MOM, STOP CRYING! PATTY AND I AREN'T BREAKING UP!
WHAT I SAID WAS, IT'S 'SPRING BREAK-UP' ...
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Identity NorthView

Identity NorthView is a monthly publication of Identity, Inc., a non-profit (501(c)(3)), Alaskan corporation concerned with issues of sexual identity. The NorthView is published as a community service and the views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the directors, officers, or members of Identity, Inc. The publication of an individual's or organization's name or photo in NorthView is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons or organizations unless so specified.

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Upon request, you may the NorthView in a First Class large envelope. Cost is $60.00 per year (includes membership in Identity and private mailing).

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Submissions: We welcome articles and letters from community individuals and organizations. Ideal length is 1,000 words or less. Please submit, if at all possible, on 3.5 or 5.25 diskette (IBM OK or MAC HIGH DENSITY ONLY). All media will be returned. All contributions must be signed, but upon request names will be withheld or pseudonyms used. NorthView reserves the right to edit as necessary and to refuse to print any article submitted.

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

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

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

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

Fourth Friday Potluck & Social

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

Date: Friday, April 28

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

Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. 3201 Turnagain St.

Program: Annual Meeting plus The Family (UAA). The student group from UAA, fresh from its "Fight the Right" and "Stop the Hate" campaigns shares vital information. Also, vote for people to fill the 5 seats on the Identity Board of Directors: 5 seats are open, with 3 incumbents and 3 new voices. If you're not a paid member you can sign up at the meeting and vote, too!

EQUAL
Equality Under Alaskan Law

Meets Thursday, May 4 (7pm), at the Metropolitan Community Church, 615 Hollywood Dr. (Govt. Hill).

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Phone: 274-9226 Internet: equal907@aol.com

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And because they don't see their desired results happening quickly enough, they move into mainstream politics, much of the time as stealth candidates. They run for School Boards and Municipal Assemblies and in their campaigns they lie and smear their opponents, and when they get elected, they then openly pursue their agenda of hate and repression.

Make no mistake, the groups listed in the footnote and those connected with their agenda (Dr. Prevo, et al.) firmly believe that human worth can be determined by race. Tragically, they also behind the disinformation campaign about the Holocaust (it never happened) and the rise of anti-Semitism.

Another tactic they use is called grazing, i.e., they put forward their national policies (not all of which agree with each other), and then denounce anyone who disagrees or questions the dogma. Without stopping to allow detailed investigation, they move on to other theories (disinformation). And simultaneously, they go out, canvass your neighborhood with sensational lies or with the "no special rights" phrases, get elected to local, municipal, state and then national office.

I could go on about the speech Scot gave—he was brilliant and did a masterful job of laying out the strategies and weaknesses of the Rightist Movement.

What is needed now, however, is a warning. A warning to the Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, Transsexuals, Cross-Dressers and Transvestites of Alaska: Don't believe for a minute that you are safe. Don't believe for a second that the swing to the Right/right in this country isn't affecting you NOW. Don't believe for an instant that the personal isn't political.

Everything you do, think, say and do is political. Why? Because we are outlaws. There are no laws in this state that protect us against any onslaught the Right wishes to make. Don't believe me? Ask almost anyone, Gay or not Gay, if we have protections and they'll almost all say, Yes, we are protected under State and Federal laws, even if not specifically by the municipality. And I challenge you to ask them what it would take to protect those rights. A recent example is a Gay man who was evicted from his apartment because he is Gay. Could he fight it? Of course! If he had tens of thousands of dollars and unlimited time to go through the court system, set up a test case, and pursue it to the bitter end. And even then, there's no guarantee because there's no law that specifically states that being Gay isn't a reason to be evicted from a rental dwelling or to be fired from a job.

Just being Les/Bi/Gay/Trans or Cross IS political. Your existence is political, whether or not you believe it yourself or tell anyone else. When you hide your Orientation, your Culture, from anyone, you are making a political statement: "I don't want others to know who I am. This very important facet of my existence I choose to keep secret." That is a political act--of subterfuge of...
your own life! Exactly what the Rabid Right, the Dr. Prevo and Falwells and Robertsons and Helmses and Buchanans want us to think of ourselves. Did you see the ads on T.V. during "Serving in Silence"? One ad is set in a funeral parlor, as if to suggest that to be Gay is to be dead. The personal is political for Dr. Prevo, as well, but he’s using it for the most heinous of reasons, genocide. Genocide advocated by him and all his ilk. Remember, he is part of an international network that wishes everyone not white and male to be subjugated or dead. So, while you may not hear Dr. Prevo actually say those things (he didn’t advocate shooting liberals, remember, just talked about it a lot, about how people in his church shouldn’t go out and shoot people), he is a part of that network.

You’ve read it here before: what can you do? Is there any hope? Yes, there is plenty you can do. Yes, there’s hope. We’ve made some amazing inroads and advances recently, and you can be sure the Rabid Right will react violently to oppose and stop those advances.

Get involved NOW. Look at all the organizations that need your help. Look at Equal, at the MCC, at the Fall Conference Committee, at Identity, at OPAL, at the Klondyke Kontakt, Bona Dea-the Women’s Bookstore, Lesbian Moms, Mt. McKinley Club, the Imperial Court, the 4A’s, AGLA (Fairbanks), Fairbanks Gay Youth, the Family, Feminist Sing-a-Long, Interior AIDS Association, P-FLAG (Anchorage and Fairbanks), Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA), and on and on. By getting involved, you are making a political statement, even if you’re not out on the streets shouting, or in the Board Rooms arguing, or in the political arena. You’re making a statement that you will support a civil rights movement on a parallel with the Black Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s.

You’re making a statement that you care about yourself enough to stop living a lie, or even a partial lie, that you won’t live as a partly invisible person, who can’t stand with dignity in any society because the unspoken truth is always lurking behind the closet door.

Dignity is not bought cheaply. Nor is self respect. If you’re not currently active in some organization, or giving money to support one, please own the damage you’re doing to yourself and consequently to everyone else who needs to grow and heal as much as you. And me.

F. Kenneth Freedman is co-Chair of Identity. Inc.

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Deadlines: All articles must be received by the 5th of the month for inclusion in that month’s NorthView.
Criminal Transmission Bill a Bad Effort in HIV Battle
by Rita DeSouza

While perhaps well-intentioned, Senate Bill 91 (criminal transmission of HIV, sponsored by Sens. Robin Taylor and Rick Halford) is shortsighted and counterproductive in combating this state's worst public health nightmare: HIV disease.

While all of us agree that a person who would knowingly transmit this deadly virus to another should be punished, what is wrong with existing statutes such as assault, sexual assault, rape and attempted murder?

If we are going to single out HIV disease for specific criminal action, why are we not also including sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and other communicable diseases that lead to bodily harm and death?

Our concern without the direction taken by SB 91 is that it will discourage people from being tested for HIV. From a legal standpoint, if you don't know you are HIV positive, how could you ever knowingly pass it to another?

The World Health Organization tells us that 90 percent of people with HIV disease do not even know they have it. In view of this fact, we don't need more disincentives to testing.

We cannot pass laws or adopt policies that will drive this disease underground, causing it to spread more rapidly, because people would be fearful of getting tested. That is exactly why measures similar to SB 91 have been defeated in the Lower 48.

Legislators' concerns could be better addressed by recognition that education/prevention is the only answer to this deadly epidemic.

There is no cure for HIV disease, and there quite likely won't be well into the next century, according to scientists. Why then all the waffling and obstructionism on the Healthy Student Bill, killed last year in Alaska's Senate?

What of the will of the people and their desire as expressed in a section of an epidemiology statewide survey every two years for the past six years, that education about HIV disease be taught in our public schools? Ninety-six percent of those polled said we should teach our children how to protect themselves from this deadly disease. Seldom in polls are such overwhelming numbers seen.

Why is our Legislature fast-tracking this type of legislation that gives a negative connotation to those suffering from this disease and why do they politically stall and block positive legislation that would truly be effective in stemming the tide of this epidemic in our young population today?

The time has come for us to protect our population from HIV disease, particularly our young people who are in the greatest danger, and the first step in doing that is for the Legislature to stop playing political games with the Healthy Student Bill.

Rita DeSouza is the Executive Director, ALHIV (Alaskans Living with HIV) ▼

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LesBiGay Culture and The Net

From: Bliss@usm.maine.edu (Lawrence Bliss), Date: Fri, 31, Mar 1995 17:04:33-0500, Subject: Re: Is There A Gay Culture?

In GayNet Digest for Wednesday, 29 March 1995 (Volume 16; number 484) craigdh@pegasus.rutgers.edu (Craig Davis) asked: "I wonder if there is really something in existence that we could call "the Gay culture" (or "counterculture"), if you prefer".

Some time ago ANDREW OF AMERICA (Gosh, I miss him!) spoke to us on that very issue. I happened to save it. He said:

ANDREW OF AMERICA here, so surprised (and a little disappointed) that we are all so down on ourselves about Gay culture!

We ARE culture!

Remember Clarence, the angel who gets his wings in "It's A Wonderful Life"? Well, kiddies let's take a look at the world if ALL LesBiGays and their accomplishments had never been born: (Cheesy dreamy music plays)

There is NO CHRISTMAS because JESUS CHRIST IS NEVER BORN because KING DAVID his ancestor who was in love with JONATHAN is never born.

* The Book of Psalms (attributed to David) disappears from the Hebrew Bible.
* The Statue of Michelangelo's David disappears from Florence.
* Florence disappears because there was no Christian nobility to patronize all the Gay artists (who were never born) in the Renaissance (which never happened) in Catholic Europe (which never was).
* Michelangelo's (the nonexistent queer artist) Sistine Chapel ceiling disappears along with the rest of the chapel, Vatican City, the Papacy, and all the Lesbian nuns and queer monks.

* Since the monks are gone because the Church is gone because Jesus was never born because King David was never born, all of the Western thought prior to the fall of Rome is gone because it was burned when the Germanic tribes sacked and burned Rome because there was no one to protect and preserve the manuscripts.

* So we can kiss good-bye all the works of the Greek philosophers (the point that Plato was queer is now moot, they are ALL gone), the Roman poets and playwrights, the architectural and legal accomplishments.
* Forget Shakespeare and all his sonnets to that young man.
* Nix Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein and Auden.
* Flush Noel Coward's comedies and Gilbert and Sullivan's Operetta's
* Vanquish Broadway and its showtunes.
* Good-bye Elton John, Good-bye Norma Jean.
* Farewell Vanity Fair magazine and Kevin Seagulls.
* Kiss James Dean and Sal Mineo bye bye.
* There is no Rock and Roll. Period.
* The fashion industry...What fashion industry?
* Even if the crowned heads of Europe could've evolved from the dust of the fallen Roman Empire without Christianity, 77 of history's greatest monarchs—including Frederick the Great, Peter the Great, Rupert, Edward II, a few Holy Roman

Emperors—all disappear, and you can forget about America because:

* America could never have won the Revolutionary war without the stratagems of a queer German General hired by Washington.

So the next time you hear someone sneer at queers and hypothesize wistfully "I wonder what the world would be like without all these dykes and queers?"

Try saying, a fat, flat, grey, tyrannical world of tribal societies living in caves eating each other's flesh, praying to idols, keeping women barefoot and pregnant with no say...sans religion, music, art, science, philosophy...in effect with culture.

For God in his/her infinite wisdom has used the subtle and base things of this world to be his chosen and elected vessels for great glories;

And we have been selected and created as a gift to mirror the divine image in the wonders we create for his delight and our pleasure.

Chins up now. Smile a knowing smile till we inherit the earth we have labored so diligently to preserve.

—ANDREW OF AMERICA

Anymore questions about Gay Culture? Hmmmm?

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Career Services and Cooperative Education
University of Southern Maine
96 Falmouth Street
Portland, Maine 04104
Internet: Bliss@USM.Maine.Edu
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To Shop or Not To Shop
by Leslea Newman

To shop or not to shop? That is the question one Sunday when Flash, the cat and I are lounging around drinking various forms of cream (straight up or with coffee).

"It's a beautiful day," Flash says.

I agree. "It's a beautiful day for shopping."

"But you don't need anything."

"Yes I do. I need to shop."

But that she is, Flash doesn’t understand a woman's need to run her hands through racks of leather and silk. Flash gets no thrill from trying on trendy, over-priced, poorly-made garments she has no intention of buying, but I do.

And so an hour later we arrive at the mall. I race through the parking lot with Flash in hot pursuit. "Slow down," she pants. "We've got all day."

"No we don't. The mall closes at five."

"But it's noon."

"My point exactly." I yank open the door to Filenes and rush to the shoe department. "Ooh, look." I pick up a pump as Flash groans. "More black shoes? Don't you have like 7 pairs?"

"No," I say, indignantly. I have like 27 pairs. I have one inch heels, two inch heels, three inch heels, Cuban heels, platform heels, mules, slingbacks and slides. I have black heels with ankle straps, black heels with cut-out toes, black heels with ankle straps and cut-out toes. I have black heels of velvet, suede, crushed leather, patent leather, and man-made materials I don't really need another pair of black shoes.

But these are so cute. They're suede mini-boots with two inch heels and a heart shaped zipper on the side. It's love at first sight and they fit perfectly. "Are you getting them?"

Flash asks.

"I'll have her hold them." I nod toward the salesclerk and Flash shakes her head. I have had dozens of salesclerks in different shops hold things for me for hours. Why? It leaves my hands free, making it easier to shop.

That done, we leave the shoe department and immediately get stuck in gridlock at the Clinique counter.

"What's going on?" Flash asks.

"They're giving out free gift packages," I squeal. "Look, all you have to do is buy $13.00 of cosmetics."

"How is that free?" Flash wants to know.

I ignore her and elbow my way up to the counter. I buy a lip pencil and mascara which I receive along with my free bonus gift in a huge shopping bag.

"Isn't this great? I am flush with the excitement of the first purchase. Now the pressure is off; I won't go home empty-handed.

"The greatest," Flash says. She sounds exhausted, but I have just begun to shop.

I drag her across the mall to Steigers, which is going out of business. Everything is at least 40% off. My fingers fly through the racks at olympic speed. And then I see something across the room that makes me tremble.

A beaded black sweater. Made of cashmere. With shoulder pads.

Flash states the obvious. "You have a black sweater."

Now of course I don't have a black sweater. I have dozens of black sweaters. A scoop neck, V-neck, crew neck, boat neck, turtle neck, crew neck and an off-the-shoulder. I have a button-down, a backless, a knee-length, and one that's cropped to my naval. I have black sweaters with long sleeves, short sleeves, 3/4 sleeves and Dolman sleeves. I have black sweaters of wool, cotton, cashmere, mohair, velour, and acrylic. I even have a beaded black sweater. But not like this one.

"Hold please." I give Flash my Clinique bag and my pocketbook. Then I race into the dressing room and fling off my blouse like some sex-starved manic. Gently I ease the sweater off its hanger, slide it on and turn to admire myself in the mirror. The third button from the top is missing, but that's a minor detail. I am gorgeous.

I find Flash. "What do you think?"

"It's you.""

"Really?"

"Really. Why is one sleeve rolled up?"

Flash points to my right arm. I roll down my cuff and see a tiny pin as something hits the ground. "Oh my God," I gasp. "The missing button." Tears fill my eyes. I am so moved by the kindness of some stranger, who cared enough to keep sweater and button united so that some other shopper could completely enjoy the garment. Of course I still consider slipping the button into my pocket, and demanding the salesclerk give me another 10% off. But I don't.

"Are we done for the day?" Flash can't hide the hope in her voice as she takes my package.

"Let me just get those shoes." We head back toward Filenes. "They're perfect for this sweater. All I need is a black skirt."

"Don't you have a black skirt?"

No, I don't have a black skirt. I have many black skirts: a mini-skirt, a maxi-skirt and a midi-skirt that's slat halfway up my thigh. A velvet skirt, a rayon skirt, a leather skirt, a wool skirt, and one with gold buttons going up the side. I have a pleated skirt, a skin-tight skirt, and a suede skirt that came with a matching jacket.

Of course when we get home I try on my new black sweater and shoes with several skirts and various black stockings (opaque, mesh, fishnet, sheer, seamed, lace) while Flash watches a Laverne and Shirley rerun. During a commercial I pirouette in front of her. "What do you think?"

"Your seams are crooked."

"Fix them." I hike up my skirt and Flash checks my seams. All of them. Very very carefully. Luckily it's a long commercial.

Hours later Flash and I change into our pajamas and crawl into bed exhausted but content. Just like any other typical American family after a day at the mall.

Leslea Newman is the author of seventeen books, the newest ones being a young adult novel, Fat Chance, and a short story collection, Every Woman's Dream. She is currently working on a book of columns called Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear.
INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING
"BEARING WITNESS"
BY MARVIN LIEBMAN

It began as an emergency gathering of a few Lesbians and Gay men. It ended up as a unified force that taught the whole community a lasting lesson of courage and hope. They called themselves Bearing Witness, a loose coalition of religious leaders and local organizations from the Tidewater area of Virginia. They came together to support Mel White, the Gay minister and activist, who once ghostwrote for such antiGay luminaries as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell. It was while seeking a meeting with Pat Robertson at his Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) headquarters on February 15, 1995, that White was arrested for trespassing and later jailed.

First comprising only a few Lesbians and Gay men, Bearing Witness quickly expanded to include people from the mainstream of the community, who were similarly concerned about Robertson’s sanctimonious extremism and the need to challenge his theology of intolerance. Under the leadership of Alicia Herr, Loen Arlington and Dawn Rankin-Phipps, Bearing Witness grew and attracted attention to White’s jailhouse fast following his arrest.

It is from his offices at CBN that Robertson also directs the Christian Coalition, the million-member, right-wing political group which has been widely credited for electing the new conservative Republican members to Congress. Among other charges, Robertson has been accused of promoting anti-Gay discrimination and violence, as well as covert anti-Semitism. In spurning the invitation to meet, Robertson rejected White’s offer to “…try to help him understand the terrible consequences of his false and inflammatory rhetoric …which leads directly to discrimination, suffering, and death.” After Mel White refused to leave the CBN compound and was arrested on Robertson’s orders, he vowed to remain in solitary confinement in the Virginia Beach jail and fast until Pat Robertson agreed to meet with him.

Without the unflagging efforts of Bearing Witness and Mel White’s resolve, the public spotlight on Robertson’s intolerance might have faded quickly. But Bearing Witness was determined. Every day, for twenty-three days, a delegation from Bearing Witness went to the CBN headquarters in a fruitless, but stubborn, attempt to give Pat Robertson a single rose and plead that he meet with the over-reaching Mel White. Each day, and late into each night, volunteers doggedly worked to publicize Mel White’s struggle.

Press releases, faxes, telephone calls, culminating on March 5th with an all-community Truth Vigil in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Norfolk, in which I was proud to participate. Thanks to the heroic efforts of Bearing Witness volunteers, and Mel White’s courageous perseverance, the controversy drew national attention. Finally, at 8:00 pm on March 8, 1995, the 23rd day of White’s fast, Pat Robertson went to the Virginia Beach jail — “as an act of compassion,” he said — to meet with Mel White. Mel White and Bearing Witness won their battle, another small victory for Gay activism.

