PRIDE ON THE PARK STRIP 95

JUNE 25TH
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
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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.

Identity Board of Directors: Co-Chairs: Ruth Mathes, F. Kenneth Freedman; Treasurer: Kurt Parish; Secretary: Tom Rachal. Candy Bonham, Don Naff, Shirley Randall-Harris, Dawn Rogers.


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

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

Reproducing: please feel free to copy the NorthView and give it to anyone you feel will enjoy it or benefit from it. Articles that are copyrighted must be so noted on any copies.

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

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

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

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

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

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!
The militiamen contend that government is failing their members — white men — because of the influence of the civil rights lobby ("racial preferences" and "special rights"), Jews ("international bankers"), feminists ("breakdown of the family and gender roles"), and Gays (you know what they say about us). Some of this language and these ideas are mirrored in the rhetoric of mainstream Right Wing groups, such as the Christian Coalition, and some of the new Republican members of Congress, like Rep. Helen Chenoweth of Idaho. The militiamen, like mainstream rightists, believe that education is in ruins because of political correctness and secular humanism; they oppose government programs for the poor; denounce Gay / Lesbian / bisexual people; and often scapegoat minorities as immoral and unproductive. They say we are all destroying God, family, and country and use this to justify super authoritarian measures to control or eliminate us.

Samuel Sherwood of the United States Militia Association, based in Blackfoot, Idaho, says of President Bill Clinton, "he is determined to seize your guns, steal your food, and your children away. His term will have killed more babies than Hitler, put more homosexuals and in government than Sodom and Gomorrah, and the schools teach your children it is right and forced you to accept it." In Michigan, the head of the effort to place an anti-Gay initiative on last year's state ballot used the rhetoric of the militia movement as he advanced the anti-Gay measure. In an interview two years ago with Metro Times, a Michigan weekly newspaper, George Matousek described the importance of his anti-Gay initiative in battling the threat of the New World Order.

"Where sodomy is acceptable, the nation declines. Homosexuals are a tool to weaken America. I love this country and I want it to remain strong... The homosexual movement will destroy the military. Soon half of the troops will be gone. They don't want to serve beside queers. And the half that's left will be useless -- made up of women and homos, people who can't fight their way out of a paper bag. When this happens, we'll be doomed. We'll be attacked, or called into a war that our military can't handle. Clinton, or whoever's in office, will turn all our troops over to the United Nations. And this country won't exist anymore." Matousek's plan? "Step one, stop the homos."

Only the U.S. Constitution and armed citizens will prevent such a takeover, according to Matousek. Which is why he advocates all citizens owning guns.

Matousek expressed frustration at the stagnating economy and how that inspired his actions. "When I grew up...I could get a job with any factory I wanted. I could earn money. Now, with the international bankers in control, there's so much socialist thinking. Work, work, work -- but never really own anything, because of taxes." The solution is "armed revolution...I believe that we're headed for this someday."

This is what the militias are, and what they represent. As we mourn together over the tragedy in Oklahoma City, we must not allow our grief to blind us to the continuing threat of the militias and the Right Wing movement to which they belong.

We need to get down to business and educate ourselves about the wide array of Right Wing groups that threaten our rights and security, and understand the social and economic factors that lead to their development. We must further
understand that our fates as Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and
transgender people are inextricably tied to other groups under
Right Wing attack. It’s time to reach out, broaden our agenda,
and increase our capacities for compassion and human
connection. We must overcome fear, come out, and organize,
organize, organize.

Scoi Nakagawa is a field organizer with the National Gay
and Lesbian Task Force. Based in Washington, DC, NGLTF is a leading
national membership organization that has supported grassroots
organizing since 1973.

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More...

Don’t be shy – we need you to join us! Call
today to reserve space!
Pride as an Asset
by Pete Pinney

A discussion with a local legislator attempting to relegate me into a status as a second class citizen strengthened my growing impatience for straight people who practice with their prejudices. The minute he claimed his attempt to elevate marriage into special protected status was hardly an issue should be worried about tipped me off. Not only had he been schooled in Christian Coalition dogma, but he obviously did not have any out friends or family. I took it upon myself to be his new friend. Every time he tries to make me less of a citizen than himself, I will be there to explain just how such ideas affect me as a Gay man.

Some of my friends wonder why I even bother. It is matter of pride. I am willing to give the benefit of the doubt when it comes to someone being mean or just being clueless. Besides, I have the high moral ground. This person represents a great many who believe I should stay quiet, live in the closet and not create any recognition of prejudice. He believes we do not suffer persecution, wield untold political influence, and make over $60,000 in salaries. Someone traded his copy of "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" for "The Gay Agenda." And it always seems to come down to sex with these people. This one twice mentioned how it didn't matter to him that I was doomed to hell because I chose to sleep with another guy.

I am proud that I am not ignorant. I belong to a community that owns a larger perspective than those who cannot understand people different from themselves. Not that straight people have a monopoly on prejudice, but heterosexist behavior is institutionalized. We have overcome many obstacles, largely invisible and misunderstood, but still a thriving influence in the world. I was excited to see pictures of friends carrying the Fairbanks banner in the March on Washington. We were surprised to see my neighbors as the front page picture depicting two women embracing during the Pride March last year, and pleased at all the commotion that followed. We should all be proud that we are talked about more as a part of the social web now than ever before in history. I am proud to be a part of a growing awareness that diversity strengthens everyone's future, and that without it there is no future.

Our community owns the same history as the victims of ethnic cleansing, wartime genocide and world pandemics. Each has culminated in a spirit of adaptation, resolve and a commitment to overcome. Individually we are all at different places when it comes to background, income levels, education, and community involvement. But I feel a sense of family when I meet other people like us.

Collectively, we share something that no straight person can really ever understand. That is what makes me who I am, and that we celebrate that connection in one fashion or another. June is the month that all of this is most visible, but the sense of pride goes on every day, in the work we do and the friends we make. It is a matter of pride.

Pete Pinney sends greetings from Yakutat, where he is temporarily collecting more stories and making new friends. 

EQUAL
by Laura Burleson

EQUAL of Interior Alaska is a political group which was formed last autumn. EQUAL's purpose is to keep the community informed about political and legal events which have an effect on the LesBiGay community, to educate about community issues, to organize letter writing campaigns and other forms of political action, and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation.

In the past few months, EQUAL has been very active in the fight against House Bill 226, a Bill meant to limit the potential of domestic partnership rights in this state. Through massive letter-writing and Public Opinion Message campaigns, phone calls to Legislators, and coalition building with EQUAL of Anchorage and other Gay rights groups around Alaska, we were able to stall HB 226 in committee until the end of the session.

Currently, as the Legislative Session is over for the summer, EQUAL is not engaged in any major projects, though we are still working on organizing a LesBiGay film festival to be held later this year. We are also acting as a watchdog, keeping an eye on the letters to the editor page of the local newspaper to screen for anti-lesBiGay content and keeping ourselves and the community informed about local, statewide, and national events of interest regarding the fight for LesBiGay equal rights.

One of the programs instituted by EQUAL in the past few months is a phone tree used to keep the community informed and to coordinate action when political events warrant. The phone tree currently has about 50 members and it is constantly growing. If you are not currently on the phone tree and you would like to be, contact Andy at 457-3876.

For more information about EQUAL in general or our upcoming meetings, contact Laura Burleson at 479-7348 or by email at FSLEB@aurora.alaska.edu.

LesBiGay FALL CONFERENCE '95
by Jen Dumont

The planning for the second annual fall LesBiGay Conference has started. It will be held in Anchorage on the first full weekend of October. Jennifer Dumont is the Fairbanks contact for this activity, with help from Travis Brazile. A few things have already been decided. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Joanne Loulan, who is a published author, an accomplished speaker, educator and comedian. There is also a possibility that Greg Louganis will speak. Many people in the Fairbanks community have expressed interest in presenting workshops at this conference. If anyone has questions, ideas or concerns about the conference, please contact Jennifer Dumont at 458-3538 or email at FSJED@aurora.alaska.edu.
In Response to a Lack of Response

A few months ago, I was sitting at my computer in my office, NPR’s classical music program playing softly in the background, feeling mildly disgusted with certain segments of Alaska’s LesBiGay community. I began to type an article destined for NorthView and what emerged, with the help of friend Rod Lint, was a rather embittered tirade against separatism in general and Lesbian separatism in particular. I wrote this article expecting it to engender comment and discussion between different facets of the community or, perhaps more realistically, to at least make people think about the divisions that exist within Alaska’s Gay community. While I cannot know if my article inspired the last, I have heard little to nothing from any members of the community in the form of discussion, comment, or even anger about what I wrote. (NorthView Volume 3, Issue #3) I find this a bit disturbing.

In writing an article against separatism, I did not honestly intend to offend anyone, though I am sure that some individuals took offense to my words. I did try to draw attention on an issue that our community needs to address: the divisions that keep us from being as successful as possible in the endeavors that affect us all. I have found it hard to try to be a leader in this community, to organize and plan and bring everyone together to accomplish a goal, when there are divisions that have some segments of the community communicating with each other infrequently if ever. It is difficult to take into account the needs of the many diverse parts of our community when what those needs are is unknown. Even harder is the task of bringing Gay youth and those just coming out into the community, giving them a sense of pride in whom they are, and organizing the next wave of social and political leaders when there are so many factions fighting amongst themselves or just ignoring each other’s existence.

The goal of my last article was to address the issues of separatism and factionalism so that they could be talked about and worked on. It is true that some work has happened in the form of conferences and informal meetings that have brought diverse groups and individuals from across that state together to communicate with each other and share their goals and dreams for the LesBiGay community in Alaska. This in itself is a big step and it shows that cohesion CAN happen. This cohesion does, however, take a lot of work on the part of the involved individuals and part of this effort is addressing, in an open forum, some of the issues that divide our community. Until these issues are aired and discussed, even if they are not completely worked out, our community will not be able to work together as effectively as I know is possible. The fights we have seen already regarding anti-Gay legislation in our State House of Representatives show that only with combined community action will we be able to win the victories that we need. If we are dealing with separatism, factionalism and other in-fighting within our community we will NOT be able to mount a successful defense to the battles that will come about in the future. We must deal with the problems caused by the divisions in our community, discuss them and work through them if we are to succeed in our struggle for equal rights for all LesBiGay individuals.

If anyone has a problem with that which I have written here, please let me know. My purpose in this article, like my purpose in my last, is not to be insulting to any group - it is simply to bring up the issues our community is facing so that we can discuss them, work on them and thus grow stronger. It is only through examining our problems and finding a way to fix them or work around them that we can be strong enough to face the challenge of our shared future. I look forward to hearing your responses.

Laura Burleson, (907) 474-7348, e-mail FSLEB@aurora.alaska.edu

AGLA
by Jenna Nassrah

This is just to keep everyone up-to-date on the goings-on of the Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association for the summer months.

Meetings & Chats

Regular AGLA meetings will be taking place the second Friday of June, July and August at 6:30 pm (most likely in the Brooks building). The next Sunday Chat will be held on July 16th at Richard Collins’ and will begin at 1:00 pm. For directions, please contact Jenna Nassrah at 479-3183.

Dances

Dances are currently scheduled for Friday, June 23rd (Pride Dance), Friday, July 28th, and Saturday, September 16th. All dances will take place at the Dog Mushers’ Hall on Farmer’s Loop and will begin at 10:00 pm. Admission is five dollars. If you plan on drinking, please have your ID ready at the door. Rules concerning underage drinking will be enforced - minors consuming will not be tolerated. Help is desperately needed for decorating and cleanup for the spring dances. If you would like to participate, then please contact Jenna Nassrah.

PRIDE WEEKEND

Pride weekend will begin on Friday, June 23rd with the dance at 10pm. The march will take place the following day starting at Bicentennial Park and ending up at Alaskaland. There will be food provided by PFLAG when we arrive at Alaskaland (this year will not be potluck). There will be a five dollar charge for the picnic. Laura Burleson will be in charge of the activities, so if you have any questions, comments, concerns or quandaries, please feel free to contact her at 479-7348.

Unity & Diversity
Alaska Pride Conference 1995
1995 Les/Bi/Gay Conference

October 6, 7, & 8, 1995
Planning is underway. Join us!
Call Kurt at 272-3990 or Jen at 272-7193 for details.
October:
LesBiGay History Month

The Second Annual Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month

Where did the idea of October as Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month originate?

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month ("History Month" henceforth) began with an original concept by Rodney Wilson, a St. Louis high school history teacher who was appalled at the failure of his 800-page textbook to mention any Gay, Lesbian, or bisexual history whatsoever. He organized a grass-roots network of teachers and community members across the country who began working to see October recognized as History Month.

Inspired by such existing celebrations as Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), organizers sought to create a time when special attention could be focused on the contributions of Lesbian, Gay, and bisexual people to world history. October was chosen as the month in which to celebrate this history to have the celebration in order to build on existing traditions like National Coming Out Day (October 11), which already take place in October and to honor the October anniversaries of the first two marches on Washington organized by Gay, Lesbian, and bisexual activists (in 1979 and 1987).

What happened last year?

Organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Gay Alliance Against Defamation quickly endorsed the idea. A volunteer national coordinating council, with representatives from across the nation, began work over the summer to plan activities in their communities. In October, political leaders such as Senator Barbara Boxer (California), Governor William Weld (Massachusetts) and Lowell Weicker (Connecticut) and Mayors Richard Daley (Chicago) and Thomas Menino (Boston) also issued proclamations to celebrate this inaugural event. Local coordinating councils in areas as diverse as Boston, Chicago, San Antonio, San Francisco, and St. Louis staged a myriad of events, and numerous media outlets covered the story, raising the public's awareness of this history to a higher level throughout the nation. Over 300 curriculum and organizing packets were distributed to individuals and organizations around the country who requested help in planning events. These accomplishments begin all the more impressive when one realizes that all work was done by volunteers who had no independent budget to support these activities.

What kind of specific activities were staged in communities last year?

History Month can be celebrated in a number of ways. Among events staged last year were:

- A Gay/Lesbian history film festival in St. Louis, MO
- A "birthday party" reception for Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, who gave the first public speech on behalf of Gay rights in Germany in 1867, in Jacksonville, FL
- A conference featuring over a dozen workshops, attended by two hundred community members, teachers, and students, sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network, in Boston, MA
- A slide show on local Gay and Lesbian history sponsored by the Gerber/Hart Gay & Lesbian Library & Archives, in Chicago, IL
- Special proclamations were issued by elected officials in California, Connecticut, Illinois, and Massachusetts

What's planned for this year?

The bulk of the work for History Month is done on a local level. The National Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month Project, established by the 1994 coordinating council, and administered by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network, provides resources, support, and ideas to local activists so that they can be more effective organizers in their communities.

What can our organization or community do this October?

- arrange book displays at local bookstores and public libraries
- write columns and letters to the editor in local newspapers recognizing the month and educating the public about contributions made by local Lesbian, Gay, and bisexual figures
- donate history books to local public and school libraries
- laying of wreaths on the graves of local Lesbian, Gay, and bisexual people who made a significant contribution to the community as a way of raising media and public awareness of this history
- organize a reading group that focuses on Gay, Lesbian, and bisexual history books
- advocate with your state and local school boards for inclusive curriculum policies so that full, fair, and factual information about Lesbian, Gay, and bisexual history is included in textbooks

What kinds of things can we do on our campus?

First, make sure your school (or your town's schools) know that October is Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month! Help them plan appropriate activities similar to those many schools sponsor for Black and Women's History Months. Some specific ideas include:

- establishing bulletin boards or posting flyers to educate the community about Lesbian, Gay, and bisexual history
- inviting scholars to give lectures on their work to students
- inviting older Lesbian, Gay, and bisexual members of the local community to come to share their own experiences in classes or public forums
- asking college presidents or school principals to officially endorse the month and to make plans for redressing the current lack of information on Lesbian, Gay, and bisexual history in your curriculum or library

For more information in regard to what's happening here in Fairbanks, contact - Mary Jo at PFLAG - 457-8985 ▼
PFLAG Fairbanks
by Kathy Ferrell

Important News from PFLAG: Nancy has stepped down as PFLAG President and Steve has ended his career as PFLAG correspondent, however, all is not lost, you can snail-mail them at (forwarded): Nancy & Steve Kaling, PO Box 84680, Fairbanks, AK 99708-4680.

