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

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Editorial
"The Personal Is Political"

My friend Jim Morgan mentioned that there’s a Buddhist saying "you become what you resist." In my last Editorial I discussed the power of the Right (in its many forms) and our need to join groups, contribute (time and/or money), be active. I also talked about coming out.

As I was speaking with Jim over lunch he noted that so many of us resist coming out because we fear the reaction, i.e., pre-accept the homophobic reaction we expect and stay in the closet for that reason, that the homophobia is strong--perceived or real. So, we become what we resist. We take in the homophobia, make it our own and live in the prison (of daily lying about ourselves, who we are, whom we love).

Jim said, "I suppose if an African-American could have the skin color be only inside, not visible to the world, there might be a similar feeling--don’t tell anyone if you don’t have to, because it might affect how you get related to." And many people of color don’t relate to our plight, and go so far as to condemn us on moral grounds as if to say that homosexuality is solely about sex! We know by now that the word homosexual can be substituted for the word Jew or Black and the rhetoric is identical. Yet many minorities resist.

What to do.

In my last editorial I mentioned coming out. I'd like to go farther with that sentiment.

The more we stay in our closets, the more we promote the agenda of the Right. The more we buy their assessment of us, the more we make homophobia our own. The more we stay in the closet, the more we deprive the "wide world" of our abilities, friendship, talents, problems, spirituality and zest for life. The more we deprive others of ourselves, the more the Right can lump us into one homogeneous mass, call us names, and make the epithets stick. The more of a lump we appear to the "wide world" the less it can support us because we behave "like that."

Identity Board member Tori Lentfer chastised me for using particular language in my editorials, saying that the only way to emerge from this homophobic and unchristian onslaught from the so-called Christian Right, is to out-Christian the Christians. Hard enough for a Jew, harder still for a Gay Jew. But she’s right.

And it isn’t a matter of smiling and turning the other cheek. Jesus wasn’t meek: he was passionate; held strong beliefs; preached them with vigor and lived them with élan. So it is with us: there’s no need to smile politely when you’re called a name, struck or greeted harshly when a co-worker balks at accepting you when you come out. How about adopting a passionate stance that includes your beliefs about a nonhomophobic world? How about mentioning that heterosexual life isn’t only about sex, is it? How about mentioning that if they’re worried about child molesters, telling them that 95% percent of child molestation takes place in the home and is heterosexual, usually perpetrated by a family member? How about telling them that their beliefs about homosexuals is benighted and "party-line" and they might stop and ask themselves what their real fear is (perhaps their own unwillingness to look inside themselves and discover the truth, truth that no one entire people is "like that," that every race and culture has its highlights and not-so-highlights, that being Lesbian or Gay isn’t a communicable disease, that even people like Michael Johnston admit that they’re homosexual, but in his case he’s handed responsibility for his genitals to Dr. Prevo. How about pointing out that all they know about Lesbian and Gay culture is what they’ve heard from unreliable sources (Dr. Prevo’s vastly twisted sermons, in most cases), and that there’s a real blood-and-flesh culture, rich in history and personalities, artists, statesmen and stateswomen, designers, actors, construction workers, doctors and lawyers and politicians and teachers, all of whom have brought incredible depth to their lives—and they never knew it.

I have a presentiment about the quality of our lives. With the advent of a conservative swing to power in this country, there is likely to be more repression. It is not likely that our successes will be met in all quarters with open arms. In fact, there’s likely to be more resistance than ever before as we make advances. It seems to me that our lives, all of our lives, closed or not, will be called to accountability whether directly or through the perils our friends go through. And each of us will have to examine our motives carefully.

I believe that we will come up short if we discover that dishonesty in ourselves, the little dishonesty about not revealing that we’re Lesbian or Gay, that we’ll come up short if we’ve not put the lie to the co-worker’s statement about fags or lezzies, that we’ll find ourselves lacking if we remain silent when we might have spoken. And I do not discount the danger. Coming out can be perilous. But staying in the closet is worse. It promotes in us the Right’s view that we are sick. And sick we are as long as we hide this part of ourselves because we believe that someone else doesn’t like it, won’t like it, won’t like us...

We become what we resist. Thank you, Jim, for reminding me that I’ve bought into the homophobic’s reality. That I’ve worried myself sick over whether to say something to the co-worker, the insensitive friend, the stranger whom I met "by chance" and didn’t speak out, gently. Thank you for reminding me that my sickness is not my homosexuality, it’s my acceptance of my brother’s judgment of it and neither I nor my brother can heal until I take my own healing seriously and share that healing and enlightenment.

F. Kenneth Freedman, Co-Editor

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A Month of Good News

- Pat Robertson Backs Down • Award for “Tales of the City” •
- Rhode Island Approves “Gay Rights” • Court Rules Against “DADT” (again) •

Dan Carter is a local gay activist

One of the most often heard complaints about newspapers and electronic news organizations are from people saying “all they give us is the bad news.” This month, at least on this page, you are going to be reading nothing but GOOD NEWS!

Let’s start right here in Anchorage. From a gay rights perspective, the elections for Municipal Assembly were almost perfect! Both incumbents who supported us in the past were reelected and Fay von Gemmingen, a supporter of equality, will be taking the seat of Bill Faulkner, an opponent who could not run again because of term limits. Dick Traini, a man we could always count on to OPPOSE us, was defeated. Whether that is good news is debatable. George Wuerch may be just as bad or even worse. The net result of the election was one additional Assemblyperson for equality.

Reverend Pat Robertson, the minister who single-handedly “saved” Virginia from the onslaught of a hurricane several years ago, the man responsible for the establishment of the “so-called” Christian Coalition and the theologian who redefined the meaning of “Christian generosity” in a way that has enabled his organization to rake in hundreds of millions of dollars over the past few years, made the following statement on his TV show: “We abhor violence against homosexuals. We would counsel strongly that you can hold your religious beliefs without beating people up and being violent.”

This announcement was made following a 23 day fast and the arrest of Reverend Mel White, a minister in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). Rev. White, formerly the ghost writer for Robertson, had demanded a televised call for nonviolence from Robertson and a promise to stop appealing to sexual orientation bias. “He knows we’re monitoring every word he says, every fund-raising letter he writes, every political action he inspires.” White added.

The PBS miniseries “Armistead Maupin’s Tales of the City” won a Peabody Award for its “courageous depiction” of gay life in San Francisco before AIDS. The Peabodys, administered by the University of Georgia, honor TV excellence. The six-hour “Tales of the City” depicted the freewheeling days and nights of San Francisco in 1976. If you missed seeing it on PBS, the Bona Dea Woman’s Bookstore has copies for sale (and I think, for rent).

The Rhode Island House of Representatives voted 57 - 41 to approve a statewide act relating to civil rights by banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. The Senate passed similar legislation last year by a vote of 30 - 17 and is expected to support this measure also.

The measure was strengthened when Marty Perry, the state’s 1994 Teacher-of-the-Year, testified in favor of the bill and announced, against his lawyer’s advice, he is gay. Republican Governor Lincoln Almond has said he will sign the legislation which would make Rhode Island the 9th state with protection for people based on sexual orientation. The other states are: Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey, California, Minnesota and Hawaii (come on Alaska, it’s your turn!).

U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson ruled against the controversial “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on gays in the military on March 30, 1995. Judge Nickerson said the current policy was discriminatory and violated free speech rights. He also said the current policy puts great pressure on gay/lesbian/bi members of the military to lie to military officials. This case is expected to be appealed, possibly all the way to the Supreme Court.

(Note: Most of the above information was obtained from the INTERNET. It is a great way to maintain contacts and obtain information about national gay activities. If you’re already on, I’ll see you there—alaskadan@aol.com)
Big Business Boosts Effort to Win Share of Gay Market
Trade Show Signals Change in What Has Been a Field for Small Concerns
By Roger Ricklefs

New York—Big business is increasingly moving in yet another field that small business once had to itself: the gay market.

At the National Gay & Lesbian business and Consumer Expo here this past weekend, half of the 225 exhibitors were mainstream companies, up from about one-third of a much smaller group last year, said Steven Levenberg, show manager.

While Most of last year's five sponsors were gay-oriented organizations, this year's list included International Business Machines Corp., AMR Corp.'s American Airlines unit, American Express Co. and nine other national companies. The show also attracted numerous heterosexual small-business owners, some making their first major effort to reach the gay market. Mr. Levenberg said attendance at the show was expected to reach 10,000 to 15,000.

"We're here because our customers are here—its that simple," said Daniel P. McCurdy, director of business development at IBM.

For American Airlines, participating in the show is part of a concerted campaign for gay business that began last fall, said Rick Cirillo, whose job since then has been "sales manager, gay and lesbian community." Since September, the airline has generated $18 million in new revenue through sales to gay organization, special fares for travel to gay events, and the like, he added.

Mr. Cirillo said his new job has "put me way, way, way, out of the closet, but that's okay. The company has been very supportive, and I never had a problem being gay." The official, a former sales representative at the airline, said it "was not a hard sell to persuade the company to create his new position because the market has all the demographics."

Smaller mainstream companies also expected to benefit from the show. "A quarter of our customers are gay already," said Nancy Chambers, proprietor of Urban Bird, a New York bird store that had a large display of parrots at the show.

"We're raising awareness."

William Pitt Real Estate which has several offices in Connecticut, says its booth attracted Connecticut residents as well as New Yorkers interested in weekend or suburban homes. The firm, which has a half-dozen brokers at the expo, used the show as its first effort to target the gay market specifically, said Rick Doepel, a William Pitt broker in Greenwich Conn. "the gay community is very supportive of people who support it," he added.

Not every visitor to the show intended to be swayed.

"When it comes to airlines, it's still whoever has the best schedule," said Joe Cimino, a New Jersey man who works in advertising. But many visitors said they were much more likely to buy from a company that exhibited.

"If a company is making an aggressive effort to go after us, it would definitely influence my decision," said Tim Ranney, a New York marketing consultant, "the community is making note of who's here and who isn't," he added.

Travel companies were widely represented, as were financial-services concerns. Chase Manhattan Corp.'s Chase Manhattan Bank, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Prudential Insurance Co. of America, PaineWebber Groups Inc.'s PaineWebber Inc. unit, Merrill Lynch and Co and Travelers Group's Smith Barney Inc. unit all had booths. "Targeted marketing is something I am very keen on," said Atallah-Jundwe Obiaju, an investment executive at PaineWebber.

"Being here is like going to the convention of another religion; it doesn't faze me," added the Muslim executive, who has also promoted PaineWebber portfolio management to groups of African-American dentists, Haitian physicians and others.

Numerous small businesses were selling clothing. Next to the conservatively suited men from Smith Barney, a New York concern called Good Catch promoted T-shirts with slogans such as "Only My Teeth Are Straight," "Ask me again at 2:00 A.M.", and "Hate is not a Family Value."

Several gay-employee groups at large companies had booths. Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay United Employees at AT&T Corp., which said it has 2,000 members in 30 chapters, offered a cordless AT&T telephone as a raffle prize.

Though encyclopedias are often marketed to parents of school-age children, the Encyclopedia Britannica booth attracted numerous browsers. "People here have the money to spend," said Francine Brooks, as sales representative who has also promoted the books to an anesthesiologist's convention and a pizza show recently. "Gays buy encyclopedias—but nothing like the anesthesiologists," she added. The Encyclopedia Britannica is owned by the William Benton Foundation.

EcoFranchising, Inc., New York, promoted franchises for an ecologically oriented dry-cleaning and laundromat service.

"I want to reach out to my community and people here are financially eligible to be franchisees," said Laine Wilser, marketing director of the company. "Besides," she added, "this is a group that cares about their clothes."

Roger Ricklefs is a staff reporter for WSI.


Support the Gay and Lesbian Community

Tell Our Advertisers You Saw It In the NorthView
Language Lover: Talking with Lesléa Newman
By Owen Keehnen

Versatile Lesbian author Lesléa Newman has an astounding 27 books under contract at age 39. She has written novels, short story collections, poetry books, essays, children's books and even a young adult novel all with great skill. The reviews of this multiple Lambda Literary Award nominee have been consistently good and offers keep coming. Some of the most popular titles by this dynamic woman include A Letter To Harvey Milk, In Every Laugh a Tear, Good Enough To Eat, Secrets, Sweet Dark Places, and Gloria Goes To Gay Pride. Alyson's publication of Heather Has Two Mommies, which she jokingly refers to as her "problem child," catapulted Lesléa into a maelstrom of controversy which she has weathered quite nicely. She is busier and more determined than ever and active in just as many areas. Recently we had a chance to talk. What struck me most was her incredible level of energy and enthusiasm.

Owen: You're in Chicago for Bailiwick Theater's production of 'A Letter To Harvey Milk.' Tell me about the project.
Lesléa: Ruth Carter read the story, loved it, and wanted to adapt it to the stage. She sent me the script which is pretty much word for word.

Owen: You have such varied writing experience, novels, short stories, poetry children's, young adult. Were you ever tempted to do an adaptation yourself?
Lesléa: I've written a one act play that was produced. It was very exciting. As a writer I'm usually just sitting in a room by myself. There was a cast party and all these great things. I love the theater, but I don't know it well enough to be a playwright.

Owen: 'A Letter To Harvey Milk' was also made into a Canadian film?
Lesléa: It's interesting to see the different directions it has gone. It was a film Yariv Kohn did for his BFA thesis. It's been shown in Gay and Lesbian film festivals and Jewish film festivals.

Owen: The plot concerns the friendship that develops between a young Lesbian teacher and an elderly gentleman student after he writes a letter to Harvey Milk as his class assignment. If you were given the same assignment what dead person would you write and what would your letter say?
Lesléa: I would definitely write to my grandmother whom I write to or about all the time.

Owen: A sort of trans-generational understanding is also a recurring theme of yours. Is that the root of it?
Lesléa: Definitely. Actually, the character of Harry Weinberg is very loosely based on my grandmother. I wanted to trans-gender him into a woman, but it just didn't happen. He was clearly a man as soon as I started writing his diaries. I wrote that story because my grandmother wouldn't tell me her stories because they were too painful. I felt I had to write them down anyway as best I could. At 99, in the last year of her life, she did tell me her stories. It became the backbone of my novel In Every Laugh a Tear.

Owen: Other generations also motivate you. Give me your take on the Heather Has Two Mommies story.
Lesléa: I wrote the book in 1988 because I was walking down the street and a woman I knew stopped me and said, "My lover and I just started a family and we have no books to read our daughter. We need someone to write one." It made me think about growing up as a Jewish child and having no books about being Jewish. Even though I was in a Jewish neighborhood I would always read about Santa Claus and The Easter Bunny and all of that. All I knew at the time was that I didn't see myself being reflected anywhere. So the request of this woman really resonated with me. I wrote the book and couldn't find a publisher, so I published it along with a friend wanting only to get back the money I put into the project. Six months later Sarah Alyson of Alyson Publications bought the book out from us. Then things really started going haywire with The Rainbow Curriculum in New York City and anti-Gay movements in Colorado and Oregon where the book was used to depict the degeneration of society. It was good for book sales, but hard for me emotionally. I had not really experienced homophobia directed right at me like that. Had I known better I wouldn't have gone on talk shows or been on panels where the sponsors felt they had to be "fair" and give air time to bigots.

Owen: With Heather do you think most of the controversy arose from the Lesbianism or from the inclusion of artificial insemination in the text?
Lesléa: I've thought about this a lot. If someone had said "The book is fine, it's just that one page," I'd happily have gone to the publisher to see if we couldn't do another Heather without the artificial insemination. That didn't happen, the artificial insemination was not the problem, it was the icing on the cake, the cake was the problem. Most people who had a hard time with the book never read it.

Owen: Yeah, I read some of those clippings and it's obvious they have no idea what they're talking about. Some of your forthcoming books are children's titles from Clarion, a branch of large publishing house Houghton Mifflin. Are they open to the inclusion of Gay children's titles?
Lesléa: The first of my children's books that they took, Too Far Away To Touch, is about a little girl whose favorite uncle is a man with AIDS. It's a picture book for children 4-8. My editor fell in love with the story and didn't back down on anything, even the inclusion of the man's lover. I was more nervous than the publishers. They had never heard of Heather Has Two Mommies and it got to the point where I was almost talking them out of it saying, "I'm a really controversial writer, you may be firebombed, are you sure you want me?"
The other two Clarion books aren't Gay; they're Jewish.
picture books. One is called Remember This and it is about a little girl and her Babie. The other is Matzo Ball Moon and it’s a Passover story.

Owen: You also have a young adult novel coming out called Fat Chance. Is that a difficult age group to write for?

Lesléa: It was actually the easiest book I’ve ever written which was a little frightening because it’s told in diary form. I became a thirteen year old keeping a diary. It came so naturally to me that I began to wonder about my own emotional state.

Owen: Besides all of this, you also conduct writing workshops and have written the nonfiction book Writing From The Heart as well. What’s the most essential thing to remember when sitting down to write?

Lesléa: Believe in yourself. Take yourself seriously. Make a commitment to yourself, write everyday. And don’t expect anything from anyone.

Owen: Do you have a strong sense of operating within a Gay and Lesbian literary community?

Lesléa: Absolutely.

Owen: Given your many titles is there a message that transcends all of it, the sort of essence of your work?

Lesléa: There are definitely themes I write about a lot, sexuality, Jewish identity. I think mostly I write about self-identity, because the message in my books is pretty much what I said to you “Believe in yourself, your voice has power.”

Owen: Going back to your mention of Jewish identity. What do you see as common in the Jewish Lesbian experience?

Lesléa: Well, in my own upbringing my grandmother were the backbone of my family. It was very clear that the matrilineal lineage is important. There were strong women everywhere. My mother and my aunts, biological and chosen, had the most intense relationships. It was clearly the most important thing to them. I was raised to question things, to educate myself, and to go for what I wanted. So I did that, but not in the way my parents expected me to, so at some point it wasn’t a good thing anymore.

Owen: You’ve also written extensively on women’s body perception, namely with your book SomeBody to Love. Why is dieting the most difficult thing you’ve ever given up?