Mel White’s fast provided the catalyst, but local Lesbian and Gay people provided the key ingredients — the skills and volunteers to carry on the struggle. Bearing Witness is in the great American tradition of citizens organizing and fighting at the local level to achieve such goals as safety and equality that cut to the core of their own lives, yet which resonate far beyond the localities involved. Such local action represents the correct priority for our Gay and Lesbian community.

If this local organizing signifies the great American tradition of community action, Robertson’s preaching, pitting neighbor against neighbor, epitomizes its antithesis. Much of the local mainstream support for Bearing Witness came from the recognition that their peaceful Virginia community was not impervious to the kinds of bigotry they thought flourished only in foreign places. Our country is the great melting pot, growing ever stronger in the diversity of all of its people. But this vision would be history, they realized, if Pat Robertson continued to gain power and went unchallenged in his quest to re-invent America. Indeed, as a long record of public statements has made clear, Pat Robertson’s America has no room for people who do not fit into his vision of a Christian paradise on earth — especially homosexuals.

Pat Robertson lines his pockets by fanning fear and hatred of Gays, all the while deploying arguments and code words culled from old attacks on Communists and Jews. When the Berlin Wall came down, anticomunism, the cement that held the disparate pieces of the American conservative movement together, had to be replaced by a new enemy. Who? Homosexuals! The same rhetoric used against the Communists to raise money for the ongoing “conservative” machine could be used again, almost word for word, against homosexuals. They are taking over the media, the schools, the libraries, and are infiltrating every segment of our society, even the churches. They are disease-ridden and unhealthy. They are the children of Satan and must be stopped! They are outside of God’s care and mercy. They are the anti-Christ. They must be erased from our midst. In the name of God!”

White and Bearing Witness were correct to call attention to Pat Robertson’s anti-Gay extremism and the mortal danger he poses to Lesbian and Gay Americans. While Robertson has been the target of public criticism of late for his occasional brushes with anti-Semitism, his anti-Gay remarks have so far escaped such public denunciations. Gays threaten Robertson’s goal of earthly paradise, just as my own Jewish forbears stood between Hitler and his vision of an Aryan paradise in Europe. They were exterminated. If Pat Robertson prevails, why should it be different here? The United States is not immune. Robertson’s attack on Gays should bring down the same public scorn and criticism that confronts his anti-Semitism.

Pat Robertson, and the other preachers of hate, have twisted the words of Jesus Christ to achieve their own ends, including immense personal wealth and political power. American Lesbians and Gay men share with the Jewish community the responsibility and duty to consistently monitor and challenge Robertson’s rhetoric of hate, be it overt or as it is leveled against Gays and Lesbians, or covert and coded, as it is leveled against Jews. As Bearing Witness and Mel White pointed out, the grounds for holding Robertson accountable lie in the religious texts whose image he has so polluted. A little more bearing witness to this hypocrisy will go a long, long way.

Identity, Inc. and NCOD:

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Identity T-shirts: $10.00 each
100% cotton; will shrink some in first wash. Pink & Black logo on white background.
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100% Cotton, preshrunk, Sizes: L & XL ($25), XXL ($27), XXXL ($29)
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Shipping & Handling: $4.00
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Dad is Gay Man's Best Friend
by Edward Guthmann
Chronicle Staff Critic

In The Sum of Us, an Australian comedy that opens soon at the Capri Cinema on Tudor road, Russell Crowe plays Jeff, a Gay plumber looking for love in contemporary Sydney, and Jack Thompson is Harry, Jeff's dad, roommate and unflaggingly upbeat booster.

Taking a big departure from the Gay son-straight father relationships that we're accustomed to seeing, Harry not only loves and approves of his son, but also does his best to fix him up with Mr. Right.

When Jeff meets Greg (John Polson), a shy good-looking gardener, and brings him home from the local pub, it's Harry who barges in and plays host—offering beers, chatting up the prospective boyfriend and embarrassing Jeff with his bad jokes and back-slapping bonhomie.

Based on Play

A Cheery ode to diversity, tolerance and family ties, The Sum of Us is based on a play, written by Australian screenwriter David Stevens' (Breaker Morant), that played in 1990 at the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York, and in 1994 at the Marin Theatre Company.

The film version, also written by Stevens, was co-directed by Kevin Dowling, who mounted the New York stage production and Geoff Burton, a veteran Australian cinematographer (Sirens, Dead Calm).

Delivered with an upbeat, unashamedly Gay-positive slant, The Sum of Us is played with robust spirit by Crowe and Thompson, both of whom cut their cinematic teeth on tough-fisted roles—Thompson on Breaker Morant and The Man from Snowy River, Crowe in Romper Stomper and the recent The Quick and the Dead.

At times, the film feels like a big slice of Gay wish fulfillment—an idealized look at a relationship that most Gay men wish they could have with their fathers, but rarely do. Harry is such a dream—not only a Superdad, but also cook, therapist, best pal and drinking buddy—that you can't help thinking, "Can this guy be real?"

In flashbacks, we see Harry joining Jeff on a Gay pub crawl, where he makes friends with a pair of leather boys.

"I'd never met any woolly woofers," he confides in one of the film's direct-to-camera asides. "I wanted to find out what this was all about."

For Harry, there's no problem with Jeff being out of the closet and living at home. "If Jeff can't be at home here," Dad asks, "where can he be?"

Of course, Harry's got a head start in understanding alternative loves: Years ago, his mother took a Lesbian lover after Harry's dad had died.

It's not just Harry who goes against the grain of cultural stereotypes, but Jeff, as well. The antithesis of an urban Gay "clone" Jeff plays soccer, works as a plumber, isn't blissed out on Madonna or Barbra and chooses to live at home instead of joining the flock in Sydney's Gay ghetto.

The film doesn't spell it out, but you get the impression that Jeff—a loner, a tad melancholic and definitely a misfit in the Gay world—is probably less comfortable with his lifestyle than his dad is.

Staying short of smothering his talk with Harry's aggressive cheerfulness, Stevens introduces the character of Joyee (Deborah Kennedy) a middle-aged divorcee who meets Harry through a dating service, gets serious and then pulls back when she learns about Jeff.

Homophobia's Roar

We also hear the roar of homophobia when Greg's dad, a rigid martinet, happens to catch a glimpse of his son on the evening news, cavorting at Sydney's Gay Mardi Gras. Disgusted, he promptly banishes Greg from his home.

Ultimately, The Sum of Us isn't a testing ground for straight attitudes toward homosexuality, but a testament to parental love. Harry's love is unconditional, simple and pure, and when it becomes necessary, it follows that Jeff should respond in kind, with loving devotion.

It's also a film about the need for companionship—an impulse that transcends every kind of human division, sexual or otherwise. There's a nice moment, early in the film, with Jeff sits in the kitchen and tells a story to the camera that makes clear his feelings about love.

Incident on Train

It's an anecdote about an older woman he observed on a train: Roaring drunk and pathetic, the woman had staggered, Jeff remembers, and muttered something about "the agonizing pain."

"I knew what she meant," he says, "the lack of someone to talk to, to have fun with, cuddle up to."

Thompson brings skill, humor and conviction to The Sum of Us, as does Crowe, who at 28 looks primed for stardom. My only quibble with the film is its uses of asides—a stage convention in which the actor addresses the audience (or in this case, the camera) to comment on the plot or another character.

That's a gimmick that may have worked on stage, where flights of imagination tend to work. On film, however, where the audience is acclimated to a literal reality, it shows the strain of cleverness.

Thanks to The San Francisco Chronicle, 3/17/95, and Fken's Mom.
Anchorage’s Premiere Fine Arts
and Alternative Cinema
CAPRI CINEMA
561-0064
3423-25 E. Tudor Rd.

JENNIFER JASON LEIGH’S BEST WORK SO F’R!”
-Roger Ebert, THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

Jennifer Jason Leigh
Campbell Scott
Matthew Broderick

MRS. PARKER
AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE

Alan Rudolph (The Moderns) directs this look at
Dorothy Parker and the other writers, actors and
journalists who held court at Manhattan’s
Angonquin Hotel in the 1920s and early ’30s.
Starring Jennifer Jason Leigh as Parker and
Matthew Broderick as Charles MacArthur with
Campbell Scott, Sam Robards and Martha
Plimpton. 123min, [R]. NOW SHOWING!

R E D
PASSION.
OBSESSION.
MYSTERY.

The final part of the three colors trilogy from Oscar
nominated director Krzysztof Kieslowski is about
Valentine (Irene Jacob) and a young man,
(Jean-Pierre Lorit), who is studying to be a judge
and live around the corner from each other in
Geneva, each impinging on the other’s life,
circulating in the other’s aura, but they never quite
meet, until a catastrophe brings them together.
95min, [R]. Premieres Friday April 21

The Hollywood canteen
Coffee House & Amusement Center
Open Daily 10:30am to 11pm

the Sum of Us

You’ve never seen a father and son team like
Harry and Jeff before. Harry’s a hard working
ferry boat pilot; his son Jeff is a plumber whose
first passion is football. They’re roommates and
best friends, and they’re both looking for love. But
while Harry’s looking for the perfect woman, Jeff
is looking for the perfect man and is going about
it with his fathers blessing who even go’s as far
as trying too hard to spark a flame between Jeff
and his new boyfriend. A touching look at a
different kind of family values from Australian
director Kevin Dowling and Geoff Burton. 100
min. Not rated. Premieres Fri., April 21

Federal Hill
Directed by Michael Corrente this is a classic
American tale about five young guys growing up
in the tough blue-collar Italian section of
Providence, Rhode Island known as Federal
Hill. At a time in life when most young men are
concerned with starting families and careers,
these five guys find themselves in the junk pile
of the underworld, dealing drugs, gambling and
committing petty burglaries. Their tight-knit
social order is thrown into upheaval when one of
the group finds himself in love with a girl from
the right side of the tracks. Reminiscent of early
Scorsese, it recalls Diner and Goodfellas with
fresh talents, astute observation and filmmaking
panache.97 min., [R] Premieres Fri. Apr. 28

Programs and schedules are subject to change,
the management advises to avoid dissapointment
to call the CAPRI MOVIELINE 561-0064 24 hour
information service for the days programing
schedule. Additional films may also be added after this schedule is printed.
Admission to young children is restricted on most films, please consult the movieline for this information.
SLOWING DOWN FROM THE MOMENTUM WE BUILT UP OVER A
PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS IS NO SMALL THING. THERE ARE
THOSE OF US WHO ARE STILL TRYING TO REGAIN OUR CENTER
AFTER THE UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS OF THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF
CHANGE. IT WAS WITH MUCH DELIGHT, AND I DARE SAY WITH
MORE THAN A LITTLE RELIEF, THAT THE SHOW TURNED OUT AS WELL AS IT DID.
Indeed, we are eager to use the talent we assembled together
ON MARCH 18TH AS A POSSIBLE SPRINGBOARD TO PUTTING ON
SOMETHING COMpletely NEW AND DIFFERENT FROM CELEBRATION OF
CHANGE.

WHEN KEN ASKED ME TO WRITE A "POST-CELEBRATION" PIECE
FOR THIS ISSUE OF THE NORTHVIEW, I AT FIRST BALLED BECAUSE
RECOVERING FROM NOT ONLY PUTTING ON, BUT FROM ACTUALLY BEING
IN SUCH A LARGE PRODUCTION, IS MUCH LIKE JET LAG: ONE DAY OF
RECOVERY TIME FOR EVERY HOUR IN THE AIR, OR SOME SUCH MIND
Boggling Nano-Snippet. (That's "Mona speak" for irrelevant
Statistics). The point is, I didn't think I could muster up
The energy, but here I am at my keyboard once again churning
Out Flotsam.

I think what Ken Freedman wanted was a piece about
How I perceived what went on at Celebration to make it such
A wonderful and cohesive production this year. Frankly, I
Think it was just plain good talent! Each performer involved
In the show could probably attest to the fact that nothing
Much would've come of the show this year had it not been
For the collective effort of many people, especially the
Following:

BETH VANN was our Stage Manager for the last four or
FIVE CELEBRATIONS. Her talent and skill in making the show
RUN SMOOTHLY CANNOT BE CAPTURED IN A FEW WORDS. SUFFICE IT
TO SAY, She is a GODDESS.

MAUREEN McGlone has been the Assistant Stage Manager
FOR NEARLY AS LONG AS BETH has been the GODDESS of our
Productions. Maureen's abILITY to read beth's mind and
OTHER OBSCURE, SEEMINGLY NONSENSE SIGNALS, HAS GONE A
LONG WAY IN HELPING THE PRODUCTION COME TOGETHER AS WELL AS
IT DOES EVERY YEAR.

ELAINE GILES as Sound Director was magnificent as
Always in her technical expertise. She is also very greatly
Appreciated for consistently lending her time, knowledge,
And equipment to our production. I have fondly dubbed her
"SOUND EQUIPMENT PHILANTHROPIST." I THINK IT'S AN AP'T
Title. She has saved us from ruin many a time and we thank
Her heartily.

KIPPy Lanz accepted the challenge of acting as one of
Our producers for the show and I'm not certain if she came
to see it as an honor or as being blindsided! However she
Sees it, I am eternally grateful for her professionalism and
Humor. She and Sandy Fitzpatrick, who by the way filled
Marvelously while Kippy was out of town, brought a
Consistent level of enthusiasm and excitement to the show.

Without their optimism and hard work, many performers-
Myself included—would not have believed creativity and
Original thought was still alive and well.

JEAN Wall, KRISTINE Ashton and ASHLEY GODDARD were
CRUCIAL IN GETTING US THE ADVERTISING WE NEEDED TO DEFRAY

SOME OF THE PRODUCTION COSTS. Their energy was just the
THING we needed on those days when we thought we would
Never pull it off.

AlicE WELLING also served as one of our producers and
Also as one of the MC's of the show along with Kay Fuller.
Their performance as MC's almost upstaged the rest of the
Acts! Special thanks to Alice for her time commitment.

There are simply too many other people to thank, but
Celebration could never have happened were it not for the
"TECHIES." They are the hard working women who run out
ON STAGE BETWEEN ACTS TO SET THINGS UP AND MAKE THE
Performers look good. (Along with the lighting crew of
OF COURSE!) They lay the cable and mark places on the floor
WHERE performers stand. They also run small errands for the
Performers, and even though it's not their job, they do it
With a smile because they know how hard it is to focus on
The performance at hand, much less where you may have
Put your glass of water or your girlfriend!

My favorite part of the show, (as well as Ken Freedman's
And probably every other Gay male who attended), was
Mark Tucker, one of the Interpreters. His delightful and
Creative interpretation of the show will probably have many
Asking for his return. During rehearsals, it was absolutely
Wild watching him interpret the finale! He and Colleen
Peterson, the other Interpreter, also made an appearance at
The dance later. It was great to see them having so much fun.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES: WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY? AT ANY
CREATIVE PERFORMANCE I'VE EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN, THERE IS
ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON BACKSTAGE OR IN THE DRESSING
ROOMS. WHILE I CAN ONLY SPEAK FOR WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN
MY DRESSING ROOM, I'M SURE I MISSED A LOT OF STUFF BEHIND
THESE OTHER TIGHTLY SHUT DOORS. (I DID SCOUT OVER TO THE
DRESSING ROOM OF CHARLIE'S ANGLES TO LISTEN IN ON AN
IMPROMPTU JAM SESSION OF SORTS. THAT CHARLIE IS SOMETHING
ELSE! WHEN SHE SINGS, I GET GOOSEBUMPS ALL OVER MY BODY.
SHE IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO CAN ACTUALLY MAKE COUNTRY
MUSIC SOUND INTERESTING.)

MOST OF THE SHOW WAS WATCHED IN THE GREEN ROOM ON ONE
OF THE PAC MONITORS. AS PERFORMERS ARE NOT ALLOWED
BACKSTAGE UNLESS IT'S THEIR TURN TO PERFORM, WE ARE USUALLY
STUCK DOWNSTAIRS WITH NOTHING BUT FOOD, DRINK, WOMEN
AND RAMPANT CREATIVITY TO OCCUPY OURSELVES WITH. IT'S A TOUGH LIFE
BEING A PERFORMER BUT WHO ELSE IS GOING TO DO IT?

MY OTHER FAVORITE MOMENT IN THE SHOW (ACTUALLY I HAVE
SEVERAL FAVORITE MOMENTS, BUT WHY QUibble?) WAS WHEN
VALERIE GARRISON GAVE MYSELF AND MARI A PRIVATE PREVIEW
OF HER POETIC UNDULATIONS! AND I MEAN THAT LITERALLY FOLKS! SHE
UNDULATED AND CAPTIVATED AND WOMANATED. (OF COURSE THERE
IS NO SUCH WORD AS "WOMANATED," BUT BEING THE WORDSMITHS
THAT VALERIE AND I LIKE TO BELIEVE WE ARE, WE BOTH HAVE A
TENDENCY TO MAKE UP WORDS WHICH DESCRIBE THOSE PLACES
WITHIN US THAT DEFY TRADITIONAL DESCRIPTION OR MEANING.) SHE
ALSO LAUGHED AND JUMPED AROUND AND BEHAVED EXACTLY LIKE
THE MAGICAL WOMAN THAT SHE IS. SHARING A DRESSING ROOM
WITH SUCH RAW TALENT WAS THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAVE
HAPPENED TO ME. WITH RESPECT TO MARI, IT WAS JUST GREAT
GETTING TO KNOW HER ALL OVER AGAIN. CASTING HER VERY OWN
SHADOW THESE DAYS IS SOMETHING WHICH DEFINITELY ADDS TO HER
APPEAL.
I also dubbed Valerie Garrison the "camerawoman." She carried around a pretty nice camera to catch all the pre-show jitters and budding romances and spring break-ups going on backstage. As I am usually oblivious to all that sort of thing even when it involves me, I hope she or someone else will be able to point out the subtleties of what went on when the video comes out! It would be a shame to miss the "real" news in the community. That's right! We are hopefully going to have a video of the show available for sale. If you want a memento of what might very well be the last annual production of Celebration, buy one when it comes out.

Some of you may be thinking it odd that I would mention (for the third time in probably as many months) the possibility of Celebration being put on in alternate years after such a smashing success this year, but the reality is that not only does it get increasingly expensive to put on, but finding enough people willing to participate has also become a huge challenge. Needless to say, our community is changing and expanding and doing all sorts of things we could never have foreseen. Some changes have been welcome and some have not. I believe revamping our approach to what sort of entertainment and art we bring to the women's community is long overdue and there really is lots of support out there for it.

I would like to wrap up this piece by thanking the community for coming out and coming out and coming out. It is a lifelong process and we will continue to be here to support that process in whatever fashion we can. I would also like to thank Ken Freedman for asking me to write once again for the Northview. His unflagging support of the women's community has made a big difference in how I have personally come to perceive my queer brothers. I can say with all honesty that I miss them and delight in their efforts at mending fences and bridging what we once thought were unbridgeable stretches of misunderstanding. Moniclea is a published writer who hopes to contribute more pieces to the Northview.