Not to mention, they will be back for a visit in September. From the depths of our hearts, we wish to thank Steve and Nancy for their unrelenting devotion, love and energy put toward a better world, an informed world, an educated world. Wisconsin is going to be one lucky town.

The new PFLAG president is Mary Jo Stanley, a retired counselor from the Fairbanks School District. She spent her teaching and counseling career at the alternative school, starting when it was known as the Career Center back in the early '70s. She finished up at Howard Lake Alternative. Mary Jo has always been involved with LGB youth and though this was her initial interest in coming to PFLAG, she has graciously accepted the position of president. She feels she will have lots of energy now that she is officially retired and intends to devote some of that energy to PFLAG. Having known her for several years, I'd say PFLAG is very lucky to have connected with M.J.

Recently, Mary Jo attended the National Counselors Convention in Denver, CO which just happened to have "Diversity" as the theme. While there she met and spoke with Mel White, author of "Stranger At The Gate" and a keynote speaker at the convention. Due to prior commitments, she will be gone for the months of June and July but will return in August. Jeff W. will be leading the group for those two months.

I asked M.J. what some of her PFLAG goals are. She answered, she would like to see increased membership and believes her many years of involvement with the school district will be helpful to this end. She's taking time to go through the tons of information and "stuff" that belongs to the PFLAG archives. She plans on spending some time with Nancy and Steve before they leave. She is interested in capturing a historical perspective of the group so that she can become an effective leader. Additionally, she believes it to be important for PFLAG to procure a stable phone number and address, one that can be transferred to wherever and maintained through the years. She is, also, very interested in seeing LGB History Month and the display at the library be a great success.

Though we are sorry to see Steve and Nancy go, we wish them well and give a big WELCOME! to Mary Jo! ♥

Identity, Inc.
Fourth Friday Potluck & Social

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

Date: Friday, June 23 < not the last Friday!

Time: 6:30pm doors open/socialize; 7:00pm dinner; 7:30pm announcements & program

Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St.

Program: People from P-FLAG Anchorage (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) talk about what it's like as parents to be "come out to" by Lesbian and Gay children: Share their feelings and bring your own....
Hair Apparent
by Lesléa Newman

Flash finds me standing in front of the mirror with a paper bag over my head. "Having a bad hair day?" she asks.
"Yes," I mumble. "Oh, good," says Flash. Why does my hairdo disaster please my darling? Because, a recent survey shows 97 percent of American women worry about messing up their hair during sex. So, if my hair already looks lousy, Flash has a better chance of having her way with me. Though its hard to believe only 3 percent of the female population have discovered the joy of being a femme top: I can do the do for hours and then climb off my beloved with every hair on my head still perfectly in place.

Flash lifts the bag off my head. "What's wrong with your hair?" "It's flat." "As opposed to round?" "No, as opposed to full." I bend over from the waist, shake my head and bounce back up. "Like this." My hair retains a fluffy, Julia Roberts, morning-after-the-night-before look for 3.7 seconds. I study the mirror. "Flash, do you think my hair would look good short?"

"Sure it would look good short."

"So, you don't think it looks good long?"

"I think it looks good long."

"So, you don't think it would look good short?"

"I think it looks good right now."

"Oh Flash," I sigh a deep sigh. "You're only saying that because you love me. If you didn't know me, wouldn't you think my hair looks terrible?"

My beloved gives in. "All right. Your hair looks terrible."

"Flash!" I am devastated. "How can you say that?"

"I didn't mean it. Your hair looks great."

"You call this great?" I frown at the mirror. "I give up."
Flash heads for the kitchen and sees a bag on the table.

"Chocolate mousse?" she asks. "Don't eat that!" I yell. "That's for my hair."

Flash brings me the mousse. "Why don't you try a French braid?" she suggests. "C'mon, now, you're not having a bad hair day. "You're right," I agree. "I'm having a bad hair life."

My curly hair and I got along fine through my Wonder years. But I turned thirteen in 1968. Bad timing. Curly hair was out and straight hair was in. And my hair simply refused to go straight (just like the rest of me, though I didn't know that yet). I was determined to make my hair straight, as determined as my parents were, years later, to make me straight. I scotch-taped my bangs to my forehead. I used so many bobby pins, I set off metal detectors. I refused to leave the house on rainy days, because my hair would frizz. My concerned parents took me to a shrink. "Be your hair," Dr. Fraud said. "Speak in the voice of your hair. What does your hair want to say?"

"I am not straight!" I shrieked at the top of my follicles. "I have never been straight. I will never be straight. Stop trying to make me straight!" My parents rushed in, hysterical. I am probably the only person in the universe who has ever been outed by her own hair.

"Flash, do you think I should call Buzz?" "If you want to," Flash says, knowing better than to get involved.

I make an appointment with Buzz for Tuesday. That morning I wash, condition and blow dry my hair. Five minutes before my appointment I rush to the mirror. My hair looks gorgeous. I call Buzz and say I have a migraine. Twenty minutes later I catch sight of myself in the mirror again. I look awful. I call back. "Miraculous recovery?" Buzz asks.

I push open the door to Buzz Cuts. "What are we doing today?" Buzz asks, running his fingers through my hair. Instantly I look fabulous. There's nothing like being fussed over by a beauty queen. "How did you do that?" I ask. "Please move in with me and Flash," I beg, not for the first time. I tell him I want all my hair cut off.

Buzz suggests Madonna's Breathless Mahoney look and starts to snip. Soon the floor is covered with dark, wet curls, and my hair is up to my shoulders. I stare into the mirror, dubious. "Don't get hystericall. It's longer than it looks," Buzz assures me.

"Sure," I pout. "I bet you say that to all the boys."

"Don't be vicious." Buzz says, snipping dangerously close to my ear. Then he blow dries my hair and I have to admit it does look good. Though I know I'll never get my hair to do this at home. "It's hard to blow yourself and get good results," Buzz sympathizes. "Believe me, I've tried."

"Buzz reminds me my hair is in shock. So is my girlfriend."

"I thought you were just getting a trim," she says.

"You don't like it," I say. "I have to get used to it," she says.

"I knew you wouldn't like my hair short."

"I like your hair short."

"So, you didn't like my hair long?"

"No, I liked your hair long."

"So you don't like my hair short?"

"I like it short."

"But you wish it was long."

"I don't wish it was long. I'm happy that it's short."

"Too bad, because I'm growing it out again."

"Maybe I should grow my hair long," Flash says, running her fingers through her D.A. "No!" I am horrified. "Flash, I love your hair."

"Well, I love your hair. Because it belongs to you."

"Oh, Flash." I leap on top of my girlfriend and, in a burst of love, let her it. mess up my hair as much as she likes. And that's the long and short of it.

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.
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
CRACIUN & ASSOCIATES
JEAN CRACIUN
BY RUTH MATHES

My interview with Jeanie Craciu took place in the glow of late afternoon sunlight (is there such a thing in summertime Anchorage?) in Jeanie's back yard. A newly coiffed canine in residence there observed the conversation from a shady corner of the deck.

Identity: Are there more women in the field of marketing in Anchorage these days?
J.C.: Most women in this field occupy departmental heads within a company, such as Alascom or BP. That's basically true Outside, too. There are other woman-owned companies all over the U.S., but not in Anchorage.

Identity: What are the typical "bread and butter" topics for research?
J.C.: The things you would expect to be big, such as food, goods, services, etc., are not necessarily hot topics in Alaska. I specialize in "people" marketing because of my sociology background. Therefore, I tend to go for projects which deal in "issues" of a socio-economic nature. A recent study of rural artists took me to dozens of bush villages....it was just the sort of project I really love. That type of research is what makes my job so great.

Identity: Is politics a big money item with you?
J.C.: Not so much any more. It certainly is not one of my favorite client choices. I try to accept only one candidate (or major issue) per campaign. That type of marketing research can be very stressful and draining, even if you're a "player." In the long run, it's just not worth it.

Identity: Has being an "out" Lesbian in Anchorage affected your business adversely?
J.C.: It's a wash. I probably lost a few clients when I came out. I also picked up a few clients, mainly due to the honesty of the situation. My clients tend to look favorably on my "up front" attitude, and treat it as an example of the nature of the product offered by my company. I wish other LesBiGay businesses, especially smaller ones, felt comfortable using our services. Terms are always available, and a few hours of our time could be worth lots of revenue to them.

Identity: Do you see the local LesBiGay community as having clout in the consumer market?
J.C.: I might if they could be identified. The problem with that question is the fact that so many of them are in the closet that there is no way to pinpoint their effect on the local economy. Nationally, the effect is being measured as hefty in terms of consumer dollars.

Identity: Why do you advertise in local Lesbian and Gay publications?
J.C.: For two reasons. One is the financial support it offers to these publications; I believe in putting my money where my mouth is. The second reason is to continually be "out" in the Anchorage community. I don't want the public to forget that I am a Lesbian businesswoman. That is very essential to me, and to my work.

Identity: One last question, Jeanie. (The dog had risen to her feet, a signal I chose not to ignore, considering her size vs. mine.) What would you like me to say in closing our interview?
J.C.: Just mention that I really enjoy working for the LesBiGay community in Anchorage. It's a great way to support the local effort.

Ruth Mathes is painting her brown thumb green.

CRACIUN & ASSOCIATES
Applied Marketing Research

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Deadlines: All articles must be received by the 5th of the month for inclusion in that month's North View.
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 AK at 337-0253.

The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (A)llies 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:
(I) KT Creative, Katie, 278-9174

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see 4A's page)
(A) Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHIV), (Juneau), Rita, 463-5688
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4357
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Found., (WA), 296-335-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Koala, 278-5019

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Garey, Ketki/Maimini, 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) Guesty'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), Alaskanland (Fri and Sat ONLY)
(G) The Raven, 276-9672
(G) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080 (see ad)

Bed & Breakfast:
(G) Alta's (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-457-0246 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(A) Beach House, Mary (Homer), 907-235-5945 (see ad)
(L) The Butterfly Inn, Kay (Hawaii), 888-966-7936
(L) Cheney Lake B&B, Mary/Junetah, 337-4391

(B) The Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(L) Garden Cottage (Orlando, FL), Lisa, 407-894-5395
(G) Gingerbread House, Yves (Montreal), 514-597-2804
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 907-235-2265 (see ad)
(L) Mermaid Inn, Nancy/Bonnie (Lauderdale, FL), 305-565-8437
(L) Northern Comfort, Reedsa, 278-2106

Bicycle Repair:
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-3221

Boarding School Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 277-7004

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

Books:
(I) Bona Dea: the Alaska Women's Bookstore, Joann/Marsh, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Alaskaana, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cyrano'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, 349-1066

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) 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) Winger, 243-7018; 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) Angle, 337-0253 (see ad)
(G) By-Teq Alaska, Inc., Ften, 248-2422
(L) CDA Services, Valtraud, 276-6862
(A) Computer Magic, Phil, 274-3528
(G) gra.f/x, Lucian, 272-0328
(A) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(A) LLR Technologies, Logan, 272-7377
(G) Mark, 338-3357
(G) PC Possibilities, 248-6277

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

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

Construction:
(L) J.R. Construction, Lita, 279-4606

Counseling:
(A) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Counseling Alternatives, Connie, 562-1826
(L) Counseling Alternatives, Janna, 562-1826
Identity NorthView

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

Dental Care:
(A) Ward Hubert, DDS, 248-0222

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Flying:
(L) McKinley Air Svc., Lee Ann & Keli, 300-564-1765

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

Gas:
(A) Courtney's, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)

General Contracting:
(G) Mat-Su Weatherization Services, L. Hansen, 907-278-9276

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

Hair Styling:
(A) Executive Clip & Shine, 258-0304 (see ad)
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) 36th Ave. Hair Design, Ledjha, 561-8977

Health:
(A) Gatekeeper, Ketki/Jainini, 561-7327
(L) Health Advocacy/Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816
(A) Nature's Own Way, Roberto/Debbi, 561-0181
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372
(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433) Also Los Angeles, CA, Coconut Grove, FL and New York City
(A) Skin care, Shari, 345-7451

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

Helpline:
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 907-458-8288
(G/L) Identity Help Line, 258-4777 (see ad)

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

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

Imperial Court:
(G) Imperial Court of Alaska, Jasmine, 563-8659, Bob 272-3042

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

Income Tax Preparation:
(A) Lynn (LaPerriere) Thomas, 263-3720 (see ad)

Independent Marketer:
(A) Mar, 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, Alison, 279-5001 (see ad)
(A) Mendel & Huntington, Karla, 279-5001 (see ad)
(A) Short, Sylvia, 562-4992 (see ad)

Massage:
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) Joyce, (CMT), 562-1916 (see ad)
(L) Leslie (non-sexual), 278-3346
(A) Mar, 562-8012
(L) Vicki, 277-5222

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

Music/Instruments:
(A) Oldtime Music Company, Marge, 561-8682 (see ad)

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

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

Odd Jobs:
(L) Deb, 278-3018
(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, 276-0668
(A) Doggie Hut, Arlid, 279-5861
(A) Doggie Vacations of Alaska, Constance, 344-3467

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
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9226 (see ad)
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292
Private Investigators:
- K & K Investigating, Karyn, 561-3665

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

Recreation:
- Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
- McKinley Air SVC., Lee Ann & Keli, 900-564-1765
- Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)
- Triangle Tours, Greg, 786-3707, 800-779-3701 (see ad)

Real Estate:
- Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-7481 (see ad)
- Bronwyn Hillman, 248-2804; 563-5156 (see ad)
- Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
- Dream Homes (Fairbanks), Jonathan, 907-451-1828 (see ad)
- Waltraud Baroos, 274-2634

Reiki/Counseling:
- Joyce, CMT, 562-1916 (see ad)
- Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-4889

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

Restaurants:
- Cyrano's Cafe, 274-1173
- O'Brady's, 544-5033, 338-1095, 563-1080 (see ad)

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

Rooming Houses:
- Regina's, 276-4904

Security Alarm Systems:
- Mark, 278-2629

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

Shoe Care:
- Executive Clip & Shine, 258-0304 (see ad)

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

Social:
- GLA Q'Klatch (Fairbanks), Eric, 455-4851

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

Spiritual:
- Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
- Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive Living, Rev. Nansee Sweeney, 258-5010
- Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
- Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Bess, 746-1089
- Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, Jim, 258-5266
- St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276
- Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824

Sports:
- Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 658-2226
- Flies by Iline (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
- McKinley Air SVC., Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
- Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221

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

Support Groups:
- Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
- P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Anchorage), Sylvia, 562-4992, Fred, 562-7161
- P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fairbanks), Nancy, 907-479-4944

Tarot/Psychic:
- Spiril Services, Barbara, 274-4089

Therapeutic Facilities Out-of-State:
- Tom Croke, 277-7004

Theatre:
- Out North Theatre, Gene/Jay, 279-8099

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

Travel:
- Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-6661 (see ad)
- Apollo Travel Agency, Cherisse, 561-6661 (see ad)
- Apollo Travel Agency, Karyn, 561-0661 (see ad)
- DreamQuest Tours, Karyn, 562-9777, 278-5683
- Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-5087
- World Express Travel, Greg, 786-3701

Tutoring:
- James, Biology, 248-6412

Veterinarian:
- Dr. Jean Battig (Fairbanks), 455-6055

Woodworking:
- North Star Signs, Rusty, 333-7900

Writing & Editing Assistance:
- Kathy, 278-2640

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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
StarGazer Commentary
by Barbara J. Soule

Does the Supreme Truth exist? Shoko Asahara, the Japanese cult leader, preached the end of the world is near. When the end of the world did not come as Asahara predicted, he plotted to bring about the end of Japan by a massive chemical poisoning—that failed. Under the guise of spirituality, Shoko Asahara convinced thousands of people to give up their lives, financial resources and careers to be his disciples.