Lesléa: When I talk about identity, my first, aside from being female, was of being fat. It’s something I had as a defining fact of existence. When I picture myself as a little girl I have no idea what I looked like, but I do know it was the image I carried with me. It defined everything I did, not only what I ate, but who I hung out with, what I wore, what activities I participated in, everything came from that one fact. I developed an eating disorder which I had for fifteen years and haven’t had now for twelve years. Our culture just infuses girls from pretty much day one with you have to be thin. No matter what else you do in life you must be thin. When I stopped dieting I said, “I refuse to accept this message. I refuse to accept this fact about my existence.” It was a rebellion on many levels for me. I would still say it’s definitely the hardest thing I’ve ever done.

Owen: Tell me about the projects you have forthcoming.

Lesléa: This fall I have Fat Chance, my young adult novel, coming out from Putnam. I have a book of short stories called Every Woman’s Dreams from New Victoria. In 1995 I have two children’s books Too Far Away To Touch from Clarion, and Felicia’s Favorite Story which is about an interracial Lesbian couple who adopt a little girl, and that’s from Alyson. I also have two books I’ve edited coming out, one is called The Femme Mystique and it’s about femme. The other is called Bearing The Unbearable and it’s about losing loved ones to AIDS. In 1996 I have two books lined up from Clarion, Remember That and Matzo Ball Moon.

Owen: You are so productive in so many branches of writing, you really must love it a lot.

Lesléa: I do. Before you came over I was sitting here writing this book review thinking, “It doesn’t even matter what it is. I just use loving words.” That’s the other bit of advice I’d give someone who wants to write, fall in love with language.

Owen: Kechnen is a nationally syndicated interviewer and a monthly columnist for Forum Magazine. His fiction has appeared in Christopher Street, Hyphen and The Evergreen Chronicles, among others.
Call for Alaska Writers

I am looking for creative nonfiction pieces that portray life, work and play in Alaska to be published by Sasquatch Books, a Seattle-based regional publisher "without boundaries."

The writing I am seeking for this collection will reflect and describe diverse aspects of life in Alaska from the physical to the economic or the cultural. What the anthology as a whole will offer is a contemporary portrait of Alaska. So I would like writers who are describing historic moments or times to have them reflect in some way on the present. I encourage writers to offer visions that are either traditional or off the beaten track, but that will provide readers with a strong sense of place. I want to hear of the romance and the reality of life in Alaska.

Previously unpublished nonfiction essays up to fifteen pages are welcome. Please, no fiction, poetry, or academic/theoretical work. Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, and numbered. Please include a brief biography and a self addressed stamped envelope. All submissions should be received by July 15, 1995. All contributors will receive $100.00 for their work.

Send manuscripts to: Susan Fox Rogers, Box 23, Bard College, Annandale, NY 12504.

Susan Fox Rogers is the editor of Another Wilderness: New Outdoor Writing by Women and the forthcoming Solo: Women Outdoors (both Seal Press).

(Note that this anthology is open to submissions from both men and women.)

Lesbian Short Fiction

What is Lesbian fiction? You show me. Send me your favorite piece of original, unpublished writing for this anthology of contemporary American Lesbian short fiction. No them needs to be adhered to, no style followed, no subject addressed—I am open to reading a range of creative works from the traditional to the experimental on a variety of subjects.

All I ask is that the manuscript be typed, double spaced, numbered, between 10 and 25 pages long, and unpublished.

Please include a self addressed stamped envelope and a brief biographical statement.

I would like all submissions by September 15, 1995 (the sooner the better, however.)

This collection will be published by St. Martin's Press.

Susan Fox Rogers is also the editor of SportsDykes: Stories from on and off the Field (St Martin's Press, 1994), and Alaska: Portrait of a Place (Sasquatch Books).

More Call....

Boyfruit: Queer Men Re-Negotiating Cultural Politics, Sexuality, and Gender.

A new queer cultural politics of difference has been born. At its best, it embraces feminism, racial and ethnic differences, coalition-forming, the unsimilable differences among queers of many genders, outlaw sexuality, bisexuality, and gender ambiguity. It is time for an anthology that joins both the engineers of the ship and the inheritors of this passage of queer culture—the twentysomething men who are living within new domains of definition and identity.

Possible essay topics might look at the following questions: How can we construct a queer politics that resists assimilation and isolation? How does the Gay community marginalize many of its members? How do queer men of color map out inclusive identities? How have FTMs constructed their own queer masculinities? How have other transgendersed men constructed or rejected maleness? How do we work out inter-racial relationships and coalitions? What does it mean to be a queer man who is also deaf or blind?

How are our lives affected by working and bonding with women, both queer and straight? What does the word "queer" mean? How are queer men affected by dominant ideas of physical attractiveness and beauty? How have our lives been affected by feminist theories and practices? How has HIV/AIDS affected queer men's ideas about sex and sexual identity?

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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
Caveat Homo:

advice for queers
on the law
and other mysterious topics
by Sue A. Sponte

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sue A. Sponte is the pseudonym for a local paralegal, who writes this column to encourage you to inform yourself about your legal rights (and lack thereof), take action to protect 'em (or obtain 'em), and perhaps bring some sunshine into your otherwise dreary life. This column is intended to provide a broad overview of the law. It should not be considered a substitute for legal advice from a non-fictional character.

Dear Sue you Babe you:

I'm a Lesbian in the military, stationed in Fairbanks. I'm considering marrying my pal, a Gay guy who is also in the military, so that we don't get hassled about our personal lives. Any advice about this? Do ask, do tell. - Francie of the Far North

Dear Francie: Doo dah doo dah: I love flirtuous gals in uniform. I'd go deep south with you...if you get my drift. Aheh...

Lots of us are married, or were married, and it is not uncommon for queers entering or leaving marriages to neglect to inform themselves about their legal rights due to homophobia, getting legal advice from their hairdresser, and other bad reasons. When you get married, you are magically transformed by the marriage fairy from a complete person, to one-half of a Nuptial Unit. Pretty much all the stuff you buy or earn, and the debt you incur during a marriage is considered marital. If you earn retirement, it's partly your spouse's. People constantly make the mistake of thinking that because their name is on the account or the title that means it's "theirs." Don't count on it. Before you tie the knot, ask yourself these questions: Can you be certain that he will always pay all of his bills, and are you willing to pay them if he doesn't, so your credit history isn't blemished? What if you fall deeply in love with the person of your dreams, and decide to spend the rest of your life together? If you remain legally married, and you die intestate (that's without a will, not without testament) all of your property will automatically become your legal spouse's, leaving your sweetie with zip. If you were a man, you would have this additional problem: If your spouse becomes pregnant, you are presumed to be the dad, and will owe child support.

It's the same problem we talked about last month. Your spouse is automatically your next-of-kin. If you are incapacitated, only your next-of-kin will be allowed to consent to medical procedures, etc. Even if you have total trust in your spouse, you can't guarantee that he won't get sick or disabled and end up with huge medical bills that become your problem.

I'm not saying that cover marriages are a bad idea in all cases, but please oh please don't get married without making further inquiry into the legal ramifications of marriage. Gay Bar (a free legal clinic for queers - see the directory) or a consult with another Gay-friendly lawyer would be a good place to start.

What else do you need to think about? The military, now harped somewhat by the infamous don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue policy, is finding new ways to harass our boys and girls in green and blue. One method is to press charges against Gay military personnel for allegedly defrauding the military and abusing BX privileges by getting married. Are there really soldiers and sailors getting hitched so that they can get a great deal on fruit loops? Enjoy the fine weather, and stay safe y'all...ta ta 'til next month. - Sue

You are cordially invited to send real or pretend questions, constructive criticism and/or witty tirades to Sue A. Sponte, c/o NorthView...

Mother's Day 1995

"That bedroom hasn't changed in thirty years!"

By Dan Cook

There is a bedroom in my hometown which hasn't changed in thirty years. Every piece of furniture sits in the same spot I put it when my mother and I first bought the house. She still keeps it as tidy as if I live there today.

The large walk-in closet is full of cardboard boxes, a mixed collection of memories over a forty year period. Each of the boxes is labeled, Dan's drag, tax receipts, Emerson or Olan Mills Studio, odds and ends. Each box is tightly sealed so neither dust nor age can't destroy a son's treasures.

In one corner stands a filing cabinet which holds my life in neat folders. Each one marked with a year, starting with my birth certificate, then my school years, followed by twenty years of photos and clippings of my life as a photographer, and Gay activist. The last is a large file of letters I've written to a loving mother. The first of these letters is one from my first grade and is a Valentine's letter saying "Dear Mommy, I love you this much" and has a stick figure with his hands stretched across the whole page, and hearts done with a crayon with the word's "Love Danny."

In the same filing cabinet, tucked away in a miscellaneous folder and labeled " Mike Potter & Steve Lane" are three steno pads full of short notes and descriptions of photos. I had forgotten about them, but mom found them in an old briefcase, and saved them. She reminded me that I had planned to write an article or short story about these fellows, but when they passed away I felt I could not write a story about albums without the photos. Mom said I should write it anyway. You have a description of each photo and the stories. This is a mother who never asked me to do anything, so I told her I'd give it a shot when I got back to Alaska. That was two years ago.

This Mother's Day my mom will be the first one to read the completed manuscript. There are a lot of people to thank. Bob D. for editing. Ken F. and Ruth M. as well as many NorthView readers for all the cards and letters of encouragement. But most of all to a mother who never threw anything away and said "Write it anyway." Thank you MOM and to all the mothers out there......

Happy Mother's Day!
No Place Like Home
by Karen Carlisle

"Can I just touch you? You don't have to wiggle or moan or anything. I just need to touch you. We can make love some other time if a time ever comes again when we aren't wiped out."

"Is that the first line of a Dear Love article?"

"Maybe," I smiled. "Dear Love collapsed in gut-wrenching laughter. Soon I joined her. One of those great, tension-releasing howls of laughter that breaks down the walls, washes away frustration and brings lovers close again. Has that ever happened to you?"

We did it, dear readers. We are now LIVING TOGETHER. Amidst utter chaos. We may not have gotten married, but our belongings did. Imagine, if you will, a writer, with files and boxes filled with writing and writing ideas and bazillions of books. And a fair-sized pile of musical instruments even after the piano moved to Marbeth's house. And several mysterious boxes marked spirituality stuff. And then imagine an artist who has boxes and boxes and boxes and boxes of art supplies: paper making stuff, jewelry making stuff, weaving stuff, paint, pastels, paper, carving stuff, hunks of driftwood, boxes of yarn, feathers, claws, fur (many of which don't fold smoothly—not at all well-behaved like paper and books), and tools, tools, tools. Add in four cats who have finally decided to coexist peacefully even though they are shedding enough hair every day to start a rug factory, even though Verushka was holding out for the Biggest Twit of the Year award. Add up these factors, and you tell me, where do we start?

And no way did we get to move into a pristine house, repainted by the landlord, current systems repairs made. No ma'am. This is Bushville, where people routinely trash their houses before they take all their money and return to the Lower Forty-Eight, and "trashed" doesn't even describe what the former dick did to this house. So before we can divide up the turf and begin to really unpack and organize, we have to clean it up and repair stuff like the furnace and the shower. And we couldn't do it before we moved in because I had to go on a two-week travel to Amerika and Dear Love was bush traveling every week for weeks. And we kept thinking he'd move out even though he was weeks past his departure date. But no bananas.

There is so much hot guy stuff left in this house, it will take a year to fumigate it. Jock stuff. Mountains of it. Oily rags. Snowmachine paraphernalia. Bullets. Knives. Fish eggs all over the yard—an open invitation to the bears who are now very awake thank you very much. Flashing beer lights. Beer posters. Lots of broken stuff and many parts of dead animals in the yard well gnawed by the bands of roaming dogs. And do I have to say dog shit? Thank god we have been spared the boxes of pornography that no doubt were here. Four truckloads of trash have gone to the dump and that's maybe a 1/4 - 1/3 of it.

You may wonder why we kept moving into this house in spite of the warning signs. You may wonder because you live in a city, or an Amerikan small town, or not an Alaskan village. There are no PLACES TO RENT and NO PLACES TO BUY.

Within moments of the dick's rental ad going on the air, 33 people had called. I, the first, showed up at 8:00 AM Monday morning to look at the place and beg for it. It was big enough. That's really all I looked. Dear Love did the same. But since then, I have written a 3-page inventory of needed repairs, and am on a fourth. The landlord said "How appalling," when we told him what had transpired but no offers of help were forthcoming. He lives in Oregon. Does that tell you anything?

Home and/or moving adversity either drives people apart or pulls them closer together. We have pulled together so far. Passed the first test, but not without some crocodile snapping at each other because our lines of sanity were seriously frayed.

We finally got all the kitchen cupboards empty of what passed for food and other junk, so we have begun to unpack the kitchen stuff. We have pulled up carpets in two rooms down to the cement floors. By winter, we hope to have tile in those rooms, and area rugs. I didn't take my shoes off until I got into bed for two weeks. Now there are small floor areas that I would touch with my bare foot. I had to take two showers the day I cleaned the bathroom. Is all that brown-yellow, sticky stain down the sides of the toilet pooled and congealed where the toilet meets the floor really what I think it is?

Being the control-queen that I am, I had devised a plan for dividing up the queendom. Being the Virgo that I am, I had made several floor-plans of room use and design during the evenings of village work trips when I was spending the evening alone in the village health clinic. Dear Love would get the biggest rooms because she has the most stuff and is not a Virgo. Need I say more? We would both get a downstairs and an upstairs room because who wants to live in a basement with almost no windows? And besides, the downstairs is seriously unfinished. We're talking about unfinished sheetrocking, unfinished wiring, poor insulation work, ripped up barriers, waterlogged acoustic ceiling panels—many missing, exposing pipes and wiring. You get the picture.

I took the smallest room in the house for my office, but it's the only one with two windows. In our old houses, Dear Love had her drapes pulled most of the time, in all the rooms but one. I never covered my windows except when she was visiting and imagined the drivers on the road might see her "butts" were we to cavort in the loft.

Dear Love accepted this plan, but she has made several remarks about me taking the Room with Two Windows. And we have not negotiated rule One about common space. In all this chaos and exhaustion and separate trips, we were getting crankier and crankier, and you know why, dear Readers. Because we had had no sweet loving time for weeks.

WEEKS!

So there we were, our first night in our home together in bed tired beyond tired, and Dear Love scheduled to travel again the next day. I felt a dimly-remembered stirring in my "lions," but while the spirit, the heart and the cunt were willing, the muscles were paralyzed. That's when I asked that question. And we laughed and had a peaceful sleep together.

Just so you won't feel sorry for us, we have managed to forge out loving time twice in the two weeks since we moved in. It's hard to make love or write or relax when you know towers of boxes are looming all around you crying to be set
free and to be made orderly. It even drives Dear Love to
distraction and she's an Aries. Finally, we had to make a date
to have sex right after work, because if we try and unpack, eat
and then make love, the mood flies. Invariably, we fuss at
each other about something. All of our past negatives from
living with past lovers keep jumping up in our psyches like
Jack-in-the-Boxes but that's another dispatch.

Anyway, we made a five o'clock sex date. It was
wonderful. Try it. You'll like it. I know we're going to do it
again.

©Karen Carlisle, Bushed in Bushville

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What a great Idea!

The Mount McKinley (non-Ascent) Club completes another year and makes plans for the next.

President Bob D. of the Mt. McKinley Club closed out his year in office with the pleasant task of delivering to some local charities proceeds from club activities in the previous year. Over $2,000.00 was donated to charities which benefit both the Gay and straight communities. Donations were made to the MCC Church to help with their great work in providing food baskets during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. A donation was made to the Toys for Tots program sponsored each year by the US Marine Corps. (I have a picture of the handsome Marine accepting the check.)

Two other groups benefited by donations from the Mt. McKinley Club’s efforts. Bootstraps of America Inc. was one recipient. This organization was founded by a former homeless person to benefit the homeless in a very different way. I was pleased to visit with the mother of the founder/director Leah Lee and learn more of the work of this group. They provide free training in computer skills to low income individuals and help them “pull themselves up” while breaking or avoiding the welfare cycle. They operate classes out of offices in the Boniface Mall in Anchorage. Persons who are interested may call them at 337-9639.

The other group to benefit from fundraisers conducted by the McKinley Club was The Providence Imaging Center. This group works with breast cancer clients and conducts research. The Mt. McKinley Club has always enjoyed support for women in our community and we felt that we should give something back to them. Not too shabby for a club which was founded as a gentlemen’s drinking club over 20 years ago. Let you think we have gone completely off the deep end, read on ⇒

Memorial Day Weekend Campout and BASH!!!!

The gang at the Mount McKinley (non-ascent) Club had rented the private campground at Eklutna Lake Campground. This campground is private, has its own collection of camp sites, has an amphitheater and fire pit for entertainment, has its own collection of rest room facilities and will hold over 150 people. It’s close to Anchorage and the club will have fun, frivolity and entertainment all weekend beginning at noon on Thursday May 25th all the way until it’s time to drive down the mountain at noon for the annual Imperial Court Picnic at the NBA campgrounds on Monday May 29th Memorial Day.

This was the official outing for the Club where persons who have not earned their patch can do so simply by attending. The Club will provide the evening meal on Saturday May 27, and is planning activities all weekend along with the friendship and cocktails which are a historic part of every McKinley outing. Be sure to mark your calendar and join the group at this very special outing even if for just a few hours, or better yet, the entire weekend Friday thru Monday.

The State campground is easy to find. Just drive out to the Eklutna Lake exit (just before the flats on the Palmer highway), and head toward the lake up the mountain.

The road is paved for a good portion of the way, and the non-paved part is in good shape, too. After you reach the area, the private campground is to the right and past a gate. Follow your nose and we’ll post signs as well. All are welcome and we’d especially like to see a great crowd this year. There is space for motorhomes, tents, campers and whatever. Bring your own or there will be extras to share it you like. Bring booze, food music, tapes etc. We are providing a sound system and all.

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6:00pm or on weekends after 11:00am.
Financial News
"Dollar-Cost Averaging"
by Chris Olson

There are two ways that people invest their money. The first is to put lump sums of available money into their accounts. "Available" means IRS refunds, PFD checks, gifts, a salary bonus. Available can also mean that extra cash that's left over after you pay your bills each month. Here is an example of a lump sum investment of $9,000:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Share Price</th>
<th>Shares bought per period</th>
<th>Total shares bought</th>
<th>Total Market Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>1,125</td>
<td>1,125</td>
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When you purchase shares in a mutual fund (or other investment) you are at the mercy of the market. You have no idea what the cost will be of the shares that you are buying. The idea is to buy low and sell high. You may be, however, buying at the worst possible time. In fact, two of the worst times to put lump sums of money into the market are at PFD time and IRS refund time. The market has historically been in a high cycle during these months.