AMAAdopts Policy on Gay, Lesbian Health

A major policy paper on gay health adopted by the American Medical Association is being hailed by the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association as a "landmark policy change." The 20-page report, "Health Care Needs of Gay Men and Lesbians in the U.S.," calls for "non-judgmental recognition of sexual orientation" by physicians and pledges that AMA will "work with the Gay and Lesbian community."

The report covers a broad range of issues, including cancer, HIV, substance abuse, access to health care, sexually transmitted diseases, adolescent issues, negative attitudes among health care providers, the impact of anti-Gay bias on mental health and the need for physicians to take an adequate, non-judgmental sexual history of their patients.

AMA's new policy paper replaces a 1981 paper that focused almost exclusively on sexually transmitted diseases and the possibility of changing a patient's sexual orientation.

"The new AMA report, by counseling acceptance and understanding, and by calling for a national health survey among U.S. adults and adolescents that includes questions about sexual orientation and behavior, is a remarkable step forward and should have an important impact on public policy," says GLMA president Bob Cabaj, MD.

A San Francisco psychiatrist, Cabaj expressed particular satisfaction that the new policy paper explicitly rejects so-called "aversion therapy" to change sexual orientation, citing the report's conclusion that "most of the emotional disturbance experienced by Gay men and Lesbians around their sexual identity is due to a sense of alienation in an unaccepting environment."

The passage of the policy by the AMA's House of Delegates marks the second major shift on Lesbian/Gay policy issues by the AMA in the last year and a half.

In 1993, delegates adopted a rule prohibiting membership discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation after a vigorous lobbying campaign by GMA, formerly the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights.
Way to go Belarus!

Another former Soviet Republic has passed legislation to legalize gay male sex. It follows other republics of Russia, the Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. As in many other countries, lesbian sex has never been illegal. Do you think there is a lesson here for our own not-so-moral minority, and the majority party in Congress?

In Thailand, Flower Town, an exclusively Gay community is being constructed and is selling fast! The town, north of Bangkok, is over 50% sold.

Valencia (Spain) is just one of many cities in that country which has passed laws recognizing both heterosexual and homosexual couples who live together outside of traditional marriage.

Women’s Adventures

Mariah Wilderness Expeditions is in its 14th year of operation specializing in women’s programs. They are offering a 1-2 day adventure for up to 96 women at the south fork of the American River. For just $220.00, land only, June 10-11, you get two nights and two days of class III white water rafting, eating, soaking in the hot tub, playing volley-ball, ping pong, horseshoes and meeting women. The base-camp is fully equipped with hot showers, hot tub, picnic tables and a great view of the river. Other river trips are: Merced River May 26 ($135.00), Tuolumne River July 14-15 ($320.00), Middle Fork American River Sept. 1-2 ($235.00).

They are also offering extended river trips on the Colorado through Cataract Canyon June 20-24 ($790.00), Rogue River in southern Oregon July 22-25 ($585.00) and the Grand Canyon Aug. 19-31 ($2,074.00).

For grander women’s trips how about Costa Rica “Highlights & Rainforests,” July 1-9 for $1,320.00 plus air, or “Tropical Whitewater, Sea Kayaking & Beaches,” Nov. 4-14 at $1,575.00.

December 27-January 5, 1996 it’s the Sea of Cortez and sea kayaking at only $995.00 for the land portion. The next trip for March 24-30, 1996 is an Eco-cruise to Belize at $1,495.00 plus air. A small deposit will hold your place on these tours.

ToTo Tours

...offers “Sky Queen” May 3-June 4 starting in San Francisco and visiting the Mammoth lakes, The Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Bryce, Moab, Monument Valley & Sedona.

In July (7-18) they are to be in Alaska for a tour from the Kenai to Denali on the railroad and is called “Ah, Wilderness.” Note: Several Gay tours are coming to Alaska this summer including a women’s group in July who are cruising on the M/Y Sea Lion.

“Southern Decadence”

Sep. 1-4 (Labor Day weekend), join the Queen of Drag and her followers as they parade through the French Quarter of New Orleans, tour aboard the steamboat “Natchez,” see “The Big Show,” and round out the festivities at noon on Monday with the “Queen’s Jazz Brunch.” Package is available for $269.00 double occupancy.

La Fabula Tours

...presents “A Journey by Rail Through the Heart of Europe,” Aug. 15-29th. The tour will visit Amsterdam, Vienna, Budapest, Prague and Berlin. Travel is by train and boat. This is a leisurely-paced Gay tour with 12 nights hotel with private bath, full European breakfast daily, welcome & farewell dinners, canal boat in Amsterdam, city sight seeing in Vienna, Budapest, Prague, and Berlin. Gay parties in each city to meet the locals. Transfers to and from hotels, taxes and service charges, Hydrofoil trip to Budapest. Total cost of the land portion is $2,695.00.

Galapagos Island trip

Holbrook Travel, Inc. will be departing Miami July 16 for the trip to Guayaquil International Airport. The next day they will fly to the Galapagos Islands to board the M/Y Estrella for the rest of the cruise in and around these fantastic islands. Included with air from Miami is hotel accommodations, meals, transfers and taxes, as well as the yacht cruise. Price for this tour is $2,469.00 dbl. This tour is planned for just 14 persons plus the tour director.

Don’t Forget Alaska

Spring and Summer are raising their pretty heads and there is hardly anywhere in the world more beautiful than our own great State of Alaska. Many of us who live here have not been to most of this State and its diverse beauty. Why not see “Alaska First”? From the Arctic to the panhandle is over 1,500 miles and it stretches over 3,000 miles from East to West. Get out and enjoy!

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

Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. The fearful are caught as often as the bold.

Helen Keller (1880-1968), American writer
How Important Is Your Vote?

- Radical Right Loses Bid to Ban EQUAL Bus Signs • “New Day” at ERC? •
- April 18--How Should We Vote • Endorsements from the AWPC •

You've probably heard people say it. You may have said it yourself. I know I've said it—

“Why should I vote...how could my vote actually make a difference?”

For those of you living in Alaska any length of time, the answer to that question is fairly simple: Right wing Republican Terry Martin won reelection to his house seat by beating a “friend” of our community by 10 votes! Republican State Senator Tim Kelly won an election by one vote! Republican Senator Rick Uehling won by 17 votes! Democrat David Finkelstein won his house seat by 6 votes...

Tony Knowles won the election for Governor of Alaska last November by a little more than one vote in each precinct. His margin of victory, about 500 votes, was less than the number of people EQUAL called during their get out the vote drive the night before the election! Can gay, lesbian and bi votes make a difference? You bet they can, after all, we elected the governor of Alaska!

How important is your vote? More important now than ever! The Radical Right defeated two Assembly candidates in the last election because they supported equality for all. This time, they’re after Assemblypersons Begich and Abney for the same reason—they dared to vote in favor of equal rights. Be sure to exercise your right to vote. Remember, the Radical Right wins elections only when voter turnout is small. VOTE AND CALL YOUR FRIENDS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO VOTE ALSO! Absentee voting is available at the Fifth Avenue Mall.

The Radical Right’s attempt to ban bus signs mentioning sexual orientation was defeated by the Assembly on a vote of 7-4 on March 28. Assemblypersons Bob Bell and Craig Campbell cosponsored this ordinance. Bell actually said the ordinance was not aimed at gays and lesbians. I’m not sure how he did it, but he managed to complete this statement without smiling—the audience actually laughed out loud! In an effort to conceal their intentions, Assemblypersons Bell and Campbell attempted to also ban political signs and all religious signs (yeah, sure they did). Seven of the Assemblypersons recognized this ordinance as an attack on First Amendment rights and voted no. Joining Bell and Campbell were Assemblypersons Joe Murdy of Spenard and Dan Kendall of Eagle River. Kendall is up for reelection on April 18. Hopefully, his constituents will explain the First Amendment to him.

Tuesday --- April 18

VOTE*

*early & often

The first meeting of the new Equal Rights Commission took place on Thursday, March 30. I provided Commissioners with information concerning Michael's support of the bus sign ordinance and his statement that he would “sacrifice” religious signs in order to squelch gays and lesbians. Sitting and watching the meeting, I could almost feel the shift of the ERC away from Michael’s control. It was a very positive meeting and I think Mayor Mystrom has picked four very capable and fair commissioners.

(NOTE: This is my personal opinion—NORTHVIEW and EQUAL do not endorse candidates.)

The Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus has endorsed these candidates. Al and I are members of the AWPC as are many of you. We encourage you to vote FOR the following progressive candidates:

Assembly Seat A: no endorsement
Assembly Seat D: Fay Von Gemminger
Assembly Seat F: Mark Begich
Assembly Seat H: Pat Abney
Assembly Seat J: no endorsement
School Board A: no endorsement
School Board B: Mike Melieio

Dan Carter is a local gay activist
Breaking The Surface
by Greg Louganis with Eric Marcus
Random House, 1995, $23.00
Reviewed by C. Eric Britten

olympic athletes represent the essence of youth, vigor, grace and fitness to me. Watching those young jocks inspires me to remain young of heart and somewhere near my training schedule. I've even dreamed about changing places with some of those champs from time to time.

Well, no more. My fantasies have been ruined. Olympians are nothing more than people like you and me who have worked their butts off to fulfill a dream. They've fought the odds and struggled to climb to the top of their heap. And those that have made it have their fair share of horror stories.

Take the life of Greg Louganis, double gold medalist on the U.S. Olympic Diving Team in 1984 and 1988. Winner of more U.S. diving titles than anyone in history. Our hero? You bet! But not his own hero. The guy has battled depression and insecurity his whole life. We've watched him standing tall in his Olympic sweats with the gold around his neck and thought he's made it. He, on the other hand, hasn't been sure about that.

Louganis teamed up with Eric Marcus to write Breaking The Surface. Greg's autobiography. Once I picked it up I couldn't put it down. I was mesmerized. This American hero was laying it all out and it wasn't pretty. It's no literary masterpiece; it's something better. It's the true blood and guts story of a Gay kid fighting for acceptance. He couldn't get it from his parents. He couldn't get it from his schoolmates. He couldn't even get it from his fellow U.S. Olympic divers. On top of that, the one person he thought he could trust abused and dominated him; then took his money.

Many of Louganis' adolescent trials and insecurities strike a familiar chord in the hearts of anyone who has grown up Gay. Other barriers such as dyslexia, his Samoan skin coloring, and HIV add increased dimension to his own struggles. The honest, open and fast paced narration will quickly get you into the book. Then, as you get to know the demure effacing diver, you'll find yourself pulling for him as new personal obstacles and professional challenges arise. The 283-page read moves so briskly at times that detail can be scarce, but the down home style seems to justify that and other minor structural flaws.

Greg matured and overcame most of his obstacles. His determination to make other's paths less lonely and confusing finally drove him to write Breaking The Surface. The last three sentences of his introduction explain: "I'm doing it now because I want to tell my story in my own words while I still have the chance. I'm finally ready to share my story. I hope you're ready to hear it."

Sister Safety Pin
by Lorrie Sprecher
Firebrand, 1994, $9.95
Reviewed by Lee Lynch

There's nothing like a fan book that gives the reader insight into a world other than her own. Especially when a world one never wanted to know about becomes accessible and even appealing.

I thought punk was some cultural offshoot of skinheads, or at its most benign, straight male adolescent acting out. Then I went to a Gay rights demonstration in my small town and the kids in shoe polish-black or green hair and outlawland (to me) clothing were on our side. I was ready when Lorrie Sprecher came along with her sweet and funny novel about a Lesbian punk.

Sister Safety Pin is, underneath, a relatively conventional coming out story. Heroine Melany passes the California Proficiency Examination and leaves high school in Santa Barbara for college at age seventeen. "High school had been the worst experience of my life," Melany tells the reader. "I started very early in the morning, and the only thing I understood about gender was which bathroom to use."

College is not a heckuva lot better for this young woman, who "still felt uncomfortable and lost, like there was no space 'me' enough to put myself." Right away, I identified. That her displacement comes not just from punk, but also from her sexuality, we learn gradually, as she does. One of the novel's strongest points is Melany's befuddlement. Gay? Me? What next? is what she seems to ask as life tosses one more challenge at her feet.

Melany just keeps playing her punk music, both in a local women's band and on her stereo. The author is obviously an intimate of the genre. As Melany explores her Lesbianism in and out of bed, and blossoms as an academic feminist, she soothes herself with such presumed classics as "Jail Guitar Doors" by The Clash and "Precious" by The Pretenders. Now, I have no idea if these rock groups are real, or if the author is making up lyrics as she goes along, but I have my own attachment to an era and identify completely when Melany plays someone named Chrissie Hynde a hundred times in a row on a lonesome evening.

In one pithy paragraph Sprecher explained punk in a way that made me understand and accept it:

The old punk clubs were gone, and punk had all but died in our town... The new music was arrogant, masculine, and violent. It sounded like really fast heavy metal music and didn't have punk's leftist-androgynist politics.

In the midst of all this cultural rebellion, old radical feminist monsters like W.I.T.C.H. are as likely to appear as "slamming" on a dance floor. Melany is devoted to returns of "The Avengers," a
1960s T.V. show with a female lead as popular among Lesbians as Katherine Hepburn. The author has created an impressive synthesis of twentieth century cultural icons.

Best, though, was Sprecher's humor, though I'm not certain all of it was intentional. Here's a classic line. "Then I smoothed out some of the spikes in my hair with water. When I ran a brown paper towel over my head, I felt a little desolate. "I have to love a kid like Melany as much as I would one of my old peers who might pull a comb out of her pocket to slick back a D.A."

I chuckled at contemporary comments like, "My professor's a Spam-head." There was the fictional song title, "Compulsory Heterosexual Gas Stations (Filling Up and Spilling Over, Over All)." Light but incisive ruminations like, "I wondered if Buddha had known any Lesbians."

The kid's a rebel in her defiant, safety-pin studded coat-of-many-cultures. An Act-Up-activist in a PhD program. A dyke looking for love in all the wrong places. May Lorrie Sprecher chronicle the angst and joys of many more such characters.

Copyright Lee Lynch 1995.
Coming Back
by R.D. Levno

Dreaming of a sweet baby on my back brings awareness that I want to be known and loved by a lover in the way a mother knows and loves her child. I delight in Lesle Newman's picture of domestic sweetness as Flash hollers to come to the candlelit dinner she has prepared.

In one of the low times in my mourning year, part of my difficulty in being alone and lonely with a hurt foot is because I misunderstood my mother. It seemed in my childhood that she had no time, energy or attention left from her struggle for, with, and against her husband, to care about what was happening to me. Now, I claim the understanding that she did love me, did know and care at times I turned away from her, just as I love each of my children and am acutely aware of their lives. At critical times we were unable to arrange time, take the risks, overcome insecurities and inhibitions, be aggressive against the anti-mothering forces, and make it clear.

I have wanted to be strong in relationships, perceiving us as powerful in our own lives and ultimately in the world, and not to have periods when I'm "needy" or vulnerable.

But now I want simply to give and receive the love we yearn for... to use the moment when it arrives.

My mother used to play this song: The Love I Long For/ I've no right to demand/ but I'd make much of the touch of a tender hand/ The Love I Long For/ is a thing set apart/ No knight in armor/ but follow an understanding heart/ the one who's there to care when my spirit is low/ and gently stroke my hair to make the mood go/ No harm in dreaming of a heaven above/ and if she longed for me how wonderful this love/ Too late, too late/ says a voice inside me/ would there were no conscience to guide me... 

Ruth Palmisano's message is, "Be who you are sooner." On every level.
R. D. Levno

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April Fool’s Day
and the Oscar Outing
by Karen Jettmar

April 1st in the Aleutian Islands. It is still snowing; it has been stormy for the last three weeks. The last time I saw the sun was on March 10th. In one two-day period, several new feet of snow managed to stick to the island, even with winds over 80 knots. School was canceled for two days because people couldn't get out of their houses, even with road graders working all night long. Wind buries the town with snow. Outside my window, snowdrifts pile halfway up my windows. I dig myself out each morning and follow a deep trench from the entryway to the road, now glazed over with ice and lined with enormous mounds of snow. Curved icicles hang from buildings, sharp fangs like northern pike teeth, and gracefully arched crystalline swords. A hundred snow bunting swoop down to the feeder across the snow-covered yard from where I live. Any other available food is buried under five feet of snow. In Anchorage today it's 50 degrees; in my parent's yard in Maryland there are daffodils blooming. Who are the April Fools today?

A couple of nights ago, I braved the storm after dinner and walked back to school to grade papers, watch the Academy Awards, and try to salvage a couple of damaged files on a Mac disk. That afternoon, a research paper on the disk had bombed; I couldn't get it to appear on the screen. Another file, my personal journal, had frozen on the screen a few days earlier on one of the school's portable computers. Unwilling to ask anyone in the school for technical help while the screen was frozen with the "L" word blazoned in a sentence across the screen, I struggled alone and finally called TimeFrame in Anchorage for assistance. They told me how to fix it, and I vowed to print out my journal, then purge my disk of all the personal files. Sometime after midnight, when Tom Hanks accepted his Oscar for Forest Gump, and Jessica Lange her for Blue Sky, I tried to print my dozen-page journal. The file said "DISK ERROR" on it, but I tried anyway. I waited and nothing appeared at the printer outside my classroom. I tried again and nothing happened. As I stared at the file and pondered giving up and going home, I heard footsteps outside my room. I looked up to see one of the teachers in my doorway. "Oh, good, you're here", she said. "I was just in the main office and I heard the printer by the principal's office running. I wondered who was here. I went in the teacher's room and all this paper was spewing out of the printer. I looked at it to see whose it was - I didn't read much of it - I just wanted to find out whose computer it was coming from. I figured you didn't know it was printing up there, and you wouldn't want it lying around the teacher's room..."

I think my heart skipped a beat. In the next instant, I felt a rush of relief - the teacher who'd found it was a friend and it didn't matter to me if she knew of my sexual orientation anyway. In fact, I'd been planning to come out to this (and another) teacher on a trip we planned to Arizona together during Spring Break later this month. We walked down the school halls, giggling between the "Oh, my Gods!" and "Can you imagine what would have happened tomorrow morning if..." I picked up the banner of pin-driven four-part yellow-blue paper hanging from the printer tray and strewed it up, thanked my teacher friend and gave her a hug. We said good-bye, and as I walked the icy road back home with four copies of my journal writings stuffed into my pocket, I gave thanks for the opportunity to come out to one friend, rather than making an unexpected announcement to the entire teaching and administrative staff. Whew! April Fool - NOT!

Karen Jettmar is an author, explorer, teacher and appeared most recently in the highly acclaimed photo-journal "Out in America," published by Out magazine.

Oh, brother

The photo opportunity seemed inevitable, but wasn't. When Newt Gingrich's homosexual half-sister Candace came to Capitol Hill this week to lobby for a bill barring anti-homosexual job discrimination and for AIDS-research money, she did not expect to see him. Her faxes and phone calls recently had gone unanswered; no meeting had been scheduled. Then the press started ringing Mr. Gingrich's office, and murmuring about headlines such as "Speaker Snubs Sister." Soon the two were chatting for the cameras.

