Call 479-7348
- KSUA, 103.9fm, 6:00-8:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- Suzanne Westenhoefer, 8:00pm (Breskaven Productions), call 349-6480, or get tix at Bona Dea: the Alaska Women's Bookstore
- Women's Two-Step Dancing, 10:30pm—AFTER Suzanne (above), Pioneer School House
- **Dancing in Fairbanks!** 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land.

**Feb. 5, Sun:**
- AUUF Services, 9:00 & 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am, 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only) MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

**NorthView Deadline, 248-7722**
Feb. 6, Mon:
- HIV + Men’s Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
- Gay, Joyous and Free, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1FM, 7:00-9:00pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- ICAAA (Imperial Court Of All Alaska), 7:30pm, John Thomas Center.

Feb. 7, Tues:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

Feb. 8, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050

Feb. 9, Thurs:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)
- I.M.R.U. Youth Group (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Metropolitan Community Church. Jerry Pendergrass speaks on HIV/AIDS, 258-4777.
- Imperial Court Kur Rondy float work session, 7:00pm, Blue Moon, Scott, 243-2008
- Susan Johnson reads from her new story in "Mysterious Naiad," Bona Dea: the Alaska Women’s Bookstore, 7:00pm, 562-4716

Feb. 10, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- AGLA Fairbanks, 6:30pm, Rm 402, Grenning.
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A. St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand, Fairbanks

Feb. 11, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00noon; call 566-1133
- KSUA, 103.9fm, 6:00-8:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- OPAL Valentine’s Day Dance, 8:00pm, Pioneer School House

Feb. 12, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00am &10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowing League, 3:00pm, Park Lanes, 561-8744, Bob
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Feb. 13, Mon:
- HIV + Men’s Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
- Gay Bar, "Custody and Visitation Issues," legal Q and A., 7:00-8:30pm, call 279-5001
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women’s music show on KRUA 88.1FM, 7:00-9:00pm, 786-4846, make on-air requests.

Feb. 14, Tues:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133
- Valentine’s Day!!

Feb. 15, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050

Feb. 16, Thurs:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- I.M.R.U. Youth Group (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Metropolitan Community Church. Jerry Pendergrass speaks on HIV/AIDS, 258-4777.
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Feb. 17, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A. St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand.
Feb. 18, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- KSUA, 103.9 fm, 6:00-8:00 pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- Roderick Teh, 8:00pm, Metropolitan Community Church, benefit for MCC, call Rev. Morgan, 258-5266
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Feb. 19, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00am & 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3:00pm, Park Lanes, 561-8744, Bob
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Feb. 20, Mon:
- HIV+ Men's Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women's music show on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7:00-9:00pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests

Feb. 21, Tues:
- P-FLAG Fairbanks, 5:30pm, Nancy, 479-4944

Feb. 22, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- "Women's Prerogative," KTOO-FM, 9:00-10:00pm, Juneau
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm. $3 Cover

Feb. 23, Thurs:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- U.M.R.U. Youth Group (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Metropolitan Community Church. Jerry Pendergrass speaks on HIV/AIDS. 258-4777
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Feb. 24, Fri:
- PLWA lunch. 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A. St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Feb. 25, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- KSUA, 103.9 fm, 6:00-8:00 pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- Women's Coffeehouse, Erotic Poetry Reading, 8:00pm-10:00pm, Bona Dea: the Alaska Women's Bookstore, Call Barbara S. 337-2011. Men Welcome!
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Feb. 26, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00am & 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3:00pm, Park Lanes, 561-8744, Bob
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Feb. 27, Mon:
- HIV+ Men's Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Women's music show on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7:00-9:00pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Feb. 28, Tues:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland
The Belle of the Call
by Lesléa Newman

"Hey Flash, what's a four letter word ending in K that means intercourse?"

"Is that a hint?" my ever-ready girlfriend asks.

"No. I chew on my pencil. You can't say fuck in a crossword puzzle. It begins with a T."

"I know," Flash says.

"What?"

"I'll give you a hint. It's your second most favorite activity."

"Talk!" I easily fill in the letters. Of course, I, like most femmes, love to talk. Especially on the telephone.