An alternative to lump sum investing is what is called dollar cost averaging. This involves depositing a smaller amount on a regular basis into your investment. You spread out the deposits over the year and make deposits when the market is both high and low. Your overall cost per share is less than the actual price per share.

Here is an example of investing the same $9,000 over 9 periods at $1,000 per period:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Share Price</th>
<th>Shares bought per period</th>
<th>Total shares bought</th>
<th>Total Market Value</th>
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</thead>
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<td>125</td>
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<td>10,800</td>
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In this example you own 1,350 shares at the end of the period compared to 1,125 in the lump sum example. The market rode the same roller coaster over the same nine periods but you end up in much better shape if you put in a little every month instead of a lot all at once.

The easiest way to dollar cost average is to have automatic deposits set up with your broker or investment company. Monthly deposits occur regularly from your bank account with no effort on your part. This is also the easiest way to PAY YOURSELF FIRST instead of waiting to see if you have enough money to invest! As always, my friends, just do it or you will never gain financial control of your lives!

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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Banished with the Snakes:  
The Story of an Irish Gay Immigrant  
by D. Killian

Once again Irish Lesbians and Gays are in the news, banned from marching in New York’s—and now Boston’s—annual St. Patrick’s Day parades. Ironically, many Irish have come to America to escape homophobia. For although conditions have improved in Ireland, especially with the legalization of homosexuality in 1993, it is still difficult to be Gay and out on a nation-island the size of New England.

Documenting this experience is the following interview. While the story is not unique—discrimination and bashing can occur anywhere—social (if not political) conditions in Ireland certainly seem more oppressive. Here are a few facts: ninety-seven percent of the Republic is Catholic; divorce and abortion (despite efforts at reform) are still illegal; and Ireland has the youngest population in Europe (i.e., marriage means children). Ireland is small: the population (thanks to famine and emigration) is still only 3.5 million and yet unemployment is high—in recent history, at over twenty percent.

The past year has seen a boom in Irish LeSiBiGay publishing and new laws promise greater legal protection. But the whole of Ireland can still feel like a village and, with the conditions described above, it can still be difficult to be out and proud. The narrator of the following story, who now has a secure job in America, still does not feel safe enough to give his name.

λ

The people of Ireland don’t hear about these things [about discrimination]; they don’t even know that this kind of stuff happens. They don’t think it’s a problem. All you hear about homosexuality in Ireland is the negative, about Gays making love in parks or bushy areas. But there’d be no other place to meet—for a few bars in Dublin or Cork—or that’s a hundred and fifty miles away. And if you live in the west. People would be absolutely afraid to meet anybody, you know, afraid that you know somebody. You couldn’t talk to people and nearly make out with them and they wouldn’t even give you their name in case it would come up. I knew a [Gay] couple in Galway. They loved it out there and owned a restaurant. But they had to move, give up their business, because too much went out about them and they felt pressured to go. It amazed me when I met them a year and a half later. I said, “What’s happened to your restaurant? I thought you loved Galway?” “Yeah,” they told me, “but it’s too confined.” It burns me in a way.

And suicide. The highest rate of suicide in Ireland comes from the teen-age/early twenty population. And it’s always nearly passed off for economic reasons—but it’s not [for economic reasons]. This is closed Ireland again. I definitely think this is what happened to my next door neighbor. He was twenty-seven, never seen with a girl, very quiet. I think he was reaching out, talking about going to Australia, getting the hell out of Ireland. But in the end he committed suicide.

When he did this terrible deed to himself, it was my brother that actually cut him down. And the first question the police asked was, did he ever get a girl—was he Gay? So he could have been Gay, you know. But it wouldn’t go down in statistics. They’d say no more about it. Society to a certain extent is aware of it but everything is in the background. It’s not perceived as a problem so they don’t do anything about it.

More or less, the attitude over there is that Gays happen only in America, in that mad place where anything goes. I suppose St. Patrick banished us all with the snakes!

And then at my local bar, something changed when I went home at Christmas. I’m still puzzled—whether I was seen coming out of a Gay bar when I’d been up in Dublin or whether somebody just perceived it—but something changed. I went into the bar one night on my own and everyone more or less was just making fag jokes. Most of the regular lads in my own age group, they didn’t want to be seen talking to me anymore. Everyone was just looking at me.

I was a well respected card player and one night I went in and this guy said to me, “Oh, do you want to be partners tonight? I’ll play with you.” And then he actually tickled my private parts and said, “Because I love to play with you.” It was a laugh for the others around, set up for other people to see, but it was at my expense. But, like before [with the job], I just tried to laugh it off. I went on and played. But as soon the game was over—and usually you play for a while, for small money and coins—the whole table said, “We’re playing poker now”—just as a way of getting rid of me.

There would probably be only five or six people that would throw me up, you know. But I was always on edge. All it would take was someone with too many drinks, the pub would be full, and they’d shout something across the bar. They had no concrete proof that I’m Gay, but they were always putting out these tests. No matter what they said, I always tried to laugh it off because if you get defensive about it—if I did get mad and tell them all where to go—then they’d say, “Well, what’s wrong with it?” I’d be showing myself up.

I was a hypocrirte for doing it, but I was forced into these scenarios. If someone said something to me anywhere else, especially now that I’m totally out, I would stand up for my rights. But I tried to laugh it off, suggesting that it wasn’t true, to protect my family. Even now when I go in there [when I’m home], my brothers don’t know there’s any more pressure. They’ll say, “oh, come for a pint,” and I’ll be full of anxiety. I need two or three drinks just to get the shake out of my head! The local bartender, he’s always shouting, “How are ya doin’ there? Have you got the black woman home with ya? Are you married yet?” It got so bad, I wouldn’t go to the bar. Even though I stayed home until the end of September, I made an excuse that I was giving up the drink for the new year.

That’s what made me emigrate—with all the hostility I got in that two year period, at jobs and in my own bar. It wasn’t a conscious decision ever; I was just more or less driven out. I saw this advertisement that Donald Trump was looking for people to bring out to the States and I jumped at it. I was delighted to get it. It [the States] was where I could get free, you know. Live what I call a normal life. I still say my home will always be Ireland, you know; I have a dream that I will go back. And who knows what would have happened four or five
years down the road? but at that time, I felt I had no choice in
the matter—but to get out.

Things are improving slowly over there; it's only right that
they de-criminalized homosexuality but that's only the tip of
the iceberg. Just because it's written into law, it doesn't mean
Ireland is going to become a more diverse or liberal society.
People have to realize that rampant discrimination is still going
on; that they [the government] have to take responsibility. The
Irish are a compassionate people but in this area, so much
leaves to be desired. The Gay community has to go out and
march and knock on Leinster House [the parliament] and put
on the pressure for something to be done. It's just mass
discrimination.

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 ▼

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DOESN'T SEEM TOO
UPSET AT THE IDEA
OF A LOBBYST
MARRIED TO A
LAWMAKER.

AS LONG AS
THEY'RE NOT
THE SAME
SEX...

Anchorage Daily News Saturday, April 22, 1995
The Directory

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

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

All listings are in Anchorage unless otherwise indicated.

AA:
(G) Midnight Sons, see Calendar

Advertising:
(l) KT Creative, Katie, 278-9174

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050
(A) Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHIV), (Juneau), Rita, 463-5685
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Found. (WA), 206-382-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Kona, 278-5019

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(G) Gatekay, Keki/Jalmin, 561-7327
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

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

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

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

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

Automotive:
(A) Courtney's, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)
(A) S&W Radiator Supply (Fairbanks), RJ, 907-452-2220

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

Bars:
(G) The Blue Moon, 277-0441
(G) Palace Saloon (Fairbanks), Alaskaland (Fri & Sat ONLY)
(G) The Raven, 276-9672
(G) O'Brady's, 344-0333, 338-1080, 563-1080 (see ad)

Bed & Breakfast:
(G) Alta's (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-457-9246 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(A) Beach House, Mary (Hom), 907-235-5045 (see ad)
(I) The Butterfly Inn, Kay (Hawaii), 808-966-7936
(L) Cheney Lake B&B, Mary/Janetta, 337-4391

(G) The Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6581 (see ad)
(L) Garden Cottage (Oreland, FL), Lisa, 407-894-5395
(G) Gingerbread House, Yves (Montreal), 514-597-2804
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Hom), 907-235-2265 (see ad)
(L) Mermaid Inn, Nancy/Bennie (St. Lauderdale, FL), 305-565-8437
(L) Northern Comfort, Reeds, 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 Dea: the Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joann/Muriel, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Alaskana, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cynro's Books, Sandy/Jerry, 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 (see ad)
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

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

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

Churches:
see Spiritual

Coffee Houses:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 561-0064

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

Computer Bulletin Board:
(G) The Wilde Side, 333-4039
(G) Wings!, 243-7818; 243-7371 (G/L/Internet access)

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

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

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

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

Construction:
(I) R&L Construction, Lita, 279-4066

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Counseling Alternatives, Connie, 562-1826
(L) Counseling Alternatives, Janna, 562-1826
More Directory

(A) Jann, 248-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795

Deaf Support:
(A) Interpreter Referral Line, 277-3323 voice, 277-0735 try
(A) Deaf Rehabilitation Serv., 277-3456 voice, 258-2232, try

Dental Care:
(A) Ward Hubert, DDS, 248-8022

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

Drug Dependancy:
(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 ads)
(G) Kodiak Gay Info, 486-2986

House Cleaning:
(L) Connie’s House Cleaning Sv., 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, Karen, 279-5001 (see ad)
(A) Short, Sylvia, 562-4992 (see ad)

Massage:
(G) Dan, 338-8826
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) Joyce, (CMT), 562-1916 (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, Rosemary (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&L 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, 276-0688
(A) Doggie Hut, Arlid, 279-5861
(A) Doggie Vacations of Alaska, Constance, 344-3647

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

Political:
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth, 333-1190
(A) Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus, Rhonda, 274-9308
Directory again

(G/L) Equali, Inc., 274-9226 (see ad)
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (561) 624-7202

Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-8460
(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) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(I) McKinley Air Svc., Lee Ann & Kell, 800-564-1765
(I) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 786-3707, 800-779-3701 (see ad)

Real Estate:
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-7481 (see ad)
(A) Bronwyn Hillman, 248-2804; 563-5156 (see ad)
(I) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(G) Dream Horses (Fairbanks), Jonathan, 987-451-1828 (see ad)
(I) Waltraud Barron, 274-2634

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

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

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

Retirement Plans:
(A) Lynn (LaPerriere) Thomas, 263-0720 (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, 258-0304 (see ad)

Sightseeing:
(I) McKinley Air Svc., Lee Ann & Kell, 800-564-1765
(I) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)

Social:
(G) Anchorage Garden Buddies, 258-4777
(GLA) Q*Klutch (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 (Matauska Valley), Pastor Howard Bess, 746-1809
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, Jim, 258-5266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276
(A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824

Sports:
(I) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(A) Files by Bette (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
(I) McKinley Air Svc., Lee Ann & Kell, 800-564-1765
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221

Student Organizations:
(GL) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks), Pete, 907-457-0246 (see Club Notes)
(GL) The Family (formerly Lesbian, Gay & BI Student Association), UAA, (see Club Notes)

Support Groups:
(A) 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 Croke, 277-7004

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

Tours:
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 786-3707, 800-779-3701 (see ad)

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Cherresa, 561-0661 (see ad)
(I) Apollo Travel Agency, Karyn, 561-0661 (see ad)
(I) DreamQuest Tours, Karyn, 562-5777, 278-5683
(I) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087
(G) World Express Travel, Greg, 786-3701

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 ▼

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THE EYE
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"The puppy peed on the appointment book! That's what we heard when the glum faced SD showed up one day. She was quite undone (not the dog) and didn't realize she had picked up the dish sponge. So, there she was wiping/rinsing the appointment book when SDM&RM strolled up (it was their house, you know), and were sort of watching. After a moment CO realized what she was doing and said "Guess I shouldn't've used the dish sponge" (actually a soap/spoon all in one), and RM&MF said "That's OK," or words to that effect, "the old one was worn out." Uh hum. Onward and downward? ▼ Guess you know she's left town...and in style. That RV is big enough to live in forever. Says he's going to tour all the roller-coaster rides in the US. Do you know there are 26 of them around the country (worth riding)? Well he's taking 6 weeks to do that, on the hook up (not literally) with SDJ in Denver and then meander around some more and maybe come back, maybe not. Where does EYE sign up? ▼ Well, it finally happened. SDC&DC bust a gut. OK, that was a cheap shot. Sorry. Seems she was at travel school and didn't feel well. Went home, got into bed and a day or so later got rushed to the hospital. Not a ruptured appendix, but the next best thing. So they removed that (no, the appendix, silly), and in the recovery room, her heart stopped! Mon Dieu! Serious! Well, you can't stop a drag, so they got that going again, but we'll probably have to line up now, to get the skinny on that experience. Not necessarily to be envied. Glad she's back among the well. ▼ Did you hear the one about SD&A&AF? Seems AI went Outside for a couple of months. Well, when AI told the story it was a question as to whether DC would tell him to "come home." To hear DC tell it, it's only a question of time before AI would whine that he wanted to come back. EYE is taking bets on who says it first. ▼ Well, EYE was quite breathless at the plethora of goodies at the 4A's Millinery Madness "Easter Bonnets on Parade" at the Raven. There were beautiful baskets of great items to be auctioned off (you know how it's done? No?) The 4A's gets various folks who want to donate baskets of goodies which usually represent the group or business donating it. I.e., a flower store might do a basket of flowers and planting things and tools and stuff, where a wine store might do glasses and wine or a personal contributor might gather some nice books, a bit of candy, a nice CD or two and some caviar... you get the idea. Then there was the basket from the 4A's itself--no, EYE isn't going to tell you--use your imagination (hint: it had a blow-up doll (blown up) and quite a few accouterments). Anyhow, it sold at auction for some $400+/-.. The wonderful Master of Ceremonies was SDH and you'll have to guess who was showing off his baskets (in a fabulous bunny outfit (can't be specific, but his initials are DJI)). The affair, you should pardon the expression, raised some $2,560! Those who were there, saw SDK as one of the judges, along with SD and SDJasmine and others. There were simply gorgeous hats (in

the (Millinery Madness) contest), including such categories for "Best Boy-in-a-Bonnet" and "Carmen Miranda." ▼ Hard on the heels of that event (or was it after? EYE got so confused with time and clocks and such), that SDKC breezed through town (from the Bush) on the way to various functions in the Lower 48. Ran into her and SDK at Harry's (while running into the law and numbers (SD&M&K) and computers and TS (SD&B&NYJ)). (With all that activity (and many others we could mention, maybe it should be renamed Queries. Sorry, EYE couldn't resist.) Well, back to the narrative, there was KC surrounded by bags of stuff she'd brought along but needed to mail back to the Bush, or needed to repack, or needed to give to SDK to do something with, and etc. Looked like a regular bag lady, she did, right down to the hard boiled egg she produced from yet another bag! Gotta travel with protein, you know. That was about the time the cellular phone rang. Call from the Bush. Well, what else would you expect in that setting? ▼ Can't leave without raving about the Wave. Been there? Not yet done that? It's all new, beautifully decorated club on Spenard just at the bend in the road (remember Shadows? same place, totally different, Lesbian, Gay and Bis and allies). SDJ has spared no expense putting it all together and from the dance floor to the smoke-free coffee bar upstairs, it's terrific. Now EYE can't tell all of what went on (or maybe she will) but here are a few tidbits. Ran into SDK (where did you get that hair, dear?) who was hugging SDA&CR--reportedly the only dyke he'd get it cut off for. (Just repeating what EYE's heard!)... and there he was again, seen sniffing SDLI (or LD&S). Whatever for? She'd just got back from Hope and was sharing the woods/home smell. Mmmmmmm... EYE noticed that there were, um, straight folks there, too. Some were a bit, how shall EYE say, strange? not Gay? sexually challenged? Anyhow, for a while there was some SDYballing across the dance floor, but things eased up a lot and quickly and a ball was had by all. Well, let EYE rephrase that.... Then there was the bouncer. Opening night, anyway. A stunner. To say more would be to say less. ... and there were (hope there still are) guards in the parking lot. That's pretty first class!... serious video screens (a whole wall)... there's pretty good smoke ventilation... well, EYE could go on because lots of Community was (were?) there. Go see for yourself. This could be Our Club, with Community events (volleyball teams, etc. are planned), and no drugs--well, check it out. ▼
The Albums of Potter's Lane (Remembering)  
by Dan Cook

Part 24
"The Island"

The Island held its secrets well, as they were about to find out. For now they were airing out the beach-house and with so many hands it really went fast. By the time they were done the house was as clean as the day father, Vera and the nanny must have had it when they carried the newborn Victoria off the island 43 years ago.

Looking out the back windows in the upstairs bedroom. They could see a pond or lake, and behind it a small waterfall coming from the rainforest that stretched up and over to the other side of the island. From the windows facing the lagoon The Pink Lady looked out of place anchored in a bed of kelp, near beaches covered with driftwood. There also was what was left of a boat house and dock.

It took most of the afternoon just to open the house and clear away the thick brush around it. When they heard Monty ring the Captain's bell, they were more than ready to quit and clean up and enjoy cocktails, dinner and cards. Everyone had worked up an appetite.

The conversation was anything but dull. One thing Mike and Victoria agreed on was that they would spend whatever it took to restore the house and lagoon to it's original glory, and Steve agreed. Victoria, on the other hand, was talking very grand--even thinking about getting a yacht like Cha Cha's. Mike, being conservative was thinking more along the lines of cleaning the beach, lagoon and grounds, and planting a lawn around the house with maybe a deck. Most important was a new dock. A yacht was out, but maybe a small cabin cruiser. For that the Captain suggested the boat sales in Ballard or on Union Lake.