For a moment, Mr. Gingrich seemed the model of tolerance. He said he loved his sibling "period." He said they were "an American family, with all the complexity of an American family." But the next day he was back in more familiar mode: criticizing the "recruitment" of children by "actively homosexual" teachers and arguing that people should have no right to ask government to "protect" them on the basis of their "sexual behavior."

This is the sort of comment that drew young Candace to the halls of Congress. A bright 23-year-old Pennsylvanian who works as a package sorter for United Parcel Service, Ms. Gingrich had never been involved in politics. That ended when her brother and his party took control of the Hill, and a leading homosexual lobbying group the Human Rights Campaign Fund—which knows a godsend when it sees one—recruited her.

In generous moments, Ms Gingrich says of her brother's views on these matters: "Maybe he's just uninformed." But she also says that, if she had the chance, she would not vote for him. To Mr. Gingrich this is no surprise: "She's a liberal Democrat. I'm a conservative Republican." Indeed, apart from unbridled energy, the only thing the speaker and his sister seem to share is a desperate need for a more flattering haircut.

Thanks to The Economist, 3/11/95 and RG 3.
Groups & Gatherings Circles and Clubs
News from Gay & Lesbian Organizations from around the State

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): offers HIV testing Wednesday afternoons (2:00-4:00pm) 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 these meals. If you are interested in helping with the luncheons, volunteering with the 4As, or need information, please call the 4As at 276-1400.

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

Anchorage Garden Buddies (AGB): a social group for gay men looking for an alternative to the "bar scene." For next meeting time and place or to get on the mailing list, call Kurt at 272-3990.

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 7:00pm at the First United Methodist Church (Anchorage) on the first Wednesday of every month.

EQUAL, Inc: Equal meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at the Metropolitan Community Church at 615 Hollywood Dr. (Government Hill). 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 274-9226.

Fairbanks Dance Club: the Palace Saloon in Alaska 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 6:00-7:00pm in the Arts Building, Room 121 on the UAA campus. Social group after 7pm (bowling, dinner, etc.) Wednesdays from 11:00am-4:00pm 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. 6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm singing (from the KK—Thanks!)

Gay Bar: for 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 7:00pm, program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for this month's 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 an MCC Outreach group for young people, ages 15-21. IMRU meets every Thursday from 7:00-9:30pm at the MCC at 615 Hollywood Drive. The last Thursday of the month is a special program. 258-5266 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 at 452-4222.

Jamb 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.

Fast Frontier Men’s Club: a members-only club for the Leather/Bear communities of Alaska. Meetings 3rd Thurs. of each month, 6:00pm at the Raven; campouts & 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.

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

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

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

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

Q*Klatch, meets the first Wednesday of each month and is an informal gathering of GLBs. The group offers a place to discuss current events, ideas, hopes and needs, and it extends hospitality to newcomers. Generally, the theme of each gathering is determined by the volunteer host(s), from “Show and Tell” to “My Personal Agenda” to “Open Forum.” Q*Klatch offers a casual environment in which to meet and share with others. For more information please contact Kathy at 1-907-455-6358 or Eric at 1-907-455-4051.

Q*K Outdoors, an offshoot of Q*Klatch and a member of IGLOO (International Gay * Lesbian Outdoor Organization), is an informal, all-volunteer group of GLBs interested in enjoying the Great OUTdoors. Last summer, we canoed down the Tanana River to Nenana, camped out at Tangle Lakes (just south of the Alaska Range), went halibut fishing in Valdez, did some day hikes and played at picnics. For more information, contact Eric at 907-455-4051 or e-mail to <fesebw@aurora.alaska.edu> or Kathy at 907-455-6358 or <hlatkd@northstar.k12.ak.us>.

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).

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


Support Group (Soldotna): a group for people with HIV or AIDS or families or friends. Call Jan at 1-907-262-2589.

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.

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

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Gay Rights As Civil Rights: Interview With John Ward, Lead Litigator For G.L.I.B. 'S U.S. Supreme Court Case

by D. Killian

The Irish-American Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual group of Boston (G.L.I.B.) has sought to march in the city's annual St. Patrick's/Evacuation Day parade since 1992. Under court order, they marched in '92 and '93; in 1994 the parade was canceled as a form of protest by the parade organizers, the Allied War Veterans. This year, by State Court Order, G.L.I.B. was banned from participating.

On April 25, the second anniversary of the march on Washington, the case goes before the U.S. Supreme Court. At issue is first amendment rights, the veterans claiming that G.L.I.B.'s participation in the parade forces them to espouse values not their own. Attorney John Ward, active in Gay legal rights since 1978 and founder of G.L.A.D. (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) is leading the litigation team representing G.L.I.B. As he explains in the following interview, first amendment issues are clearly inappropriate in this case and regardless the facts are against the veterans.

Q: Has the U.S. Supreme court heard any similar cases concerning Gay rights?
A: No, but any time they've had a chance to deal with Gay people, they've done the wrong thing. I think there was a case back in the sixties, a magazine called One Magazine had been declared obscene by the Post Master General, and the U.S. Supreme Court overruled that. But since then, they have not been good to Lesbians and Gay men. The most recent case that I can recall is the Gay Olympics case back in '87 where they ruled against the Gays. The Olympic Committee allows all kinds of special Olympics to occur—you name it, and they sanction it. But when a group of Lesbians and Gay men tried to have an event called the Gay Olympics, the Olympics committee hit the ceiling and the United States Supreme Court said that they were allowed to exclude Gays from using that name.

Q: How significant is this decision for G.L.I.B. if the court decides in the Veterans' favor?
A: This particular legal issue will be decided. But there're a number of possibilities that I can envision: a sub-Gay group could ask for the permit on that particular day that would raise a legal issue if it were denied; a Gay group could ask for a permit to march in front of the veterans, behind the veterans. There are all kinds of options. Whatever the Supreme Court does, that's not going to finally resolve the controversy. But whenever the Supreme Court makes a decision involving Gay people, it has consequences beyond the parameters of the individual case. It's an opportunity for the U.S. Supreme Court to say things that will either advance or impede the struggle for Gay liberation.

Q: Is it even appropriate that this decision is going before the Supreme Court?
A: This is the kind of decision that depends so much on its facts that it's not the sort of case that the court ordinarily hears. It's impossible to say why the Court took it up. But they've never demonstrated that they're anything but hostile to Lesbian and Gay causes.

Q: What precedence is there for a ruling in G.L.I.B.'s favor?
A: Legally, we're on very, very strong ground. The veterans have a wonderful case except that it's unrelated to the facts. They are basically trying to sell people a slogan which is "hands off our parade." First place, it's not their parade. The parade belongs to everybody. The veterans are really just trustees of a civic event that goes back long before even the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Boston. Before that, it was the Evacuation Day Parade (celebrating the day British soldiers left American soil after the revolutionary war, also March 17). The Veterans were entrusted with running it in honor of their services in World War II and somehow over the years they got the idea that they owned it. They don't. They never have. They've always let in everybody and his kid sister until the Gays came along. That makes them a public accommodation. The veterans are free to hate Lesbians and Gays all they want, but they can't discriminate against them in places of public accommodation.

Q: In terms of first amendment rights, can't Lesbians and Gays be visible in any public place or event?
A: The first amendment is a red herring in this case. The State Courts have found that the parade is not run by the government. It's run by the Veterans. So G.L.I.B. doesn't have a first amendment right either. Nobody does in this case. It's like the people who sat at the lunch counter in Mississippi thirty years ago. It wasn't the first amendment that gave them the right to sit there. It was the public accommodations law. The veterans are trying to make themselves into some sort of religious organization that's conducted a very narrow, restricted parade over the years. If that were the situation, it would be a very different case and G.L.I.B. would never have asked to get into the parade. This is a group of people [G.L.I.B.] exercising their civil rights against bigots. It's not about the first amendment—although almost every time bigots oppose civil rights laws, they always quote it.
Q: And these cases were obviously also settled by the U.S. Supreme Court?
A: Right, and a Supreme Court composed of different justices. Douglas, Brennan, Warren—all giants.
Q: The Veterans have the facts against them. How can they win?
A: The ideological climate in this country is very favorable to the position they are espousing. To be bigoted now is to be "politically correct." There's a lot of feeling I think that it may be okay to help Gay people when they have AIDS or when they get beat up, but not when they really want to participate in important institutions in civic life.
Q: How will the court's ruling, either way, affect Lesbians and Gays nation-wide? What message will it send out?
A: It depends very much on how they write their opinion. Their ability to do what they want to do is almost infinite. If in favor of G.L.I.B., the justices would be saying that the public accommodations laws mean what they say and they have to be obeyed. Pretext is just that. It doesn't exclude compliance with the law. It might be that people would have to take Gays seriously in their struggle for social equality in the United States.

It's also conceivable, however, that the United States Supreme Court could use this case to trivialize all kinds of legislative attempts to grant equality to Lesbians and Gay rights. I'm not saying this is going to happen, but the danger in a case like this is that there is a growing trend to use freedom of religion and freedom of speech as a way to avoid extending civil rights to Lesbians and Gay men. The Supreme Court, if they were so inclined, could further that attempt in a significant way—both in this case and in the Colorado case that they're going to hear. The danger is that the Court could say that discrimination against Lesbians and Gays is in a completely different category from discrimination against women or blacks. That's not important. That it's just about values. They could use it as an opportunity to further an agenda that's very, very dear to the radical right.

Q: So this has ramifications for all civil rights in the U.S.?
A: Well, America has made a commitment, however wavering, to have civility and equality of access in public places. This is an important test. There are obviously people who have strong feelings about associating with Gays. The choice that's made whenever a public accommodations law is passed is that they have to put those feelings aside and be decent in public. So this is about how serious our commitment to decency is. It's not just some fourth of July speech. This is real.

Dian lived in Ireland for more than six years and now, back in the U.S., is compiling a book about the Irish experience in America including Irish Lesbians and Gays.▼

**Attempts To Cure Homosexuality Incite Litigation**

Mental health professionals who try to cure adolescents of homosexuality against their will could be opening themselves up to lawsuits, as could the facilities that employ them, two child and adolescent psychiatrists have told *MHW*.

The comments of E. Gerald Dabbs, M.D., and William M. Womack, M.D., come as the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) has made the issue a priority, with support from the Ben & Jerry's Foundation and the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL).

The Ben & Jerry's Foundation recently gave the NCLR $10,000 for its institutionalized youth project, which is designed to stop the confinement of lesbian, gay and bisexual youth in psychiatric facilities, and to expose and challenge abusive treatments that attempt to force young people to change their sexual orientation. NAPIL is financing the position of NCLR staff attorney Shannon Minter, who is focusing on the institutionalized youth project.

The most serious allegation would involve involuntary commitment, said Dabbs, president of Lesbian and Gay Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and a spokesman for the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). For some adolescents, admission and treatment are related specifically to issues of sexuality, said Dabbs, who added that the issue has arisen more in the Midwest and West than in the East.

Any facility that practices what is known as "reparative therapy" could find itself battling a lawsuit because "homosexuality is not a psychiatric diagnosis," Dabbs said.

Though involuntary commitment would not be an issue when parents committed their adolescent children, those children could sue over homophobic counseling or reparative therapy when they became adults, said Womack, an associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Washington School of Medicine and chairman of AACAP's committee on homosexual issues.

"I'm sure the liability issues are much greater if you're not honest about treatment," Womack said.

Minter, the NCLR attorney, told *MHW* mental health administrators should be proactive and stop homophobic counseling that may be occurring at their facilities. "I think it would definitely be in their self-interests."

Thanks to *Mental Health*, ISSN 1058-1103, and Fken's Mom.▼
The Recipients of the 1995 GLAAD Media Awards

[Editor's Note: The 6th Annual GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) awards were presented March 12 in Los Angeles and on March 16 in New York.]

Vanguard Award: Steve Tisch
Outstanding Advertising: IKEA. IKEA's advertising campaign spotlights a Gay male couple who are not only shopping for furniture, but also building a home and a life together.

Outstanding Television Comedy Series: "Friends." This refreshing series, from the creators of "Dream On," includes among its cast a Lesbian mother-to-be, her girlfriend and the baby's father, a situation providing much comic fodder and food for thought. "Roseanne." "Roseanne" continues to make Lesbians and Gay men part of the fabric of the Conner life, including on-going characters [played by Martin Mull and Sandra Bernhard] and episodes like the unforgettable "Kiss" last March.

Outstanding TV Comedy Episode: "Frasier: The Matchmaker." What Frasier doesn't know only confounds him when he tries to do a good deed by setting up his Gay station manager with his father's female nurse. Writer Joe Keenan turns this farcical foray into a sublime lesson on sexist assumptions prevalent in American society.

Outstanding Television News Program: "NBC Nightly News: Gay in America." This three-part investigative series explored issues facing our diverse Lesbian and Gay communities, including Gay parenting and Gay youth.

Outstanding Television Miniseries: "Tales of the City." Armistead Maupin's delightful series about Gay life in late 1970s San Francisco brought appealing, unapologetic images of Lesbians and Gay men to the small screen, winning PBS one of its largest viewshipers ever for a dramatic presentation.

Outstanding Television Drama Series: "My So-Called Life." Teenage Angela traverses the complicated terrain of adolescence, joined by her high school friend Rikki, a bisexual teen, who experiences all the same rigors of growing up dating, romance, peer acceptance - as well as the specific complications of growing up Gay.

Outstanding Television Documentary Series: "The Real World III - San Francisco." The third installment of this popular series about American youth featured openly Gay PWA Pedro Zamora, who brought issues of sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS and racial diversity into America's living rooms. His recent death from complications due to AIDS was widely mourned.

Outstanding Television Program for Young Adults: "More Than Just Friends: The Coming Out of Heidi Leiter." This half-hour telefilm expertly detailed the story of a young woman who asked her girlfriend to the high school prom, despite the initial protestations of family and friends.

Outstanding Film: "GO FISH." Captivating first film by Rose Troche about love and dating rituals in a Lesbian community which concludes that perhaps opposites do attract.


Outstanding Print Media: "Doonesbury: Same-Sex Unions" by Garry Trudeau. Garry Trudeau turns a comic eye towards the controversy over John Boswell's book about same-sex marriages, exploring the subject with characteristic intelligence and wit.

Outstanding Music Video: "I'm the Only One" by Melissa Etheridge." Striking and positive Lesbian images abound in Etheridge's passionate love song.

Outstanding Song: "This Train Revised" by The Indigo Girls." Openly Lesbian singers, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, rail against bigotry and its effect on those targeted, including Lesbians, Gay men and bisexuals.

Outstanding Album: "Disappear Fear" by Disappear Fear. The two-women folk duo, which includes an open Lesbian, weaves Gay and non-Gay images into a portrait of everyday life.

Outstanding Film with Gay Content: "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert"
Outstanding Gay Theatre Production: "The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me..."
Outstanding Lesbian Theatre Production: "Last Summer at Blue Fish Cove"
Outstanding Print Media: "Whose Values Are These Anyway?" Robin Abcarian, The Los Angeles Times

Outstanding Theatre Production: "Love! Valour! Compassion!"
Outstanding Journalist: Gabriel Rotello, New York Newsday


Outstanding Achievement in Advertising: Deutsch Advertising

Outstanding Achievement for a Gay and Lesbian Publication: "Lambda Book Report," Deacon MacCubbin, Publisher

Visibility Award: Bruce Lehman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Public Service Awards: "National Coming Out Day" featuring Amanda Bearse

Washington, D.C.
The Amazon Trail: Depravity, The Movie
by Lee Lynch

I read somewhere recently that Radclyffe Hall's The Well of Loneliness is soon to become a major motion picture. On the one hand I'm concerned that such a mixed message about Lesbians should find its way to Hollywood in these days when the radical right is crowning its victories from every steeple. This is just what we don't need, the original Lesbianovel-with-an-unhappy-ending in full technicolor telling yet another tale of deviant girl loses innocent girl to perfectly nice boy. It's one thing when D.H. Lawrence's The Fox comes back to haunt and taunt us, quite another when it is one of our own.

On the other hand, I love the image of Hall, a short, chain-smoking, cross-dressing butch who called herself John, swaggering across the sets of late-night talk shows. Probably, they were alive, she would disdain the whole process and drop sardonically ban motts from her path, like a reincarnated, transgendered Oscar Wilde.

It's true, they can't make us happy. Keep us invisible and we gripe, put our oldest classic on the silver screen and we whine. Which of our literary wonders would I have the patriarchy present to the public if I had my druthers?

Spring Fire—now wouldn't that title lure you through a blizzard to your local Cinema 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9? The actresses should look just like the cover, one with long dark hair, demure, in a silken orange slip. The other with carefully styled short blonde hair, her slip black. Black as in bad guy, the way they can't stop doing it in Hollywood. Only there's a twist here. Mitch, in the black slip, Mitch who tries out a mannish hair style, is not the bad guy after all.

"Sure, I've got bisexual tendencies," she tells Leda, "but by God, I'm no damn Lesbian." Any of these Vin Packer books would be campy romps—or tragedies that demonstrate the horrors of homophobia more clearly than any intellectual treatment. Demure Leda, the real Lesbian, is institutionalized. No, don't make that one a movie.

Randy Salem's 1959 Chris offers turmoil, debauchery and glamour too. Christopher Hamilton: "Lean and firm, built like a young boy, she did not look like a thirty-year-old woman." But she is and is also a conchologist, an amateur marine biologist, a writer, and an expert swimmer. Surely she's a hero made for Hollywood. The femme lead, "perfumed" Dizz has golden hair, ice blue eyes and a "pussy cat smile." The book is shock full of boats, New York apartments, and love triangles, both Gay and straight. No queer Oscar for this one, despite some great lines. "Chris did not like this young man. She had never met one she didn't like, in fact. She sometimes dreamed of finding a cure for them, like polio."

The trouble with these old relics, both great and pulp, is not just the miserably confused women, or the words that are used to describe us. Lesbians often are miserably confused before we understand that it's more important to be true to ourselves than to be true to society. And we've survived a great deal more than barbed adjectives like depraved. The trouble is all those gloatingly victorious non-Gay men.

There are some books that, given true renderings, I'd plunk down money to see, like Valerie Taylor's Erika Frohmann stories. In this three volume tale, a young woman who is released from a concentration camp and resettled in America consequently comes out and discovers that she is far from finished with oppression. In A World Without Men, the second of the series, Erika goes to an employment office where she sees two baby dykes ask for work. The interviewer turns them away, not bothering to hide her disgust. I'd like straight bigots to see such all-too-real scenes like mirrors in front of them.

When will Isabelle Miller's Patience and Sarah catch some film maker's fancy. Just think of the bucolic scenes and tender melting erotica, the added promise of happily ever after. That would make a great flick, especially if at least one of the actresses were not femme out past belief like in Fried Green Tomatoes.