Actually, many people are actively searching for alternatives to traditional religions. Just when I decided the religion of my family did not serve me as a homosexual, Jim Jones served strychnine-laced juice to over a thousand men, women and children in Guiana. I was stunned along with the rest of the world. I wondered if it were possible for me to find my own way without a particular discipline or religion to follow.

For me, Loy Young's program fit neatly in where I was at the time. I had a lot of questions and it was easy to talk to Loy. Several women, in the study group, were over awed and blatantly worshipful. One evening, at the end of the class, Loy said, "I can only share with you what I think I know. It has been my experience, if the teacher has a physical body, s/he is not God and doesn't have all the answers. That includes me."

Looking back, I realize that I have been extremely lucky in my spiritual search for information and answers. Fortunately, Loy Young gave me sound practical advice and was not an egomania, like Jim Jones, David Koresh or Shoko Asahara. For the men and women of the Gay community who are interested in investigating or practicing alternative spirituality, I've developed a conservative approach that has worked well for me and might be of assistance to other people.

Part of my personal approach is a variation of one of the slogans of a twelve step program, "... take what you need and leave the rest." A spiritually searching friend of mine is attending the Unitarian Fellowship. My friend said what he thought he heard from the Unitarians was, "What one believes is not important. One believes is to make logical sense."

I agree wholeheartedly, but what makes sense to me today I would not have understood the day the people of the Jonestown cult died in 1978. For a teacher, book, lecture, workshop, conference or course of study, I take what fits now and file the rest away for future reference, if I need it. Wiccan's have a threefold rule. It actually means the energy one sends out, positive or negative, can be expected back magnified three times. My version is the third time I hear about a person or particular subject, that's my signal that I need to investigate the matter for my benefit. As a result, I usually get information that I need.

My seventh grade teacher's frequent quote, "Where there's a will, there's a way," has served me well in the uncharted pursuit of alternative spirituality. If I can't afford to buy the book, I borrow it. If the workshop is too expensive for my budget, I ask if the material is covered in the book, or if there are work/study scholarships. I've attended workshops by setting up, cleaning up afterwards, finding the instructor housing, or putting out the advance publicity. When I meet a person who has interesting ideas, I ask a lot of questions, "pick their brain," put my name on their mailing list, subscribe to the newsletter, buy the book or tapes, pay for their workshop, class or work out an exchange. I am cautious and refuse to blindly follow the person no matter how knowledgeable and spiritual s/he appears to be.

Personally, I believe there is a Supreme Truth, a God or a Higher Power. Someone in Japan must have been listening to the truth and had the courage and power to act. Otherwise, the Aum Shinri Kyo cult's chemical poisoning would have been far more devastating. It takes courage and determination to act against the conventional norm. The important part to me is to continue to actively seek and act by practicing what one believes to the best of your ability.

At the recent Indigo Girls concert, Amy sang,...I will not be racist, sexist or homophobic. I will not be complacent. I WILL NOT BE COMPLACENT!" On the first of June, there was a hand lettered note under my windshield wiper that read, "What do you think? We know that all of you with that bumper sticker are just fags!" "Yah, that's right! You who didn't sign your name to the note, I'm proud of being a fag." I walk my talk as much as I can or I feel ashamed and guilty. Then, I have to go back and make amends which I find very humbling. In the meantime, I shall actively pursue, stand up for and practice what I think is true with as much courage as I can muster. The Supreme Truth for me includes universal love, acceptance, harmony with the Earth and her people and Peace for the world.

Postscript: For those of you who are wondering about Loy Young, her course of study was set up for one year and included a monthly workbook and cassette tape of information and instruction. Those in the study group met once a month to consult with Loy or to review a video tape, if she couldn't be present. When Loy was in Anchorage, she gave mini-workshops for present and past students and would conduct a weekend workshop for the public. She conducted five-to-twenty-day intensive workshops at her institute in Hawaii.

I stayed on Loy's mailing list and about five years ago the newsletter said that Loy and her partner had been to Costa Rica to establish a home and institute. They discovered that they would have to bribe every public official along the way to get the proper authorizations. Loy wrote that she refused to begin a spiritual home with bribery. That was the last letter I received and have heard nothing more from Loy to my sorrow. These is an old saying, "When the student is ready the teacher will appear." I have been lucky that way.

Barbara Soule is a Reiki Master, a clairvoyant psychic, a Lesbian artist, performer and writer.
New Video Confronts the Stereotypes of Gay and Lesbian People

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, in a direct challenge to the rhetoric of "The Gay Agenda" and "Gay Rights/Special Rights," has produced a video entitled "In Our Own Words: Dispelling the Stereotypes." Featuring more than two dozen Gay and Lesbian individuals, this video refutes the stereotypes being promoted by the far right. It provides an accurate, positive, and hopeful message of better understanding.

John E. Wimberley, Chair of DGLA's Police Project and member of its Board of Directors, organized the production of this video after recognizing the need for a training video for the Dallas Police Department. After much effort by Wimberley and Susan Gore, a diversity training specialist, the department agreed to include it in their training programs for all current personnel and new recruits.

"While the catalyst to produce this video was the need at the Dallas Police Department, the video was made with a broader audience in mind," said Wimberley. "It can be very useful in any sensitivity or diversity training program, because it presents a far more accurate image of who we really are, in all our diversity, rather than the negative stereotypes that the far right continues to promote."

DGLA is marketing this video to corporations, human resource personnel, government agencies, churches, and all other groups interested in promoting better understanding by providing truthful information about Gay and Lesbian people.

"This video should be a powerful tool in helping those who see it to better understand how diverse the Gay and Lesbian community really is," said Dallas City Council member Craig McDaniel.

This eight-minute video features 28 different Gay and Lesbian individuals, ranging in age from their teens to their seventies, who represent a broad spectrum of races, religions, and ethnic groups. Also included are a deaf woman speaking in sign, a Gay man in a wheelchair, and a Lesbian mother with her daughter. They address a number of issues, including teen suicide, hate crimes, family values, and AIDS.

"In Our Own Words: Dispelling the Stereotypes" is available by sending $13.00 per video (includes shipping and handling) to: Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, P. O. Box 190712, Dallas, Texas 75219, or by contacting DGLA at (214) 528-4233 or at e-mail address dgl@aol.com.
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Carla Krupp, GLAMOUR

The Cure
An unlikely friendship between two 11-year-old boys leads to a
grand, hilarious and poignant adventure. Erik (The Client's
Brad Renfro), a born rebel decides to befriend the boy
everyone in the neighborhood is avoiding – Dexter (Jurassic
Park's Joseph Mazzello), a likable but pensive child who
contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion. When Dexter's
condition begins to worsen, the two set out on a heroic
and often humorous quest to find a 'cure' that takes them far
from home. During the course of one unforgettable summer,
Dexter and Erik break all the rules and learn the true power
of friendship in a turbulent world. 99 min., PG13 for
language and subject matter.

June 16-22 only

the Secret of Roan Inish
John Sayles' new film is the saga of a workaday Irish fishing
family and how, prompted by their youngest member, they
come to terms with the legend of the Selkies - mythic Celtic
beings who are half-human/half-seal - which in turn changes
the course of their lives. 103 min., PG for some moments
which may be disquieting to small children.

Premieres June 23

Other Attractions-
Opening June 16 The Little Princess [G]
Premiering July 7 - My Family
Premiering July 14 - Wigstock
Debuts July 21 - Restored! The WILD BUNCH
Premiering July 28 - BOYS LIFE
All programs subject to change, call ahead for
schedule verification and information on admission
restrictions. 561-0064.

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ROBERT REDFORD and MIRAMAX FILMS PRESENT
STRAWBERRY AND CHOCOLATE

Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Language film from
Cuba, award-winning director Tomas Gutierrez Alea tells the
funny and touching story of the budding friendship between
David and Diego. David considers himself an upright citizen
and committed party member who is traveling the straight and
narrow path toward a predictable future. Diego is flamboyant,
irreverent and lives life in the moment - enjoying it to its
fullest. Their tumultuous friendship begins in a Havana ice
cream parlor when Diego boldly attempts to pick up David who
steadfastly rejects his advances. Strawberry and Chocolate is a
witty socio-political film commenting on life in Cuba, it is set
against the backdrop of Havana - a society that has always
looked askance at homosexuality, as well as other personal
freedoms. 104min., rated R for brief sexuality and language.

Premieres June 16.

PRIEST

"A TRIUMPH!
One of the best
films of the
new year!"
—Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

This provocative and controversial drama set in England is about
a Catholic priest, who finds his religious and sexual convictions
tested after he learns a secret told to him by a young
parishioner during confession. 108min., rated R for depiction of
mature themes involving sexuality.

Premieres June 30

"*****! THE MOVIE IS A MASTERWORK!
AUDIENCES SHOULD SHOUT BRAVO!"
—Steve Williamson, PLAYBOY

FRENCH LANGUAGE BIOGRAPHY OF BROTHERS RICCARDO AND CARLO
BROCHI, RICCARDO WAS THE GIFTED COMPOSER, WHILE HIS SIBLING
BECAME 18TH-CENTURY EUROPE'S MOST FAMOUS CASTRATO. STARRING
STEFANO DIOTTI AND ENRICO LAVEZZO. NOMINATED FOR ACADEMY
AWARD TO BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM. SUBTITLED, 109m, RATED R
FOR DEPICTION OF ADULT THEMES AND SEXUALITY.

Premieres June 30
Strawberry and Chocolate

David (VLADIMIR CRUZ) and Diego (JORGE PERUGORRIA) are complete opposites. David studies political science. Diego is an artist. David is upright. Diego is tolerant. David is stand-offish. Diego is embracing. David is straight. Diego is Gay. Their tumultuous friendship begins in a Havana ice cream parlor when Diego boldly attempts to pick up David who steadfastly rebuffs his advances.

STRAWBERRY AND CHOCOLATE, a new comedy from award-winning Cuban director Tomas Gutierrez Alea (with Juan Carlos Tabio) tells the funny and touching story of the budding friendship between David and Diego. David considers himself an upright citizen and committed party member who is traveling the straight and narrow path toward a predictable future. Diego is flamboyant, irreverent and lives life in the moment -- enjoying it to its fullest. Add to this mix Diego's brash, bally, and beautiful neighbor, Nancy (MARTA IBARRA), who is avidly looking for a man of her own, and Miguel (FRANCISCO GATORTO), a fellow student of David's, who has no time for "people like Diego," and the fun really begins.

Based on the short story by Senel Paz "The Wolf, The Forest, and The New Man," winner of the Juan Rulfo prize, STRAWBERRY AND CHOCOLATE is a witty socio-political comment on life in Cuba. The film is set against the backdrop of Havana -- a society that has always looked askance at homosexuality, as well as other personal freedoms.

David, young, and a bit naive, has fallen prey to the ruling party's socialist ideologies and influences. Diego, a little older and more worldly, tries to show David that there is more to life than the party's restrictive ways. When David and Diego meet, David is recovering from a broken heart -- his girlfriend has left him to marry another man. Diego is attempting to mount an art exhibit of his friend German's sculptures and is running into resistance from government officials. David's first reaction to Diego and his "free-thinking" ways is to report him to fellow student and party member, Miguel, who asks for David's help in entrapping Diego.

As David spends time with Diego trying to gain information to use against him, he slowly begins to realize that Diego is not the subversive that he once thought he was, and the two men start to become friends. They begin hanging out with Diego's wacky neighbor, Nancy. Diego exposes David to Maria Callas, John Donne, English tea and black-market American whiskey. When the slightly manic Nancy tries to commit suicide for the fifth time, David and Diego go to the hospital and give her blood. After her recovery, David happily loses his virginity to her.

When the government won't allow Diego to mount the art exhibition, he writes them a scathing letter. The letter ultimately gets him into serious trouble, and he is forced to leave the country. Before his departure, David and Diego admit their initial duplicity to one another, acknowledging their friendship and their differences. With a humorous touch, David and Diego's story ultimately makes a passionate plea for tolerance and understanding in a world sorely lacking in these qualities.

STRAWBERRY AND CHOCOLATE is a collaboration between the Cuban Institute of Art and Film Industry (ICAIC), the Mexican National Film Office (IMCINE), Tabasco Films, Telemadrid and S.G.A.E., and was filmed on location in Cuba, Mexico and Spain. Tomas Gutierrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabio co-directed the film. The screen play was written by Senel Paz, author of the award-winning short story, "The Wolf, The Forest and The New Man" which inspired the film. The director of photography was Mario Garcia Joya. The sound designer was Germinal Hernandez. The production designer was Fernando O'Reilly. The costume designer was Miriam Duenas. The film was edited by Miriam Talavera and Osvaldo Donati. The music was composed by Jose Maria Vitier. The executive producer was Miguel Mendoza. The cast included Jorge Perugorría, Vladimir Cruz, Marta Ibarra and Francisco Gatorro.

STRAWBERRY AND CHOCOLATE has already won awards at the Berlin International Film Festival, and the Latin American Film Festival in Havana, Cuba. It was presented this fall at the Toronto and New York Film Festivals, and is the Official Cuban entry for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.
Ten-Minute Plays Wanted

Out North, a nonprofit contemporary arts organization based in Anchorage, is now accepting scripts of short plays written by Alaskans of all ages. Playing time must be no longer than 10 minutes, and dialogue must be limited to no more than 3 characters. There are no restrictions on content or subject matter.

Performances of 10-minute plays will be presented as rehearsed readings at Out North Theater and other locations during the 1995-96 season. Each play will be rehearsed by a director and up to 3 actors. When presented to the public, stage directions will be read by the director. Writers whose scripts are selected for public presentation will be invited to meet with the director in person or by phone before rehearsals begin. There is no limit to the number of plays that may be submitted by a writer.

Writers should submit an up-to-date resume and one copy of each script. Originals should not be sent; scripts will not be returned. The writer's name, address, and phone number should appear on the first page of the script. The title of the play should appear on each page, and pages should be numbered and stapled together.

Mail scripts to Out North, 1325 Primrose, Anchorage, AK 99508. Scripts must be received by June 30, 1995 to be considered for the first round of presentations of 10-minute plays.

For more information contact Out North's artistic director, Gene Dugan, at 907/279-8099, or via E-mail: outnorth@tmm.com.

Out North, a nonprofit member of Alaska Arts in Education, is funded in part by Alaska Community Share, Anchorage Municipal Arts Advisory Commission, Alaska State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and by contributions from foundations, businesses and individuals who support the examination and celebration of today's world through diverse cultural perspectives.

Opportunities for Performing/Visual/Literary/Media Artists

Positions Available - Associate Artists: Creative artists from various disciplines will be hired for Out North's new core company of artists working throughout the 1995-96 season to create new performance art works. The resources of Out North will be made available for the development of these innovative individual and collaborative projects, and these performance art pieces will be shown to the public as works-in-progress during the spring of 1996. It is intended that the best of these original works will receive further support to develop and include them in the 1996-97 Out North season and tour them Outside (possibly Europe) in 1997. To APPLY: Submit an up-to-date resume, along with a one- or two-page response to the following:

* How has your participation in or attendance at any one Out North activity (workshop, production, presentation, film, exhibition, or special event over the past 10 years) influenced your artistic work, growth, or perceptions?
* Briefly describe an idea for an independent or collaborative project you would like to be involved in creating.

New Performance Projects:

Out North's annual curated performance art program, entitled UNDER 30, showcases a diverse collection of artist-created and artist-controlled works that are under 30 minutes in length. UNDER 30 encourages Alaskans to challenge themselves personally as artists, explore art forms in new ways, and express something from their own personal experience in a supportive environment. TO APPLY: Submit an up-to-date resume (for each artist involved, if a collaborative project), along with a one- or two-page narrative describing the proposed project.

Ten-Minute Scripts:

Out North is now accepting scripts of short plays written by Alaskans of all ages. Playing time must be no longer than 10 minutes, and dialogue must be limited to no more than 3 characters. There are no restrictions on content or subject matter. Performances of 10-minute plays will be presented as rehearsed readings at Out North Theater and other locations during the 1995-96 season. Each play will be rehearsed by a director and up to 3 actors. When presented to the public, stage directions will be read by the director. Writers whose scripts are selected for public presentation will be invited to meet with the director in person or by phone before rehearsals begin. There is no limit to the number of plays that may be submitted by a writer.