Everyone had an idea: Cha Cha thought they should rent the island out to make some money when they weren't using it; Roland and Charles thought it would make a great summer camp for poor children; Fingers and Snap imagined a casino for high rollers with a yacht club. Steve, Mary and Etta thought the island was very romantic and they should consider small cabins for couples. Perhaps build a stables and have horses; maybe put in trails for riding and hiking; maybe add some picnic tables and have canoes for the lagoon.

Every idea had it's own merits, but more importantly they all felt part of something very unique. No matter what was decided they all wanted to help. Vince was the first to leave the party and everyone else followed. It was late that first night and the cocktails had taken their toll.

Morning.

As soon as Monty heard Steve climbing out of bed he brought them coffee. It was no surprise to him that everyone else was still in bed. He told Steve and Mike that Vince was on deck and the crew had found something very interesting at the bottom of the lagoon. They took their coffee up on deck.

The crew had glass bottom boxes that Cha Cha used for her customers to look at tropical fish or submerged boats. They got them out of the hold and while they spotted some dungeness crab, there was a lot more. As they both stared through the glass they saw that there were dozens of square shapes lying about 15 feet down, covered with sea weed. Vince called them to the other side. Mike and Steve knew exactly what they were. Lying next to one of the large square shapes were dozens of bottles moving back and forth with the current. The crew asked Mike and Steve if they could retrieve the under water treasure, and they said "go ahead."

Vince, Steve and Mike with two of the crew and dozens of bottles with no labels lined up at the back of the Pink Lady.

As soon as Victoria got up she told the crew to look for rubber seals which were nailed to each crate. "If we find one of those we well know what year father dumped the bootleg." They did find one marked 1921. That was before father had the customs officers under his wing at Sumas and Oroville, Washington. He had been running bootleg by boat until 1922, and they must have had to unload a boat fast or get caught by the Feds. Paying off border cops was cheaper than buying boots every week.

By now everyone was up and having breakfast, all excited about exploring the island. The plan was to break up into five groups: each group was given a map, a roll of pink ribbon to tie on trees (so no one would get lost), a machete, an ax and a lunch basket. Hiking through a rain forest with it's thick underbrush, ferns, huckleberry, blackberry and thick moss wasn't easy. They found that walking on large fallen logs that crisscrossed each other they had a natural highway. Their whole idea was to mark on each of their maps anything they might find. Rock formations, clearings, streams, ponds, swamps and even animals. With that many people they thought they could survey the island in one day.

How wrong they were. Vince and the two hunky crew members got the farthest. Their goal was the tallest point on the island, a hill that was topped by rocks, and the only one that wasn't covered with huge Douglas Fir and cedar.
Everyone promised to be back by 3:00pm to give their report, but no one had completed their mission in that short a time span. When they did get together, they all had seen deer, squirrels and, in every stream, trout. They all wanted to stay at least one more day.

Three photos: Steve and Vince diving from the dock. Mary and Etta jumping off the Lady, and one of Charles and Roland digging for clams.

Their plan at first was just to look at the island, and let Mike and Victoria do a quick assessment. Now they had a sense of discovery and adventure. This island gave them all far more pleasure than they could have ever thought. Maybe it was because they were doing it together as a family that made all the difference. Every time they got together this way it just all seemed to fit.

Two large pots sitting in a bonfire. (the crew dore for dungeness crab.)

Sitting on a dead stump, garlic bread and a tossed salad. Charles and Roland collected Butter and Razor clams. Everyone pitched in and rolled logs in a large square for benches, and that evening they ate their fill.

The next morning, no one had to wake up anyone else, even Cha Cha. Fingers and Snap, who were night people, were amazed at how beautiful a morning looked without a hangover.

The race was on! There was very little talk that morning: each group grabbed a quick bite and a few sips of coffee, then the flag went up. Trail blazers took the lead, beach combers were second. Flora and Fauna were side by side. Vince’s cliff hangers were two lengths behind and still waiting for the skiff. Monty stayed behind—he had won the Trifecta by a head. The crew were real jocks all right. Everyone completed their mission. And there were some disappointments: the thick brush hid 90% of the island. They realized that when Vince pointed out a lake he and his crew saw from the mountain. Charles and Roland had been right at it and passed it by. The second cove was inaccessible because of the steep cliffs that surrounded it. It would take a mountain climber to get to it. They said it was beautiful and they should look at it because it had a funny shaped building set back from the beach. That evening they all agreed it would be great to take the Lady to the mouth of the shallow cove and check out the funny shaped house in the morning.

And that’s what they did at high tide. The Lady slipped out into the sound. When they got to the east cove the captain anchored The Lady at the mouth. The sand dunes stretched across its face leaving only a shallow canal that allowed the lagoon to free her treasure of rain water each day. They left the two dingys on the beach and walked around the sandy beach until they came to the funny shaped house.

It turned out to be a Indian Spirit House with carved totem figures gracing the front and inside. There were totem poles lying on the ground. “This must have been a very holy shrine at one time.” Mike said pointing to a dozen or so more photos.

The sandy lagoon was so shallow only canoes could have used it. The water was almost tropical compared to the west side of the island. There were no rocks, mud or seaweed. Only the clearest water and white, white sand.

Vince had spotted a real treasure, but this treasure would not be touched. They decided to just look and leave it to the spirits. Charles and Roland knew the importance of this find and let them all know the island would be invaded by every archaeologist in three states, and none of them wanted that.

They left the island and headed for Canada. Cha Cha gave each of the guys a blue blazer with a crest of the Screen Actors’ Guild yacht club on it. They were about to do a little Hollywood.

Vancouver, Canada in 1938 was the same size as Seattle and had all the same trappings. If there was a difference, it was because of its very British atmosphere. The port of Vancouver was certainly the hub of Canada’s West coast fishing and shipping industry as the Lady slipped in between huge freighters and ocean liners. The Lady wasn’t the only beautiful yacht.

The British Columbia Yacht Club had a reputation as one of the friendliest and by far the most beautiful clubs on the Pacific coast.

This was the first trip to Canada for the Pink Lady. But it wasn’t the first time Cha Cha and Vince had met the Commodore of the yacht club. He came out with the harbor pilot and the customs officer so his friend Cha Cha wouldn’t have any hassle. His four-masted schooner with its crew of 10 had been to many a Cha Cha party. Now he wanted to return the favor.

His trips to California were always the talk of the club. He would come back with wild stories about movie stars and Cha Cha’s parties. The Pink Lady had a wonderful reputation thanks to the commodore.

Cha Cha had two dress rehearsals. Cha Cha’s crew standing at attention on the bow holding her pink flags, dressed in their starched white uniforms. Monty serving pink champagne from a silver cart and everyone dressed to the nines. These were high rollers and if you wanted to play with them you had best look and act the part.

When they got into the yacht basin, they were greeted by yacht bells and horns, and were guided to a place of honor in front of the large Victorian club house. There was a reception line on the dock as the Commodore introduced the board of trustees and
reminded Cha Cha of the dinner and dance that was being held in her honor that evening.

While all this was going on their luggage was being sent to the Vancouver Hotel, one of the most beautiful on the west coast next to the Empress in Victoria, Canada.

They reserved suites for everyone. Mike and Steve told the girls to enjoy the stay—and they were picking up the tab. Cha Cha made the statement that everyone is a social climber, them and us as well.

The Commodore "was" the Hudson Bay Trading Company. He had been the Ambassador to the US and could throw one heck of a party and never even flinch at the cost. Cha Cha loved that. At the Hotel each suite had two bedrooms and bath, and came with a staff of two which they dismissed to keep their privacy.

Victoria wanted to go shopping and get the latest fashions from Europe. She wanted her sister to dazzle the Commodore, and dazzle they would.

Turning the page....

Cherise AKA Dan Cook was Empress I of Eugene, Oregon, Empress 18 of all Alaska and very active in Gay politics for 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 Cherise, who will send the missing sections at no charge.] ▼

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Sex, Drugs & Democracy
Red Hat Productions
(now at the Capril)

In the American culture war over abortion, homosexuality,
drug use and violent crime, policy makers consistently seek
to meet the challenge with a return to old fashioned
morality, larger police forces and greater restrictions.
Filmmakers Jonathan Blank and Barclay Powers provocatively
examine another option in this startling documentary about the
Dutch vision of a free society. In Holland prostitution is legal,
gay equality is a matter of course, abortions are paid for by the
state, comprehensive sex education for school children is an
accepted part of the curriculum, marijuana is openly sold and
clean syringes and methadone are distributed to drug addicts.
What is forbidden? Capital punishment and guns. Has this
moral laxity destroyed the very fiber of Dutch society? On the
contrary, in Holland the rates of drug use, addiction and AIDS
transmission are declining, while Dutch society enjoys the
lowest rates of abortion, teenage pregnancy and imprisonment
in the world. Blank and Powers let us know just how this
pragmatic approach to social problems works with revealing
interviews including Amsterdam’s police commissioner, a
Dutch Senator, the Director of Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco
Policy, female prostitutes, representatives of the Women’s
Party and a father who shares a hash pipe with his son. And
this informative film goes a step further, depicting a social
atmosphere with nearly complete interracial and intercultural
acceptance and a social safety net which virtually precludes
homelessness or impoverishment. ▼
INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

"A JEW AGAIN"

BY MARVIN LIEBMAN

Seventy-two years ago, when I was born to Jewish parents in New York City, I began a religious journey that has not ended to this day. Politics, curiously enough, has been a fuel in this journey, but not the kind of politics that propels the Reverends Jerry Falwell or Pat Robertson.

As an act of faith and evolving spirituality, I joined the Catholic Church more than fifteen years ago. In 1990, the growing assault on Gays by religious and secular conservatives prompted me to come out publicly as a Gay man—an act which has brought me immense spiritual healing. As radical right-wing religious groups intensified their attacks on anyone who does not fit their image of a Christian America—including homosexuals and Jews—I took still another step in my journey of self-discovery by reclaiming my birthright as a Jew.

When I was a boy, I went to Hebrew School and celebrated my Bar Mitzvah according to tradition. However, the only connection I had with the religion after that was when I joined with my family in the various Jewish holidays. Although I never practiced formal Judaism, I always gloried in being a Jew, at least a secular Jew, and in the rich heritage of my parents and millennia past.

Yet, on Easter Saturday of 1978, I was baptized in New York’s St. Patrick’s Cathedral and happily joined the Roman Catholic Church. Always searching for an identity, I believed then I had finally found my spiritual home in Jesus Christ. Although I would always remain a Jew, I could now participate in a religion that seemed to me to be the logical continuation of spiritual Judaism.

However, becoming a practicing Catholic never quite filled the emptiness I felt, the lack of any real cohesion in my life. It soon began to be like the other avenues I had traveled in search of that elusive self-knowledge that might fill the void and bring me lasting contentment. It was only after sixty-seven years of searching that I began to see clearly and count how many roads I had walked, how many masks I had worn, how many roles I had played—all in order to avoid detection as a Gay man. Coming out in defiance of those who might reject me led me to accept the most central core of my being—that I was a homosexual.

Despite the overdue stability it offered, my very public self-disclosure as a Gay man in the summer of 1990 only started me moving again. I "came out" simultaneously in the conservative National Review and the Gay Advocate. My autobiography, Coming Out Conservative, was published. I became an active participant in the affairs of the Gay community—writing columns and essays for Gay publications, joining in Act Up and Queer Nation demonstrations, speaking before whatever group would invite me, working with the Log Cabin organization, trying to serve as a peer model for young Lesbians and Gay men. I wanted to utilize my conservative credentials to the utmost to counter the homophobia that was the latest currency of American right-wingers, for whom homosexuals had replaced communists as the number one enemy.

I found myself surrounded by young people, would-be children and grandchildren, and became a virtual father-figure in the Gay community. My life seemed to have turned around, enriched and full. I was at peace with myself and with God in all His many manifestations. I no longer felt the urgency to attend the Catholic Church or to formally practice any religion. I was, I believed, finally content and at peace.

Then, one evening, I saw the film Schindler’s List. It jolted me awake. I realized then what was missing—the acceptance of the other half of my equation. I am a Gay man. I am also a Jew. I saw my family, my forbearers, my people, myself in too many frames of the film, and I finally saw the totality of me.

I knew then that I needed to be counted once more, by God and by my community, as a Jew. The film also made me acutely aware of the terrible parallels through the centuries of how those eager to prove their might resort to bigotry, fear, and hatred: against Jews, against homosexuals, against any who are different and don’t fit in to their vision of paradise on earth.

Because I have always rejected hatred and bigotry, five years ago I came out to fight homophobia. Last year on May 19th, I came out again. This time it was not in any national publications. This time I stood proudly and awestruck before Bet Mishpachah, the Gay and Lesbian synagogue in Washington, D.C., to reclaim my birthright and be publicly counted once again as a Jew. My sister and her husband were there, and I wore my father’s prayer shawl. I believed the circle had finally been closed.

But not completely. In February of this year, I circulated a column in which I stated that I could no longer call myself a conservative, a Republican, or a Christian because of the homophobia and latent anti-Semitism emanating from many who use those labels. I received a letter from Rabbi Bob Saks of Bet Mishpachah expressing the concern of some members of the congregation by my "Christian" declaration, especially after I had publicly reclaimed my Jewishness before them some eight months before. "It’s hard to come out publicly as a Jew, just like it’s hard coming out as Gay," wrote the Rabbi. "It’s one thing to say I’m Jewish in the synagogue, another to say it in public ... your resistance to the label in public upsets people who had hoped you were more ‘at home’ as a Jew than perhaps you are."

The Rabbi’s point was well taken. I realized that coming out must be the self-acceptance and articulation of one’s totality. I also realize that hatred in all its many guises, and those who spread it, are equally my enemy both as a Gay man and as a Jew. Rabbi Saks’ gentle chastising had finally helped to complete the circle.

Many years ago, I listened to Eleanor Roosevelt stress the importance of resisting all and any form of hatred, bigotry, and tyranny in equal measure, from wherever it emanates, be it communist, fascist, democrat, republican, conservative, liberal, secular or sectarian. It is in these footsteps that I hope to travel—and in memory of my countless martyred Jewish forebears.

Q*K Book Review
by C.T.

Remembering Denny
by Calvin Trillin
Warner Books, 1993

Calvin Trillin has long been one of my favorite writers of American non-fiction. His investigative journalism personalizes, and completely discusses the issue he has chosen.

In his latest work, "Remembering Denny," the life of a fellow Yale graduate is unraveled. Coming of age in the 1950's, Denny was thought by his classmates and teachers as "the golden boy" most likely to succeed.

Denny's life took off like a rocket—he had athletic prowess, academic excellence, and a charming personality. Eventually his life somehow unexpectedly fizzled. Trying to come to terms with his less-than-expected performance, his sexuality, and his growing physical problems caused him to distance himself from all his friends, and in the end to take his own life.

Calvin Trillin, through this book, has made a lasting tribute to his friend Roger Hansen. As well, Trillin explores the 1950's style collegiate relationships, life expectations, and problem of a middle-aged man trying to find resolution to his sexuality in the 1980's.

If this is your first Trillin reading, don't be disheartened by the somber tone of the story. You may want to try the hilariously funny "Alice, Let's Eat," a survey of regional food styles in the U.S.; or "American Stories," a variety of stories about current issues facing our society.

"Remembering Denny" is currently available at Into The Woods Bookstore in Fairbanks.

Life of a Small-Town Lesbian
by Ali M. Starr

I grew up in two small towns, Nenana and Tanana. When I say small, I mean that the sled dogs outnumbered the people. The news is spread by the Gossip Mill, everyone knows the juicy details five minutes after something happens. Fairbanks is an hour away from both towns, but it might as well be a million miles away. Travel is hampered if you don't have a lot of money and have no car. I'm able to reach Fairbanks only once a month and it seems like an eternity between visits.

As a child, I realized I was different. Being abused was part of it, but I got crushes on every strong woman that came across my path. I was placed in foster care in Tanana with my oldest uncle and his wife and stayed there until I graduated high school and went to UAF. During that time I had to deal with my attraction to women secretly.

I didn't stay long in college and went on to take various jobs, and began a dangerous slide into depression. In 1993, I quit my job and stayed in my apartment, withdrawing from the world. My family intervened only after I was caught shoplifting and they read it in the newspaper. I was a mess; I didn't care what I did at the time and was ready to take my life with an ex-roommate's gun.

I was brought to Nenana and I gradually sought counseling. I turned my life around. I never faced my childhood abuse and my sexual orientation until then.

On October 11, 1994 I came out to my family in Tanana. I have come full circle, back to Nenana. I receive a lot of mail order catalogs, but that doesn't compare to the companionship of my own kind. Being in a small town, I can't talk about what I feel and think. I must be the only Lesbian in a town of 300. Whatever happened to the statistic that says one in ten is homosexual? So, where are the other 29 dykes?!

But I am proud of what I am—a 23-year-old, Athabaskan Indian Lesbian. If anyone wants to contact me this is my address: Ali M. Starr, PO Box 541, Nenana, AK 99760.
Canoel THE TANANA. The Sequel (or Second Annual for those of you who like that sort of thing).
Dates: June 2-4. We had so much fun last year that we're doing it again. This is an easy overnighter from Pike's Landing in Fairbanks to Ninna. Overnight camping, elegant meals, good company. All you need is a canoe and a good attitude. The organizers (Q*K OUTdoors) would also stress the importance of life jackets for all participants. Interested? Call Curtis @ 457-7289

COPPER RIVER DIPNETTING. Dates: June 9-11. Dipnet for the best Red Salmon in the world! Come enjoy a real Alaskan wild and scenic adventure. Catch your limit and take a side trip to McCarthy and bike to Kenneccott, the most beautiful historic site in the state. You'll need a dipnet (or share one with a friend), lots of coolers, and your bike if you plan to participate in the Kenneccott side trip. We will meet at O'Brien Creek Campground. For more information call Jeff @ 457-7289

CAMPING OUT ON THE ARTIC CIRCLE ON SUMMER SOLSTICE. Dates: June 21-24. To truly see the sun NOT set this summer, come join us for a couple days of camping out, on and above the Arctic Circle. We'll be driving up the Dalton highway, sometime after work on the 21 and setting up the perfect campsite, that's the one with the rainbow dining fly, complete with bug screens. This is a very impromptu trip, so after brunch on the 22, we decide how far North to go—of course, making sure to be back in Fairbanks by the 24 to enjoy the JAY PRIDE PARADE! This trip is open to novice and expert alike. Don't have a tent? I'm sure we can work something OUT! For more information call Eric @ 455-4051.