One of my fears is that The Well of Loneliness, the movie, may be made along the lines of that weird film Orlando, with period costumes and old English estates to spare. For me Orlando evoked neither the seductiveness of androgyny nor the hint of Lesbian love which I found in the novel. I still haven't quite fathomed how Virginia Woolf's darling tribute to her woman lover was twisted in the end to convey a family values message.

Can Hollywood betray John Hall as it did Virginia Woolf? This time, I hope so. Unless they brazenly demonstrate that discrimination, not Lesbian love, leads to misery, I hope the screen writers take a common cinematic license and change the ending. Let this classic be a Lesbian classic. In real life Lady Una stayed with Radclyffe Hall.

Lee Lynch is a columnist/author based in southern Oregon. She writes "The Amazon Trail" regularly for The Dallas Voice, Just Us, The Washington Blade, the Identity NorthView (some 16 papers, in all) and is the author of ten books. Copyright © Lee Lynch, 1995. ☘
Calendar

If you have any information or corrections for the Calendar, please call:
Toni: 333-3339, Ruth: 563-1224
Annie/Linda: 337-0253, Ken: 248-7722
Identity Helpdesk: 258-4777

Anchor = Anchorage
Fairbanks = Fairbanks
Juneau = Juneau

Apr. 13, Thurs:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm, 566-1133
- Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm (Juneau), call 1-907-463-5688 for information
- J.M.R.U. Youth Group/MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Apr. 14, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- 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!, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land

Apr. 15, Sat:
- Work out for Hope, 9:00am-1:00pm, bring canned food to UAA's main gym and work out to benefit. Call Susie at 564-5579 for more information.
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00, call 566-1133
- KSUA, 103.9 FM, 6:00-8:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- Sing-a-long, 6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm singing, 1741 Westview Cir, 333-0871
- Millinery Madness "Easter Bonnets on Parade," 7:00-10:00pm, Raven, all proceeds benefit the 4A's. Call Laurie at 263-2050 for more information.
- Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land

Apr. 16, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00 (Chris Livesey, "Miracles: Do They Have Meaning in Our Lives Today?") & 10:30am (Beatrice Hitchcock, Intern Minister, "Rebirth and Renewal"), 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Easter Brunch/Potluck, 11:00am-2:00pm, Parkshore Condo's Clubhouse
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- All You Want To Know About Dragomen, 2:00-4:00pm, KRUA, panel discussion, Graham, 562-8463
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3:00pm, Park Lanes, 561-8744, Bob
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Apr. 17, Mon:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- 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.

Apr. 18, Tues:
- P-FLAG Fairbanks, 5:30pm, Nancy, 1-907-479-9444
- "The Dominant Egg" (women's music show) on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7:00-10:00pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm, call 566-1133

Apr. 19, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- P-FLAG Anchorage, 7:00pm, AUUF, for information, call Fred, 562-7161; Sylvia, 562-9992; Leon at 277-6888
- 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

Apr. 20, Thurs:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm, 566-1133
- Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm (Juneau), call 1-907-463-5688 for information
- The Last Frontier Men's Club, 6:00pm, Raven
- Perspective Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, call 1-907-586-4938 for information/locatio
- Coffee with EQUAL, 7:00-9:00pm, Hollywood Canteen at the Capri Cinema
- J.M.R.U. Youth Group/MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)
More Calendar

Apr. 21, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- AGLA Discussion Group, 6:30pm, "Discuss Summer Schedule and Pride Day Planning," 402 Groening
- 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.
- Video Night in the Valley: Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, Call Tracy at 1-907-790-3994 for information/directions
- Dancing in Fairbanks: 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Akalaska

Apr. 22, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00, 566-1133
- KSUA, 103.9 FM, 6:00-8:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- The Family (formerly LGBSA), meeting 6:00-7:00pm, UAA Arts Bldg, Rm 121; social after 7:00
- Video Night Downtown/Douglas: Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, Call Woody or France at 1-907-364-2526 for directions
- Women’s Coffee House, 8:00pm, Angie & Linda: slideshow & talk about Dyke Hikes, BonA Dea, the Women’s Bookstore, Barbara 337-2011
- Dancing in Fairbanks: 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Akalaska

Apr. 23, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00am (Art Curtis, Minister, ’Looking to Nature for Souful Metaphors’) & 10:30am (Herb Shaindl, "Where is Anchorage Going?...The Role of the Newsmedia in Alaska...and other Topics), 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- AGLA Sunday Chat, 1:00-4:00pm, Women’s Center
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3:00pm, Park Lanes, Bob 561-8744
- Anchorage Lesbian Families’ Alliance (ALFA) (formerly Lesbian Moms), 4:00-6:00pm, Mary and Val Jean’s, 276-3478
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Apr. 24, Mon:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- 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.

Apr. 25, Tues:
- Identity Board Meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF, Room A
- The Dominant Egg (women’s music show) on KRUA 88.1FM, 7:00-10:00pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

Apr. 26, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- MCRFT Meeting, 7:00pm, Juneau, 1-907-586-6623 (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

Apr. 27, Thurs:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
- Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm, (Juneau), call 1-907-463-5688 for information
- I.M.R.U. Youth Group – MCC Outreach, ages 15-21, 7:00-9:30pm, Jean Cracun talks about “being a family unit,” MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
- How to Lobby Seminar, presented by EQUAL, 7:00pm, MCC (615 Hollywood Dr.), Dan 274-9226 or Amy 258-9225
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Apr. 28, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham

Apr. 29, Sat:
- Speaker’s Bureau Training at AWARE, 9:00am-3:00pm, Call 586-GAYS (4297) for info and to reserve your place.
- R.S.V.P. Alaska, 4A’s fundraising dinners and dining out around town. Call Laurie at 263-2048 for information.
May 4, Thurs:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham.
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133.
- Lam. of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00pm, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737.
- Anchorage Lesbian Families’ Alliance (ALFA) (formerly Lesbian Moms), 4:00-6:00pm, Mary and Val Jean’s, 276-3478.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-10:00pm, S3 Cover.

May 5, Fri:
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-10:00pm, S3 Cover.

May 6, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133.
- KSUA, 103.9 FM, 6:00-8:00pm, “Queer Beans” (Gay issues and music), Fairbanks.
- Anchorage Lesbian Families’ Alliance (ALFA) (formerly Lesbian Moms), 4:00-6:00pm, Mary and Val Jean’s, 276-3478.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-10:00pm, S3 Cover.

May 7, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00am, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050.
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau).
- Anchorage Lesbian Families’ Alliance (ALFA) (formerly Lesbian Moms), 4:00-6:00pm, Mary and Val Jean’s, 276-3478.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 8, Mon:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham.
- HIV+ Men’s Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
May 9, Tues:
- "The Dominant Egg," (women's music show) on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7:00-10:00 pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00 pm, 566-1133

May 10, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at ACs, 2:00-4:00 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30 pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
  Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
  MCPRTF Meeting, 7:00 pm, Juneau, 1-907-586-6623 (info)
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00 pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- "Women's Prerogative," KTOO FM, 9:00-10:00 pm, Juneau
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00 pm, $3 Cover

May 11, Thurs:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30 pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30 pm, 566-1133
  Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30 pm (Juneau), call 1-907-463-5688 for information
- I.M.R.U. Youth Group—MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30 pm, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00 pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

May 12, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12 noon-1:00 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30 pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00 pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11:00 pm-3:00 am, Palace Saloon in Alaska

May 13, 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 Coffee House??, 7:30-9:30 pm, not sure but may be Lisa Parker. Call Barbara, 337-2011, to see if this is happening.

May 14, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00 & 10:30 am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00 pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3:00 pm, Park Lanes, 561-8744, Bob
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00 pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 15, Mon:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30 pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- HIV + Men's Support Group, 5:30 pm, Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00 pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 16, Tues:
- P-FLAG Fairbanks, 5:30 pm, Nancy, 1-907-479-4944
- "The Dominant Egg," (women's music show) on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7:00-10:00 pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00 pm; call 566-1133

May 17, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at ACs, 2:00-4:00 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30 pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
  Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- P-FLAG Anchorage, 7:00 pm, AUUF, for information, call Fred, 562-7161; Sylvia, 562-4992; Leon at 277-6888
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00 pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
  "Women's Prerogative," KTOO FM, 9:00-10:00 pm, Juneau
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00 pm, $3 Cover

May 18, Thurs:
- Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30 pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30 pm, 566-1133
  Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30 pm (Juneau), call 1-907-463-5688 for information
- The Last Frontier Men's Club, 6:00 pm, Raven
- Coffee with EQUAL, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hollywood Canteen at the Capri Cinema
- I.M.R.U. Youth Group—MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30 pm, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00 pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

May 19, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12 noon-1:00 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
(wow!) there's more!

Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham

AGLA Meeting, 6:30pm, 022 Gruening

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

May 20, Sat:

SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00, 566-1133

KSUA, 103.9 FM, 6:00-8:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)

The Family (formerly LGBSA), meeting 6:00-7:00pm, UAA Arts Bldg, Rm 121; social after 7:00

Feminist Sing-a-Long, 6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm singing; 1741 Westview Circle, Carol or Fran-337-3543

Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land

May 21, Sun:

AUF 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, Bob 561-8744

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, 4:00-5:00pm. Remembers those who have died from AIDS complications, supports People Living with HIV/AIDS. Place TBA.

Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 22, Mon:

Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham

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.

May 23, Tues:

Identity Board Meeting, 7:00pm, AUF, Room A

"The Dominant Egg," (women's music show) on KRUA 88.1FM, 7:00-10:00pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests

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

May 24, Wed:

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

Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham

Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)

MCPRTFT Meeting, 7:00pm, Juneau, 1-907-586-6623

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

May 25, Thurs:

Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham

SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133

Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm (Juneau), call 1-907-463-5688 for information

M.R.U. Youth Group--MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266

Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

May 26, Fri:

Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, noon until... Camped at the Eklutna Campground Private area (holds 100+ people!)

PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050

Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham

Identity Potluck, Speaker TBA, 6:30pm, AUF

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! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land

May 27, Sat:

Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, still camped at the Eklutna Campground Private area (holds 100+ people!)

SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133

KSUA, 103.9 FM, 6:00-8:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music), Fairbanks

The Family (formerly LGBSA), meeting 6:00-7:00pm, UAA Arts Bldg, Rm 121; social after 7:00

Women's Coffee House!, 8:00pm, not sure but may be Lisa Parker. Call Barbara, 337-2011 to see if this is happening.

Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska land

May 28, Sun:

Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, still camped at the Eklutna Campground Private area (holds 100+ people!)

AUF Services, 9:00am & 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737 A 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.
conclusion!

λ Northern Exposure Bowling League, 3:00pm, Park Lanes, Bob 561-8744
λ Anchorage Lesbian Families' Alliance (ALFA) (formerly Lesbian Moms), 4:00-6:00pm, Mary and Val Jean's, 276-3478
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May. 29, Mon:
λ Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, till noon camped at the Eklutna Campground Private area (holds 100+ people!)
λ Picnic! Imperial Court Annual Picnic, noon-6:00pm, NBA Picnic Grounds at Eklutna Flats
λ Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
λ HIV + Men’s Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May. 30, Tues:
λ "The Dominant Egg," (women's music show) on KRUA 88.1 FM, 7:00-10:00pm, 786-4846 to make on-air requests
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

May. 31, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
λ Gay & Lesbian News, 4:30pm, KRUA 88.1 FM, sponsored by The Family at UAA, hosted by Burt and Graham
λ Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
λ Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
λ "Women's Prerogative," KTOO-FM, 9:00-10:00pm, Juneau
λ Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm. S3 Cover ▼

Stargazer Commentary
by Barbara J. Soule

Spring Equinox was March 21, and the promise of spring is very much on my mind. I remember growing up on my maternal grandparent's farm with the smells and touches of springtime...wet, mucky earth, the odor of manure, puddles to stomp in, little green shoots of plants which struggled towards the sun. I remember apple trees with buds ready to burst into white and pink flowers. The alders at the edge of the woods had a particular pungent scent that was only present in the spring. Cool air made wearing two sweaters desirable, even in the sunshine.

In strong contrast to these lovely things Alaska’s spring has more slush, and dirtier puddles (dirtier snow, too). Alaskans tired of wearing boots shed them prematurely even though they risk being sprayed by passing cars. Long-buried dog poop surfaces in the sunlight, aroma and all. Patches of bright green grass mimic rice puddles, pooling visibly beside buildings with an eastern exposure. Although the chance of snow is still real, it’s break-up...heck, it’s spring.

For those of you out there who are lighting candles and burning incense in the privacy of your homes, there are other possibilities for expressing a more earth-centered spirituality. You may wish to start small and proceed with caution as you learn to honor Mother Earth as her springtime begins. Take a walk by yourself (or take the dog) on one of Anchorage’s bike trails. Try to find one which goes through wooded areas. Trees provide excellent spots for contemplation...they have been used for centuries in ceremonies of all types.

Regardless of where you go to ponder, it is the intent which is important. If you have a desire to honor the Earth and discover what you truly believe is Divine and Holy, that is all that is required for the moment. Add to these experiments information acquired through reading and listening to others.....use your intuition. We all deserve to enjoy the simple pleasures of living...good friends, fun, food and loving companionship. These things can all be part of your 'spirituality' as you tune in to springtime.

NorthView Classifieds & Want Ads

Enjoy Alaska's exciting natural beauty and explore your creative side! Join a community of writers for a summer weekend outdoor writing workshop with Gretchen Legler and Marybeth Holleman. Call or write for a brochure: Outdoor Writing Workshops, P.O. Box 110738, Anchorage, AK 99511-0738. 907-346-4071.
I have a few words to say to the Identity readership before I launch into this month's article.

Last month I was privileged to be able to speak on money matters at the Forth Friday Potluck. The attendees were a gracious audience for me. Any business person should jump at the opportunity to share their trade before this group. You all had superb questions. You gave me a great deal of respect and listened attentively to my soapbox preaching about how important it is to save money. Thank-you for this.

Money is power. Gay people need power to gain independence and self respect. Money is a fact of life with which we need more experience dealing.

I have been attending this feast for several months. It is a thoroughly wonderful experience to dine each month on such a wide range of offerings and with such a diverse group of people. I am a once self-proclaimed separatist dyke who would have preferred eating rutabaga to dining with men. Not so at this point in my life. I come to the potluck each month in order to broaden my horizon. I never eat goulash except for once a month at the potluck. I love the goulash. I also need experience interacting with men and straight people in a social setting. Professionally, this is easy for me. Socially, it is new and strange. It is not, however, hard for me because Identity has created a safe place for both sexes and all persuasions to be together. I feel safe amongst this crowd and am grateful for the chance to share with you.

Women, in significant numbers, are absent at these gatherings. I believe this is, in part, because women just do not know about the potluck. I also believe that many Lesbians fear the idea of choosing to share space with so many penises. Most Lesbians work every day of the week with men. Their home/non-working lives are absent of men by fierce choosing. Some of these Lesbians need woman-identified space to rest their souls on a Friday night. I can understand that. At the same time I can say that the predominantly Gay male potlucks feel like women identified space to me. Go figure.

What Gay men and women alike need are safe places to congregate and just be exactly who they are. This is possible at the potluck. The food is great. The people are warm and noninvasive. The speakers are always intriguing. I am already looking forward to the next one! Good job to Identity for pulling off a good one that even an old separatist can't find much fault with.

This month's article is about dollar cost averaging. I guess I'll save it 'til next month.

Chris Olson is a fully licensed insurance and securities representative, has lived in Alaska for 14 years and welcomes new clients and referrals, especially from the Gay & Lesbian Community.
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
A Heart Breaks
Open: Talking
With Barbara
Lazear Ascher
By Owen Keehnenn

In 1989 Barbara Lazear Ascher, married lawyer and writer, lost her younger brother Bobby to AIDS. Her pain and need for healing caused her to explore her grief and her relationship with her brother in a brutally honest manner. The experience changed her and the compelling story is captured in her lyrical and painful memoir of grief, Landscape Without Gravity.

Her moving story has been optioned by Susan Dey and a TV movie is in the offing. Ms. Ascher is also the founder of Sisters a New York City based support group for grieving siblings. Recently I had the opportunity to chat with her about her book, the grief process, and her brother Bobby.

Owen: What made it necessary for you to write Landscape Without Gravity?

Barbara: All the unsaid things. In a way the book is really a love letter to my brother. I hadn’t set out to do that, but when I finished I realized that’s what I had done. It was a love letter with all the anger and regret and disappointment. Real love isn’t the American version of love you see on Hallmark cards. It’s not one-dimensional, uncomplicated, and always rosy.

Owen: In grieving over your brother, what did you notice was unique about sibling grief?

Barbara: First of all that it’s unacknowledged. There’s concern for a surviving spouse or lover. If parents have survived the loss of a child then friends will say “How’s your Mom and Dad doing?” Rarely does anyone ask how you’re doing. It’s not that people are unfeeling, but in our culture the sibling relationship is not acknowledged as the very important bond that it is. When you lose a sibling you’re losing someone with whom you share a history, often an ally against parents so there’s a sense of being left alone in the world. Feelings of anxiety and vulnerability are also common. When a sibling dies the message is “You’re next.”

Death is suddenly tugging at your sleeve.

Owen: Did being Bobby’s big sister manifest itself in your grief as well? Did you feel as though you should have protected him?

Barbara: Oh yeah. I was twelve years older, so in his eyes I was another mother. In my eyes he was always my baby brother, not my younger brother, but my baby brother. My first instinct was always to protect him.

Owen: At the time of Bobby’s death in 1989, the two of you had become somewhat estranged, or distanced by life.

Barbara: It wasn’t as dramatic as estranged. He and I knew better than to write each other off...but we had become strangers and neither of us made the effort to fix that. I wish I had said what was on my mind which was, “The reason I don’t come visit you in New Orleans is because I’m scared about the drugs and the drinking. I don’t know what goes on in a gay bar.” That would have given him the opportunity to say “I won’t take you to the bar on Fresh Meat Night.” This sort of stuff happens all the time in families. We don’t speak what’s on our mind. We should have done that, but instead we were polite with one another.

Owen: And after Bobby’s death you did make a pilgrimage to New Orleans. How did that change your view of things?

Barbara: I fell in love with him exactly as he was. All judgment went out the window. A certain grace came with the love his friends had for him. Their love surrounded me in a way that was infectious. They told me things that would shock a well brought up New England girl, but I just laughed. For instance, his friends would always comment about Bobby being broke. I said, “I don’t understand how Bobby was broke. You say he was the most popular bartender in New Orleans and his bar was always packed. Why was he broke?” And they laughed and said, “Oh he was always buying drinks and he liked to give all his friends drugs.” Immediately at that I said, “Drugs, drugs, what kind of drugs?” Then they said, “Oh everything, Bobby liked to try everything and he liked to share with his friends.” I just sat there. It was a fear of exactly this sort of thing that had kept me away and then suddenly I was laughing, thinking “Bobby! You crazy man! I love you, you jackass.”

Owen: Tell me about hanging out in the bar where he worked.