I have always loved talking on the phone. I was your typical teenager, on the phone for hours, my hair in rollers, my right ear glued to the receiver from the minute I got home from school until my mother yelled, "Get off the phone right now and get down here for supper!"

No one else in my family ever stood a chance of receiving a call. Of course we didn't have call-waiting then. I love call-waiting. My friend Mitzi, who is not a phoneaholic, calls it "call-invading." Whenever we're talking and I ask her to hold on because I'm getting another call, she hangs up on me. I think that's rude. Of course Mitzi thinks it's rude when I say, "Can you hold on?" while she's crying her eyes out because she just found out her girlfriend kissed someone else. Maybe I was being just a teensy bit insensitive. But what can I say? Whenever the phone rings, my heart leaps in anticipation. Who can it be? My agent, telling me she just sold my novel? Flash, telling me to meet her at noon for a quickie? Of course it could be a wrong number, or worse, my therapist canceling our appointment, or worse yet, my mother reminding me to send Aunt Yenta a birthday card. It could be good news or bad, but the point is I've got to know.

On the opposite end of the spectrum from Mitzi is my friend Raven, the queen, and I do mean queen of the telephone. Raven gives such good phone that often while we're talking, I will ignore the beep of my call-waiting because it's a sin to interrupt Raven in the middle of a good dish. But Raven will interrupt himself. "Aren't you going to get that?" he'll snap. Raven, a true Chatty Cathy like myself, is phone-codependent. He is just as curious as I am to see who's on the other line. Of course after I finish my second call and click back to Raven, he's gone off on another call himself. Then, while I'm waiting for him, I'll get another call, and in the middle of that call, my call-waiting will beep and it'll be Raven, back on the line. So then Raven and I have to talk about everything we just talked about with our other callers.

You have to watch Raven, though. Once in a while I'll hear a click that sounds like a pen tapping against the receiver and he'll say, "Whoops, gotta go." Raven doesn't know that I know there's a gadget on the market called "Gotta Go!" a device that imitates call-waiting. The person you're talking to hears a click that sounds like you're getting another call, but you're not. When I mentioned this to my mother, she laughed. "I've had that for years," she said. "It's called 'Somebody's-At-The-Door.'"

My mother is obviously a woman ahead of her time, except for one thing. She doesn't have an answering machine. Of course I adore my answering machine. I write down all my messages and decide who I'm calling and who I'm not calling back. This is the downside of having an answering machine. Gone are the days when you could say, "You called Thursday? My girlfriend never told me." One can only say, "My answering machine was broken," so many times. Of course the flip side of this is you can call people you don't want to talk to when you know they're not home. Simply leave a message when you know they're at work: "I'm leaving you for Henrietta." Or, "I still don't have the two-hundred I owe you. Sorry."

Flash doesn't understand my fascination with the phone. For Flash, a phone call is a means to an end: "Wanna go to Angelo's party? I'll pick you up at seven." Now Raven and I, on the other hand, will be on the phone for hours. "Are you going to Angelo's party? What are you wearing? Skirt or jeans? Glasses or contacts? Will Bennett be there? Bennett is so cute. Hold on. I'm back. Angelo says Bennett isn't coming and we should bring drinks. What do you think, wine? White or red? Hang on. Are you there? Mitzi wants us to pick her up. What's Mitzi wearing? Her sleazy girlfriend isn't coming, is she? Did you hear what she said? Hold on. I'm back. Angelo says bring a corkscrew. Should we go in your car or mine? What time does it start? Eight or eight-thirty? When should we get there? Nine? Ten? Should we go out for drinks first? Where, the Pub or the Bar? Should we ask Mitzi to come or pick her up after?"

In the middle of all this, I have a real life déjà vu experience. In a voice not unlike my mother's, Flash yells, "Get off the phone right now and get out here for supper!"

"Whoops," I say to Raven. "Somebody's at the door. Gotta Go!" I walk out into the kitchen and see that my beloved Flash has set the table with flowers and champagne. If I play my cards tight, we might be in for a little intercourse tonight. You know, the other kind that doesn't begin with the letter T.

I can't wait to call Raven and tell him.

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