Canoel THE GULKANA. (Not the wild, hairy part—you need a raft for that—but you can probably pencil that in for next year). Dates: July 7 (after work), 8, 9. This one is virgin territory for those of us who have expressed an interest so far. But, we will not be doing the Class III and IV rapids part. We will put in at Sourdough Campground and do a leisurely float (only 35 miles or so, Class I and II) with stops for fishing if participants desire. The Kings will be running as well as Red Salmon and we will have with us a noted (if only in this neck of the woods) fisherperson who will impart wisdom and technique to those in need. We will take out at the bridge over the Richardson Highway near Gulkana. You'll need a canoee (or at least a seat in a friend's) and some experience for this one. We will be doing 1 or 2 short day trips on the upper Chatanika and/or Little Chena to learn or brush up on skills. If you are coming from outside the FBIK area it would be a good idea to do the same in your area. Life Jackets are a must. Call Kathy @ 455-6358 to sign up or for more info.

Essay/Visual Arts Competition

You've heard of Black History Month (February)!
But have you heard of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month?
If not, you have now!
LGB History Month is based upon other successful history projects, such as the National Women's History Project, and intends to bring Gay history into secondary classrooms, college campuses and into the community (Gay and non-Gay)!!

This October 1995 marks the second annual celebration of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month in the United States!
The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) and the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month (LGBHM) Coordinating Council want you to write an essay or create a poster to be used nationally in publicizing History Month.

Here are the guidelines:
*Entries must be 22 and under.
*You must be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Straight.
*Winners in each category will receive a $250 prize
*Entries must be received by June 15, 1995.

ESSAY COMPETITION

Writers are asked to submit essays of 750 words or less answering the question, "Why is Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month an important event?" These essays will then be reprinted in mainstream and Gay publications around the country in October.

VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

Artists will submit work which takes off on the theme of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual history to produce a design which will then become the official logo of the October 1995 event. The chosen artwork will be reproduced on T-shirts and posters which will be sold to help fund activities around the country.
Send your entries to: Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month Competition, C/O The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network, Box 390526, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006. E-Mail: "GLSTN@aol.com"

For more information about LGB History Month, write to the GLSTN snail-mail address above, or E-Mail: "LGBHM@aol.com"
The Next Step
by Dave Swart

In December I wrote about starting over at 40 and coming to terms with who I was and where I wanted my life to go after my divorce. I talked about wanting to "come out" to my kids but being afraid of their reaction. Well, it took a while, but I worked up my courage and told them. We often see articles about telling your parents that you are Gay, but there are not as many about parents having to tell their kids. I hope my experience will help others who may find themselves in the same or similar situation.

I made up my mind a week ahead and began planning. Next I invited my two sons, ages 16 and 18, to come for dinner. It almost didn't happen because at the last minute one of the boys wanted to cancel. He was having car trouble and needed to work on it. I told him that I really needed to talk to him and his brother and he agreed to come. I wasn't going to back out now.

They came for dinner. It was typical and uneventful. But when we had finished and as I was clearing the table, a silence fell over the three of us. My younger son broke it saying, "Well, what is it that you wanted to talk to us about?" All my planning went out of my head. I started by telling them that this was probably the most difficult thing I had ever done, and that no matter what happened, I loved them and that I hoped they'd always love me. I laid some groundwork by talking a bit about why their mother and I got divorced, (it had nothing to do with my being Gay,) and told them how I had been working hard at figuring out who I was and why I'd been so unhappy. I then handed them the NorthView article I'd written and asked them to read it.

My heart pounded while they read. I could tell when they each reached the part where I came out and said I was Gay. But they kept on reading. When they finished there was silence. Finally I said, "Well, say something!"

It was again my younger son that responded. "What do you want us to say?"

"Anything! Are you surprised, shocked, upset? Did you suspect? How do you feel?"

As it turned out, they had suspected. We talked about it. I shared some of the internal conflicts that I am still dealing with. We talked about where I wanted my life to go, and how they would fit in. I knew it would be all right when Tom said, "It's not for me, but if it makes you happy, O.K." Then he said the one thing I needed to hear. "One thing will never change. You are our Dad, and you always will be." God, what relief I felt!

The boys stayed and we talked for about an hour. Then they left. The pressing "car problems" could not be put off any longer. They left and it was just like any other time they'd been over for dinner. They thanked me for the meal, said they'd talk to me soon and then were gone, leaving me with all the dirty dishes.

I felt, going in, that the evening would turn out this way. My boys are both mature, reliable, well-grounded kids. They were raised to be tolerant and to think for themselves. Neither has ever been overly swayed by peer pressure. I told them that I wasn't asking them to approve, or even understand. What I wanted was for them to accept me for what I am, and to still love me. I think that is what we all want from our families. Not all of us are fortunate enough to have it. I'm lucky. It could have gone badly. But it didn't and for me a great burden has been lifted. I no longer have to worry about someone telling the boys about "their dad." I no longer have to worry about someone leaving a message on my machine that I don't want them to hear. I don't have to worry about someone telling the boys about "their dad." I no longer have to worry about someone leaving a message on my machine that I don't want them to hear. I don't have to worry about someone telling the boys about "their dad." I no longer have to worry about someone leaving a message on my machine that I don't want them to hear. I don't have to worry about someone telling the boys about "their dad." I no longer have to worry about someone telling the boys about "their dad." I no longer have to worry about someone telling the boys about "their dad." I no longer have to worry about someone telling the boys about "their dad.”

Do I think everyone should tell their kids? I can't say. It depends on you, your kids, and your relationship. For me it was the right thing to do. It was one of the two goals I'd given myself. The other is to find "Mr. Right."

One down, one to go. 

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: the purpose of this listing and others like it is to offer the Community at-large the opportunity to relieve the pain and loneliness that most inmates endure. Readers should be especially wary of any requests for loans or chasing of money orders. Many in prison are experts on deception with lots of free time to conjure ways of rippling off the uncautious; it may seem unfair, but if one is to err, one should err in your favor. Readers should embark on a dialogue with an inmate with one expectation: giving uncompromising help to the inmate. Do not entertain the fantasy of finding a lover. Identity denies any assurance of truthfulness in the contents of such letters, and will not assume any responsibility for losses or damages. Readers are encouraged to respond to the letters, but at their own expense and risk.

February 22, 1995

Dear Editor,

I am still interested in meeting a strictly Gay man for friendship. I would really like a pen pal in the Anchorage area who could possible visit with me in the future. I understand that your newsletter doesn't have a Penpals section, which is a crying shame. I have no Gay friends in this state and I am in jail so I am unable to call the 1-800 numbers to talk with people.

I enjoy hiking, climbing, mountain biking, swimming, camping, movies, reading fantasy adventure, quiet walks with a special person, cuddling, and interdependent monogamous relationships. I normally dress pretty alternative, flannel and 501's and I listen to Alternative music like 4 Non Blondes, Soul Asylum, and Dramarama.

I would prefer to find someone who is willing to look past the idea that I am currently incarcerated for a crime from '88. I'm not a thief, liar, or violent person, and I do request the same. Please take the chance and write me, I don't think you will be upset that you did. Just to let you know, I was extradited from Washington State. I live in Tacoma.

Mike Leffingwell, Highland Mountain Correctional Center, Box 600, Eagle River, AK 99577
Religious Right Can't Afford New AMA Policy
by Jim Bailey, Contributing Writer

The American Medical Association’s policy change regarding sexual orientation should be the deathblow for the so-called “ex-Gay” ministries—counseling services offered by some churches and religious organizations that claim to be able to change one’s sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual. Until December, the AMA officially supported the position that one’s sexual orientation could be changed. The AMA did away with that policy last month, when the organization adopted a report calling for “nonjudgmental recognition of sexual orientation.”

This report officially reduces the counseling services of ex-Gay ministries to what they have really amounted to all along—quackery—and it greatly increases the liability counselors face from what may be the results of the misguided services they provide. One “change minister” from Glendale, Calif., has already been convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the case of a man who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after receiving counseling to change his sexual orientation.

The more truthful ex-Gay counselors have been known to tell their clients in private what they will not acknowledge in public: that they indeed cannot change a Gay or Lesbian person’s attraction to a same-gender partner. In the wake of the AMA report, perhaps it is time for them to publicly admit the only thing they really can do, which is to teach a Gay man or Lesbian how to fake a heterosexual lifestyle. But that won’t happen. And the AMA change in policy regarding reparative therapy might not be the deathblow for ex-Gay services after all. Look for an amazing amount of support for ex-Gay ministries in the months to come from large, well-funded religious right organizations. The concept of the “chosen lifestyle” is a necessary and vital element of the religious right’s strategy in attacking the Gay and Lesbian community. If unable to continue to promote the idea that homosexuals evolve into their sexuality but that homosexuals “choose” theirs, the religious right will lose the cornerstone of its anti-Gay political agenda. (Gays and Lesbians might even start looking like a bona fide minority, deserving of equal rights protections.)

After the “choice” theory is scientifically debunked beyond question, and most believe it soon will be, the religious right will be confronted with the uncomfortable reality that God made Gay and Lesbian people to be who they are.

Then the “choice” will be theirs. As Christians, they can welcome their Gay brothers and Lesbian sisters to sit in their pews, stand behind their pulpits, and stand hand-in-hand in front of their alters. Or, as hypocrites, they can continue to reject Gay and Lesbian people for the same reason they’ve had all along, which is hatred.

Bob Davies, the executive director of Exodus International, a network of ex-Gay ministries, was quoted this week as saying the change in the AMA policy was a “giant step backward into ignorance.” That will be loudly echoed during the next months by leaders of the religious right. They can’t afford for one of their mainstay programs to slip into quackery.

**HISTORY**

Twenty-five Years of Courtroom Trauma
Thanks to the Advocate, August 23, 1994

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

**’77**

In Richards v. United States Tennis Association, a New York State superior court rules that transsexual tennis player Renee Richards may play in women’s competition in the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

After a high profile campaign led by fundamentalist singer Anita Bryant, voters in Dade County, Fla., decide by a 2-1 margin to repeal a Gay rights law.

Patrick Kearney and David Hill, two Gay men, are arrested in Los Angeles for the dismemberment murders of 28 men found dead in trash bags along freeways.

In State v. Saunders the New Jersey supreme court declares the state’s_forcible_change_of_gender_unconstitutional, saying that it violates state and federal privacy guarantees. The decision is one of the first to assert that a state’s privacy guarantee can be broader than the federal government’s.

In Board of Education of Long Beach Unified School District v. Jack M., the California supreme court rules that an arrest for public Gay sex is not necessarily grounds for dismissal of a teacher.

**’78**

In Federal Communications Commission v. Pacifica Foundation, the Supreme Court OK’s restrictions on the broadcast of material that is indecent but not obscene. The case involves a sexually explicit routine by comedian George Carlin but will also be used to block the broadcast of Gay-themed programming.


The public-interest law firm National Gay Rights Advocates (NORA) is formed in San Francisco.

The FCC refuses to yank the license of Boston public television station WGBH for airing Monty Python’s Flying Circus. A citizens group complained that the show “refers primarily to scatology, immorality, vulgarity, nudity, profanity, and sacrilege for ‘humor’.”

In Smith v. Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., a federal appeals court rules that laws against sex discrimination do not prohibit bias against effeminate men.
**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 meetings 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 AlaskaLand is still the hottest spot in town to meet. You can go dancing on Friday and Saturday nights from 11:00pm till 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 (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:** free legal question and answer sessions on issues of interest to Lesbians and Gays. Second Monday of every month, 7:00-8:30pm at 845 'K' St. 279-5001.

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

**Potluck Social:** held on the 4th Friday of every month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm; program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for this month's guest speaker.

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

**IMRU:** is 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 program, food supplement program, a lending library and counseling support. If you're interested in volunteering or need assistance, please call the IAA in Fairbanks at 274-9226.

**Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC):** holds Sunday services at 11:00am and 7:00pm, and Wednesday at 7:00pm at 615 Hollywood Dr. Church
is open Sunday through Wednesday 9:00am-4:00pm. Call 258-5266.

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 & weekend 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.

Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club (MM(ena)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): 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 (PFLAGSC): 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 'n 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*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 <faebw@aurora.alaska.edu> or Kathy at 907-455-6358 or <hlattk@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, 8:00pm. 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. Closed for the summer—June, July, August. Open again in September.

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.

And this is Sappho. She takes such good care of her mommy. Don't you, Sappho?
Children of Gay and Lesbian Parents Organize
by Tom Flint, Associate Editor

Alternative family structures are not a vision of the future, they’re here today—and families with Gay or Lesbian members are an integral part of the redefinition of the family.

Children of Lesbian and Gay parents often face unique challenges in a homophobic society, and some of them have formed a national organization to exchange information and provide support for each other. Now seven years old, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) has nearly 1,500 members.

According to the American Bar Association, between six million and eight million people have Gay or Lesbian parents. The vast majority, of course, grow up to be heterosexual.

COLAGE conducts a pen pal network and publishes three newsletters, including the popular Second Generation, for groups ranging from small children to young adults. Its members hold an annual conference, in conjunction with Gay/Lesbian Parents Coalition International, and the COLAGE steering committee is comprised entirely of young adults and teenagers who pursue their own agenda.

COLAGE’s goal is to “foster the growth of daughters and sons of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual parents of all racial, ethnic and class backgrounds.” The organization hopes to do this “by providing education, support and community on local and international levels, to advocate for our rights and those of our families, and to promote acceptance and awareness in society that love makes a family.”

More and more openly Gay and Lesbian couples are having children through a variety of means: obtaining custody of children from a previous heterosexual relationship; artificial insemination, or surrogate pregnancy; adoption; and foster parenting. Most of this is conducted quietly, outside the spotlight of media scrutiny and political animosity.

But in recent years, the religious right has politicized family-life issues under the banner of “traditional family values,” which condemns any family structure that varies from the 1950s model: a legally married heterosexual couple with 2.5 children, all living under the same roof.

Children of Lesbians and Gays have felt the effects of homophobia. Many of them were born into a situation in which the Gay parent had tried to suppress his or her sexual orientation under the guise of a straight marriage. Such marriages frequently end in divorce when the Gay parent can no longer maintain the charade and comes out. Children of these marriages say that “mandatory heterosexuality” put them in a situation in which they were forced to witness the traumatic separation of their parents.

But today an increasing number of children have openly Gay or Lesbian parents, presenting a different set of challenges for the children.

Some of these parents try to maintain a low profile to protect their children from embarrassment and social ostracism. But this can create a sense of secrecy that makes the child feel isolated from both the Gay and straight communities, as well as peers at school as the child tries to keep the “family secret.”

Other parents are out about their relationships and get involved in the Gay and Lesbian community. Their children have said they feel privileged and valued because Gays make a conscious decision to have children and thus generally do not have children they don’t want.

Some COLAGE members said they feel privileged to have been raised by Gay parents and exposed to a broader experience of life, with a unique perspective into mainstream culture.

A dilemma faced by some COLAGE members is that they themselves are Gay or Lesbian, like their parents. They generally report that they feel fortunate to have had Gay parents, but they have their own special problems. Frequently, these young people are regarded as a “political hot potato” by Gays and Lesbians sensitive to right-wing accusations of “recruiting children.”

“These kids have quite a time because they’re not acknowledged in the straight community or in the Gay community,” said COLAGE member Suzanne Pullen. “A lot of people have a hard time with Gay parents having Gay kids, and a lot of Gay parents wish their kids were straight so the kids will have an easier life than they had.”

Pullen was raised by a closeted Lesbian mother and said the experience made her feel isolated.

“There are other kids who grew up with parents who were very out and active in the Gay community,” she said. “I think that’s a benefit . . . because of the love in the environment of coming together as a community to find support. That makes for a wonderful environment for kids, because it becomes more of a community issue than an isolated family group.”

Stephan Lynch, the 23-year-old national director of COLAGE, is the child of a Gay father and Lesbian mother. His father was a radical Gay activist in Toronto and his mother is active in San Francisco.

Having closeted parents sends a confusing message to children, Lynch said.

“It was great being out in the Gay community of Toronto,” he said. “When any kid has a parent with a secret, it makes them ashamed of who they are. If they’re trying to remain closeted, it sends a negative message to the kids that there’s something to be ashamed of. They don’t know where to stand. It’s confusing.”

COLAGE members say the source of their conflict lies not in having Gay or Lesbian parents, but results from homophobia in society.

“The problems these kids often have is not that they have Gay or Lesbian parents, but how the other people responded to the fact that they had Gay or Lesbian parents,” Pullen said.

“Children have to go through a coming out process themselves,” Lynch said. “They experience the same homophobia and violence that their parents do. Critics say that Gays and Lesbians shouldn’t have children because their children will face ostracism. But that’s the same argument they used to say that blacks and whites shouldn’t marry, because bi-racial kids will face ostracism.”

Lauren Naismith, a 39-year-old Seattle resident who has a Gay father now in his 60s, said her concern is to protect her father from vilification.
"There are incredible issues of isolation for these young people," she explained. "You love your parents and don't want to expose them to vilification, so you don't want to tell people they're Gay and hear them demonize your parents, call them names -- 'perverts' or 'gross.'"

Recently, a woman speaking with Naismith asked repeated questions about Naismith's parents, including why they don't live together. Naismith finally said her father is Gay and lives with his partner of 20 years. The woman responded by going into a monologue in which she said Gays are "possessed by demons and are horrible people," Naismith said.

"I told her very clearly how disgusted I was with her and her ideas, and left the table," she said. "Homophobia is still very strong, even here in Seattle. There are a few pockets in the country where people feel safe enough to come out and talk about their Gay family members."

Some children of Gays and Lesbians, including Naismith, said they feel they have more insight into life than if they had been raised in more typical environments.

"It really gave me a different insight into the society we live in, and it helped our family become aware of oppression," she said. "Our whole family has been entirely politicized by the experience. My mother is constantly involved in activism to end oppression of Gay people wherever she goes."