Barbara: We must have some healing force in us which comes in spite of ourselves. It wasn’t something I thought out, I was in terrible pain and my instinct was to go down there and be where he was, to absorb him in any way I could. It was like a wake. I would sit there from the crack of dawn till late at night. This bar was really a family and home to a lot of people. The guys would come in the morning and have coffee and share the news of the day. They would come in on their lunches and late at night and tell me Bobby stories. I felt completely at peace in that atmosphere.

Owen: Since working through your grief, you have also started the organization Sisters, to help others deal with grieving. Tell me a bit about that.

Barbara: I decided I wanted to help other sisters out there by offering them the two things that helped me. One was being part of a grief healing group. The other crucial thing for me was volunteering...to go into the heart of the wound as a healer instead of a victim. Of course, you must never force anyone to volunteer. It has to come naturally but I think it also has to be known that this has a mysterious healing power. In Sisters we have eight weeks of grief healing and then I let them know
the various volunteer activities available and what can come of it. There are even guys that are Sisters.

'Owen: Why do you think our society has put time limits and sorrow levels on grieving?'

'Barbara: Because they’re scared. People are so frightened of feeling bad and the only thing that frightens them as much as seeing other people feel bad. We’re all control freaks in that we like to think that the great mysteries of the world are somehow in our control, so we say things like, “If you lose your husband in one year you’ll be fine.” And if you’re talking about sorrow levels look how friends are treated. Usually their grief is quickly dismissed. It’s a horrible thing because often in the gay community you’re not losing one friend, you’re losing friend after friend after friend. If nobody’s around to tell you you’re not losing your mind, you’re in hell but you will come out of it, then people think they are losing their minds.

'Owen: How did you know the grieving was over?

'Barbara: It’s never over, only different. It shifts from raw anger, remorse, pain, disbelief, and denial slowly to “I love this person. This person is with me in a way I wouldn’t choose, but we are also much bigger than we were before.” Yet every once and a while the old grief returns. It happened to me recently at a meeting for the movie. Susan Dey optioned the book and we were there making a pitch to a network. Since Bobby was an actor he would have loved it. Anyway, so we were in this meeting and Susan Dey did her thing, the producer did his thing, and they turned to me and I started talking about Bobby and out of nowhere began crying heavily.

'Owen: How did the positive experience of grief change you?

'Barbara: It’s almost easier to say how it didn’t change me. My favorite line in the book is the beautiful quote from Peter Adair’s documentary ‘Absolutely Positive’ where a young man who’s lost his lover spontaneously says “Sometimes when a heart breaks, it breaks open.” That’s absolutely what happened. The me before was very cerebral. There’s nothing wrong with that. I wasn’t an uncaring person and I had friends and a loving family. But before, any matter of the heart or soul got filtered through my brain which would say, “This isn’t reasonable, this isn’t rational. It can’t be explained scientifically.” Now I’m less controlling. I used to think the brain was boss, but I’ve learned that’s just not the case.
This was my second visit to the white building at 3103 Spenard Road, the site of a new nightclub in Anchortown called THE WAVE. The owner, Trina Johnson, gave me a private walk-through, fielding questions from contractors and workers as we toured the facility.

Identity: You wear a lot of hats, Trina. You own and operate the restaurant La Mex in two locations, you’ve started a band, you have a DJ business... which one is the real Trina?

Trina: The DJ is really my first love. La Mex allows me the liquidity to do my music, which is what I have always wanted to do.

Identity: Why a nightclub?

Trina: I can be around the music I like best... and I like the idea of not having someone else dictate what I play. I’ve wanted to operate a nightclub since I was in the seventh grade. I even designed one as a class project. Some of those images are right here in this club.

Identity: What kind of music will you offer here?

Trina: Top 40s dance music... no grunge and no alternative. We have spared no horses in installing the best audio system we could buy. A customer will be able to enjoy dancing and still hold a conversation without screaming. The DJ turntables are mounted in cradles of sand to eliminate jarring. We offer a giant screen with video/audio mix capabilities for numerous special effects. The lighting is both intimate and spectacular. The results are really amazing... just wait ’til you see!

Identity: Who is your target market, and when do you open?

Trina: I’ve been right up front with all the advertisers and promotional folks, including mainstream restaurant and club owners in Anchorage. This will be a mixed club, predominately Gay and Lesbian. I have received nothing but a ‘thumbs up’ reception from everyone. They all say this club is long overdue and a welcome addition. We will be open April 24... just a few days beyond our original target date. Everyone will feel safe and welcome here, able to relax and enjoy an upscale club atmosphere.

Identity: Will you have specialties of the house?

Trina: We’ll have ‘open mike’ once a month featuring local performers by invitation. I have booked a fashion show, a Celebration of Change cast party, plus other private parties and events for both the upstairs (non-smoking) section and the main room. The ‘espresso’ bar upstairs is going to be a main feature, offering more privacy and quiet conversation. It has a small stage as well, and is ideal for meetings.

Identity: Will you offer food? (I couldn’t resist asking!)
I can't give you anything but love, baby. It's the only thing I'm thinking of baby..." I stood, arrested, in the predawn darkness of the kitchen I had been trying to pass quietly through so I wouldn't wake Dear Love. From the cave of her room wafted the strains of song as if the voice was rising out of the sea or coming closer as if she'd crested a hill. "It's the only thing I've plenty of, baby..." I grinned and headed back to the bedroom.

The light from the bathroom shone on her face as I entered the room. She didn't stop in her performance but went right on singing now sounding like Helen Miller, and then winding up her performance in a Judy Garland finale with a slow, punchy build-up to the end of the song. Was her hand waving?

I had to scoop her up in my arms and kiss her all over her face even though I was going to be late now for my killer day. I could not leave such a performance unrewarded especially not when it just set the tone of the day in a better direction.

What a gift from an usually morning sleepyhead.

Right now we both have killer schedules which means little time together. Grants are due. Village travel is weekly now. We're moving at the worst possible time, but in together.

Yes! We've had to declare a moratorium on nights together because we need every single minute for work insanity. Life was not supposed to be like this in the Bush. But soon, it will be summer, and for me, at least, life will become more peaceful for a couple of months. But sometime during the crisis of moving, we will both cry hard and have wild, tension-release sex and keep on going.

Moving. I asked Dear Love what dire darkness of personality overcame her at moving time. I turn into an automation controlling bitch. She said she froze. Great. A recovering controller's monster-in-the-closet. But the goddess has seen fit to save our relationship by giving us different moving deadlines and arranged for me to be out of town during hers which means I will be saved from trying to make Dear Love move organized to my specifications. This does not mean that I will not be organizing, cajoling, encouraging and yes, giving orders, to Dear Love in my head as I'm flying east across America to dally hither and yon, but fortunately for the state of our love, she won't hear it. And when I get back, I'll be so glad to see her that I won't care that all of her boxes have to be carried again because she didn't have them put in the rooms where they will be unpacked. Or maybe she will.

At any rate, I don't have to unpack her boxes, I just gotta get them out of the middle of the living room and kitchen floor.

Mine will be there too. I just have to unpack mine. Yes, but we'll be helping each other. I just have to ask, and then wait to be asked. Alas.

I'm so damn tired of moving. I've moved 4 times in twenty-one years. It's enough to make me want to buy a house. With Dear Love? The fear rises immediately into my throat turning my words into high-pitched squeak. At the same time, my body draws up and away from Dear Love. Not fear of Dear Love. That old enemy fear-of-intimacy. How deep am I getting? Damn deep, and I'm doing it with my eyes open. I'm too old and too sober to say I didn't know what I was doing.

We already co-own a washing machine and dryer. But that's not as hard to jettison. If I have to run for my life, I could leave it. Run for my life? What am I talking about? I don't have to run from anything anymore. And especially not Dear Love. Dear Love is home. No matter where we live.

No matter if together or separately. Yes, I know. We're supposed to be at home in ourselves, and I am, but nothing replaces welcoming, or being welcomed at the end of the knock-a-bout day by someone who loves you. "Dream awhile scheme awhile..."

Kneeling by her bed patting me awkwardly on the back after I'd woken from a deep sleep sobbing, my friend Lucy once asked me why I kept getting into relationships that ended badly and tore me up so. She was angry at me for hurting. I told her that I had to learn how. That there had been nothing else in my life that I had set out to learn that had eluded me, except this. It is so painful to admit, the drive to connect, to be connected in love to others, a thing I have spent my whole life seeking. But in all the wrong places. Am I writing in song snippets today?

Moving has gotten easier, and loving has gotten easier. So far, Dear Love and I have had a charmed relationship. And for a year. And I have no disquieting thoughts in my head. Not like all the times before. Guardian angels hover around. Serendipities happen. I know this woman. I trust her. Do I trust myself? Yes, I do. I think I do. I will not self-sabotage.

But Bushville? I don't think I want to buy a house here. Our new place doesn't have the water in view either. I can't believe I've been living in a fishing town for two years almost and still won't live in a house where I can look out the window and see water which is damned hard what with a bay and several rivers running everywhere. On the other hand, I also don't have to look out the window at fishermen. And if I lived on one of the rivers, I'd have to watch and listen to gangs of boys riding the river on their sno-gos all winter. There are compensations.

Dear Love says we didn't put living by water on the wish list. She's right. But we did remember good water, a washer and dryer, a dishwasher, lots of room. We said two bathrooms. What we got was a postage-stamp size bathroom upstairs and a toilet on a throne in the laundry room downstairs. No sink. No shower. I'm going to paint the throne purple, put in a sink (no, I know virtually nothing about plumbing, but I can learn), and put a folding screen around the elevated toilet. "Till that lucky day, you know darn well, baby, I can't give you anything but love." Well, baby, I'll settle for that.

Karen Carlisle. Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered in Bushville.
Atalanta Opportunity Award

Applications are being accepted through May 26th, for the 1995-96 Atalanta Opportunity Award. This award, for a single woman with dependent children, includes $1,000 cash and a tuition waiver from the University of Alaska Anchorage, College of Community and Continuing Education for the two regular semesters. Forms are available at UAA Advising and Counseling, Financial Aid and the College of Community and Continuing Education. Call 786-6751 for more information.

This award is named after Atalanta, of Greek Mythology, whose father offered her in marriage to whatever young man could win a foot race. She entered the race and outran them all, claiming the right not to marry any of them, to make her own decisions about her life.

In recognition of the fact that single women with children make up a high percentage of those Americans below the poverty line, the Anchorage Education Association Women's Caucus offer this $1,000 incentive grant to help a single parent gain education that would enable her to obtain a job with higher pay.

For more information call Shari Olander in the Community Education office at 786-6751.

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9:00 a.m. Chris Livesey, "Miracles: Do They Have Meaning in Our Lives Today?"
10:30 a.m. Beatrice Hitchcock, Intern Minister, "Rebirth and Renewal"

APRIL 23
9:00 a.m. Art Curtis, Minister, "Looking to Nature for Soulful Metaphors"
10:30 a.m. Herb Shaindl, "Where is Anchorage Going...The Role of the Newsmedia in Alaska... and Other Topics"

APRIL 30
9:00 a.m. Art Curtis, Minister, "How Might Female-Male Differences Affect Our Religion?"
10:30 a.m. Jim Donally, "Religion, Science, Spirit and Soul"
THE EYE

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE INFERIOR VENA CAVA

How rude! There have been rumors abounding (now verified through impeccable sources) that some readers of this column can’t figure out who’s who, much less which sex is which (that’s been true all along, so never mind!) The EYE, not to be outdone by the Ear who reveals all and leaves no mystery whatever (the imagination is so much more fun than the truth, non?), will now indicate in some subtle way how to further deduce the identity of the personages herein mentioned. This is not difficult, so get out your pencils and when EYE says “do it,” well, do it. ▼ So there they were RM&MF at the J.C.P. Ball all decked out, dressed to the nines, you know the routine. Couldn’t help but notice RM in that gorgeous Elizabeth Taylor dress. EYE means, there she was in basic black and boobs. EYE means no slight, sexist or otherwise—heads turned when she walked by, and even EYE had to curtsy before the (real) Queen of the Ball. ▼ At that same do, EYE sat in fascination when this little, what, 5-year-old boy, would walk politely over to the runway and offer the traditional $1 to the performers. There was inevitably the pause when the performer noticed the lad and knelt or bent to the beautiful boy and took his offering with great tenderness. There were moments galore during the evening and none seemed more pleased than the lad himself. EYE gets all misty to think that this child will grow up knowing that diversity is all about and judgments needn’t be made. End Soapbox. ▼ EYE was impressed by Sasha, too. There was FM(FhF) having a loud old time with his cronies and when Sasha did her number, FM offered her, as a joke to be sure, a chicken bone he was, um, sucking on. Well, Sasha just plucked it up and began using it as if it were a mike. Showed you!!! ▼ Seems FK&F went on a bit too much about being an honorary Lesbian. Finally, COF had too much and said, “you’re not a Lesbian, you’ve got a penis!” Whereupon SRH allowed as to how maybe not since he hadn’t used it in such a long time. Upon reflection, SRH wondered about herself, noting the same inactivity. Questions that shouldn’t be answered: if you don’t use it, are you still, um, you know… queer, or do you have to turn in your card (like MJ only Perv could assign a symbol to that one)? ▼ Then there’s the story of the surgeon and the sissy. Seems there was an incident at one of those infamous NorthView stuffing&stapling parties. As the story filtered down to EYE, there was FH&F trying to refill the stapler and there was FK&F trying to help and neither one getting too far. And then, in came JM&Lo to the rescue, noting that reading the directions included the caution that one must understand as well as follow them, which he managed to do, somewhat, and all was well. ▼ Now, here’s one for the books. Seems there was a couple who frequents this column (RM&MF) and they were having some guests (CO&Mc) over for dinner (or something) and RM was doing her thang in the kitchen, didn’t see MF around and called out, “Where are y’all, honey?” Came the reply, “dusting.” Fine. But a tad later, RM wondered where MF was since the dusting process would have by then been over, and called out, yet again, “honey, whatchall doin’?” Came the reply from deep in the living room, “dusting.” Now RM couldn’t contain her curiosity any longer and went out to see, and there was MF, in the midst of her miniature auto collection “dusting” each car, with a Q-Tip, windows, seats, floorboards, and rear-view mirrors. Now EYE has been called anal retentive before, but EYE must now relinquish the crown and scepter. EYE is not worthy! ▼ Then there was the incident with the zipper. Follow closely, now. This is tricky territory. FKF was bidding adieu to RM (something to do with the NorthView again), when RM noticed her zipper wasn’t closing. Well, chivalry intact, FKF got right in there and started to help. If you were outside looking in you would have seen this male form bent over this female form in a rather compromising way, and you might have surmised some things that any self respecting queer would have known wasn’t happening. EYE won’t tell if Y’ALL won’t tell. ▼ Maybe the best has to be reserved for @Bob (eat your heart out, Prince (or however you pronounce your name these days)), because @Bob was waiting table at a particular luncheon and there sat our favorite couple (RM&MF) and guess who didn’t have a clue on whom he was waiting? Turn in your GayDar card, dear, you’ll have to take a night class brush-up course before you can camp again. ▼ Or maybe the best has to be offered to Big Tom. Yes, gEYE and gEYEn, Big Tom is turning 60 on the 28th and you’d better lie yourself thither to the Raven that evening to wish him many happy returns (yes, Dr. Prevo, some of us do get to be 60 and are even happy homosexuals, to boot. ▼

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The Directory

This directory is our "yellow pages" and reference guide. Want to be listed? Know someone who you think wants to be listed? It's free! Write Identity or call Ken at 248-7722 or Angel/Linda at the X.X at 337-0253.

The designations of (L)lesbian, (G)ay and (A)llies indicate that the business or service is owned by (L)lesbians, (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:
(E) KT Creative, Katie, 278-9174

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050
(A) Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHIV), Juneau, Ritz, 463-5668
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 452-2222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Found. (WA), 206-238-2256
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-247-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Kenai, 278-5019

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Gateley, Kekl/Jalmin, 561-3727
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constatce, 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, 274-8913

Astrology:
(A) Courtney's, Linn, 562-1227 (see ad)

Automotive:
(A) S&W Radiator Supply (Fairbanks), RJ, 907-452-2220

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

Bars:
(G) The Blue Moon, 277-0441
(G) Palace Saloon (Fairbanks), Alaskan (Fri & Sat ONLY)
(G) The Raven, 276-9672
(G) O'Brady's, 344-9033, 338-1080, 563-1080 (see ad)

Bed & Breakfast:
(G) Alta's (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-457-0246 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(A) Beach House, Mary (Homer), 907-235-5945 (see ad)
(L) The Butterfly Inn, Kay (Hawaii), 808-986-7936
(L) Cheney Lake B&B, Mary/Janet, 337-4391

(B) The Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(L) Garden Cottage (Orlando, FL), Lisa, 407-894-5295
(G) Gingerbread House, Yves (Montreal), 514-597-2864
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 907-236-2265 (see ad)
(L) Mermaid Inn, Nancy/Bennie (E. 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, 277-7004

Body Work:
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816

Books:
(L) Bona Dox: the Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joann/Marsh, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Alaska, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cynar's Books, Sandy/Terry, 274-2599
(A) Into The Woods Bookshop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-479-7701

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

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

Chemical Dependency:
(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 500-54 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)

College Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 277-7004

Computer Bulletin Board:
(A) Metropolitan Community Church, 276-0380; 276-0399
(A) The Wilde Side, 333-4039

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

Computer Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(G) Al's P.C. Connections, Alfred, 561-2767
(L) Angle, 337-0253 (see ad)
(G) By-Teq Alaska, Inc., Eken, 248-2422
(G) CDA Services, Walraud, 276-6862
(A) Computer Magik, Phil, 274-3525
(G) gra/x, Lucian, 272-0328
(A) Hellieck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(G) LLR Technologies, Logan, 272-7377
(G) Mark, 338-3357
(G) PC Possibilities, 248-6277

Computer Training:
(G) Seven Treasures Ent., Don, 338-9068

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

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

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Counseling Alternatives, Connie, 562-1826
(A) Counseling Alternatives, Janna, 562-1826
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795

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

Dental Care:
(A) Ward Hubert, DDS, 248-0022

Dog Boarding:
(A) Doggle 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 Cinemas, 561-0064, Movieline: 275-3799 (see ad)
(A) Mascarella Music, Diane, 277-9751
(L) Real Talent Productions, Karyn, 562-5777, 278-5683
(A) Syzygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-8840/338-3562 (see ad)

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

Fishing:
(L) 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, Luniy, 562-1227 (see ad)

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

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

Hair Styling:
(A) Executive Clip & Shine, 258-0304 (see ad)
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) 36th Ave. Hair Design, Ledjha, 561-8967

Health:
(A) Gatekey, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(L) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(L) 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, 907-458-8288
(G/L) Identity Helpline, 258-4777 (see ad)
(G) Kodiak Gay Info, 486-2986

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

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

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

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

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

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

Independent Marketer:
(A) Mark, 279-5264

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

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

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

Massage:
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabriel, 562-3045
(G) Joyce, (CMT), 562-1971 (see ad)
(L) Leslie (non-sexual), 278-3346
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(L) Vicki, 277-5222

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, Rosamary (Wasilla), 373-5353

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

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

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

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

Pet Care:
(A) Alaska Pet Palace, Sharon, 276-0668
(A) Doggle Inn, Arlid, 279-5661
(A) Doggle Vacations of Alaska, Constance, 344-3647

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

Political:
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth, 333-1100
(A) Anchorage Women's Political Caucus, Rhonda, 274-9308
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9226 (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:
(I) K&K Investigating, Karyn, 561-3665

Producing:
(I) Real Talent Productions, Karyn, 562-5777, 578-5683

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

Real Estate:
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-7481 (see ad)
(A) Bronwyn Hillman, 248-2084; 563-5156 (see ad)
(I) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 276-1763
(G) Dream Homes (Fairbanks), Jonathan, 997-451-1828 (see ad)
(I) Waiauoua Barron, 274-2634 (see ad)

Reiki/Counseling:
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916 (see ad)
(I) Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-4089

Research:
(I) Crucei & Associates, 279-3982 (see ad)

Restaurants:
(A) Cyrano's Cafe, 274-1173
(G) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1089, 563-1080 (see ad)

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

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

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

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

Shoe Care:
(A) Executive Clip & Shine, 258-8034 (see ad)

Sightseeing:
(I) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)

Social:
(G) Anchorage Garden Buddies, 258-4777
(GLA) Q*Klatch (Fairbanks), Eric, 455-4051

Social Research Design, Student Consultation, Evaluation:
(I) 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. Nancee Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Beal, 746-1089
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, Jim, 258-8266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276
(A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824

Sports:
(I) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 658-2226
(A) Files by Ilene (Eagle River, 987-694-6946
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221

Student Organizations:
(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks), Pete, 907-457-0246 (see Club Notes)
(G/L) The Family (formerly Lesbian and Gay & Bisexual 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, 562-4992, Fred 562-7161 (see ad)
(A) P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fairbanks), Nancy, 907-479-4944

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

Therapeutic Facilities Out-of-State:
(A) Tom Crooke, 277-7004

Theatre:
(A) Out North Theatre, Gene/Jay, 279-8999

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Cherrises, 561-0661 (see ad)
(I) Apollo Travel Agency, Karyn, 561-0661 (see ad)
(I) DreamQuest Tours, Karyn, 562-5777, 279-5683
(I) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail 274-9087
(G) World Express Travel, Greg, 786-3761

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

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

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

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

Look at Your Mailing Label!
The new NorthView mailing labels now give you the renewal date for your identity membership. Please refer to the line above your name. Your membership expiration is expressed as year/month, i.e., 1994/10. If your renewal is due in the near future, please help paperwork and postage-wise—send it early.