TO APPLY: Submit an up-to-date resume and one copy of each script. DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS! Scripts will NOT be returned. The writer's name, address, and phone number should appear on the first page of the script. The title of the play should appear on each page, and pages should be numbered and stapled together.

Visual Arts:

A Visual Arts Curatorial Committee will solicit and select work and coordinate shows of visual arts for Out North in the 1,100 square-foot gallery space. Committee members serve in a voluntary capacity. (Please note: This is NOT a call for art work for exhibits. Once established, this committee will be responsible for issuing invitations or exhibition guidelines.)

TO APPLY: To be considered for this committee, submit an up-to-date resume.

Body Art:

A Body Art Curatorial Committee will establish guidelines for the annual Out North Body Art Show. Artists (including tattoo artists), persons with sociological/anthropological background/credentials, as well as others interested in body art are encouraged to apply. Committee members serve in a voluntary capacity.

TO APPLY: To be considered for this committee, submit an up-to-date resume.

The Out North Pork-Butter Cabaret:

The Out North Pork-Butter Cabaret will carry on the tradition of Out North's annual spoof of life and politics in Alaska. Proceeds from this fund-raiser will support Out North's youth-at-risk projects and the development of work by Alaskan artists. Stand-up comics and other performers, songwriters, social satire writers, and political junkies are needed to volunteer to make this annual event a success.

TO APPLY: Submit an up-to-date resume.

For more information about any of these opportunities, contact Gene Dugan, Artistic Director, at 907/279-8099 or outnorth@tmm.com. Deadline: All application material must be RECEIVED BY JUNE 30, 1995. Send all application material to: Out North, 1325 Primrose, Anchorage, AK 99508. EOE/M/F.
Garden Party

Good friends, good food and a good time on Sunday, July 9th from noon - 6:00 p.m., at the Four A's 4th annual Garden Party. Tickets available in advance or at the door for a minimum $25.00 contribution. There will be live music, raffle prizes and the party will happen rain or shine. All expenses and supplies relating to this event are covered by monetary or in-kind donation and 100% of proceeds go directly to client services. Currently, the Four A's is assisting over 200 HIV positive clients, ranging in age from 4 to 72 years, plus their families. Services provided include case management, prevention activities, housing, a food bank, day care assistance and mental health counseling. It is fund raisers like the Garden Party that help us help our clients. Tickets are available at the Four A's, The Wave, Professional Infusion Pharmacy, The Raven, The Blue Moon, Every Bloomin’ Thing and Pastels. For more information call Four A's (263-2048).

Client Services

What's Available: The client services team at the Four A's offers many vital services for those Alaskans living with HIV and AIDS. These services include case management, Meals-On-Wheels, resource management, early care counseling, medication assistance, support groups, mental health counseling, housing opportunities and assistance, home health care, food bank, and day care assistance. If you are already a client, or if you believe you may have HIV and have not accessed services, please contact Melba Cooke or Sarah Finke at our offices (263-2050).

What We Need: Although we are able to provide many services to our clients, we rely heavily on donations and volunteers to maintain the availability of these services. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation to the Four A's we are always in need of item for the Food Bank which includes practical items and items for hygiene like soap, detergent, and toothpaste, etc. Other areas where we are continually seeking assistance include dental care. Dental care is not covered by Medicaid so we must rely on financial donations from people in our community.

Selling Safer Sex

The Prevention Team at the Four A's is in the business of selling a product called safer sex. I say we "sell" safer sex because that is exactly what we try to do.

Current HIV and public health prevention activities borrow strategies from advertising to sell behaviors. It has been shown, with research, that if you sell behavior changes, like safer sex, the way you would sell a car, more people will buy. This union between public health and advertising is called social marketing. Social marketing refers to the process of developing, pricing, promotion and distribution of behaviors and goals that meet individual and organizational goals. This means that when using social marketing, one develops a behavior, such as safer sex, then it makes it seem more valuable than another behavior, such as unsafe sex. The Prevention Team at Four A's does this by presenting safer sex in an erotic way, in affect, "eroticizing" safer sex. This is accomplished by using sexually explicit material (e.g. erotic brochures, explicit posters, sexy condom packages) to deliver safer sex messages.

The concept of using sexually explicit material to prevent HIV transmission has been documented as useful. The Europeans use a national HIV prevention campaign that includes a great deal of sexually explicit material along with education. As a result, some European countries' HIV transmission rates have leveled, while those of the USA and the rest of the world are still rising.

Herein lies the problem: In general, America is more puritan in its view of sex than other parts of the world, especially Europe. On top of this generally puritan sexual attitude, we have a conservative congress which is keen on limiting the expenditures of federal grant funds. Add into this mix the stigma surrounding HIV, the homophobia permeating American society, and one gets Senate Bill 317. This bill currently in congress as proposed by Jesse Helms seeks to limit the funding of pro-gay federal programs. The official title of SB 317 is:

"A bill to stop the waste of taxpayer funds by government agencies to encourage its employees or officials to accept homosexuality as a legitimate or normal lifestyle."

If this bill were passed into law in its current form, it would mean that no agency could use federal funds to promote homosexuality (which presumably would be loosely interpreted). This could mean that the federal money the Prevention Team receives could not be used to sell safer sex because this activity could be seen as promoting homosexuality.

This legislation would make the prevention of HIV infection for Gay men an extremely difficult job. Social marketing demonstrates that eroticising safer sex is a good way to prevent new HIV transmission, however this legislation stands in the way of that effort.

"What can you do?" You can start by calling Equal Inc. and Identity Inc. to ask how you can help. Write letters to your congress person describing how you feel, why and what you want them to do. Make sure to remind your congress person that they work for you, you don’t work for them and that limiting the way federal grant funds can be spent will keep people in the dark about HIV. As we are all aware: “ignorance equals death.”
Breast Cancer:
An Announcement,
An Action Plan
by Susan Johnson

On April 25 this year, while still on the operating table, a breast surgeon in Seattle told me, as kindly but as clearly as he could that, yes, the lump he’d taken from my breast was malignant, I had breast cancer. I started to cry and shake and hold on—“for dear life” as they say—to the hand of the male nurse at my side. Tom patted on me, kept saying “Susan, I’m sorry,” and stayed with me a long time in the recovery room. The surgeon visited, told me more about the surgery, and went to tell my Seattle friends in the waiting room. I meanwhile began to incorporate a new identity: woman with breast cancer.

I am writing this article because I want to share with the Anchorage lesbian community some of my experience with this disease. I want to let you know what is really going on with me (One inaccurate rumor has already made its way back to me) and I want to tell you some of the relevant facts and good ideas about breast cancer and its prevention and treatment. I want to alert you to what you can be doing to protect yourself from this epidemic.

I was lucky to find my cancer when I did. It was only about one half inch in diameter and had not spread into the surrounding breast tissue. It also had not spread into my lungs, liver or bones (some of the first places to which breast cancer likes to migrate), nor were any cancer cells found in the lymph nodes under my arm. In other words, it is a more-than-likely localized cancer. Nonetheless, it has a threatening sounding diagnosis, infiltrating ductal carcinoma* and my version is, in fact, a slow-growing but quite “vital” and somewhat unusual form of breast cancer.

The whole process of dealing with cancer is extraordinarily difficult, but so far the decisions about western medical treatment have seemed obvious to me. There are two areas of concern: the breast itself and the rest of the body. Since the survival rates for a lumpectomy with radiation are now believed to be as good as those for a mastectomy, I have chosen the former. The vitality of my cancer clearly suggests chemotherapy because one must assume there are stray cancer cells floating throughout my system. (In a life and death situation, one must assume the worst and work to prevent its occurrence rather than simply hoping for the best and doing nothing. The consequence of being wrongly optimistic is too high.)

I will thus be visiting doctors regularly for the rest of this year, four months of daily chemotherapy, then six weeks of five-days-a-week radiation. Not only does cancer change one’s identity, it threatens to take over one’s life.

The only non-western treatment options—really lifestyle changes—are not so clear. I will be able to report on them more fully as things progress. What I can say as far is that they are the kinds of changes we should, of course, all be making without the motivation of a life-threatening disease. Connie and I have bought a water filter so I can eliminate the chemical—especially chlorine—from the water I drink, which will be volumes: at least three quarts a day. We’re searching out sources of organic food. We’ve eliminated fats except olive oil from our diets. We’re cutting out white sugar. And we’re considering seriously going on a completely macrobiotic diet which would indeed be revolutionary for this meat-and-potatoes-and-ice-cream midwestern girl.

My partner Connie is, of course, profoundly impacted by this experience as well. She flew to Seattle to be with me and to manage my care during the two-week crisis phase. She now is planning a rearrangement of her professional life to give her more time to help in my healing. She talks to me, holds me when I cry, feeds me good food, and looks gorgeous. She is there for me.

(She tells me she wakes up at night and gives me reiki treatments while I sleep.)

I try to support Connie too while she’s doing the huge task of supporting me. I talk about things other than cancer. I ask her about herself and how she’s doing. I take care of myself a lot. I recognize that she lives a life of her own, even though right now I feel so vulnerable I want her with me every minute.

We’re also improving our spiritual life. We light candles every morning and meditate. We’re limiting our exposure to the news. We talk about healing experiences we’ve had. We read inspiring books. We laugh. We watch baseball. Connie gardens and thinks of canoeing wild rivers. And I bought myself the hammer dulcimer I’ve been wanting for years.

We also look for support from our friends. Our closest friends have, of course, been able to help because they can and want to “do something” and because we ask. Their love is a constant, steady source of healing energy for both of us. I trust they can feel our loving energy in return.

You who are reading this story can also do something for me—and more importantly—for yourself. You can:

1. Learn about breast cancer. For example, three times as many women will die of breast cancer this year—around 46,000—as people will die of AIDS. The chances of woman will die of breast cancer in her lifetime are now one in eight (12.5 percent). Lesbians may have a higher risk than heterosexual women.

2. Start reducing the fat in your diet. There is a link between fatty diets and breast cancer.

3. Have a physical breast exam and a mammogram. My lump was felt on a physical exam and did NOT show up on a mammogram, which misses ten percent of lumps, but detects lumps smaller than can be felt. And listen up, this is crucial: If you or your doctor feel a lump and a mammogram does not show it, INSIST on further tests. You don’t need reassurance that the lump is probably nothing. You need to know what the lump is. And you need to know it now. As my gynecologist friend in Seattle said, assume the lump is cancer until proven differently. This is not a fun way to think, but it can save your life. Be brave.

So, here’s the last statistic for this article: A woman of any age whose tumor is detected when it is as small as mine was, if it has
not migrated to another part of her body as mine had not, has
about a 95 percent chance of being cured. "Cured," according to
my Seattle oncologist, means living until you’re ninety and dying
of something other than breast cancer.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition has a new slogan:
BREAST CANCER. SAY IT. FIGHT IT. CURE IT. DAMN
IT.

I’ll keep you posted.

Susan Johnson is the author of “Staying Power: Long Term Lesbian
Couples,” “When Women Played Hardball” and her brand new book, “For
Love and For Life,” intimate portraits of 10 Lesbian couples.

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01-11-2013
How the 4A’s Came To Be
by Fred Hillman

The foremost private anti-HIV/AIDS organization in Alaska, and the only one in Alaska’s main population center, started as the vision of one individual, Ted Wright, a 23-year-old oil engineer.

In the late 1980’s in Los Angeles and New York City, a number of young men developed symptoms of two rare fatal diseases of the lungs and skin, diagnosed as pneumocystis pneumonia and Kaposi’s sarcoma, both associated with malfunction of the human immune system. Within five years the virus that causes the disease had been discovered, and a test had been developed to detect antibodies to it in patients’ blood. By 1985 it has been learned that:

- the number of new cases in the United States was doubling every few months;
- the disease was almost always fatal once symptoms appeared;
- there was a ‘silent’ period of several years between exposure to the virus and appearance of symptoms;
- transmission (at that time) was mainly between homosexual men who practiced rectal intercourse and between drug addicts who shared needles;
- patients while apparently healthy could infect others;
- there was no preventive vaccine;
- there was no cure;

This new mysterious illness was given the name acquired immune deficiency syndrome or AIDS, and the virus was named human immunodeficiency virus or HIV.

In Alaska six Gay men had died, and ten percent of 745 screening blood tests had been positive. The threat to homosexual men was increasingly apparent. Nevertheless, because the new disease was falsely labeled a “Gay disease”, for the first five years there had been definite apathy about it in the medical community, and opposition in municipal, state and federal legislative bodies for adequate funds to study it.

In Anchorage in 1985, however, Identity, Inc., a nonprofit, Gay/non-Gay ‘bridging’ organization, had obtained a grant to educate the Gay community about AIDS and hired Armand Pepe and Rick Kurz to carry it out. In the meantime, Ted Wright had also perceived both that the only measure that was available to the Gay community for prevention of future cases was education and that someone needed to take care of people who fell through the cracks of the bureaucracy. He recognized the need for a private, nonprofit organization of volunteers that would be able to do things that governmental bodies could not do; he figured that actions of a private group would not be stymied by homophobic legislators or apathetic administrators. He persuaded his private physician, Dr. Martin Palmer, that such an organization needed to be formed. Dr. Palmer persuaded me, and attorney Sylvia Short was easily talked into doing the legal work. Ted told Sylvia that, instead of contributing to AIDS organizations ‘Outside’, he would rather put his money to work here in Alaska where he saw a need for it. We four met as incorporators of the new organization, which we named the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, “AAAA” or “4A’s” for short. Ted insisted on the “a” in Alaskan as being grammatically correct! When Identity’s grant expired after a year, their board apparently

recognized that AIDS education would be more appropriate to the 4A’s than to Identity and did not seek its renewal. (Such is my understanding).

Support for the 4A’s from the Gay community, the Municipal Health Department, and indeed the general community, was enthusiastic from the outset. The first of several fund-raisers was a gala affair in a private home, complete with incidental music from a nonGay volunteer harpist, and attended by a wide cross-section of Anchorage’s population. By December there was over $5000 in the treasury. A board of directors was elected that included Natalie Gottstein, Dr. Burton Janis, and Fr. Steven Moore. Within a few months it was apparent that Ms. Gottstein and Dr. Janis were having difficulty attending meetings, and they were replaced by attorney Bernard Dougherty. The new board created a mission statement that read “…to provide direct services to people with HIV/AIDS and their families, and to educate for the prevention of AIDS in Alaska.” This mission has remained unchanged up to the present.

Forecasting a time when AIDS would be a disease of nonGay people, including women and children, as well as Gay people, the board wisely chose not to identify the 4A’s as a “Gay organization”.

Many varied activities were started in the first two years, including a helpline, support groups, brochures, distribution of condoms, and speakers at schools, hospitals, fraternal groups and prisons, and financial and legal aid to persons with AIDS. Within two years the annual budget had grown to $45,000, and within four years to $175,000 with the help of several grants, including one from United Way. The 4A’s was filling a community need, and it was increasingly recognized as a valuable organization worthy of broad community support.

Ted Wright’s vision had become a reality and would prove to become far more important than either he or any of the rest of us would have predicted.

Fred Hillman is a retired physician and a current, occasional Gay activist.

Marginal People

Marginal people escape life by falling in love with handsome strangers.

Pithy glances holding forth promises of freedom from self.

Like shackled slaves of long ago, thrown together by the whims of a savage mentality:

they may as well
jump over brooms.

Monalesia Earle
Sunday morning, he saw her off from the starting point near the Golden Gate Bridge.