Stephen Lynch agreed, saying, "When kids in Gay families look at the portrayal of Gay and Lesbian people in the culture and see how it is so wrong, it makes us think if teachers, journalists, newscasters, and ministers can lie so boldly about what Gay people are really like, what else are they lying about? I think we are more skeptical about accepting what we're told. I also think it makes us more aware of differences that exist in society."

For Pullen "traditional family values" is a red herring.

"Love makes a family," she said. "If the religious right really cares about family values, why don't they have a dialogue with us to find out what our family values are? They're making all these judgments and they don't even have a clue about what our family life is like. They haven't asked us what our values are."

For more information, contact COLAGE at 2300 Market St., Suite 165, San Francisco, Calif., 94114. Or call (202) 583-8029 or (414) 861-5437.


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Young at Hearts

Don Campbell's new film Young at Hearts, a spirited look at a group of eight Jewish women in their 70's and 80's, opens its exclusive theatrical engagement Friday, May 19 at the Capri Theatre, 3425 E. Tudor Road.

Young at Hearts follows this elderly octet of LA residents—including a clairvoyant opera diva, a car-buying hypochondriac, a Gong Show awardee—through a variety of settings—cards games, talent shows, and healing hot springs. Based on real-life experiences, this endearing and humorous "non-fiction feature" challenges conventional portraits of the elderly with a vibrant mixture of elan and perception.

VARIETY writes "Young at Hearts" is...warm and witty... Best value for the money are Freda, a Polish immigrant who can chew the hind leg off a donkey, and Gert, a down-to-earth pants-chaser who consistently deflates all her friends' hot air with acerbic jabs of wit."

The film marks the auspicious independent directorial debut of Don Campbell—shot over 30,000 feet of 35mm negative bought at a garage sale for $200.00. Young at Hearts has shown in the Chicago and Palm Springs Film Festivals, where it garnered the most votes for a non-fiction feature. A "must see" for everyone! A
The Amazon Trail: The Good Lesbian
by Lee Lynch

I'm glad Candace Gingrich is real. If I ever submitted a novel outline to a publisher that described her life right now it would be turned down flat. "Implausible!" they'd say.

Think about it. Despite all chooks and balances, a baby-faced southern congressman from an ultra-conservative district trumps big chunks of power or influence away from the President, the judiciary and the Senate and plays Pied Piper to 435 representatives. He strips the poor of their safety net, sets civil rights back decades, and elevates the most dangerous and bile-filled politicians to powerful positions.

In the midst of this virtual coup, he acknowledges that his half-sister is queer as a three dollar bill. Said sister, in turn, requests and gets a meeting with the representative then goes on the road with the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Even if my scenario were accepted, the main character wouldn't catch a publisher's interest. Candace Gingrich seems self-effacing, humble, and more full of integrity than all the Boy Scouts in America put together. In her first interview in the national Gay press she said something like, "I guess I haven't been a very good Lesbian. I never talked to my brother about Gay rights."

But then she proceeded to let her conscience disrupt her whole existence while she set out to help fight the good fight.

This is my kind of heroine. She doesn't ride a white horse. She's not trying to be the dyke-who-saves-the-world. As a matter of fact, I believe I did write the book (which hasn't yet been accepted by a publisher). It's about a modest Lesbian of appealing womanly androgyny. She has an honest face and is by turns earnest and shy. In the course of the novel she's pulled into a civil rights struggle, resists involvement, confronts her fears and comes to realize that, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

When I first read about Neut's Gay younger sister I immediately flashed on the kind of dyke who, at family gatherings, would deal big brother an acknowledging poke in the arm and then play horse shoes with the uncles. They'd all know about her, wink and say there's one in every family. She'd never bring her long-term partner along. If big brother took over the whole darned world she wouldn't say a word of protest.
VIRAL DIARY:
THE MONOLOGUES OF
LOVE N' HIV
"OPTIONLESS"
BY CHRISTOPHER FABBRO

In May 1994, 470 people hopped on their bikes in San Francisco and began a week-long journey to Los Angeles. With 50 people—mostly volunteers—supporting them the entire route, all the riders made it to L.A. the following weekend. Raising $1.6 million dollars for AIDS programs at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, it is the most successful maiden fundraiser ever.

In May 1995, at least triple that number will attempt California AIDS Ride again. This year, it will be a much grander media event. It will be on the “Today” show every morning and make the evening news in all 50 states (instead of last year’s 23). From Los Anchorage, Alaska to San Juan, Puerto Rico and across the Atlantic, America will see AIDS as its issue, not some sub-culture’s.

Well, we hope.

Last year, AIDS riders rode through hours and hours of rain, days of wind and dust, a week of being sideswiped on the road, and earned a lifetime of respect. Ribs cracked, knees broke, ligaments were torn, but the challenge was met. Every hill traversed that week represented someone to the riders. Exhaustion, sleep deprivation, sometimes dehydration, only intensified the reasons for doing the ride. All the riders knew why they were there, yet the motivation for staying on the bike Day One was unique from that of Day Seven. It started off as heroism and ended as survival—this ride had to be done. There was no option. It had to be done by someone because there were people they loved very much who could not do it.

The magic that week was constant. On any stretch of road, a group of riders might have been singing “99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall” (they actually made it all the way to “No more beer!”) as they crossed a hill, only to pass a field of golden poppies (the state flower) and be reminded of the friends who have died. Euphoria would quickly turn into grief, yet recreate itself as glee again when another rider or group would pass by singing something like the theme from “Gilligan’s Island.”

Locals came out of nowhere (appropriate, considering the ride went right through its heart) to cheer riders on. One man brought his family to an isolated country intersection and handed out cups of bottled water—two days in a row! A farmer nailed red ribbons to every fencepost along his roadside pasture. Two migrant workers gave all the money in their pockets to a volunteer—$2.14 in change.

This kind of compassion is absent from everyday life. People dying by the hundreds of thousands weren’t enough to get America to care. Yet five hundred riders—most of whom never had seriously cycled until the AIDS Ride—made the statement first: sore bums, tired legs, and sunburned necks—that pain shrivels compared to the agony someone with AIDS feels every day until death. Each AIDS rider received tremendous backing; woefully, many people with AIDS have never had any support, let alone the blessings bestowed upon the riders. For those who are left alone, for the ones who have never seen anyone in their lives wearing a red ribbon, for the people who can’t get out of bed or hold a glass of water, California AIDS Ride 2—and the thousands of people involved with it—is more than just a prayer for you. It’s a miracle.

Chris Fabbro is riding 200 miles a week to prepare for AIDS Ride 2 because he can.

* 1995 C.P. Fabbro ◊

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Thanks to The Tidewater Times, The Official Journal of the Tidewater Bears of Southeastern Virginia.
White House to Meet With Gay and Lesbian Elected Officials
Historic Meeting Scheduled for June 13

Washington, DC—21 April 1995—For the first time in history, the White House has scheduled a meeting with Gay and Lesbian elected officials. According to San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal, the liaison between the Administration and Gay and Lesbian elected officials, the meeting will be held at the White House on Tuesday, June 13. “This much-awaited meeting will give Gay and Lesbian officials the opportunity to provide input to the Administration and to discuss with Administration officials issues of common concern,” says Leal. On the morning before the meeting, the Gay elected officials will conduct a coordinated series of Congressional visits to meet with key legislators.

Elected by popular vote, openly Gay and Lesbian officials epitomize the strides that the Gay and Lesbian community has made towards dispelling anti-Gay stereotypes and achieving political equality. “We have spent the past two years laying the groundwork for this unprecedented event,” says Leal, “and now, to paraphrase Harvey Milk, we will give the American people the chance to judge us by our own leaders, and by our own legislators.” Among the 32 Victory Fund winners invited to the meeting are Supervisor Leal, U.S. Congressmen Barney Frank and Gerry Studds, and California Assembly-member Sheila Kuehl.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is assisting Supervisor Leal in convening this meeting, and established a scholarship fund for those openly Gay elected officials who could not otherwise be part of this ground-breaking event. The Victory Fund will also sponsor a reception and banquet on Saturday, June 10, to honor openly Gay elected officials and members of the Administration.

For more information, please contact Kathleen DeBold at 202-842-8679 or victoryf@aol.com.

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EQUAL
Equality Under Alaskan Law

Meets Thursday, June 1 (7pm), at the Metropolitan Community Church, 615 Hollywood Dr. (Govt. Hill).

EQUAL is the largest predominately lesbian/gay political organization in Alaska. There are currently over 1,050 people on our mailing list. We do not endorse candidates but we do provide information on candidates/issues to our members before elections.

Phone: 274-8226 Internet: equal967@aol.com
EQUAL P.O. Box 244452, Anchorage, AK 99524-4452

...and in a related story
“The Bible contains 6 admonishments to homosexuals and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love heterosexuals. It’s just that they need more supervision.”

Lynn Lavner
Thanks to The Tidewater Times, The Official Journal of the Tidewater Bears ofSoutheastern Virginia.
New Board Members were elected as well as incumbents at the Annual Meeting held April 28 (during the regular Fourth Friday Potluck. New Board Members include Candy Bonham, Tori Lentfer and Dawn Rogers. Incumbents reflected were Ruth Mathes, Kurt Parish and Tom Rachal.

The next regular Board Meeting is May 22 at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

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The Butch That I Marry
by Lesléa Newman

"Hey Flash," I whisper to the prone body lying beside me in the dark. "Flasheroo, Flashmeister." My beloved is fast asleep. I haven't the heart to wake her, even to say Happy Anniversary. It's been six years since Flash and I became wife and wife, but I remember our wedding as though it was yesterday.

Before the wedding came the proposal. Flash got down on one knee and asked, "Will you marry me?" I asked, "Where's the ring?" Flash quickly looked around her bedroom and offered instead a good-luck onyx stone she'd had for years. Not the kind of rock I'd hoped for, but I accepted anyway.

In the weeks to come, I kept dropping hints for Flash. I sang "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend," when we showered together, I said, "Give me a ring sometime," instead of "Call me later," when she left for work. When Flash asked if I had plans for Saturday night, I said, "I have a previous engagement." All to no avail.

Finally we went to our local Lesbian jeweler. In all the excitement of choosing wedding rings, the matter of an engagement ring was forgotten. Flash wanted us to start wearing our matching bands right away, but I was stern. "We can't wear them until we're married."

"Can we at least try them on?" Flash asked. We did, and they looked gorgeous. "Let's just wear them out to the car," Flash said. "Let's just wear them until you take you home." "Let's just wear them while we're doing the nasty." From that day forth we never took off our rings. Not even when I brought Flash home to meet the folks. You would think that my mother, who notices everything, including the one gray hair in my left eyebrow ("You really should touch that up") would notice a gold band on her only daughter's left hand. But you see, my family actually invented the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. Flash was amazed. "You're not going to tell your parents about the wedding?"

"Of course not," I said. "Then I'd have to invite them." "But who's going to give you away?" she asked.

I didn't hesitate. "My therapist."

In the months to come, Flash and I met with a printer, a florist, a photographer, a caterer, a bartender, a D.J., a band, a rabbi, a hairdresser, a dressmaker, a shoemaker, and a tailor. We compiled a huge guest list, but when our caterer informed us her sliding scale started at twenty-three dollars a plate, we quickly realized who our seventy-five closest friends were. Not that any of them bothered to tell us whether or not they were coming. We learned that Lesbians think RSVP stands for "Respond Slowly vs. Promptly."

On the morning of the wedding, the phone rang. Mitzi, who was there to help, answered. "It's your mother," she whispered. I grabbed the receiver, frantically. My mother never calls on Sunday mornings. "Who died?" I asked.

"No one," she answered. "I just woke up thinking about you, so I decided to call. So, what's new?"

"Nothing."

"What are you doing today?"

"What could I tell her? I remembered that old fiction writing advice: I lie in order to tell the truth. I decided to try the opposite and tell the truth in order to lie: "Getting married."

"Very funny."

"Pshaw. I knew she wouldn't believe me. "Listen, Ma, I gotta go." I hung up and started to dress. My outfit included something old (my grandmother's brooch); something new (my dress); something borrowed (a tampon from Mitzi); and something blue (the string on the tampon).

Then before I knew it, Flash and I were standing under the chuppah, surrounded by our loved ones who were wearing everything from cut-off shorts and combat boots to high heels and velvet gowns. And those were just the boys. The girls wore T-shirts with slogans on them like, "But Ma, she's Mr. Right," and "Monogamy equals Monotony" depending on their point of view. The rabbi started the ceremony and I started to cry. Then the rabbi started to cry. Then Flash, who is too butch to cry, had an allergy attack.

When things calmed down, Flash and I said our vows, and kissed. After we were pronounced Butch and Bride, the party went wild. Flash and I were hoisted up on chairs and paraded around the room. Our friends danced circles around us. The food was so fabulous, even the vegetarians sampled the even-shaped chopped liver centerpiece. Both wedding cakes (one traditional, the other sugar, wheat and dairy free) were divine. At the end of the day, we drove off to a nearby hotel. I didn't want to take off my wedding gown yet, so Flash worked around it. We fell asleep in each other's arms and we've slept that way ever since.

I look at the clock on the night table. It is 12:27. There'll be plenty of time to celebrate tomorrow. Maybe I'll even make Flash breakfast in bed.

But when I open my eyes in the morning, Flash is the one holding a breakfast tray. "Happy anniversary," she says. "I take a sip of coffee, and lift a small box off the tray. "What's this?"

"Remember what you said the night I proposed to you?"

Flash asks.

"I said yes."

"No," Flash says. "You said, 'Where's the...'

"Ring! Oh my God!" I tear open the box and gasp at the most beautiful diamond ring I have ever seen. At last, the rock I have always wanted. "Is it too late to get engaged?" Flash asks. I grab her by the neck and kiss her in reply. My butch. I think I'll keep her.

Lesléa Newman is the author of seventeen books, the newest ones being a young adult novel, Fat Chance, and a short story collection, Every Woman's Dream. She is currently working on a book of columns called Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear.
(H is office fascinated me, just for openers. A large color portrait of Miss Piggy, assorted bottles (full? half-full?) of beer and liquor on the credenza, stylized bar glasses in the windows, a desk lamp with no visible means of illumination...you get the idea. Maurice MacDonald, owner of O’Brady’s, relaxed as we talked.)

Identity: Are you the originator of O’Brady’s, and where did the name come from?
M.D.: Yes, I am. The first O’Brady’s opened nine years ago. I’m half Scottish, and I wanted a “pub” name that was so strong it rolled its own “R’s”!

Identity: How long have you been in Alaska, and what did you do before O’Brady’s?
M.D.: I came here 22 years ago from New Hampshire, of all places. I can actually trace my family directly to John Rolfe, who married Pocahontas. I used to be a stock broker in my pre-restaurant life.

Identity: You worked for other eateries?
M.D.: I started with Burger King, then Godfather’s, then Skippers. O’Brady’s was named something else when I first started working there. Nine months later I bought out the owner and changed the name.

Identity: Do you feel that being an ‘out’ gay business man has been difficult? Why?
M.D.: I have had some hurt feelings directly related to being openly gay. I find myself getting defensive fairly quickly whenever someone makes an issue of this subject. I could also wish for larger patronage from the gay/lesbian community.

Identity: I wonder if this echoes a national trend?
M.D.: No way. The general trend is just the opposite. Gay business is good business...fashion industry, entertainment industry, travel, vacation sites...all of these have come to acknowledge the growing gay dollar. Money spells support. Mainstream America will follow and validate that dollar just as it has any other source of money.

Identity: Do you intend to stay in the food business? Would you branch out?
M.D.: Absolutely. It’s been good for me and good to me. If I did anything in addition to this, it might be as the owner of a small hotel...something personal and private with upscale ambiance. That’s just a dream...nothing I am really working on.

[1 took in the crisp shirt, trendy tie, pressed slacks. Maurice had to leave for an appointment, so I headed for the door.]
EQUAL, Alaska's largest predominantly lesbian, bi, trans and gay political information/education organization needs you. We currently have over 1,050 supporters on our mailing list but, if you're not one of them, we won't be satisfied until you are.

Why is it so important for you to be on our mailing list? It's very simple. When our community--all members of our community--are involved in the political process, candidates opposed to discrimination based on sexual orientation will be able to win elections in our city on a regular basis again. Repeatedly, polls show the far right wing extremists control approximately 15% of the voters. It isn't hard to understand when elections have less than 30% of the voters making an effort to go to the polls, the extremists have a very good chance of winning. Elections in Anchorage without a race for Governor, Mayor or President have usually had low voter turnout. The April 18 election for Assembly and School Board had a turnout of about 31%.

Minority groups, including gays and lesbians, traditionally have lower voter turnout due to their minority status. The Far Right has found the most potent motivator imaginable--GOD! This mixture of political goals and religious faith has revolutionized the political process. As fewer Americans vote, evangelical Christians are voting in higher numbers.

How important are our votes? And the votes of our friends and allies? Ask Fay von Gemmingen. She won her race by 239 votes--EQUAL has 311 members in her district! Ask Pat Abney. She won her race by 116 votes--EQUAL has 188 members in her district! To a lesser extent, ask Mark Begich. He won by 871 votes--EQUAL has 218 members in his district! Although EQUAL doesn't endorse candidates, we do let our members know which candidates have favourable views on equality. We targeted three districts with special phone calls to our members. The progressive candidate won in each one of them!

If you're not one of the 1,050 members of EQUAL, please sign up today.
Dyke Strippers
by Roz Warren

Cleis Press, 1995, $29.95 cloth, $16.96 paper. Publication date July.

Reviewed by Lee Lynch

Despite its punning title and its humorous content, Dyke Strippers is a substantial and compelling book. These cartoonists may be our pen and ink court jesters, but for Lesbians the jest is healing, the comic strip a pottage for the spirit. As Lesbians have learned the hard way, laughter is a tool of survivors.

Roz Warren has edited six books of women's cartoons, and has a total of over 50,000 books in print. Her playful body of work has done an enormous service both for Lesbian and non-Lesbian women, and for female cartoonists everywhere. Here, she pays homage to our nib-tickling artists by not only collecting some of their new and/or best drawing, but by including interviews that bring to life these women who have become cultural heroines.