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

Thanks! Thanks!
Caveat Homo: advice for queers on the law and other mysterious topics by Sue A. Sponte

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: This is not a real advice column, although it may contain real advice. Sue Sponte is a pseudonym for a local paralegal, who hopes that this column will make you think, giggle, and encourage you to learn more about your rights and responsibilities as a queer citizen of our fair community. It provides a general overview of the state of the law, and personal opinions that are not those of the Identity's NorthView, its editors, or board of directors. It should not be considered legal advice, or relied upon in lieu of legal advice from a non-fictional character.

Dear Sue: My partner and I took your excellent advice to heart last month, and we now have a partnership agreement and wills. What we don't have is protection in case one of us is alive, but disabled. I want to make sure that if I'm incapacitated my baby-okay, my partner wants the same. What do we need to do? - Growing Old Together in Muldoon

Dear G.O.T.I.M.: I grow older every time I go to Muldoon... but I digest... I wish that there was a simple answer to this problem. How much protection you depend upon what you are protecting against. (In the case of a minor) Because you can't become legally related to your (same-sex) lover (at least not by marriage), your blood relatives will always have a closer legal relationship to you than your beloved.

A Power of Attorney (POA) is the general term for a document by which you designate someone other than yourself to tend to your affairs. There are a variety of different types of POAs and other documents, trusts, etc., which are intended to take effect under different circumstances, and solve different problems. You shouldn't assume that any one piece of paper is the answer, without considering the nature of your (potential) problem.

Probably the most important question you need to ask yourself is this: Are my family-of-origin members (while in crisis) going to respect my relationship and allow my partner to act as my closest relative, or are they going to freak out and fight for the right to change my bedpan and pay my Visa bill? Picture a worst case scenario. Then make a complete list of your assets, debts and concerns, and get some legal advice regarding how best to deal with your particular situation.

Dear Sue: I know this isn't really a legal problem, but those right-wing anti-everybody loopy-doodles are giving me heartburn.

What oh what can I do to oppose the campaign against women, children and queer? - A Decent Ordinary Bi-sexual Drag-queen, Soldotna, AK

Dear D.O.B.O.Q.: First of all, you can find out what nonsense these folk are spreading around by getting your name on all of their mailing lists. As a double added bonus, it costs them postage, and saves you money on cat-box liner. The down side is that these rags are filled with so much hatred and misinformation it'll make your head spin. Share them with your friends and relations. Outrage is sure to ensue. Here are some names and addresses:

American Family Association P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo MS 38803; Christian Coalition, P.O. Box 1990 Chesapeake, VA 23320; Concerned Women for America, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Ste 800, Washington, DC 20024; Family Research Institute, P.O. Box 2091, Washington DC 20013; National Association of Christian Educators/Citizens for Excellence in Education, P.O. Box 3200, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

Ms. Sponte is not feeling funny this month. Perk me up: send positive feedback, constructive criticism, real or pretend questions, and any and all humor, including, but not limited to lawyer jokes, to Sue A. Sponte, Paralegal c/o the NorthView.

1995 LesBiGay (Transgender, Transsexual, Transvestite) Conference and Cross-Dressers Conference

Planning for the second annual LesBiGay Conference is building momentum as local committee members provide their input to this important event. Grant money has been obtained, and keynote speakers are being contacted. Among those suggested... Barney Frank, Barry Goldwater, Greg Louganis, Margarette Cammmemeyer, Newt Gingrich's sister Candace, Joanne Loulan, Armistead Maupin, Matthew Fox, Martina Navratilova, Urvashi Vaid... The hope is to have both a male and a female keynote speaker for this event.

Using the themes proposed in past brainstorming sessions, the conference planners came up with the following tentative theme for the 1995 Conference: "Unity and Diversity, Lavender and the Rainbow."

If you have suggestions for the committee, please call Jen (272-7193) or Kurt (272-3990).

Unity & Diversity
1995 Les/Bi/Gay Conference
October 6, 7, & 8, 1995
Planning is underway. Join us!
Call Kurt at 272-3990 or Jen at 272-7193 for details.

Anchorage Gay & Lesbian HELPLINE
258-4777
A Community Service of IDENTITI INC. P.O. Box 200090, Anchorage, AK 99520
The Albums of Potter's Lane
(Remembering)
by Dan Cook

Part 24
"The Island"

Even though Mike and Victoria didn’t know much about their Island, they both agreed it had been a wonderful addition to a very lengthy will.

Mike’s Uncle asked the two to stop by his office before they left. He had a map and Nautical charts for Cha Cha’s Captain. He wanted to point out the two coves, the deeper one being where the beach house was and the only move deep enough for Cha Cha’s Pink Lady. He had not been there in forty years and told them not to expect much of a house—he was pretty sure the elements had taken their toll. He handed them an envelope marked Victoria Styles and Michael Potter.

Mike’s Uncle told them to open it up when they got to the island and for some reason he didn’t want them even to peek at it until then.

"Boy, Aunt Vera is still on stage right to the very end, Victoria." Victoria had to agree it sounded a little melodramatic, but it did add to the adventure.

They had two wonderful days in Seattle, everyone sleeping in, then meeting for lunch. Each had his/her own list of things to do. Shopping for their own homes, clothes, or for things they wanted for work. Mike raided Mother’s warehouse; Charles and Roland looked for the latest text books; Cha Cha and Victoria nursed hangovers. Mary, Snap, Fingers and Etta had Jefferi going from one store to the other carrying bundles of the latest fashions. God, it was great to have a Chauffeur around. Photo: View from Queen Anne Hill over looking Puget Sound and Seattle, from a four-acre piece of property on which Victoria was planning to build her home.

Mother Potter suggested the two think about building a summer home on the Island. They had already talked about that, so now it would be wait-and-see.

After two nights of parties with Victoria’s friends they were all looking forward to a lazy cruise.

The Pink Lady had been totally refurbished from tip to stern. She was berthed at Mother’s Pharmaceutical warehouse and pier. Monty waying. A hundred or more people looking over the railing at the yacht.

Mike and Steve couldn’t help but wonder what all those people were thinking. There was work now but that paid for food and a roof over your head. The Pink Lady was what dreams are made of. The shiny new cars with chauffeurs and high fashion ladies were something you saw at the movies, not on the docks of Seattle and on a work day at that.

Cha Cha, Victoria and Fingers with their huge straw hats and long cigarette holders, drinking champagne looked like an ad from Vanity Fair.

For some reason these gals were not uncomfortable with people pointing and staring at them. But the rest were, and retreated to the main parlor until the Lady had pulled out and away from the dock.

Cha Cha and Vince came up on a commercial airlines when all this fun was over they were going to sail her back to Long Beach. Monty had two days to do what ever he wanted in Seattle. He said the seafood was wonderful and said everyone should try the captain’s plate.

There were very few people living on the San Juan Islands in 1938, and those who did were isolated. They all made their living from the salt waters of Puget Sound. Some of the Islands, like Orcus, had it’s own fisheries. Clams, oysters, and Dungeness crabs were held in holding tanks. From there they were taken to processing boats or sold to larger boats which would take the catch to one of the canneries dotting the coast.

It was the wildlife that lived on these islands and shores that made this adventure even more exciting. The beaches were as virgins as the timber that grew along the shoreline. Mike wondered how many generations of deer had never seen anything but this island. After they passed big Orcus island they could see a speck on the horizon. It was their island and even at that range they realized this was a lot bigger than they could have imagined it would be.

It was covered with huge trees and had a sand and pebble beach that could hardly be seen because of all the driftwood. It looked much smaller on the map. They circled the island keeping an eye out for the many rock formations that surrounded the island like sentinels guarding a castle, the seals and seagulls giving the first alarm, screaming and barking their disapproval of man and machine.

There was no way anyone could have seen the Cove if they had approached it from the north. The Narrow passage was deep but was full of driftwood so they had to clear a path for the Lady and wait for high tide. Then only then did they slowly maneuver the Lady in. To their surprise the lagoon was quite large and formed an almost perfect circle. Sitting on a small bluff next to the shore was the beach house, barely visible—the trees and brush doing their best to hide their treasure. The collapsed dock and small boat house were hanging together by a wire and a prayer, the result of abandonment and years of neglect. But everyone agreed it had to be one of the most beautiful pieces of real estate of any of them had ever seen anywhere in the San Juans.

There were also two small streams. One of them cascaded over a small bluff and hit the rocks below; the other one came through the underbrush, slid over some large flat rocks, met the sun and it’s salt water cousin with a warm embrace.

The Captain suggested the women put on boots and pants while the crew got the life boats in the water and broke a trail through the underbrush. This was no place for fancy clothes.

“Were all going crazy, none of us could believe Aunt Vera had kept this island a secret. It didn’t make any sense,” Mike said. "She was a person that bragged about her possessions, and this island just didn’t fit."

The women had Victoria surrounded as they all came on deck. Victoria was all smiles and almost radiant. The old hard nosed Victoria was gone. She had played second banana all her life and now in her forties she seemed to be more at peace.
Steve went crazy from the first sighting. Now, inside the lagoon, all he could think of was building and exploring.

When they all got ashore Mike and Victoria excused themselves and found a large log on the beach. Sitting down Mike and Victoria read the letter which was dated 1930, and written on Aunt Vera’s personal stationery (with the big V. S. for Vera Styles). The eight page letter addressed to both of them explained just about everything Victoria had ever wanted to ask her mother and more: In 1895, Vera was a Prima Ballerina. She fell in love with Mike’s father who was single at the time. He wanted to get married and she wanted her career, not a husband. They came to this island and had a last fling just before he married Mike’s Mother. She did not know she was with child until a month after the marriage. She never told him the child was his but let him believe it had been someone she no longer cared for. Mike’s father, now Victoria’s as well, had bought the island hoping to entice the young Ballerina. He offered the island as a wedding gift (it didn’t work) but it was their love nest. She went on to explain that the two of them had become more like brother and sister and their father was always the love of her life.

Vera did not "show" until her sixth month and that’s when she asked to use the island so her public wouldn’t find out.

The one person she could trust was her dresser, an older lady who would stay the three months and be her midwife. Victoria was born in January and those three months were bitter cold and very lonely. Even in the best of winters out in Puget Sound it couldn’t have been a picnic. Vera went on, "your father came out twice a month with everything we needed including the paperwork that showed you were adopted. It was that or give her up—and Vera couldn’t do that.

"The island was a gift from your father," and now she was giving it back to his two children as a gift from their father. Needless to say they had mixed emotions, but the one of those emotions was "happy."

Victoria yelled up, "Steve! I’m your sister in law."

Over the next few days they realized Vera had been very brave and most certainly done the right thing. Having a child out of wedlock even in 1938 would cause a scandal for any young woman. But in 1896 it would have been suicidal even to think of it.

They were surprised and delighted to find the two-story beach house wasn’t as bad as they had imagined it. Every window had been boarded up and sealed. Once they had the heavy shutters off they all gave Mike and Victoria the pleasure of going in first. The last time anyone had been there was in 1897, at least that’s what they thought. The inhabitants were now spiders, bees, and squirrels. The only structural damage was the verandah and the kitchen roof around the chimney where there was some rain damage.

**FATHER’S LOVE NEST WAS FURNISHED BEAUTIFULLY** and because the house had been sealed up so tight, only the sheets that covered the furniture were falling apart as everyone carefully removed them and took them outside.

Very little had changed in all these years: everything from dishes and kerosene lamps to the thunder mugs under the beds had been waiting for the Potter family to return.

Victoria and Mike were slowly putting the story together.

**THERE WAS ONE LARGER BEDROOM UP STAIRS, THE PORCELAIN WASH BOWL WITH IT’S MATCHING WATER**

---

**PITCHER SET ON THE DRESSER. NEXT TO THE BED STOOD A ROCKER AND A BABY’S CRIB WITH A YARN BOWL AT IT’S SIDE. THE SMALL POT-BELLED STOVE IN EACH BEDROOM STILL HAD A STACK OF WOOD NEATLY BY IT’S SIDE, AND RED BRICKS USED TO WARM COLD FEET. THERE WERE BOOKS IN EVERY ROOM OF THE HOUSE. FATHER’S PIPE RACK SAT NEXT TO AN OVER-STUFFED CHAIR IN THE LIVING ROOM AND IN FRONT OF IT A CHECKERBOARD AND CHIPS READY FOR PLAY.** The novels were inscribed “For My Love, Yours always Mike.” This was more than just a fling, Mike and Victoria both agreed. But whatever it was, it had been wonderful. And their parents had left them with an island. All their friends were more than eager to put life back on it and to help explore its hidden treasures.

Turning the page....

Cherresse 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 Cherresse, who will send the missing sections at no charge.]

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_Imagination is the highest kite one can fly,_
_Lauren Bacall, b. 1924, American actress_
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* Formerly LaPerriere
Dear Editor,

I find the recent Anchorage Assembly voting on sexual orientation most revealing and disquieting. The Assembly voted to send a non-binding resolution to the University of Alaska Board of Regents that says that they should not include sexual orientation in the university's non-discrimination policy. The real revealing and disquieting part is not that end result—in a town that elected Tom Fink to two terms as mayor, that was to be expected—but is that the person sold to a large portion of the LesBiGay community of Anchorage as a our friend, dedicated to our cause, Mr. Mark Begich, voted in support of this resolution. It appears that, now that he is running for reelection, Mr. Begich finds political concerns more important than moral ones. Somehow, the satisfaction I might otherwise take from being able to say "I told you so" is out-weighted by my sadness and dismay at our betrayal. Perhaps next time we have the chance to support someone who is really supporting us, like Dr. Joyce Murphy, we'll rally behind them rather than supporting just another politician.

Donald NaFF

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Dr. Allison Hill
Chiropractor

After practicing in Houston, Texas for the past 11 years, Dr. Allison Hill is now pleased to call Alaska home.

Dr. Hill is a graduate of the Texas Chiropractic College, and has done postgraduate work in neurology and low back disorders.

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From love were we made.
On passions waves our spirit sparked and down we came into
our mothers...matter...matter...
The pull of love calling us, deep into the EARTH.
As deep into the mother, father pushed.
Deep into the womb, we crawled—the warm dark womb of
love-safe, dark,
cradled quiet—we grew.

In the dark—there was but one sound—
the sound of life, the sound of LOVE, the sound of the
heart.
Beating...Beating...Beating...Beating...Beating...Beating...

Hear it now in your own heart, its rhythms pumping life and
air and breath through every part
of you, renewing you, bathing you in air, in space, in breath,
in life.

Feel it now at the core of you, embrace it with your hands.
Feel it within you, old as you are,
beating since the days from deep in the womb, feel how long
its been there;
Always Beating Never Stopping.
Always Beating Never Stopping.
Always Beating Never Stopping.
Always Beating Never Stopping.
Do you love that heart?

Breathe in deeply drawing in the air...as softness, depth and
wisdom.
As you breathe the spirit comes within your heart and
touches you...moving you...changing you.
Deeply you accept as thirstily you drink.
Each breath that comes and goes in spirit's shape.
Be thankful for this vessel that receives.

Faster now on waves of flame, we flying with joy up to the sky.
Above the EARTH, above the water, beyond the fire, into the
air.
We reach and spread our wings and fly.
Free to ride the winds.
But soon get tossed about and cry—Where is the heart?
Where is the heart? Where is my home?

We Listen for the beat and fly, deep unto its sound.
We reach for ground, slowing down; we still ourselves to
listen deeper;
quiet is the sound.

Gently we reach, for the heart is tender.
Softly we touch, for the heart is afraid.
We open our hands to the love inside, to unite, to touch, to
heal.

Offer that love now. Ask for entry to your own heart.

Listen deep and hear inside a silent sound:
Listen deep and hear inside a silent sound:
I am LOVE, I am LOVE, I am LOVE, I am LOVE.
Listen deep and breathe into the sound....
the breath, the winds of healing......
In...and out...in...and out...in...and out...

Inhaling that which is new, exhaling the old, each breath
renewing.
Each breath a wind within you and around you,
Gentle zephyr, storm of life, winds of change.

For what does your heart cry?
For what does it long?
In what does it find peace?
Release its hope and dreams to fly upon the wings of change, and
then return on wings of LOVE, fulfilled beyond your dreams.
You are not alone, your cries are echoed in a thousand hearts
the same.
If you listen, you can hear them beating, beating, beating,
beating.

Deep within each person find the heart.
Everywhere around you find the heart.
Deep within ourselves we find the heart.
Every time we touch, we touch the heart.