Through the week, Vicki and the other roughly 1,900 AIDS riders rode over 75 miles a day, camping each evening in a roving tent city. It rained the first afternoon, and the slower riders had to go without food on the road because of poor planning early on. In a steady shower at the fourth rest stop of the 93-mile day, Vicki was unable to get a sweep vehicle to take her into camp—they had been filled with people from the first rest stop. Unfortunately, many participants did not train sufficiently, packing the support vehicles and leaving most injuries lingering on the roadside. Vicki found a group of women who had decided that waiting in the rain was worse than riding in it (which served them well...many people did not make it into camp until well after dark). Among the group was L. A. African-American comedian, Carlease. “I’m named after my aunt, CarLoan. Which is better than my uncle, CarJack.” Carlease later admitted that shaving away kept her mind off of not getting into camp until everyone had already packed up and headed for the next. Plus, she was worried that her ponytail extensions would unravel in the rain and she’d have to backtrack, picking up bits and pieces of the expensive hair. That fear was never realized, but her energy—albeit nervous—kept the group pedaling into camp.

The rain continued the next day and Vicki could not find her tent that night. By Day 3, however, the skies cleared and logistics were smooth—just in time for her carpal tunnel to act up. At that point, she rode whatever she could. “I was toward the back of all the riders.” As a courtesy, whenever passing another rider, one is supposed to give verbal warning. “I heard ‘On your left!’ a lot that week...I hardly ever got to say it myself. So I didn’t see a lot of faces along the ride, but I did see a lot of butts...which did have a distinct advantage.”

Red ribbons adorned the trees of some towns. Kids came out of classrooms to cheer. Some people even followed the ride, cheering the entire way. The ones who did it in drag were the best, Vicki and I agreed. She went on, “It’s really something to see a couple thousand bikers and volunteers making a statement of commitment. Not only are all these people riding, but they’re giving up a week of their lives, plus the time it took to train...it’s just a bunch of big commitments. And it was good to be a part of it.”

The last evening, Carlease did some standup as part of the final night’s entertainment. She recounted her terror from Day Four, when we all pedaled near Solvang, “The Danish Capital of America”; “my dreds are o-o-o-o-n my baby! But where the hell am I gonna find black hair care products in Solvang? I’m gonna have to go ineg-negro!”

It took a combination of boisterous spirits like Carlease and unassuming ones like Vicki’s to make the ride work. When we all rode into West Hollywood together that warm, late spring afternoon, it did not feel as much like a family (as with last year’s ride), but more like a community. That’s how the ride is growing up. So still are we.

Christopher Fabbro is a lifeguard outreach specialist in Pasadena, Calif.

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Alaska Legislative Update
by Mary Graham

I would like to thank everyone who came out and testified at all the hearings on HB 226 and HB 227. It was wonderful to see members of various Juneau and Alaska organizations pull together and continue to move forward towards gaining our rights as equal citizens. I especially would like to thank P-FLAG-Juneau for their presence and support, along with the SEAGLA Board, Committee for Equality, ACLU-Alaska, and individuals across the state. A big thank you goes to Mark Tumeo of Fairbanks, for taking the time to meet with people while in Juneau and for being accessible for assistance on how to approach this issue with unity.

I received an update from Juneau's ever-supportive Rep. Caren Robinson as to where the bills stand now that the legislature has adjourned.

HB 226 (marital status and benefits) which is really an attack on Alaska's Human Rights Statutes, is currently sitting in the House Finance Committee. Currently the bill is in amended form, which provides benefits for domestic partners. Although it would be best if the bill was not heard again and the courts decide the issue, it is possible that a hearing would be scheduled at the beginning of next session. So, if you can contact the members of the House Finance Committee and let them know that if they are going to act on this bill, please support the Judiciary Committee Substitute for House Bill 226. Don't let this issue get by without your input. We can't be silent. You can use this opportunity during the interim to educate the legislature with thoughtful, personal contact.

HB 227 (defining who can marry) did not make it out of the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee. Although Caren thinks that it probably won't be heard next session, there is always a chance it could be brought back to life, depending on actions in other states. So stay tuned to the political climate around the country.

Here is how to get in touch with the House Finance Committee during the interim. Members are:

- Rep. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair (R-Anchorage), 716 W. 4th Ave., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
- Rep. Richard Foster, Co-Chair (D-Nome), P.O. Box 1630, Nome, AK 99762-1630
- Rep. Ben Gruenberg (D-Sitka), State Capitol, Room 415, Juneau, AK 99801-1182
- Rep. Pete Kelly (R-Fairbanks), P.O. Box 72775, Fairbanks, AK 99707
- Rep. Vic Kohring (R-Wasilla), P.O. Box 870515, Wasilla, AK 99687
- Rep. Terry Martin (R-Anchorage), 718 W. 4th Ave., Suite 650, Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
- Rep. Mike Nava (D-Keina), 34824 Kalifonsky Beach Rd., Soldotna, AK 99669-9728
- Rep. Gene Therriault (R-Fairbanks), 119 N. Cushman St., Suite 101, Fairbanks, AK 99701-2879

Contact the Legislative Information Office at 465-4848 for phone and fax numbers.

Thanks to The Perspective, June 1995 ∨
Letter from the Emperor

To the good people of all Alaska:
Under announcements for the month, the Black and Blue Ball will be held Saturday, June 17th at 8:00 pm at the Elks Club. This is the kick-off of Gay Pride week. The following week, on Sunday the 25th, the end of Gay Pride week, the Mr. and Ms Gay Alaska Ball will be at the Elks Club.

The Eklutna Picnic was wonderful this year. Thank you all. Everyone had a great time, especially when I got that water balloon in the face during the balloon toss.

We were all well represented in Salt Lake City by our Empress, and by myself in Reno at their Coronations this past month. People are remarking on Alaskans’ “Out of town attendance.”

For those of us who follow the national scene: thanks to a national campaign by the Empress and I, the deposed monarchs of San Diego were reinstated. Yes, they are all talking about Alaska now!

On a personal note, someone approached me recently and said in quite a loud voice, “With all the money you spent personally and with all the hours you put in this year as Emperor, what did it get you?” His question was asked more as a statement, to which I really wanted no reply. My mind wandered back to a situation which I would like to share with you. A few months ago, I met a man in a bar. He and I had both been drinking. From people standing around joking with me, he learned that I was the “Emperor.” He asked me what the main purpose of the Court was and I replied that it was to help people in the community. He then turned to me and asked sarcastically, “My life sucks, I’m all messed up on drugs, and I don’t know if I’ll be alive tomorrow. What should I do ‘Mr Emperor’?” Having been in the same boat seven short years ago, I told him what I had seen work for me and other friends, and that was to take any job you could get to pay debts and living expenses. When you do this you’ll get your self-esteem back. When you can hold your head up it will be a little easier to start rebuilding your life, one day at a time. He got kind of quiet and just nodded. During the evening we talked to other people and drifted apart. I hadn’t seen him in the bar for a few months, but the other day I walked into a fast food joint and saw his face. He smiled and said, “Welcome to ………. may I take your order?” I wasn’t sure he recognized me but when I paid and he handed me my bag he whispered, “I took your advice. Thank you.” From this “thank you” and many others that I have received all year, I have “gotten” more than I could have imagined. Thank you all.

With much love, Emperor Bob XXII, pager # 275-0046.

P.S. I would like to use my column this month to place a “Personals” ad: Wanted—Candidates for the job of Emperor and Empress of the Great Empire of All Alaska. Applications will be available at the bars in July. The requirements are as follows: Must be willing to work long hours. Must be able to endure criticism every day. Must be able to start September 4th, Coronation night at the Egan Center. There is no pay, but crowns will be provided. The rewards are great on a personal level. If you missed your chance to join the Peace Corps, this is a similar job! Only the most serious need apply. E.B. XXII

Call ID is coming to Anchorage!!!

by Cathy Schindler

Beginning late this summer, Anchorage Telephone Utility (ATU) customers will be offered a new optional service: caller identification. It's important to understand it, because whether you sign up for caller ID or not, you are significantly affected. There are two sides to this new technology.

With this service, a subscribing customer may purchase a separate unit which attaches to a phone and displays the telephone number of incoming calls. This allows the customer to screen calls before answering. Some units even print out a log of the numbers received during the day.

But the service works in reverse, too, and this is where the problems arise. Whoever you call may get your number. That may be fine if you are calling Aunt Mabel. But there are times when confidentiality is necessary. For example, if you are a battered woman needing to make contact with your batterer because of a visitation issue or if you are a therapist returning the call of a potentially threatening client, you could be in danger. With your phone number, another person can use a cross-referenced phone book, readily available, to learn your location. Without precautions Call ID renders unlisted phone numbers useless.

REMEMBER: WHETHER YOU SUBSCRIBE OR NOT, YOU WILL BE AFFECTED.

All ATU customers, whether they choose to subscribe or not, will be given the option of having complete phone line blocking or per call blocking with no charge within the initial sign-up period. With complete line blocking your phone transmits a blocked message to any and all (with the exception of 911) Call ID units. With per call blocking, the caller needs to punch in a two number code when dialing, which blocks that call only. Any call made without the code is received by caller ID units.

STAR has met with representatives of ATU and will be providing recommendations to assist in customer education. There are questions specific to STAR and other organizations which provide volunteer-based crisis lines. STAR staff, volunteer, and victim confidentiality remains a priority. It is imperative that consumers stay informed about both sides of the new service.

Stay tuned... Call ID is coming.

Cathy Schindler is the Executive Director of S.T.A.R.

Not My American Family

The Christian Coalition recently introduced its "Contract With The American Family," a repackaging of the group's conservative, anti-choice and anti-Gay political agenda. Deeply indebted to Christian Coalition support for the "Contract With America," Rev. Gingrich and other Republican leaders immediately endorsed the group's social agenda platform. The new "Contract" calls for prayer in school and the curtailing of a woman's access to abortion among other items billed "family-friendly."

While Gay-specific themes were dropped from the final version, the "Contract with the American Family" is often vaguely worded, allowing numerous possibilities for attacks especially on Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth and on freedom of expression. In particular, monitor debate on the abolishment of cultural and educational agencies and on a loosely defined push to increase "parental rights." The Christian Coalition has pledged $2 million to push its politics of divisiveness, a theocracy aimed to exploit fear and homophobia. We cannot let them succeed on Capitol Hill.

ACTION: Call or write your US Representatives and Senators. Demand a Congress Respectful of ALL Families! (See contact information above.)

Be a voice for redefining the "American Family" to truly include all families. Write a letter to your local paper exposing the "Contract With the American Family" for what it is: a political pay-off and a repackaging of the right wing social agenda.

Read it for yourself. For the full text of the "Contract With The American Family" call 1-800-325-4746. Also available on the Internet at http://www.cc.org

Thanks to the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Activist Alert, June, 1995

New Book Explores Lesbian and Gay Parenting

Franklin Watts Publishers announce the publication of Lesbian and Gay Families: Redefining Parenting in America, written by Chicagoan Jill S. Pollack. The book introduces the reader to seven lesbian and gay families who share their stories, joys and challenges. Their firsthand testimony becomes a vehicle for exploring the many roads to parenthood including adoption, alternative insemination, foster parenting, surrogatey and previous heterosexual relationship's. Pollack's book, part of the Franklin Watts series The Changing Family, was released on May 31, 1995.

In America, the number of gay men and lesbians with children grows dramatically each year. Nevertheless, the rights of these individuals and couples to adopt or retain custody of children is in constant jeopardy, and their families often experience complete alienation from their communities.

The recent court battles of Sharon Bottoms and her struggle to raise her son have helped bring these issues into the national spotlight.

"I am proud to have played a role in seeing that this very important and timely book reaches bookstores," says E. Russell Primm III, Editorial Director, Grosset Children's Publishing. "Whether the reader is a lesbian or gay parent, the child of a lesbian or gay parent or someone who knows and loves someone in a lesbian or gay family, Jill Pollack pointedly shows us the many faces of love and the many kinds of families."

Lesbian and Gay Families: Redefining; Parenting; in America (Franklin Watts; May 31 1995; Trade edition $16.95; Library edition $19 70/$13.79) provides the reader with insight into the facts, theories and history surrounding the political and social issues of lesbian and gay parents in America must overcome. Pollack's book explores the often-difficult process of "coming out," traces the web of legal hurdles gay and lesbian parents face and provides in-depth information on local and national networks of support. By chronicling the stories of the gay and lesbian families that have come forward in her book, Pollack establishes that love, not sexual orientation, defines a family.

Damron Publishes

Damron Accommodations
America's First Full Color Lesbian and Gay Accommodations Guide

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—After thirty-two years of publishing national gay travel guides, Damron Company unveiled its most ambitious book to date. The new release, aptly titled Damron Accommodations, will focus exclusively on lesbian and gay-friendly accommodations in the U.S. Canada and Caribbean.

The book began during the mid-summer of 1994 when the editorial research staff at Damron sent over 1100 surveys to accommodations on their North American database. The company then offered to print all the information on the two-page survey, along with a black-and-white picture free of charge. Over 600 of the surveys were returned completed, and many accommodations opted also to advertise their businesses with full color photos and essays written by the owners themselves. In a matter of months, the publisher of America's original gay travel guide had created the market's most comprehensive resource to North America's lesbian and gay-friendly accommodations.

Leafing through the 450 color pages, readers will be struck by how painstakingly Damron Accommodations has been designed for the traveler as well as the travel agent. The listings go well beyond the brief format of the best-selling Damron Address Book and Women's Traveller. Each accommodation is given space to comment on clientele, rooms
available, meals, bathrooms, extra amenities, nearby attractions, local public transit (including taxis and shuttles), wheelchair access, onsite recreation, season, the policies on children, pets, reservations and cancellations, travel affiliations, rates and even commissions to travel agents. Then there are hundreds of photos and essays to fill in the details on any feature left undescribed.

The most unique feature of this guide, however, is the first series of indexes in the thirty-two year history of the Damron Company. There are indexes for accommodations primarily for lesbians and gays, for men only, for women only, that welcome children, that offer rates under $50, that are members of AAA and/or IGTA, that have wheelchair access, that offer agents commissions as well as the standard index of all the accommodations by alphabetical order.
Writing Awards

Masquerade Books, On Our Backs and wilde announce the John Preston Erotic Writing Award in honor of one of the Gay community’s most prolific and accomplished writers. Two prizes of $500 each will be presented to a Lesbian and Gay man for original works of erotica at Flesh and The Word: A Gathering in Celebration of John Preston’s Life and Work at Brown University on October 8, 1995.

Noted writers Pat Califia, Steven Saylor, Michael Lassell, and Bayla Travis will judge the entries and select winners and runners up. The winning Lesbian entry will be published in On Our Backs and the winning Gay entry will be published in wilde. Subsequently, MASQUERADE BOOKS will publish a collection featuring the top ten submissions.

All submissions must be the original work of the person submitting the story, and he or she must hold copyright to the story. The writers retain all copyright to their works. Stories may have been previously published and simultaneous submissions are also acceptable. Each entry shall be typed or printed out, double spaced on white paper, single sided and stay within the guidelines of 25 submitted pages. Please submit four copies of each story, collated and stapled. The authors name should not appear anywhere on the story. Instead, include a cover letter including your name, address, telephone number, title of the work and a pseudonym of you choose to use one.

The deadline for the competition is July 11, 1995. Please forward your entry to: John Preston Erotic Writing Prize, c/o On Our Backs/wilde, 530 Howard Street, #400, San Francisco, CA 94105

Winners will be announced in September 1995. Employees of Masquerade, On Our Backs, wilde and Steam may not enter the contest.

Flesh and The Word will be a three day gathering to celebrate John Preston’s life and work. Author of more than twenty-five books, Preston was also a personal inspiration, friend and professional mentor to many of today’s Gay and Lesbian author’s and editors. Dorothy Allison, Andrew Holleran, Joan Nestle, Michael Bronski and others will join together over the Columbus Day weekend October 6-8 at the John Hay Library at Brown University. This event is open to all. If you would like to receive more information on this landmark event including hotel and travel arrangements, please write to Flesh and The Word, c/o John Hay Library, Box A, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 02912 or fax your inquiry to Jenifer Lee at 401-863-1271.