As discouraged as we may get that the revolution is having difficulty transporting onto the Starship Lesbos — we can see its phantom body disintegrating in the transporter beam in this era of the Ging-a-ling congress — at least we have our dyke humorists to keep the flame alive. Though our non-illustrated literature goes more and more the way of the mainstream morass of sex, violence and money-making, our cartoonists seem to have kept their integrity intact.

Even Alison Bechdel, who has mothered a family that now apparently supports her, has not strayed from every day Lesbians living every day life. Her "Dykes to Watch Out For" strip is a mirror, a chronicle, a high pressure valve. Bechdel's publisher, Nancy K. Bereano, aptly calls her a "very loving critic of the Lesbian community." A critic, yes, but also very much a member of our "marginalized" community. We love her because she loves us and shares our often awkward, stiff and always passionately well-meaning values.

Warren does not exclude the less lionized and less available cartoonists. The book introduced me to some brilliant and outrageously radical (as in from the root of the matter) artists. San Francisco-based Erika Lopez, who calls herself "An American Art chick," is a mistress of the narrative comic, relying on a heavy dosage of words. Her simply illustrated stories jack up the voltage of ordinary words to lightning-power.

In contrast are the lushly detailed, almost Where's Waldo-like drawings of Australian Beck Main. Her four-panel strip "A Baby Dyke's Progress," follows the stages of growing up Gay: prejudice, lust, misery and adult happiness.

My impulse is to name and applaud every one of these highly talented and mostly funny creators, but that's what Roz Warren has done. Instead, I'll mention the touches that make this a vastly valuable and interesting work. Of course, there's the apé spilled ink bottle that accompanies page numbers. Then there are the self-portraits, like Kathleen DeBold in a bumper car, Paige Braddock fiddling, Noreen Stevens at her drawing board in hairy legs and fluffy slippers, Zana with a major grin and pioneer dyke stripper Roberto Gregory apparently possessed by the muse of cartooning.

One of the most impressive features of this volume is its design. Warren has displayed the work with a fine eye for maximum presentation, almost as if she has hung a show, not simply collected funnies. Some of Kris Kovick's outrageous and boldly-drawn comics appear full-page which increases its impact, but barely contains their power. The pages devoted to Ursula Roma, who explores language through illustration, are done in a distinctive layout that evokes the artist's penchant for geometric shapes. Jennifer Camper's picture-stories are given enough white space to balance her unusual use of black. Fish's woodcut-like drawings and silent characters, looming off their pages, are not funny, but as haunting as nightmares.

I would caution readers not to skip the interviews. One of the joys of Lesbian culture is the accessibility of our artists. How much do we know about the creator of "Calvin and Hobbes," or even the irresistible Nicole Hollander? For Lesbians, the artist seems to be as important as the characters she draws. Elana Bouver's interview with Diane DiMassa makes it clear that DiMassa is as honest as her strip, "Hothead Puisin." She gives us a double gift by being an out recovering alcoholic whose character is as damaged and heroic, in her own way, as the rest of us.

Dyke Strippers is the illustrated Lesbian revolution. We laugh to recognize ourselves and laugh again when we recognize our communities. After the laughter fades we are stronger for having our existence acknowledged and our communities, in all their variety, are more powerful for receiving such loving definition.

Lee Lynch is a columnist/author based in southern Oregon. She writes "The Amazon Trail" regularly for The Dallas Voice, Just Out, The Washington Blade, the Identity NorthView (some 16 papers, in all) and is the author of ten books. Copyright
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P-FLAG Juneau Rises over Capital City
by Jean F.

Juneau now has an active chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). Its mission is to provide information and support for families and friends of Gays, Lesbians and bisexuals and to advocate for Lesbian, Gay and bisexual rights. P-FLAG now has 360 chapters nationwide and represents 40,000 families.

"Many parents who find out their family member is Gay or Lesbian don't know where to turn," explains current Juneau chairperson Marsha Buck. "They can call us if they want to join us or need resources or support. We are also glad to get information to Gay, Lesbian and bisexual youth who are wondering how their parents will respond when they come out to them."

"We have a lot of literature available for SEAGLA members and others to share with their families and friends," says Marsha Buck. There are many books, ranging from "The Church and the Homosexual: A Call to Reconciliation," to pamphlets including "Be Yourself: Questions and Answers for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth," "Is Homosexuality a Sin?", "Our Daughters and Sons: Questions and Answers for Parents," and "Opening the Straight Spouse's Closet" (for someone whose spouse comes out.) Currently, P-FLAG Juneau is working with Juneau libraries to get a new category in the system such as "Homosexuality" or "P-FLAG," so that good information for families and friends is easily to find. Library staff have been very helpful and have agreed to add relevant books when they can. P-FLAG Juneau will also be adding materials.

P-FLAG Juneau is also hoping to organize at least 50 people to march with a P-FLAG banner and balloons in the Fourth of July parade. Those interested can contact Dixie Hood at 789-2068.

P-FLAG Juneau meets the third Saturday of every month at noon at the valley library in Mendenhall Mall. The next meeting will be May 21st.

Full membership in Juneau P-FLAG costs $30. Associate memberships, for people who want to be on the mailing list but do not want to be active, are available for $10. To join, send your name, address and dues to:

P-FLAG Juneau
P.O. Box 32245
Juneau, AK 99803-2245

P-FLAG Juneau's telephone helpline operates 24 hours. Messages are taken daily and are kept confidential. The 24-hour helpline number is 463-4203.
Letter from the Emperor

To the good people of Alaska:

Heaven bless us, the damn snow is finally gone! The temperature is in the forties, and everyone is wearing shorts. I have already been down to Ship Creek, and I know that even as you are reading this I will probably be fishing for Kings. (Emperors fishing for Kings...interesting.) Anyway, it would appear that spring has returned to the "Great Land".

With spring comes the much acclaimed Eklutna Picnic. This year it will be held at Eklutna on Memorial Day (Monday, May 29). The Mt. McKinley Club will have a camp-out at the Eklutna Lake Campground for the entire weekend. Non-members are welcome.

Another sign of spring is the Femme Fatale Show that the Anchorage "girls" do down in Juneau. This year Empress Jasmine and Laura turned in almost $6,000 raised at that show. Half the money will be sent back to Juneau to help people living with AIDS...the other half will be donated to related charities around the state.

For those of you that have not been to the new bar, The Wave is doing just great! Please come out and see it. Jill (from the Blue Moon) and "yours truly" are tending bar at Anchorage's hottest new disco.

Next month the Imperial Court will be announcing plans for this year's Coronation. The event will be held at the Egan Center, and it should be spectacular. More details to follow...

Peace, Love, and Unity.

Emperor Bob
275-0046 (pager)

P.S. See all of you at Eklutna! λ

Agayinthelife. by John Sieruta

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UNITARIAN
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3201 Turnagain St.
A GAY-FRIENDLY AMBIENCE FOR
YOUR RELIGIOUS SEARCH

May 14
9:00 MOTHERHOOD: ITS UPS
AND DOWNS - Beatrice Hitchcock, Intern
Minister
10:30 BERING SEA AND COASTAL
CULTURES - Larry Merculieff

May 21
9:00 BAYARD RUSTIN, MY
(HALF-IMAGINARY) FRIEND - Art Curtis,
Minister
10:30 PEOPLE AND THEIR RELIGION
THROUGH THE PSYCHOLOGY OF
SELF-ESTEEM - Rod McCoy

May 28
9:00 REMEMBERING OUR
LOVED ONES - Bring a memory or
memento to share for this participatory
service.
10:30 LIBERTY AND OTHER THINGS
WORTH DEFENDING - Art Curtis, Minister

Island Watch
Bed & Breakfast
"A room with a view"

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POB 1594, Homer, AK 99603
907/235-2265

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Oh.

I just thought I'd start
goin' out on weeknights.
Stargazer Commentary
by Barbara J. Soule

The bombing in Oklahoma is much on my mind these days. As the end of the century approaches, many fundamentalist Christians and cultists await the rapture and the return of Jesus Christ, followed by the return of the anti-Christ and Armageddon. Cultists like the Branch-Davidians have stockpiled weapons, are heavily armed and await the end of the world. These Christians, themselves, appear to the rest of us as the antithesis of Christ-like behavior. To me, God has the most peculiar sense of humor. Just when a person is feeling smug, self righteous and judgmental, s/he is totally out of line.

Those members of our community who light candles and burn incense are pioneers—people that can’t be forced into someone else’s limited thinking pattern—and a whole vista of possibilities opens. My question when embarking on this lifestyle was, “What do I do now?”

My first spiritual advisor was Loy Young. Originally, Loy was from a tiny town in Texas and planned to attend a Baptist Bible College, but didn’t have the money. By the time I meet Ms. Young, she had a doctorate in clinical psychology, had spent four years in a remote Buddhist monastery and eight years studying with shamans in North and South America. Loy headed a prestigious panel of psychologists studying the dynamics of relationships at her institute and ashram in Hawaii.

When I asked Loy, “What do I do now?” She said if I wanted the benefit of her some twenty years experience, she thought the answer was, “Love and cherish every facet of your being. If you can love and cherish yourself, you will not permit abuse. You will understand how to treat other people well and fairly,” Loy concluded.

As I’ve explored different facets of my personality, I’ve discovered who and what, exactly, I am. Some facets I’ve polished to perfection, others I’ve blessed, cherished for their lessons and let them disappear. Some facets that I am still working on—a quirky sense of humor and the ability to laugh at myself have been very valuable assets. Subsequently, I’m very much alive, I’ve not killed anybody, nor have I blown up the Anchorage Baptist Temple.

Years ago, as a lonely child, I memorized these words: “He/she drew a circle and shut me out, heretic, rebel, a thing to flaunt. But, Love and I had the wit to win, I drew a circle and let her/him in.” Presently, I am seriously considering getting a bumper sticker for my car that reads: “Homosexuals Love Christians,” maybe even “Homosexuals Love Baptists.” That may be going too far, but it’s not the end of the world.

Barbara Soule is a Raiki Master, a clairvoyant psychic, a Lesbian artist, performer and writer. ▼
Queer Abby,
What did we ever do to the radical Christian right to make them hate us so much?
Anon
Queer Soul,
Girl, we're genetically more fabulous. They're jealous.

Queer Abby,
My family is very religious. They're always telling me that I'm wrong for feeling the way I do but they still talk to me because they "love the sinner, hate the sin." I get the feeling that they're just trying to change me, and I want to be able to have some good comebacks for them. They piss me off so much. Any suggestions?
Tim, Ontario
Queer Tim,
Ah, praying to God...not praying. It is difficult not to seek revenge on those who accuse us of the very crimes they are committing! But you do not need to sling mud in return, just be your clever self. Take a moment to think of all the arguments used against you as fragments of the Christian Right try to get our civil rights outlawed. For now, the best defense we have in the war on the Gay community is to take away their weapons.

When they say, "It's not natural," you say, "It is to me."
Simple as that. Many other animal species have been scientifically observed as having homosexual members—remember the Lesbian parrots studied in South America? Even with that and Simon LeVay's hypothalamus theory that seems to prove the genetic predisposition to homosexuality, you still don't have to justify your right to exist. "I've always felt this way in my heart," is damn good enough. God made you fabulous! Do Her will!

A retort to the previous declaration would be, "Yeah, well Blah blah domineering mother/absent father Blah Blah molested as a child." You say, "Nature, not nurture," and take them back to the preceding paragraph until they get it. And if the retort you get is, "Then something's wrong with you genetically...homosexuality's a birth defect, like blindness," remember, "Left-handedness, not blindness." You are the one with the vision, after all.

If you're lucky—or logical and persistent enough—you'll be able to move on. So then they say, "It's a lifestyle choice." You can say, "Actually, nobody has control over emotions. However, if you're talking lifestyle choice, religion certainly is one." You came into the world as a non-heterosexual. Can they honestly say that they were born, say, fundamentalist? No. Born into it, yes, but not the same as being born American, left-handed, a woman, or Latino. Besides, marriage and kids are lifestyle choices as much as being openly Gay or closeted—you can choose your degree of openness, but not your sexual orientation.

"You people recruit victims into your lifestyle!" they say.
You reply, "I have never recruited anyone. Plus, 'orientation' and lifestyle are not synonymous. However, don't you recruit people into your lifestyle?!!" Not only that, we all have heard many of these people boasting of the numbers of souls they have saved, just like some piggish guy might brag about the number of "chicks" he has conquered sexually, perhaps even raped. Might I add that those who lie and deceive in God's name are guilty of spiritual rape.

They respond, "You Gays manipulate innocent people to get your filthy agenda pushed forward. You people are predators!" Try not to smile too much. After all, people who point the finger at you have three of their own pointing right back at them. Certainly you have witnessed experiences similar to this: at California Polytechnic University in Pomona, there is a group called the Campus Crusade for Christ. They track kids who sit alone at lunch and chat them up. Within a couple days, the once shy, introverted kids suddenly have new friends and are hunting down more new people for the CCC.

"You lie!" Oh, do we? Think about this: every year, the CCC hosts a forum called "The Real truth about AIDS [sic]" on campus. At that presentation, the speaker distorts transmission facts and never presents actual numbers—in order to frighten students into prayer-supported abstinence. HIV test counselors on campus frantically try to re-inform the dozens and dozens of deceived students who come in because they are certain that their premarital sex had given them AIDS. Even the kids who always use condoms get terrified that they will end up HIV positive because they had heard at the presentation that condoms rarely work. Not like prayer and abstinence. Or lies and fear, should I say.

"That's cheating!" You can't help but roll your eyes. Cheating, like they do when flooding switchboards promoting their agenda. Think about it. Our community is always hearing of how the offices of our elected officials are flooded with calls largely decrying legislation that may protect us as a minority. One tiny congregation of 100 could make thousands of phone calls. The crime about that lies in the inherent deception in one person making several—sometimes dozens of calls. Each is tallied as being from a different person, so it is a lie to pretend to be so many different people. Heavens, don't they have anything better to do all day (than sin, dare I say)? How about helping out in a soup kitchen instead?

And now for a word about the Word. Anyone who slings biblical mud at you is quoting the same source that declares the following:

1. Divorce/remarrying is punishable by death.
2. Eating/touching the skin of a pig is also a crime.
   (No football, no hot dogs—oh, never mind. Hot dogs are made out of floor sweepings and eyeballs, anyway!)
3. Any woman who is raped must marry that man and spend the rest of her life with him (so does gang rape beget a harem?).

Of course, this is the same book that places love as the greatest everlasting thing, tells us to take care of each other, and promises happiness to those who live simply. So there is actually some timeless advice amidst the contradictions. Use what you can for the good of peoplekind.

There will always be people who hate us and will never recognize the common ground we all share. They finally are acknowledging us, albeit by mean words, instead of pretending we do not exist. We cannot allow slander to force us to retreat. We will be as self-expressed as they are. We will smile and live up to all the meanings of Gay as we continue to flavor American culture.
Right, Tim?

Love, flAbby (Help—it's swimsuit time!)
Queer Abby's waiting to hear from you at P.O. Box 41-380, Los Angeles, CA 90041. Go ahead, tell it to her!
Out Classics: Liner Notes
by K. Robert Schwarz

If you search through the standard music encyclopedias, dictionaries, and biographies for some mention of homosexuality, you will come up nearly empty-handed. That omission is all the more peculiar in classical music, for many of the greatest composers — from Handel and Schubert to Copland and Bernstein — were gay. Yet a quaint, almost Victorian reticence has prevailed until recently in the academic field of musicology, as if the mere mention of a composer’s homosexuality were enough to besmirch his posthumous reputation.

Now that the closet doors have begun to swing open, new dangers have emerged. Just because we know the sexuality of a group of composers, dare we try to find some evidence of it in the music? And if we do, how do we avoid falling into pernicious stereotypes, such as those that have plagued Tchaikovsky? (The one composer long known to have been gay, Tchaikovsky has often been derided by homophobic commentators, who have found in his music an expression of neurotic self-loathing and hysterical hand-wringing.) In the future we may possess the analytical tools to decode a gay aesthetic in music, but now we would be wise to observe the warning offered by the gay composer Ned Rorem: “No sooner do you define a gay sensibility than along comes some composer who turns the whole argument on its head. It’s a slogan posing as an idea.”

Still, the absence of an overriding gay aesthetic should not stop us from celebrating the incalculable contributions that gay composers have made to the field of classical music. This disc reaches back to Franz Schubert, who in many ways has become emblematic of the whole debate over sexuality and its musical significance. In 1988, when the musicologist Maynard Solomon revealed Schubert’s homosexual orientation, he set off a firestorm of controversy; the implication of the anti-Solomon backlash was that Schubert’s reputation needed to be protected from such unsavory accusations. But the evidence that Schubert was part of a gay Viennese sub-culture seems incontrovertible. The case of Frédéric Chopin is far less clear. The Polish-born pianist and composer, whose perfumed miniatures are an embodiment of musical Romanticism, had a long relationship with the female novelist George Sand, but his earlier correspondence reveals distinctly homosexual sentiments.

No such ambiguity exists with the Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. In his youth, Tchaikovsky attempted to deny his homosexuality; a disastrous marriage in 1877 was never consummated, and it drove both partners to the brink of madness. Soon, however, Tchaikovsky learned to accept his sexual orientation, and in 1878 he wrote to his brother Anatoly: “Only now, especially after the incident of my marriage, have I finally begun to understand that there is nothing more fruitless than wanting to be other than what I am by nature.”

In 1875, the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns visited Moscow, where he met Tchaikovsky and was delighted to discover not only their shared homosexuality but their mutual penchant for impersonating female ballet dancers. Tchaikovsky’s biographer Alexander Poznansky describes an impromptu pas de deux between Tchaikovsky and Saint-Saëns, performed privately on the stage of the Moscow Conservatory, in which the Frenchman personified Galatea and the Russian played Pygmalion.

In American music, the expunging of homosexuality from the historical record is even more heinous, simply because so many of the most important, and most popular, 20th century American composers have been gay. (Aaron Copland, Virgil Thomson, Samuel Barber, David Diamond, Marc Blitzstein, Cole Porter, Leonard Bernstein, Ned Rorem and John Corigliano are just a few of the more prominent names.) Copland remained closeted for his entire life, but his music virtually defined what it meant to sound American in 20th-century classical composition. Copland’s protégé, the composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, was married for nearly three decades, but toward the end of his life he developed a new openness about his sexuality. In the 1980’s Bernstein went so far as to urge Copland to come out of the closet. His mentor’s frosty response: “I think I’ll leave that to you, boy.”