Within each one is love, awaiting sweet unfoldment.
Release that LOVE upon the winds of breath, and reach
beyond.
Touch the hearts inside the ones you LOVE, and
listen to their breath that whistles in...and out...in...and out......

Like you they laugh and cry and play, ceaseless rhythm
through each day.
Feel the heart so like your own: Hoping, Healing, Breathing,
Feeling.
Let there be no sound of striking, only that of LOVE and
liking.
Each unto the dance of LOVE,
that joins the EARTH to worlds above, and joins ourselves
unto each other.
Each one seen as sister, brother.
Within our hearts the seeds of peace lie, awaiting sweet
release.
Upon the winds of change they fly.
As deep within our hearts we cry.

LOVE, I'M LOVE

I'M LOVE, I'M LOVE, I'M

LOVE

-Marcus B. Ortelee-
All the groups in town that support gay/lesbian/bisexual issues decided to hold a town meeting to focus on the unity that can come out of diverse interests. Individuals in the community also found ways of moving our issues forward, even if they couldn’t publicly say so. It is one thing to be a school teacher or counselor afraid of attack by associating with any of the groups, but that didn’t stop them from giving money. Rather than remaining invisible, there are ways for you to at least be transparent.

Now is a good time to find someone who is doing something to correct the injustices, speak out against the hate and fear, help educate and make our world a better place for everyone. Spring cleaning is one of the biggest grassroots events in Fairbanks, and we as a group will be there to help. So find a way to be a part; offer something of yourself to a group promoting a sexual orientation cause that you believe in. To borrow a phrase, help wake up America.

Pete Pinney thanks Tom for the handshake at the airport.

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The Awakening
by Pete Pinney

Spring is not always my favorite time of year. My all-wheel drive car turns into a skidoo coming down the driveway. I can track the break-up slush in the boot marks across the carpet. But the sun sparkling off the ice crystals as early as four in the morning reminds me that life is good, winter is out of here, and people in Fairbanks will soon be jammin'.

There are many accomplishments over the past winter that would prove we don’t just shrivel up into cocoons up here during the darkest months. People stay busy to avoid going crazy, especially if they can’t afford the light therapy or a ticket to some warm, sandy beach. And people in Fairbanks have been busy: lawsuits, political action committees, and dances. Now these activities are about to explode into summer.

The willows are budding. The candle ice on the river is crumbling into pools of movement. Now is a good time to take stock in what to expect and what to plan for. The Mark Tumeo/Kate Wattum Legal Defense Fund is gearing up for fundraising. Students from AGLA are attempting to add a sexual orientation clause to the university books. QK Outdoors has a slate of fun outings through September. The Triangle Network of gay/lesbian owned and friendly travel businesses now boasts over fifteen members. The women’s music festival is gearing up and expanding to a larger site. A team is formulating a history project that will culminate in a presentation during Gay/Lesbian History Month this October. People here are already making plans for National Coming Out Day. And it is only spring.

So this is a good time to think about the next 100 days. What is going to be happening in your community that will improve things for you? Hey, if people in Washington can lay down an agenda, why shouldn’t we? It’s time to put away all that useless winter baggage and get into gear. And now is a good time to figure out how to move your agenda forward or help someone else who can.

As the Pat Buchanans of the world begin their holy crusades against the likes of you and me, its time to pull out the arsenal of talent and intelligence that can effectively shape a viewpoint. Not that we always have to react to other people’s garbage. That is what spring cleaning is all about. We can act on our own, for our own, with our own. The students at the university wanted to reach out to younger teens. They didn’t wait for someone to criticize; they came up with a plan that allowed for interaction that emphasized responsibility and ownership of actions. The group is a role model for the community. Two employees at the university saw an inequality in how they were being treated. They didn’t want to see special rights for married people.
PFLAG Fairbanks

The March 21, 1995, meeting was held as scheduled in the Unitarian Church building. Nancy reported on the search for a new president. After she sent a letter to all members and friends of the chapter, one person called to express interest in the job. A university class currently conflicts with that individual’s attendance, but the course ends in May. A follow-up contact will be made by Nancy.

HB226 and HB227 were discussed. Steve’s letter to the editor advocating fairness in handing out benefits to unmarried vs. married couples was noted. The letter also advocated Gay marriage in Alaska. It was also noted that Mary and Mark worked hard on an amendment to HB226. A meeting was held on March 16th with Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer and four Fairbanks chapter members to discuss Gay issues. It was called by the Lt. Governor as a result of our letter sent out to major state officials soon after the election. The Lt. Governor was already well informed on the issues important to us, but she was not familiar with PFLAG Fairbanks. We couldn’t have been more pleased with her interest, concern and graciousness.

Current Gay events and people in the news were discussed including Rev. Mel White and his fast for understanding, evangelist Pat Robertson, Greg Louganis, Candace Gingrich, schools and the ultra conservative right, Pat Buchanan for president and the upcoming EQUAL town meeting (April 9, 3:00 PM).

Mention was also made of the PFLAG Fairbanks presentations at 1) a TVC course on 2/25/95 by Nancy and 2) a Multicultural Workshop in Anchorage during mid February by Jeff.

Thanks to PFLAG National we now have two new books: "Gay & Lesbian Stats" and "Growing Up Gay: a literary anthology."

The Kailings are now on line. Their E-mail address is <wrvnkl@northstar.k12.ak.us>

Steve Kailing, Chapter Correspondent.

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Obituaries

James ‘Jim’ Wilson

James Wilson, 41, died March 23, 1995, at the home of his sister, Barbara Briggs, in Wasilla.

Jim was born June 26, 1953, in Taft, CA. He moved with his family to Alaska in 1961. A member of ROTC at East Anchorage High School, he graduated in 1972 and joined the Navy, where he became a quartermaster during his four-year term. Jim attended Anchorage Community College and received his Associate Degree in computer programming. He worked at Providence Hospital before going to Kodiak to start his own computer business and returned to Anchorage as the business flourished.

He was a very caring person concerned with helping people, and was instrumental in starting Hope Cottages in Kodiak. He was well known for his gregarious personality and sense of humor.

Jim was diagnosed with brain cancer on September 12, 1993 after an emergency brain operation on August 31. A second surgery was done on June 10, 1994, and a third surgery on September 14.

Jim is survived by his parents, John and Mary Wilson of Wasilla, brother-in-law Robert Westervelt and sister Barbara Briggs, two nieces, two nephews, two grand-nieces and many friends in both Kodiak and Anchorage.

It is requested that donations be sent to the Metropolitan Community Church, 615 Hollywood #5, Anchorage, AK 99511.

Jeffery James Sperano

Jeffery Sperano, age 38, died in Seattle on February 15, 1995 of complications from AIDS. Born in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, he also lived in Denver and Anchorage. He is survived by his mother, brother and numerous friends. He worked as a professional chef and cooked with a passion. His generosity and joy of living won him the friendship of many. A celebration of his life will be held on May 7, his birthday, 11:00am-2:00pm. Memorial contributions go to Bostyrv University Natural Health Clinic’s Medical Scholarship Fund for HIV Positive Persons. For information call 337-0703.

MCC Forming Library

The Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church is starting a library and would welcome donations of any books you might be willing to share from your private collections. This is a general library, so all genres are of interest. So far, we have collected 1,200 books, but we have dreams of a much larger collection.

If you would like to make a donation of books, please call the church at 258-5266 during business hours and we will make arrangements for either a drop off or a pick up. Thanks.
Evan's Two Moms
by Anna Quindlen

Evan has two moms. This is no big thing. Evan has always had two moms—in his school file, on his emergency forms, with his friends "Ooooh, Evan, you're lucky," they sometimes say. "You have two moms." It sounds like a sitcom, but until last week it was emotional truth without legal bulwark. That was when a judge in New York approved the adoption of a 6-year-old boy by his biological mother's Lesbian partner Evan. Evan's mom. Evan's other mom. A kid, a psychologist, a pediatrician. A family.

The matter of Evan's two moms is one in a series of events over the last year that lead to certain conclusions. A Minnesota appeals court granted guardianship of a woman left a quadriplegic in a car accident to her Lesbian lover, the culmination of a seven-year battle in which the injured woman's parents did everything possible to negate the partnership between the two. A lawyer in Georgia had her job offer withdrawn after the state Attorney General found out she and her Lesbian lover were planning a marriage ceremony; she's brought suit. The computer company Lotus announced that the Gay partners of employees would be eligible for the same benefits as spouses.

Add to these public events the private struggles, the couples who go from lawyer to lawyer to approximate legal protections their straight counterparts take for granted, the AIDS survivors who find themselves shut out of their partner's dying days by biological family members and shut out of their apartments by leases with a single name on the dotted line, and one solution is obvious.

Gay Marriage is a radical notion for straight people and a conservative notion for Gay ones. After years of being sledgehammered by society, some Gay men and Lesbian women are deeply suspicious of participating in an institution that seems to have "straight world" written all over it. But the ruts of 20 years ago, straight and Gay alike, have other things on their minds today. Family is one, and the linchpin of family has commonly been a loving commitment between two adults. When same-sex couples set out to make that commitment, they discover that they are at a disadvantage.

No joint tax returns. No health insurance coverage for an uninsured partner. No survivor's benefits from Social Security. None of the automatic rights, privileges and responsibilities society attaches to a marriage contract. In Madison Wisconsin, a couple who applied at the "Y" with their kids for a family membership were turned down because both were women. It's one of those small things that can make you feel small.

Some look marriage statutes that refer to "two persons" at their word and applied for a license. The results were court decisions that quoted the Bible and embraced circular argument: marriage is by definition the union of a man and a woman because that is how we've defined it.

No religion should be forced to marry anyone in violation of its tenets, but ironically it is now only in religious ceremonies that Gay people can marry, performed by clergy who find the blessing of two who love one another not sin. But there is no secular reason that we should take a patchwork approach of corporate, governmental and legal steps to guarantee what can be done simply, economically, conclusively and inclusively with the words "I do".

"Fran and I chose to get married for the same reasons that any two people do," said the lawyer who was fired in Georgia. "We fell in love; we wanted to spend our lives together." Pretty simple.

Consider the case of Loving v. Virginia, aptly named. At the time 16 states had laws that barred interracial marriage, relying on natural law, that amorphous grab bag for justifying prejudice. Sounding a little like God throwing Adam and Eve out of paradise, the trial judge suspended the one-year sentence of Richard Loving, who was white, and his wife, Mildred, who was black, provided they got out of the state of Virginia.

In 1967 the Supreme Court found such laws to be unconstitutional. Only 25 years ago and it was a crime for a black woman to marry a white man. Perhaps 25 years from now we will find it just as incredible that two people of the same sex were not entitled to legally commit themselves to one another. Love and commitment are rare enough; it seems absurd to thwart them in any guise.

Thanks to The New York Times, 2/5/92, the Op-Ed Page, and Mei Mei Evans.
Gay And Lesbian Martial Artists Plan A Weekend Of Workouts And Seminars

IAGLMA: The International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists has scheduled a meeting of its general membership for Saturday June 3, and Sunday June 4, 1995 in San Francisco, CA. The meeting will include a series of martial arts workshops by some of the world’s top ranking martial artists (who also happen to be Gay).

The IAGLMA organization is an outgrowth of the Gay Games. It’s a not-for-profit organization, and IAGLMA membership is open to anyone (annual dues are $20): a newsletter is published quarterly.

The IAGLMA meeting during the weekend of June 3/4 will include a series of seminars and workshops of particular interest to martial artists, and non-members may attend the workshops. Abbie Brown, 4th degree black belt in judo and a member of the group’s board of directors says, “One of our greatest strengths is our diversity. Generally martial artists train in only one style, but IAGLMA seminars offer martial artists the opportunity to try new things. More importantly, these meetings give us a chance to meet with and learn from other Gay and Lesbian martial artists.”

Write to IAGLMA at: P.O. Box 590601, San Francisco, CA 94159 or e-mail IAGLMA@aol.com. More information: Allen Wood at 415-563-1655 or Kathleen Webster at 610-940-1434.

The Fairbanks Benefits Case
by Allison Mendel, Esq.

It is probably well known by now that something positive happened in the court system recently. To wit, Judge Meg Greene of the Superior Court in Fairbanks ruled that the University of Alaska must provide health insurance to economic dependents of employees without regard to whether or not the employees are legally married to their dependents. The plaintiffs in this case, Mark Tumeo and Kate Wattum, are both Gay and have same-sex partners, but the decision is not limited either to Gay or straight—the issue is whether you are in a real economic partnership or not.

The decision of the court was based on the state Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination against employees on the basis of marital status, among other things. This is one way in which state law differs from federal law—there is no prohibition in federal law against marital-status discrimination. Judge Greene pointed out that the University’s policy of providing health insurance to the spouses of married employees resulted in married employees being paid more than unmarried employees, even if their economic circumstances were identical. This the court logically identified as discrimination.

The effect of this ruling should reach all employers covered by the Human Rights Act. Some lawyers have questioned whether the ruling can be applied to private employers who are covered by the federal law, ERISA, which governs employee benefits. This is a difficult and thorny legal issue, and has no easy answer. In any case, not all nonprofit employers are covered by ERISA. In other words, no one can be too sure which private employers might be affected by the new ruling.

Not surprisingly, the legislative response to this case seeks to reverse the court ruling and allow married people to get more than other people. House Bill 226, if passed, would allow employers to discriminate on the basis of marital status for the purpose of providing employee benefits. Needless to say, this is a bad idea, and not only because it targets Gay people who cannot, legally, marry each other. It also sets a lousy precedent of carving exceptions into the Human Rights Act for today’s disfavored group. This is not a path we should start on. We hope that by the time you read this, the measure will have been defeated or indefinitely postponed.

The Tumeo case is currently on appeal to the Alaska Supreme Court. This writer, anyway, expects that Court to uphold Judge Greene’s ruling. I believe that we should view it as a success every time anyone, court, legislature, or what have you, says that Gay people are people too, and deserve to be treated accordingly. Rome was not built in a day, and every little success is another brick added.

Allison Mendel is an Attorney and a partner in the law firm Mendel & Huntington.

Time -- our youth -- it never really goes, does it? It is all held in our minds.

Helen Hooyer Santmyer (1895-1986), American writer
Victory in Fairbanks!

by Amy Young, EQUAL Co-chair

On January 11, 1995, Judge Mary Green reversed a University of Alaska Fairbanks decision to deny benefits to "domestic partners." The court finding says denying benefits to unmarried partners is illegal under Alaskan law. The court's decision upholds the state statute saying it is illegal to discriminate against a person in compensation or privilege of employment based on marital status. The victory recognizes it is unlawful to deny benefits to unmarried couples, regardless of whether they are gay or straight.

This story began back in November 1993, when Kate Wattum and Mark Tumeo, both UAF employees, tried to add their partners to their partners to their health plans. After an eighteen month battle, both their partners are now eligible for benefits.

Although this was a great victory, the final battle is not over. The University realizes it cannot win under current law and have collaborated with Republican Representatives Pete Kelly (Fairbanks) and Norm Rokeberg (Anchorage) to draft two amendments to the Alaska Human Rights Law. House Bill 226 would allow employers to discriminate against unmarried couples when providing benefits. House Bill 227 would change Alaska's marriage law to specifically prohibit marriage by same gender couples.

Currently HB 226 & 227 are being reviewed by the legislature. Both bills passed the State Affairs Committee and were scheduled for hearing before HESS on April 11. Eventually these bills may reach the desk of Governor Knowles for his signature or veto. Although we can not predict the exact time line of this legislation, we encourage you to keep track of these two bills and help organize opposition to their passage as they continue through the legislature.

If you're not one of the 1,050 members of EQUAL, please sign up today.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Mary Elizabeth Rider, an educator for the State of Alaska will conduct a seminar on "How to Influence the Legislature."

Join us on Thursday, April 27, at 7:00PM at the Metropolitan Community Church on Government Hill for this timely and valuable seminar. For more information, call Dan Carter (274-9226) or Amy Young (258-9225).

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EQUAL
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Panels Made By World's Leading Fashion Designers For AIDS Memorial Quilt Displayed In Chicago, May 20-June 8 Exhibit At The School Of The Art Institute Of Chicago Concludes International Tour

On May 20, 1995 The NAMES Project Foundation presents "Absolut Hope," a gala event to commemorate the final exhibit of panels created by leading international fashion designers for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The display of more than 80 panels will be exhibited at the recently refurbished historic grand ballroom of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, in a program sponsored by Absolut Vodka and the NAMES Project-Chicago. "Absolut Hope" concludes a tour of the panels that included London, New York and San Francisco. Tickets to the gala, priced at $125 each, can be obtained by calling (312) 472-4460.

The list of makers of these panels reads like a Who's Who of the contemporary fashion world: Giorgio Armani, Geoffrey Beene, Bill Blass, Oscar de la Renta, Gianfranco Ferre, Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Christian Lacroix, Helmut Lang, Ralph Lauren, Isaac Mizrahi, Thierry Mugler, Todd Oldham, Rafi slab, Sonia Rykiel, Yves Saint Laurent, Anna Sui, Emanuel Ungaro, Valentino, Gianni Versace and Vivienne Westwood, among others. The panels were conceived with the theme "Fashion Remembers."

"The panel I designed is dedicated to two friends who, unfortunately, died of AIDS," said Gianni Versace of his role in "Absolut Hope." "The first was George, a dear friend who was a dancer affiliated with the Maurice Bejart Ballet; the second, Terry Scott, who died soon after we met. I know I would have grown to love Terry if we would've had more time together. The panel symbolizes for many people that I have loved and respected who have died of this horrible epidemic. If the AIDS Memorial Quilt helps in any way to prolong their memory, it's meaningful and vital for me to contribute."

While each panel in this special display is unique, they are united by their tribute to those in the ranks of fashion who have died of AIDS, and by their expression of hope to conquer the devastating disease. "Absolut Hope" also includes 12 panels created to commemorate local designers who have died from AIDS-related complications.

"Like each panel in the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the panels made by the world's top fashion designers are individual works of art," said Anthony Turney, Executive Director of The NAMES Project Foundation. "But more than being beautiful memorials, they are important tools for raising awareness about AIDS among people in the fashion industry and beyond."

"As a company interested in giving something back to the communities that support us and our products, we are pleased and honored by the opportunity to co-sponsor this important exhibition," said Russell Aronson, National Marketing Manager for Absolut. "It so vividly reminds us of the great talents we are losing to AIDS and the need to overcome the destructive power of this epidemic."

"Absolut Hope" will open to the public on Sunday, May 21, in The School of the Art Institute of Chicago building at 112 South Michigan Avenue. There is no admission charge.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt was started by Cleve Jones in 1987 as a memorial for those who have died from AIDS and to help bring an end to the epidemic. The Quilt was first displayed in Washington, D.C. in October of that year; it had 1,920 panels. Today, the Quilt is composed of 29,000 panels, and some 1,600 displays of various sizes take place annually. There are 38 NAMES Project chapters in the U.S. and 30 independent Quilt initiatives worldwide. The NAMES Project Foundation to date has raised more than $1.4 million to provide direct services for people living with AIDS. More than five million people have visited the AIDS Memorial Quilt.
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