WRITERS WANTED — To all visual artists and writers, performers and photographers, a call for submissions and a contest: The Evergreen Chronicles, a journal of gay and lesbian arts and cultures, will publish a special issue in March 1996 on the theme of Collaborations. We are seeking work that addresses two specific forms of collaboration: collaboration across media (photography and text, poetry and nonfiction, etc.) produced either by a single artist or artists together and collaboration by two or more artists across social boundary (race, culture, region, gender, religion, sexual orientation, class, language and/or ability). The winning selections will be published in Evergreen, along with a selection of the other submissions. All artists chosen for publication will receive an honorarium. The winning submissions will receive a cash prize.

The deadline is September 15, 1995. Send an SASE for submissions guidelines to: The Evergreen Chronicles, POBox 8939, Minneapolis, MN 55408 or call 612-649-4982 with questions.

Marston Real Estate
248-2804

The Path to a Friend’s House is Never Long

Bronwyn Hillman
Realtor®
563-5156

Sandra Miller
Realtor®
243-0988

For Your Real Estate Service

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

Dear Readers:

Pride. Oh, yeah. How does rainbow Pride manifest itself, anyway, especially in the face of the Religious Right? Years ago, as I marched for the first time in a Queer Pride celebration, the usual group of fundamentalists picketed the parade. As my group passed, we began to jeer back. But a friend of mine stood silently, gesturing “I love you” in sign language. The jeering continued from both sides, but the friend persisted. I stared at him in amazement and suddenly found myself emulating him.

It worked. Oh, not for the group that continued shouting at us, “You sodomites will burn in hell!”, but for we two young activists at the pride parade. For the first time, I was able to transcend the hostility and be proud. As an individual, a family, and even a world community. It was fleeting, but the feeling does occasionally come back.

Last year in “the Amazon Trail”, Lee Lynch challenged us: “Are we serving ourselves well by fighting a war (on gays) defined by the enemy?” Of course not. So here’s an invitation to “...take the campaign to a higher level,” as Lee said, meaning that we’ve got to redefine the war without taking the offensive, and instead take the lead in becoming an exemplary community of activist caregivers, peacemakers, and neighbors.

To the Right, we threaten tradition. Epochs of oppression. But if that’s a person’s perspective, all humans sin, and it is not up to any of us to judge. So to our readers from the Right, let’s see what else we’re doing wrong. It may seem facetious, but only because the premise is so preposterous:

1. More testament that divorcing/remarrying is sin. (Found in Romans 7:2-3; Corinthians 7:10-11, 39-40 to name some).
2. Never order your steak rare or God will turn against you and no longer consider you one of His people! (Lev. 17:10, 19:26).
3. If you have had an affair, if you have gay sex (“A disgusting thing”), or if you have sex with a woman on her period, bend over and kiss your unholly ass goodbye—these are grounds for death! (Lev. 20:10, 13, 18).
4. Bats are birds. (Lev. 11:19) Teach that with creationism!
5. Can you handle more Leviticus (21:16-23)? Check it out. Anointed spiritual leaders are needed. The blind, lame, disfigured, deformed, those with a crippled hand or foot, hunchbacks, dwarves, and those with eye or skin diseases need not apply. You can’t approach the altar.
6. Slavery and polygamy are continuously condoned throughout the good book.

Now, for a little wisdom from above that might make a little more sense. Take out your Bibles, folks. It’s time for us to do our homework. This is God being quoted. Dr. Provo, Alaskan Falwell, you take Sirach 7:1-3. “If you do no wrong, no wrong will ever come to you. Do not plow the ground to plant seeds of injustice; you may reap a bigger harvest than you expect.”

Michael Johnston, alienated homosexual whom God loves regardless of who you are, take Sirach 7:4-5. “Don’t ask the Lord for a place of honor or ask the king for an important position. Don’t try to convince the Lord that you are righteous or make a show of your wisdom before the king.” God loves you for who you are. You don’t need to be anything more than that.

Fred Phelps, who will take Topeka off the map of God’s country, believe Sirach 8:7. “Don’t be happy over the death of anyone; remember that all of us must die.” And to your followers, Sirach 8:15. “You should not travel with anyone who is reckless. It will cause you nothing but trouble. He will do any foolish thing he pleases, and you will die with him.”

I’ll take 1 Corinthians 5:12-13. “After all, it is none of my business to judge outsiders. God will judge them.” As I judge, so will it happen to me.

After we have all learned our lesson, let’s celebrate 1 Cor. 13. “In the end, three things remain: faith, hope, and love; the greatest of these is love.” Let’s have faith that we can break bread as a human family. Let’s hope that it will happen now. And let’s keep it together with love. It worked at that Pride Parade years ago.

The Anchorage chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays continues to meet during the summer on the third Wednesday of the month 7:00-9:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St. (& 32nd Ave).

At our last meeting several young people from “The Family”—the G/L student group at UAA—presented the status of their efforts to expand the university’s non-discrimination policy to include Gays and Lesbians. These young people are impressive!!

Recently we held a successful potluck to honor volunteers of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4A’s), and it was heart-warming, emotional and supportive.

Formation of a group for Gay adolescents is progressing. Guidelines have been adopted with the goal of providing a safe environment for the young people who will attend. A committee is interviewing group leaders, and while the response has been gratifying, we would like to have more applications from men, preferably over 25-years-old and ideally with some experience with groups either as leader or participant.

Fred Hillman, Secretary
The Amazon Trail: Caught in the Net
by Lee Lynch

listen, I don't have time to do a column. I just went on line and it's too much fun to stop. Oh, sure, I've read the warnings that the information superhighway can be harmful to your health, making you stay up all night, neglect food and daylight and exercise. I've heard about the on-line anonymous groups forming all over the world to deal with the addiction. But I've been there, done that, bought the 12-step T-shirt, so I know I'm not likely to develop a new dependence.

I suppose that's what they all say. See, for you non-users, it's not the machines or the electronics. It's the sudden widening universe in terms of access to information while the world of communication shrinks. It's the promise of new people in one's life without the complication of messy interpersonal relationships. It's the ease of connecting with people already in my life, like my brother-who-never-writes but I suspect will e-mail like a songbird.

It's that, with the expensive paper shortage, I can return to frequent communication with my safe-fax buddy, Sky. It's that I do all this from my desk, looking out the window at the bluebirds nesting in a bird house.

It's partly, too, the promise that I'll be able to zip this column to editors in the blink of an eye (if some one will tell me how), saving paper and postage and eliminating the need to wade through the right-wing petitioners outside the post office.

It's feeling thirty years younger to be joining the kids who can send e-mail from their college dorms and who take the wonders of computers for granted the way my generation did political activism. It's communicating with people in the kind of soundbite/abbreviated stream of consciousness language that seems to evolve from frequent use of e-mail.

It's the constant flow of up-to-date political information through the Rural Organizing Project in Oregon or the Victory Fund in D.C. which makes me feel a part of things even though I'm not a meeting person. Last night I learned from e-mail that Oregon has a new non-discrimination bill stuck in a legislative committee. I got that information into our local human rights newsletter so local voters can call the appropriate politician. I feel like an activist again.

I also feel like I've joined a new community. When I went to the local woman-owned bookstore to buy an electronic how-to book, it was like going to my first Girl Scout meeting. I was welcomed to a group eager to help me join and full of a camaraderie that comes with distinctive rites and initiations and skills. Later, when I e-mailed my address to people who had been encouraging me to go on line, I got immediate enthusiastic responses back. In a kind of hushed, co-conspiratorial voice, I exchange e-mail addresses with others of my ilk.

While I'm on co-conspirators, an e-mailer just let me know about a poll which showed that about 75% of people using the information superhighway are of the Republican and/or conservative persuasion. Presumably some of the reasons for this are economic. Other than that, are Gay people really more traditional in methods of communication than non-Gays? Liberals more hesitant about cyberspace than conservatives? Today, information is power. Communication, in the hands of anti-human rights activists, is a weapon, not a tool. We don't have to organize sit-ins at radio or TV stations any more to take back power. The technology is ours for the using.

There are ways to get on-line even if your income looks like that of a Lesbian writer. It took some patience, but I've hooked into a local network that costs $15.00 a month for 100 hours. No long distance fees either. It saves me money.

It's kind of nice, too, to always get mail, one of life's little pleasures. And it's much easier to delete junk mail with a keystroke than to open, sort and lug the stuff to the recycling center. I love to get messages without an insistently ringing phone. If I want to log on I can. If not, see you later! (So far, of course, I always want to log on.) My ten-channel scanner once kept me company on long lonely nights when Lover was away. Now I'll just cozy up to the computer and communicate!

Listen, I gotta go. In the time it's taken me to write this I haven't checked my e-mail box. I know there's something in there. It's this feeling I have, almost a compulsion. I don't have to look, I could not look if I wanted. I'm not one of those on-line addicts or anything....)

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

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE EXTERIOR OBLIQUE

Glowing. EYE can't think of another word for DG & SM(?) yet. Recently together, happy as clams, both of Anchorage's most eligible bachelors tied the, um, knot. EYE goes all misty. And not a tad envious. ▼ Could it be? A new, um, friend for BV(?)? EYE was pleased, to say the very least, to know that VG(?) of course & BV, well, got together. Couldn't help but wonder how BV broke her toe on that camping trip. Was it the camping, dear? or the trip? ▼ Happened to be strolling through the Sheraton lobby Memorial Day and spied FK(?) and Marv Liebman(also ?) (who writes the “Independently Speaking” column in this mag) lunching at the Bistro (this is Eklutna Picnic day and what were they doing there instead of at The Picnic? turns out Marv was in town on a tour but ill & not up to the trek to the wilderness, so they lunched briefly). Got this tidbit from lAFK. Marv said he was going to die (his cough was not pretty, actually) and that FK was to bury him with full flag honors. There were to be 4 strapped young men (and a Lesbian for PCness) to throw themselves on the coffin as it was being lowered into the ground. They were to be restrained, of course, no one was to get hurt, or worse, chip their nails as they fell in. Marv allowed as how these dramatis personae could be paid, just make it good. ▼ Well, there are more wedding bells in the summer air. Seems JG&EL(both ?) are tying the knot. Knot that EYE is breaking the news or anything. Anyhow, come to the nuptials in August, it'll be a corker if that Memorial Day Weekend in Seattle is any indication (must have been the 80° weather--why else was JG all dewey-EYED?) ▼ Also noticed that FK(still ?) was sporting all those colors in his hair one day and was practically shaved bald the next. Quel dramatique! EYE wonders if that girl can't keep one do for just a few months. If only his hairdresser could be bribed... ▼ Uptown! She's gone uptown. EYE couldn't believe EYE's EYES to see MF(?) dashing about Le Chlois (Anchortown to those of you who don't parler nos Français). She's enamored of her thing (a cellular phone) given to her by long-time squeeze RM(? natch). Seems she got calling-fwood just so her sweetie wouldn't have to learn a big ol' new phone number! ▼ This just in: seems JM'L(?) broke his G-string, um, C-string. You finger it out, yourself, but EYE got wind of the harp deal (JM'L is learning it and doing quite nicely), but hasn't learned to untense when he's in flex mode ▼ Hold the press! Just spotted MF(?) of MF&RM outside the Jewel Lake Pizza & Tea Garden (great Pizza, great Chinese!). Seems she was just mounting her cycle (appears butch in the helmet, the dark glasses), but then she puts in a key and presses a button. Whoops! So much for the butch image (where's the old-fashioned kick-start?!) Then, oy voy! Her cellular phone rings (yes, the same one as mentioned above). Well, there she is furiously clawing her way into the fanny pack to get the phone out, then she punches some buttons on the phone and hollers into it, "Wait a minute! Hold on!" Then she puts the phone down and madly rips her helmet off, almost tearing her ear lobes in the process, snatches her glasses out of the helmet frame because they got all caught up in the visor, and grabs the phone and hollers "Hello! Hello!" Now there's no one there, of course, but not to be sure, she grabs the phone antenna and pulls it out and hollers again into the phone "Hello!" But alas, if there was someone there, they were long gone. Don't tell me that wasn't a lipstick Lesbian on a bike. Dykettes on bikettes? Nah...▼

Nutmeg

by Lesla Newman

When you went to work Buddy and I grew bored but the only drug in the house to drop was nutmeg which we did dumped the whole container into a milkshake from McDonalds and drank up nothing happened no visions no buzz a total bust until we went to pick you up I noticed it first waiting at a stop light a lady in fake leopard coat walking her Chihuahua had your face a kid on a Schwinn pumping up the hill your face on his face Buddy noticed it too turned to tell me he looked just like you I twisted the rear view mirror and stared you stared back and winked At the train station every passenger getting off the 6:33 a dead ringer then you emerged somehow we knew the real thing from all the others and leapt from the car shrieking smothering you with hugs and kisses bowing down to the homecoming queen you were pleased then embarrassed then suspicion what are you guys on anyway Nutmeg we roared giggling and guffawing Ten years later I take no drugs still see your face everywhere that kid on a skateboard the boy who pumps my gas the UPS man with his fancy clipboard anyone tall dark and under thirty I'm still waiting for the real thing to emerge from anywhere oh the hugs the kisses I would give you your smile making me higher than the balloons we released the day you died standing on the beach the ocean foamy as a milkshake Buddy's eyes dark wet clouds the sand under our feet grainy as nutmeg

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

*** Catalogue of Great Gifts ***

Identity T-shirts: $10.00 each
100% cotton; will shrink some in first wash. Pink & Black logo on white background.
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL
How many: ____________________________ Size(s): ____________________________ Sub-Total: ____________________________

Identity Lapel Pins: $5.00 each
1" enamel and silver; 2-color logo
How many: ____________________________ Sub-Total: ____________________________

NCOD T-shirts: $10.00 each
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL
How many: ____________________________ Size(s): ____________________________ Sub-Total: ____________________________

NCOD Poster: $12.00 each
Full color Keith Haring logo (24" x 26")
How many: ____________________________ Sub-Total: ____________________________

NCOD Note Cube: $5.00 each
B & W Keith Haring color logo printed on all 4 sides of 300 sheet memo pad.
How many: ____________________________ Sub-Total: ____________________________
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HISTORY
Twenty-five Years of Courtroom Trauma
Thanks to the Advocate, August 23, 1994

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

'79
In DeSantis v. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., a federal appeals court rules that anti-Gay bias is not a form of sex discrimination. The case was the most concerted effort to apply sex-discrimination laws to anti-Gay bias—and the judicial system’s most ringing rejection of the idea.

California governor Jerry Brown appoints attorney Stephen Lachs to a state judgeship, making him the nation’s first openly Gay judge.

In Gay Law Students Association v. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., the California supreme court rules that being openly Gay or Lesbian on the job is protected by a state law ensuring the right of employees to engage in political causes.

Former San Francisco supervisor Dan White is acquitted of murder in the killings of openly Gay city supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. He’s convicted instead of manslaughter after his lawyer argues that his mental capacity was diminished by his consumption of Twinkies and other snacks.

'80
In People v. Onofre the New York State court of appeals voids the state sodomy law, ruling that it violates due-process, equal protection, and privacy guarantees.

California voters reject the Briggs Initiative, which would have barred Gays and Lesbians from teaching in public schools.

In Beller v. Middendorf, a federal appeals court upholds the Navy’s discharge of three Gay and Lesbian sailors.

In Van Doleghem v. Gray, a federal appeals court rules that free-speech rights bar public employers from keeping their employees from supporting Gay rights causes on their own time.

In Fricke v. Lynch Rhode Island high school student Aaron Fricke obtains a court order allowing him to take a male date to his prom.

In Bzio v. Patenaude the Massachusetts supreme judicial court rules that a biological mother may not be denied custody of her children merely because she is a Lesbian. The court’s ruling applies only to Massachusetts, however.

In Commonwealth v. Banado the Pennsylvania supreme court voids the deviate-sexual-intercourse convictions of exotic dancers who had oral sex with patrons as part of their act.

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

EDITOR’S NOTE: Sue A. Sponte is a pseudonym for a local paralegal, and her friends. In other words, she’s a real person, or persons, with another name. Or a real name, with another lesbian, or... oh I'm just so confused. What you really need to know is that although this column may contain useful tidbits, you should not treat ANY legal advice you find in periodicals as a substitute for talking to a real live attorney about your life and problems.

Dear Sue:

Generally speaking, what's the state of the law in Alaska vis-a-vis queers?