Although Samuel Barber remained quiet about his homosexuality, he did nothing to hide it. In 1928, he met the composer Gian Carlo Menotti, and they began a relationship that continued for nearly their entire lives. The two even collaborated on various projects: Menotti, for instance, served as the librettist for Barber’s opera Vanessa (1958).

The 37-year relationship of the English composer Benjamin Britten and the tenor Peter Pears offers another example of both emotional companionship and artistic collaboration. For Pears, Britten created many of his greatest operatic roles, including the title character in Peter Grimes (1944) and the elderly Aschenbach in Death in Venice (1973). It seems fitting to close with an exchange of love letters that Britten and Pears penned in 1974. “What have I done to deserve such an artist and man to write for?” asked Britten of Pears. To which Pears replied: “I am here as your mouthpiece, and I live in your music. And I can never be thankful enough to you and to fate for all the heavenly joy we have had together for 35 years.”

K. Robert Schwarz is a freelance music journalist and frequent contributor to the New York Times, Out magazine, Classical Pulse! and Opera News. He is also North American Editor of Classic CD magazine.

AARON COPLAND (1900-90)
Clarinet Concerto: Opening (Slowly and expressively)

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913-76)
Peter Grimes: Sea Interlude No. 1 (Dawn)

FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN (1810-49)
Nocturne in D-Flat, Op.27, No.2

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840-93)
Andante cantabile (from String Quartet No. 1)

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)
Carnival of the Animals: The Swan

LEONARDO BERNSTEIN (1918-90)
WORD GAYME: GAY GAMES I

ACROSS
1. Line of stitches
5. Dog's foot
8. Queen
11. Expensive car
12. Muskogee resident
14. Compete
15. Gay Games event
17. "...Got Rhythm"
18. Pre-adult
19. Over
21. Remains
24. Greek letter
25. Buddy
26. Gay Games event
32. He's command
33. Faultless work... Lay Dying

ACROSS (Cont'd)
34. "...Maria"
35. Gay Games event
39. Bird doctor
40. Big tab
41. Listens
43. Milt __________
46. Participate in a Gay Games event
48. G.I.'s club
49. Gay Games event
54. Rec room
55. Flannion's pet
56. Ireland
57. Richrock
58. Classifieds and personals
59. Paradise

DOWN
1. Shop tool
2. Continent (abbr)
3. Lime drink
4. Johnny Mathis hit
5. Equipment for a Gay Games event
6. Related
7. Gay Games gold medal
8. Roman poet
9. Participate in a Gay Games event
10. Accomplishment
11. Discharge
12. Exam
20. And the Band Played On locale
21. Split out with contempt
22. Bye!
23. Many
24. Bucket
27. Engrossed in
28. Personal abbreviation
29. Volcano group
30. Finished
31. Equipment for some Gay Games events
36. _of Destruction
37. Fast
38. Natalie Barney's home state
42. Alex Trebek, for one
43. Gay Games event
44. Employer
45. Sole
46. Mail
47. Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
50. Secret org.
51. Child
52. Before
53. Desire

Look at Your Mailing Label!
The new NorthView mailing labels now give you the renewal date for your Identity membership. Please refer to the line above your name. Your membership expiration is expressed as year/month, i.e., 199410. If your renewal is due in the near future, please help paperwork and postage-wise—send it early.

We are struggling to continue our activities, which include the North View, the monthly Pot-lucks and the Helpline, not to mention the Lesbian & Gay Pride Picnic and National Coming Out Day! Please send your membership now (more if you can, less if you can't) and support your Identity!
Thanks! Thanks!
May, 1995

Identity NorthView

Calendar

If you have any information or corrections for the Calendar, please call:
Tel: 333-3399, Ruth: 563-1324
Angie/Linda: 337-0253, Ken: 248-7722
Identity Hotline: 258-4777

λ = Anchorage
♦ = Fairbanks
Ĵ = Juneau

May 19, Fri:
λ PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
λ Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
λ Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
♦ Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand

May 20, Sat:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12noon, 566-1133
♦ P-FLAG Juneau, noon, Mendenhall Mall Library, Marsha Buck, 907-789-6167
♦ Party/Potluck, 3:00-8:00pm, donations accepted for video/book library in Kailing's name, Eric, 907-455-4051
♦ KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, “Queer Beans” (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
λ The Family (formerly LGBSSA), call for time & place: Kimberly, 786-4959
λ Feminist Sing-a-Long, 6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm singing, 1741 Westview Circle, Carol or Fran-337-3543
♦ Lesbian Video Night, 7:30pm, My Father is Coming, Patty & Roxanne, 907-790-4336
♦ Gay Men’s Video Night, 8:00pm, El Diptado, Daniel, 907-789-5001
♦ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand

May 21, Sun:
λ AUUF Services, 9:00am (“Bayard Rustin, My (Half-Imaginary) Friend”-Art Curtis) & 10:30am (“People and Their Religion Through the Psychology of Self-Esteem”-Rod McCoy), 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3377
λ Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
λ Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay & Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
λ Northern Exposure Bowling League, spared ’til Sept!
λ International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, 4:00-5:00pm, Assembly Chambers (Loussac Library), Hillary Morgan, Diana Moroney, Sharon Vaisiere. Reception follows.

May 22, Mon:
λ HIV+ Men’s Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

May 23, Tues:
λ Identity Board Meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF, Room A
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

May 24, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4A’s, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
♦ Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
♦ MPBRTF Meeting, 7:00pm, Juneau, 1-907-586-6623 (info)
λ Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
♦ “Women’s Prerogative,” KTOO-FM, 9:00-10:00pm, Juneau
λ Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm. $3 Cover

May 25, Thurs:
λ Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, noon-May 29 picnic, campout, etc., Eklutna Lake Campground, Bob, 561-8744
λ 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
λ I.M.R.U. Youth Group—MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Rick Wright & Anne Marie Grant—group leaders, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
λ Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

May 26, Fri:
♦ 15th Annual Lesbian Memorial Weekend Campout, North Bridge Cove, info & directions, 907-586-2410
λ Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, noon-May 29 picnic, campout, etc., Eklutna Lake Campground, Bob, 561-8744
♦ PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050

λ Identity Potluck, 10th Anniversary of the 4A’s: "honchos bring us up to speed," 6:30pm, AUUF

λ Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
λ 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 AlaskaLand
May, 27, Sat:
- First Annual Gay Men's Memorial Weekend Campout, at John Muir Cabin, info & directions, Daniel, 907-789-5001
- 15th Annual Lesbian Memorial Weekend Campout, North Bridget Cove, info & directions, 907-586-2410
- Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, noon-May 29 picnic, campout, etc., Eklutna Lake Campground, Bob, 561-8744
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00, call 566-1133
- KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music), Fairbanks
- Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska Land

May, 28, Sun:
- First Annual Gay Men's Memorial Weekend Campout, at John Muir Cabin, info & directions, Daniel, 907-789-5001
- 15th Annual Lesbian Memorial Weekend Campout, North Bridget Cove, info & directions, 907-586-2410
- Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, noon-May 29 picnic, campout and etc., Eklutna Lake Campground, Bob, 561-8744
- AUUF Services, 9:00am ("Remembering Our Loved Ones" - Bring a memory, a photograph or other memento to share in this participate Memorial Day service), & 10:30am ("Liberty and Other Things Worth Defending" - Art Curtis), 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, no strikes 'til Sept!
- 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, 29, Mon:
- Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, till noon camped at the Eklutna Campground private area (holds 100+ people!)

**Picnic! Imperial Court Annual Picnic, noon-6:00pm, NBA Picnic Grounds at Eklutna Flats**
- 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, 30, Tues:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm, call 566-1133

May, 31, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- EQUAL, Fairbanks, 7:00pm, Duckering, Rm 531, Laura, 907-479-7348
- 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

Jun, 1, Thurs:
- 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
- L.M.R.U. Youth Group-MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Rick Wright & Anne Marie Grant—Group Leaders, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)
- EQUAL, Inc., 7:00pm, MCC, Dan, 274-9226

Jun, 2, Fri:
- Q*K OUTdoors--Canoe the Tanana to Nenana! Contact Jeff @ 907-457-7289
- PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A. St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska Land

Jun, 3, Sat:
- Alaska Women's Festival of the Arts, 11:00am-1:30pm, see flyer
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00, call 566-1133
- The Family, call Kimberly for Time & Loc, 786-4959
- Women's 2-Step, resumes in the Fall
- KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
- Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaska Land

Jun, 4, Sun:
- Alaska Women's Festival of the Arts, 11:00am-1:30pm, see flyer
- AUUF Services, 9:00am & 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, reset until Sept.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun, 5, Mon:
- HIV+ Men's Support Group, 5:30pm. Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.
Jun. 6, Tues:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

Jun. 7, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
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. $3 Cover

Jun. 8, Thurs:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm, 566-1133
λ Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm (Juneau), call 907-463-5688 for information
λ I.M.R.U. Youth Group–MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Rick Wright & Anne Marie Grant–Group Leaders, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
λ Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Jun. 9, Fri:
λ PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
λ Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
λ Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
λ Q*K OUTdoors-Dipnet in Chitina, contact Jeff, 907-457-7289
λ Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Jun. 10, Sat:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00, 566-1133
λ KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, “Queer Beans” (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
λ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Jun. 11, Sun:
λ AIUUF Services, 9:00am & 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
λ Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
λ Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
λ Northern Exposure Bowling League, split ’til Sept.
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.

Jun. 12, Mon:
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.
λ Gay Bar, 7:00-8:30pm, Legal Q&A, bring questions & concerns, Allison or Lisa, 279-5001

Jun. 13, Tues:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

Jun. 14, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
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. $3 Cover

Jun. 15, Thurs:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm; call 566-1133
λ Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm (Juneau), 907-463-5688 for information
λ The Last Frontier Men’s Club, 6:00pm, Raven
λ EQUAL, Inc. Social/Coffee House, 7:00-9:00pm at the Hollywood Canteen (Capri Cinema), Dan, 274-9226
λ I.M.R.U. Youth Group–MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Rick Wright & Anne Marie Grant–Group Leaders, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
λ Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Jun. 16, Fri:
λ PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
λ Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
λ Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
λ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Jun. 17, Sat:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
λ KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, “Queer Beans” (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
λ Feminist Sing-a-Long, 6:30pm, potluck; 7:30pm singing, 1741 Westview Ctr., Carol or Fran, 337-3543
λ Black & Blue Ball, 7:00pm, Elks Club, 717 W. 3rd St., Vote for Mr. & Mrs. Alaska Leather, Mr. Bear Alaska, and Mr. and Ms. Alaska Levi!
λ The Family (formerly LGBSA), call for Time & Place, Kimberly, 786-4959
λ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland
Jun. 18, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00am & 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Anchorage Lesbian Families’ Alliance (ALFA) next lane change in Sept.
- 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.

Jun. 19, Mon:
- HIV+ Men’s Support Group, 5:30pm, Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun. 20, Tues:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

Jun. 21, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- O’K OUTdoors. Camp out on the Arctic Circle for Solstice, contact Eric, 907-455-4051
- P-FLAG Southcentral, 7:00pm, AUUF, Fred@562-7161 or Sylvia@562-4992
- “Women’s Prerogative,” KTOO-FM, 9:00-10:00pm, Juneau
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm, $3 Cover

Jun. 22, Thurs:
- 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
- J.M.R.U. Youth Group-MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Rick Wright & Anne Marie Grant—Group Leaders, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Jun. 23, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050

- Identity Potluck, "The Other Side of the Closet," panel presented by P-FLAG, 6:30pm, AUUF (non-smoking)
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A St.
- Midnight Sons Gay Men’s AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- AGLA Gay Pride Dance, 10:00pm-3:00am, Musher’s Hall, contact Jenna, 907-479-3183
- Dancing in Fairbanks, 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Jun. 24, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
- KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music), Fairbanks
- Women’s Coffee House, on hiatus ’til the Fall
- Olivia Cruises Arrives in Juneau!, call Sudie @ 907-586-2410 or Suki @ 907-789-4886 for information
- Dancing in Fairbanks, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland

Jun. 25, Sun:
- AUUF Services, 9:00am & 10:30am, 3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 11:00am and 7:00pm, 258-5266, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, no gutter balls ’til Sept!
- Lesbian & Gay Pride Picnic, 1:00-5:00pm, West end of the Park Strip at the Rose Garden, info, entertainment, booths, food, etc., call Beth 277-9763

Jun. 26, Mon:
- HIV+ Men’s Support Group, 5:30pm, Call Larry Holman, 272-7002 to reserve a seat & info
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun. 27, Tues:
- Identity Board Meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF, Room A
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm, 566-1133

Jun. 28, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- MCPRTF Meeting, 7:00pm, Juneau, 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
Jun. 29, Thurs:

- 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
- L.M.R.U. Youth Group—MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Rick Wright & Anne Marie Grant—Group Leaders, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Jun. 30, Fri:

- PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Live and Let Live AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking)
- Midnight Sons Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland ▼

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Membership / Pledge Form

Identity, Inc., P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070

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

[ ] Enclosed is my contribution of $25.00 (basic membership)
I'd like to contribute $25.00 _____ $50.00 _____ $100.00 more just to help out.
I'd like to make a monthly pledge. Please send me a reminder each month to send my supporting commitment of ____________.
Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.
Please print clearly:

Name: ___________________________

Mailing Address: ___________________________

City: __________________ State: ______ Zip-Code: ___________

Signature: ___________________________

Phone: (home): ____________ (work): ____________

I want to show my support for the LesBiGay Community in other ways. I'm interested in (underline or circle all that appeal to you):

NorthView: typing, editing, reporting, graphics, gofering
Potlucks: setup, cleanup, monthly programs
Helpline: telephone volunteer, training, potlucks, resource manual, volunteer scheduling
NCOD (National Coming Out Day Dinner and Dance): organize speak-out, organize dance
LesBiGay Pride Picnic: organization, publicity, setup, cleanup, entertainment, vendors, permits
Fundraising: progressive dinners, bake sales, dinner-dances, yard sales, picnics, other
Other: ____________________________
Where in the World?
by Bob De Loach

Did someone say Greece?

Zeus Tours is offering 3, 4, or 7 day cruises including international air from New York this summer. The “Supersaver” offers May 15, June 5, Sept. 4, and Oct. 16 departures at $1,225.00 including air from NYC, 3 nights first class hotel with buffet breakfast in Athens, 3 day cruise of the Greek Isles and all transfers, hotel service charges and port taxes.

The “Island Lover” departs June 9, Aug. 25, Sep. 29, and Oct. 13, 1995 and includes air from NYC, 2 nights first class hotel in Athens, 3 nights first class hotels in Mykonos, 3 nights first class hotel Santorini, and a 1/2 day Athens tour. Air, transfers etc. are included as well from $1,300.00 to $1,765.00 for the Aug. trip. The “Highlights of Greece” tour departs May 15, June 5, Sep. 4, and Oct. 16 and includes air from NYC, 3 nights first class hotel & buffet in Athens, 1/2 day Athens tour, 7 day Greek Island cruise as well as transfers, hotel service charges and port taxes for $1,680.00-1,900.00. Finally, the “Aegean Yacht Cruise” at $1,799.00-1,989.00 includes 3 nights first class hotel and buffet in Athens, 1/2 day Athens tour, 7 day Greek Island yacht cruise, service charges, transfers and port taxes.

Take the Plunge!

Advance-Damron Vacations is offering a unique travel experience limited to 128 passengers. Sail aboard the S/V FANTOME, a 4-masted stay-sail schooner October 22-28, 1995. This ship has just been extensively renovated and offers suites from the “Admiral” (double bed, private bath, picture window and small refer.) located on the main deck to the “Commodore” suite on middle deck (with double bed, 2 or 3 portholes, and private bath). The “Captain’s Cabin” offers middle deck, upper and lower beds, portholes and private bath. Their standard cabins are on middle and lower deck, inside, upper and lower beds and private baths. Three hardy meals a day are included as are your beverages inc. wine. There is no set schedule and the captain will set sail from Antigua and visit such places as Nevis, Guadeloupe and other enchanted islands of the West Indies. What more romantic setting to renew your love, or with room mate share, discover a new love? Prices for the cruise range from $1025. to 1295. per person depending on cabin selection.

Hawaii Touring

Island Pride Taxi and Tours is now offering Gay Sights in Honolulu and the island of Oahu. Low hourly rate for from 1-6 persons with a gay owned and driven 6-seat minicoach narrated by a state-certified tour guide.

The “PROM...you never went to!”

Tacky Tourist Clubs of America in Seattle is at it again and is staging the Lavender Valley High Prom. Saturday May 13, 1995 from 8:30pm to 1:30am at the Mountaineers Building, 300 3rd street (off Elliott) in Seattle.

Intrepid II

At the Gay Games last year one of the highlights was the Intrepid party aboard the US aircraft carrier Intrepid. Once again this year the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center is looking for a few thousand good men. Starting at 10:00pm on Saturday June 24, 1995 you can enjoy 3 decks of dancing, with music by Warren Gluck, Stingrey & Saint Peter. Get branded with a temporary tattoo, or loose your pearls on the flight simulator, ride the 30’ pride slide, get tethered on the bungee run or witness sumo wrestlers in drag and freaks on stilts.

Women in Alaska

Olivia will have two trips to Alaska this summer from June 21-28 and the week following. July 30-August 4 will see the Woodswomen group with their Kenai Fjords sea kayak tour and the Alaskan Women’s Cruise July 30-August 4 will feature “Special Expeditions” cruise for women aboard the Sea Lion. All-female staff of biologists and geologists are on board. Two other Alaskan tours include Pied Piper Travel August 21-28 and Voyages & Expeditions August 30-September 9. These last two are gay/lesbian tours.

Costa Rica’s Rainforests

Mariah Wilderness Expeditions will hold a women’s tour in Costa Rica from July 1-9. Points of interest will include Corcovado National Park, San Jose, Arenal volcano and Monteverde. A beach lodge near Corcovado will be headquarters for the excursions. Cost for the tour is $1,320.00 per person double occupancy, plus airfare.

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.

Sylvia L. Short
Attorney and Counsellor at Law

705 West 47th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Telephone (907) 562-4902

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