- Curious George

Dear Curious:

That's a very broad question, but I'm an expansive kinda gal, and fond of broads, so here goes: In certain areas, the law in Alaska is oh so civilized. Let's start at the beginning with the Constitution of the State of Alaska. I'm sure that many of you have the Constitution of our fair state memorized, so I hardly need to bring this up, but for those of you who don't have enough RAM to remember such things (if we ever knew 'em), here's a refresher. (You get a mini-civics refresher course, and I have less space to fill.)

Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article I: Declaration of Rights

Section 1. Inherent Rights. This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry; that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protections under the law; and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and the state.

Heartwarming, huh? Is there anything in there that makes you think that the folks who wrote this didn't mean us too? Not even a little bit.

There isn't a lot of law in Alaska, or anywhere else for that matter, that specifically addresses G/L/B/Ts. In the realm of child custody, Alaska case law says explicitly that being a lesbian is not, of itself, a reason to deny custody. The case is called S.N.E. v. R.L.B. if you want to find out the rest of what the old dudes in long black dresses had to say about it. That doesn't mean that homophobia doesn't play into custody decisions, but on this issue, our law is better than just about anywhere else.

Our marriage statute says that two adults can marry, and doesn't say they gotta be a boy and a girl. This led some people to wonder if this means that sweethearts of the same gender could marry each other. The people who make it their hobby (business?) to try to make life less pleasant for non-straights, tried to get a gender-specific marriage bill through the legislature this past session, but it didn't get anywhere. The big question, of course, is: Will AK grant full faith and credit for queers who got lei'd in Hawaii? Time will tell...

There's more, but we're out of space for this time. Keep those cards and letters coming. See you at the Pride picnic. - Sue

Sue implores all readers to send questions, topic suggestions, constructive criticism and/or whiny tirades to Sue A. Sponte, c/o NorthView... !

Gay Bar

A monthly question & answer session on legal issues of interest to Lesbians and Gay men, such as relationships, contracts, wills, custody & visitation.

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The Dreaded Merge
by Karen Carlisle

I'm sitting in the cool room of our steam room waiting to make sure the fire catches. The outside door hangs open to the rainy afternoon—a hard rain fell dancing amidst thunder and lightning, a sight I've witnessed rarely since my youth in SW Amerika.

Dear Love is inside setting up a standing loom, polishing it with much love and reverence much as she strokes me, touches me. I grow more in love with her each day. Yesterday I was planting seeds in pots that stood jauntily around the railing on our deck, drifting toward the sun. A ragamuffin family with stray dogs, a mama and two foraging puppies were trying to talk us into an adoption. They were awfully cute—must have been a husky in there somewhere because the little girl had blue eyes—and skinny, every rib articulated under their raggedy fur.

I said, “Promise me you won’t feed them.” Dear Love nodded solemnly. We agreed not to feed them, not to water them. Throughout the day they stayed—helping me dig the flower beds, helping me empty the trash I’d already collected back onto the ground. The mama laid down on the strawberries to chew nearby duck grass. The littlest ragamuffin took off with my Birkenstocks and my gloves.

Even so, I found myself saying things out loud like “they’d have to be outside dogs.” Or “we could make a winter dog shelter out of the shed.” Dear Love would agree wholeheartedly for she loves the little animals and they her. Every once in awhile, I injected a word of sanity, like money. Three spay jobs at Bush prices—about a cool thou. Walking three dogs when its -20 degrees—that’s below 0—or worse, just letting them off the chain because I’m too cold and letting them pillage and plunder like everyone else in Bushville except two or three people. And don’t forget hauling water and food and shoveling dog shit and putting it where? And going to the post office and hauling 100 pound sacks of dog food. And the ragbag clan joining the five rescues on the back lot in their morning and evening howls and more often as the dog needs arises. And worming and baths and brushing.

As I was saying, I was planting seeds and talking to the doggies and loving them when I sensed Dear Love nearby. I looked up and she was watching me through the window with such love written on her face, my throat got tight.

I am unaccustomed to being loved so deeply with such naked want. And most of the time, I believe it. I’ve quit trying to love perfectly. Thank the goddess. Not possible anyway, dear readers. You probably already knew that. So I don’t always panic when I see similar problems and patterns in this relationship, or feel that sickening feeling of déjà vu. Maybe the problem is calling anything a problem. Maybe it’s just the ebb and flow, the give and take of living intimately with another and it’s normal. What do I know from normal? Deborah Tannen says in her book That’s Not What I Meant! that people in all relationships seek balance between involvement and independence. (No, I haven’t started reading relationship books again—I’ve been on a fast from those for ten years. OK, I’m lying. I read a couple after She-Who-Was and I parted company.)

Right now I feel out of balance on the involvement side. The totter has teetered and involvement has a big butt—I can’t get the teeter-totter back down on the other side. There’s a lot of space in our house for each of us to be alone. But it’s not really alone because my mind’s not free of Dear Love’s energy when we’re in the house together. I feel her, hear her although she’s awfully quiet and respectful.

Dear Love is going to see her Muz—and I’m looking forward to being with myself. And I’m angry I can’t meet that need when we’re together. I need to be with myself. It’s not that I don’t want to be with her—I need also to be with only myself much as I also need to spend time with friends alone. If anyone has learned the secret of how to do both, I wish you’d share it with me.

I know that by the time Dear Love returns, I’ll be wanting to get on the other side of her skin, but for now, I’m glad for her, and for me, that she’s going on a trip.

We didn’t keep the dogs, dear readers. They slept on our deck in the sun most of the day being adorable. And when night fell (well, when the sky turned dusky at midnight) and no one had fed them, they left for more promising fields. They don’t know how close they came to imprisonment—and that’s the price they’d pay for love and a regular meal.

I’m determined that a relationship is not going to be imprisonment, even loving imprisonment. Unlike dogs, I have choices all along the way; I can, and I’d better, choose time with myself and make sure I get it when I need it, or eventually, I will blame Dear Love for not having the time to go within and see how I am, enjoy my own company, be in a meditative state regularly. And it’s not her responsibility or the job of the relationship to make sure that need gets met. It’s mine. My dear friend Janna once told me that a successful relationship is one in which each person continues on their spiritual path and the lover assists and supports her/his partner on that path. And if a time comes when that is not the case, then the relationship and the people in it are in trouble.

It is almost impossible for me to be close to someone all the time and not be focused on her, be in her business, be trying to control her, or trying to serve her or make her life easier. I break more sweat trying not to do this stuff than I do exercising. Unfortunately, there is no Alanon out here; at least not where I can talk about Lesbian merging. Oh shit, I am in a serious mood, aren’t I? Get a grip. This stuff is funny. Right.

Karen Carlisle: Befuddled in Bushville

NorthView Classifieds
& Want Ads

Federal Employee is trying to transfer to Yakutat, Petersburg or Dutch Harbor. Wants to network with other gay brothers and sisters in these areas. Please write Mark, P.O. Box 2041, Seattle, WA 98111

Fax paper! Have full box (6 rolls) of fax paper (high sensitivity) that needs a good home. Each role measures 8½" x 164"—this paper goes with just about any fax machine (call for details). Price was $15.45 at Costco—yours for $10. Call Ken: 248-7722.
Groups & Gatherings Circles and Clubs
News from Gay & Lesbian Organizations from around the State

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As)
Anchorage: 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) Anchorage: 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) Anchorage: (ALFA is on vacation until September): in Winter ALFA 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. Anchorage: 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.

EQUAL, Inc. Fairbanks: purpose is to keep the community informed about political and legal events which have an effect on the LesBiGay community, to educate about community issues, to organize letter writing campaigns and other forms of political action, and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation. To be on the phone tree, call Andy at 907-0457-3876. For more information about EQUAL contact Laura Burleson at 907-479-7348 or e-mail FSL@aurora.alaska.edu.

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

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

Family-Anchorauge: 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! For Summer schedule, call Kimberly at 786-4959.

Feminist Sing-a-Long, women only, Anchorage: 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. Anchorage: 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, Anchorage: founded to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the ex-pression 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), Anchorage: 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 565-8650.

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

**Cumb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) Anchorage:** 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.

**Alaska Men's Club (AMC Anchorage):** 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, Anchorage:** Gay Men's AA Meetings, Fri & Sun. Check calendar for times and locations.

**Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club (MMcnaC) Anchorage:** 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, Anchorage (on vacation until the Fall):** Winter schedule: every Sunday afternoon at 3:00pm, Park Lanes. 561-8744 (Bob).

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

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

**Q*Klatch, Fairbanks:** 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*K Outdoors, Fairbanks:** 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 <feschw@aurora.alaska.edu> or Kathy at 907-455-6358 or <hlatkdf@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).

**SAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous)**

**Anchorage:** 12-step meeting; Tues., Thurs., Sat. Check calendar for times and locations. 566-1133

**Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA):** organization for Gay Men and Lesbians of Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter "Perspective." P.O. Box 211371, Auke Bay, AK 99821-1371.

**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, Anchorage:** 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.

**Women's Two-Step Dance, Anchorage (on vacation until the Fall):** Winter schedule: 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! 

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Insurance. Many people think nasty things when they hear that word. To these folks insurance means poor service, expensive premiums, pushy sales people, slow to pay claims but fast to bill for premiums. Just about everyone has had a nasty experience with insurance. I am no exception.

The very nature of insurance forces us to be antagonistic. I pay for something (a policy) that I am supposed to never need. While buying the policy I am forced to consider the possibility that my house might burn down, my body might fail me, or that I might even die. I should consider who might sue me for falling down in my driveway. Goddess forbid that my little pce wherever she wants to pup ever bites someone and I have to cover the bills and/or pain and suffering that she causes.

Insurance, by its very nature, antagonistic. You can’t go to a store and compare labels and buy the best product. It is hard to get objective advice from anyone. You can’t design your own array of coverage designed specifically for your needs. You have to take what is out there as a package deal. Insurance is especially antagonistic to Gay men and women.

Insurance was originally devised by a group of people. They thought that if they pooled their money together they could save on their losses. A lot of people contributed just a little to a savings pool. The pool was managed by appointed members of the group. When one person suffered a loss there would be enough money to help her through the hard times.

The pool of money was owned by the members in the group.

Ocean sailing vessels in old Europe were the first pieces of property to be “underwritten” by insurance. If you wanted to insure the ship you signed under a proclamation saying that you would share in the losses if the ship sank. If the ship didn’t sink then you received a piece of the ship’s profit from the voyage. This was pretty simple for a hundred or so years. Insurance served an economic good in society. People could spend a little money to insure against much larger risks.

The question is, “Does insurance pose any economic good today?” Why not avoid the antagonism associated with insurance and do without coverage altogether? How can one measure the economic good of such an invisible commodity? Some smaller and certain risks are better left uninsured (you wouldn’t insure against a headache). Some risks require “risk management” instead of insurance (like fixing the stairs).

Some risks that threaten catastrophic loss are best shared with an insurance company (loss of home, health, life). A little premium goes a long way when compared to the possible size of loss. These risks — the ones that threaten loss of financial security — are the ones that I insure. I do not want to risk any more than I have to so I choose to buy insurance. I reconcile the premium costs with the savings incurred if I ever do suffer a loss.

I admit that I am an advocate for insurance. Insurance enables me to remain in my world when bad luck falls my way. Insurance would not work, however, if I was the only one buying it. Insurance works when thousands or millions of people are paying into the pool. Statistics prove that only a small number in a large pool will actually take money out (claims) of the pool. This is the only way insurance works. Insurance provides an economic good when the pool consists of enough people and enough money to cover the collective losses of the few that suffer.

One word of warning. The insurance industry is heavily regulated. Some of the regulation is self-imposed. Most regulation is external; at the state and federal levels. This regulation places limits on the makeup of the pool, the policy holders. Regulation prohibits insurance companies from accepting too many so-called uninsurable risks. An insurance company cannot operate only in hurricane prone areas. Too many high risks ruin the pool and the company eventually goes bankrupt. The standard risks cannot collect on their claims. The problem starts when people realize that they don’t need insurance until they become “high risk.”

You cannot get private insurance after your problem is known to you. If you wait until a problem develops don’t be surprised if you are turned down for coverage or are asked to pay more for standard coverage. Each company, by law, can only carry so many higher risks. Usually these folks are current policy holders who purchased their insurance before they became a high risk. The point is that you should get insurance when you least need it. It will not be available after a problem shows itself. Remember, you can’t buy a fire policy on a burning house!

A solid financial plan takes insurance into consideration. You can’t expect to get ahead and stay ahead if you don’t have the catastrophic risks insured against (auto, home, health, liability, life). Insurance will provide you with an economic good if you have something to lose!

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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Gay Alternative Music Has Sales Potential

by Will Grega

In Billboard's article about queercore punk, it was stated that in the years since Tom Robinson released his 1978 anthem "Glad To Be Gay," "there has been an absence of positive gay role models in alternative rock circles, according to Pansy Division bassist Chris Freeman" (Billboard, May 6).

As the author of the "Gay Music Guide" (Pop Front Press, 1994) and an American Library Assn. Book Award nominee for the same, I was surprised at the inaccuracy of the statement.

There is a long history of gay alternative music in rock as well as other genres. Positive gay role models include: Romanovsky & Phillips (seven albums since 1984), Michael Callen & the Flirtations (featured in the film "Philadelphia"), Keith Christopher (recent Billboard Certificate of Achievement award winner for songwriting), Laura Love (picked by Billboard as one of 1994's best unsigned artists), Tom McCormack (co-chair of New York's popular OutMusic organization), Alik Dohkin (who recorded the first contemporary lesbian album, "Lavender Jane Loves Women," in 1974), Grant King (top 10 gay album, according to The Advocate), Sid Spencer (on his third country/rock CD in three years), Dan Martin, Lisa Loch, and Tom Wilson Weinberg.

These are all tested artists who have together sold tens of thousands of albums and delight and inform audiences all over the planet.

In the next few months, an unprecedented number of new albums by indie gay artists will be released. Openly gay and lesbian music is the next alternative in a global music market with so little left to exploit. And the American independent OutMusic movement is an explosively active and creative community with an appeal beyond the gay market. This as-yet-untapped market has a huge profit potential for enlightened major labels that step in now.

Overlooked Opinions market research show that gay and lesbian people buy eight times as many cassettes and CD's as the average consumer. Clearly, the potential for gay music is huge. Recent stories about the gay independent music scene have appeared in Rolling Stone and Spin, on CNN and MTV, and a video documentary about the gay music revolution is in the works.

Music consumers on the whole are curious about the genre, and surprisingly open-minded, according to many gay performers.

"They love it," says openly gay country/rock performer Doug Stevens, whose Outband plays to as many straight and mixed crowds as they do gay crowds. "They hear the music first. When they hear the lyrics, it catches them off guard for a minute. Then they go wild! The culture is ready for it. The culture is hungry for this kind of music, and here we are!"

Meanwhile, the majors have yet to sign an American gay male artist or band singing explicitly about gay life and gay love. With the gay community pouring billions of dollars every year into the coffers of the major labels, it is clearly time to test the waters.

When Melissa Etheridge (who has gotten more exposure than any other celebrity in the gay press over the past year) came out about her sexuality, she suddenly found herself on the covers of the gay national slicks and the subject of numerous articles, interviews, and photo spreads.

Some record store are creating gay/lesbian music bins, and longtime independent music distributor Ladieslipper is leading the charges into the major record chains. Talk shows would certainly delight in giving exposure in theme shows based around openly gay and lesbian artists. And just last month Groove TV premiered on Manhattan Cable. Planning to reach into major markets, the "gay MTV" has already run videos from Tina Benez, Pussy Tourrette, Extra Fancy, and others.

Would these signings be controversial? In today's world, you bet. But as marketing proves, controversy equals publicity equals sales! Will there be commercial resistance to an openly gay pop star who shatters our culture's stereotypes about gay men? There certainly hasn't been any damage to Elton John's career; the artist came out in a big way in the last year and went home with Grammys and Academy Awards for "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" from "the Lion King" soundtrack.

I believe there would be a similar groundswell of support for new openly gay male artists on major labels, especially the right artist who has a broad appeal, great image, and superb songs. All flavors and perspectives abound, from angry young men to slickly commercial artists whom the world would never guess were gay except that they sing the pronouns appropriate to their sexuality. These artists aren't so much just trying to push an agenda as they are doing what is natural to them as songwriters—writing and singing about everyday life as human beings. These people just happen to be gay, and sometimes that informs their writing. Sometimes not.

Is the world ready for boys singing about boys? Love is love! With all the gangsta rap on major labels, with all the hate music that abounds, isn't it time we realize that there is a moral imperative to sign openly gay and even HIV-positive artists who sing about love?

Now, that would be truly alternative! And in the end, it's just good business. Next big thing? Look no further.

Thanks to "Billboard," May 27, 1995
May 8th, 1995, marked the fiftieth anniversary of VE Day when WW II in Europe ended. It also commemorated a bleaker fifty-year benchmark—the beginnings of the US military’s campaign to rid its ranks of homosexuals.

During World War II, some nine thousand lesbian and gay service members were hunted down and thrown out with no veteran benefits or thanks—as if they had never existed, unknown soldiers. Since that time, over one hundred thousand other homosexuals have shared the fate of those early outcasts—branded, humiliated, and expelled. Their story is recounted in the documentary film, Coming Out Under Fire, directed by Arthur Dong and based on the book by Alan Berube. It is scheduled to be shown on many PBS stations around the country during the month of June, 1995.

What follows is the story of one of those GIs—me.

I was inducted into the Army of the United States on January 6, 1943, as a nineteen-year-old, and assigned to the Army Air Corps. After serving eighteen months in the United States, I boarded a troopship headed for the Italian theater of war in Naples.

I soon found a spot on one of the upper decks where gay soldiers gathered. They accepted me as one of them. But, although I liked them and enjoyed their campy banter, I kept myself apart. They were amusing, but they weren’t me. I wasn’t really one of them.

My special friend was a tall, skinny, red-headed sergeant, not as good looking as most of the others, but enormously funny and campy. He had a Modern Library edition of Dorothy Parker stories, which we all read aloud, taking the parts of her characters. One story caught our fancy and became our favorite. It was called “From the Diary of a New York Lady: During Days of Horror, Despair and World Change.”

It was about a New York socialite who went to the same kind of parties with the same crowd every night, escorted by her favorite male companion, or “walker.” Miss Rose, her manservant, came each day to do our lady’s nails and invariably would suffer rebukes for some infraction or another. With each reproof, our lady would exclaim, "Damn Miss Rose, I could spit."

Each time we read that line, we laughed and thought it brilliant. We adopted the flamboyant repartee in Dorothy Parker’s stories as our trademark and in our V-Mail letters to each other our tight-knit group dispersed.

After a stay in Naples, I was shipped to Cairo, waiting for reassignment. To pass the time, I carried on an intensive V-Mail correspondence with some of my friends from the troop ship. We always ended our campy letters with “Damn Miss Rose. Damn the War. I could spit.”

In early October, 1944. A jeep stopped in front of my tent, and two M.P.’s got out.

"Is there a Private Liebman here?" one of them asked.

"That’s me," I said.

"The CO [Commanding Officer] wants to see you. Now!"

They drove me to our squadron headquarters. I went in and there were about ten or fifteen men and women there, typing, filling, or just hanging around. The CO, a short, fat, and very red-faced Texan, was seated behind his desk on a raised platform. I saluted and said, "Private Liebman reporting, Sir."

I felt every eye on me. Obviously, the others already knew what was up. I still didn’t have a clue. The CO shuffled his papers and picked up a V-Mail letter. My heart sank, and a premonition of doom came over me.

"Did you write this," he barked. He made me walk to him to look at the letter. It was the letter I had written the day before to my sergeant friend at his base in Tripoli. Of course, it was written in the style of Dorothy Parker. All mail was censored, but I saw no reason to worry when I wrote it.

"Yes, sir," I said, "I wrote it."

He looked at me and then looked around at the other men and women, at his audience. His big line was coming up.

"Do you suck cock?"

Before I had a chance to reply, his face reddened in fury.

"You are one of those New York Jew cocksuckers, aren’t you?" he screamed.

"No sir," I said. Desolation and terror took over. My face was crimson. My knees wobbled.

Again, playing to an audience of now-discomfited men and women, he said, "It’s obvious to me soldier, that you are one of those queer perverts, a New York Jew faggot."

I thought that I would die there on the spot in a puddle of my own sweat. I prayed that I would. I was standing at attention. I didn’t know what to do or what to say or where to look. I felt tears starting, and I knew that if I shed even one, I would never forgive myself.

"What do you have to say, faggot?" he shouted.

My mind was racing. "I would like to see a doctor, sir," I said. That was something my tormentor could not refuse. It was a request he was obliged to grant.

The M.P.’s took me directly to the 38th General Hospital about five miles away. I was left alone in a small room, and I waited for someone to tell me what to do next. My uniform was soaked with sweat, and I was as miserable and alone as I have ever been in my life. A nurse finally came in and took me to see a doctor with a major’s insignia. He looked overworked and very tired.

I sat across the desk from him. "Are you a homosexual, private?" he asked softly.

"Yes, I guess I am," I said.

He asked me some more questions and then he said, "Marvin, I have three options. I can send you back to your squadron and say it was a mistake, or I can recommend that you be discharged from the Service."

I asked, "What do you think I should do?" At that point, I would do anything this kind man might suggest.

"Well," he said, "If you go back to your CO, your life will be hell. I can recommend you for discharge, but it will be a blue one."
"You mean I can get out," I said.
"Yes," he said, "but remember, it won't be an honorable discharge." He tried to explain what a blue discharge meant. He said it was a "general" discharge, and he knew just about as much as I did about its possible impact on my future civilian life.

"I'll take the discharge," I said, and instantly a weight seemed to fall off me. I could escape this terrible situation and the nothingness of my Air Corps career.

Another jeep came and took me to the hospital's Section 8 Ward for soldiers with psychiatric problems — a long barracks with cots running down each side and barred wire surrounding it on all sides. I signed in with the nurse who replaced my uniform with gray pajamas, a maroon robe, and straw slippers. I was given a cot and realized that I was in the midst of forty lunatics. I felt terribly alone sitting on my cot. All eyes were on me. I was the new one. I was terrified.

For about a week, I was interrogated at least twice a day by various officers and non-coms. I answered their probing, embarrassing, sexually-explicit questions in monosyllables. Finally, I had the court-martial, standing at attention in my uniform, questioned by three rather bored officers.

They asked whether I was a homosexual. I said yes. They asked whether I ever did anything with other soldiers on the base. I said no. They asked me when I decided to become a homosexual. I said, I didn't decide, I just was. They asked if any other soldiers knew I was homosexual. I said that I didn't know any. I was the only one in the world. Then, they told me to leave.

The next morning, I was informed that I had been given a general discharge, but had to wait for the final orders back in my old squadron. I was taken by the two MPs to my tent. Some of the soldiers there knew me, and there were three or four new men. They all stared at me and said nothing. Nobody — not a soul — would speak to me. I was a pariah.

That evening, two men were killed when the flag was lowered. The whole squadron lined up, and I was there with my tent mates. The flag was lowered. I heard the CO bellow out, "Private Liebman, get your ass up here." He was with several other officers in front of the line of soldiers.

I marched out, wondering what horrors awaited me.

"I would like for you men to see how a New York Jew faggot drills," he shouted. He then started barking orders at me, making me drill in front of the whole squadron. As usual, I often confused my left from my right and so caused a great deal of merriment among the hundred or so guys who were watching.

Instead of being amused at his own joke, the CO seemed to get angrier and angrier, and his orders came faster and faster. I was just about ready to collapse.

For the rest of my stay, every morning and every night, he made me march alone in front of the men. I obeyed his orders, and with each step I took I lost more of my self-worth. I became numb. It was as if I had left my body and could stand outside myself, watching this miserable soldier stagger through his drill orders in the desert heat. The CO stopped only when the heat got to him and to the other GIs who no longer laughed at me or thought I was amusing.

Finally, I was given my travel orders, taken to the transport plane like a prisoner and put on board, headed for Fort Dix, New Jersey, the separation center. I was there overnight, and the next day those of us who were to be discharged were lined up in the cold.

It was November 2, 1944, just short of two years since my induction. The officer had a sheaf of papers and he called out names one at a time. There were about a hundred of us. One by one, each man was called to receive a white sheet of paper, an honorable discharge.

There were four of us left. My name came, and I went up to receive a blue sheet of paper, which read "Discharged ...for habits and traits of character not beneficial to the Armed Forces of the United States." Wearing my tacky black suit, I had a deep feeling of absolute desolation and emptiness. There seemed to be nothing left of me.

I took a bus to New York and arrived in the city in the early afternoon. With the final pay of $40 they had given me, I bought a cheap raincoat to protect me from the snow and bitter cold. I telephoned home to Brooklyn.

My mother's shrieks of joy were followed by questions: "Where are you? When are you coming home? Daddy will come and pick you up. Oh, thank God, thank God," and she began to weep.

I took the subway to Brooklyn and walked up 90th Street, shivering in my flimsy raincoat. When I came to the corner, I could see my mother waiting on the porch in the freezing cold, just as she had said goodbye less than two years before. She shouted, "Sonny, Sonny," and my father, mother, and sister rushed out of the house to hug me and welcome me home.

"Where's your uniform?" my father asked.
"I didn't want to see it anymore. I threw it away."
"How did you get out?" he asked.
"I had a slight sun stroke in Cairo, and I got a medical discharge."

No other questions were asked. The lying had begun to escape my reality that no amount of lies could ever deny. Marvin Liebman is the author of Coming Out Conservatively. 1991, Chronicle Books.
Rhode Island Governor Signs Gay Civil Rights Bill Into Law
Rhode Island is the ninth state with civil rights protections for sexual orientation

On May 22, Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond (R) signed a bill prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit which had passed both houses in the General Assembly. With the Governor's signature, Rhode Island is the ninth state to pass civil rights legislation for Gay men and Lesbians. Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Hawaii, Vermont, California, Connecticut, and Minnesota all have some type of prohibition on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

On May 19, the Rhode Island Senate passed the bill which already had been approved by the House of Representatives on March 29. 1995 marked the 11th year of the bill's introduction.

Speakers at the event included the sponsors of the civil rights bill, Francis A. Gaschen (D-Cumberland) and Senator Rhoda A. Perry (D-Providence), and Christine Nickerson, President of the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights, the organization behind the bill for most of the past 11 years. Also present to witness the signing were Gay and Lesbian activists whose work on the legislation spanned the past decade.

Senator Perry read a letter that she received after the bill passed the Senate:

"As a result of your work, I am relieved of a burden that has been so painful to bear. I may not come out at work, but I no longer agonize about being found out. The recently passed legislation is a gift of enormous proportions, and I thank you and the State of Rhode Island."
ALASKA COMMUNITY SHARE: Ken announced we will receive approximately $3,300 as our share of the 1994-95 effort. Jenifer stated with her leaving Anchorage this fall, we need a new liaison individual with this organization. Discussion ensued but my notes do not indicate our reaching a decision on a liaison person.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST RAPE (S.T.A.R.): Ken suggested we share experiences with this organization, so maybe we should share in their training program. Tom indicated his interest in attending STAR’s training program. Ken will pursue their offer to share insight.

FALL CONFERENCE: Kurt indicated the planning for the Second Annual Fall Conference is progressing well. We agreed to discuss a possible donation or advertisement at our next meeting.

ADVISORY PANEL: This May 10 gathering produced many ideas and/or visions for the future but did not resolve the need for more non-Board volunteers. Ken suggested perhaps the “Task Force” method is an alternative. Under this method a core group (say the Board) calls a few people together to address an identified issue. A Board member then becomes the liaison between Identity and that Task Force. This takes the pressure off the Board, transfers responsibility to the Task Force but still provides Identity involvement via the liaison. We agreed to discuss this, as well as the “Queer Round Table” (QRT) at our next meeting.

RETREAT: We agreed to postpone this subject until next month. Tom will include the notes from our June 1994 retreat with the minutes of this meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on June 27 at our office.

A Personal Note: Your Honorable Secretary is very grateful to Ruth Mathes for volunteering to be “substitute Secretary” at the April Board Meeting. Thank you, Ruth!

At the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship we have a tradition of supporting gay rights

Come to a Sunday service in honor of Gay Pride Day:

"GAY PRIDE, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE"

Doug Frank

Sunday, June 25 - 10:30 a.m.
A.U.U.F., 3201 Turnagain St.
(where Identity potlucks are held)
DykeHykes
Call Linda or Angie for more information (337-0253).
Everywoman welcome!

May 13th: BALDY, Meet at Angie & Linda's at 10:00.
May 21st: The PERCH Trailhead is at the Eagle River Visitor's Center, Chugach State Park. Meet at Angie and Linda's at 10:00.
May 28th: RENDEZVOUS PEAK, Meet at 10:00 at Angie and Linda's.
June 3-4: REED LAKES, Overnight? Meet at Angie and Linda's to carpool to trailhead in Palmer. Meet at 9:00. Overnight if you want. If you can't come Saturday, then come for a day hike on Sunday!
June 11th: WINNER CREEK, Meet at the Bookstore at 9:00 or at the trailhead at about 10:30.
June 18th: EAGLE LAKE, Meet at Angie and Linda's at 9:00 to carpool to the trailhead up Hiland Road.
June 25th: CROW PASS/RAVEN GLACIER, Meet at the Bookstore at 9:00. We will hike to the glacier and back down again.
July 1st & 2nd: FAIRBANKS WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL, Moose Mountain, Fairbanks.
July 9th: BIRD RIDGE, Meet at the Bookstore at 9:00.
July 14th: JOHNSON PASS, Leave from the Bookstore Friday, as early as possible, spot cars on the Seward side and start hiking from the Granite Creek Trailhead.

To Have and To Hold
Same-Sex Marriage Organizing Takes Off
(from the NGLTF Policy Institute)

The subject of same-sex marriage is rapidly rising into the consciousness of many Americans and has already made national headlines and front-page news around the country. And it's clearly in the cross-sights of the Radical Right. Already an aggressive preemptive strike against same-sex marriage has been launched in Alaska, Utah and South Dakota with more attacks expected. A Congressional threat may be forthcoming, too. These attacks are designed to head off a positive ruling expected later this year or early 1996 on a pending same-sex marriage case in Hawaii. It's time to sound the alarm.

The Radical Right plans to capitalize on society's vigorous opposition to same-sex marriage and use it as a fundraising and political organizing weapon to strengthen their "traditional family values" agenda. Expect more attacks not only on same-sex marriage but also gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families, including foster parenting, adoption and child custody.

Indeed, the subject of same-sex marriage offers many political challenges and organizing opportunities -- and numerous questions -- for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender activists. It's time for that dialogue to begin. It's time for everyone to find their role in this battle.

We may ask, for example, do we really need or want the right to marry?

We are asking for our equal right to marry the one we love and care for, just as non-gay Americans do. Many same-sex couples share the same responsibilities as married couples. However, nowhere in the United States do they receive the same recognition or benefits, not even in communities with domestic partnership laws.

Of course, gay, lesbian and bisexual people are as diverse as non-gay people. Many would not choose to marry even if they could. However, virtually all gay people prefer that they--and not the state--decide whether and whom to marry, just as non-gay people do.

What is your role in the same-sex marriage battle? There are many ways for everyone to get involved. Help get the word out: Educate the public. Hold a forum. Tell your family, friends and coworkers about our right to marry. Sign on to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Marriage Resolution. Write letters to the editor and get the press to cover the subject.

To have and to hold. It's about having the rights and responsibilities of legal and societal recognition of our loving unions. It's about holding close not only our loved ones, but also the democratic principles of fairness and equality often denied us because of who we are and whom we love. And most of all, it's about creating and strengthening diverse families and forming relationships free of discrimination and prejudice.

[As part of its grassroots organizing efforts around marriage, NGLTF is preparing an organizing kit and other materials for activists. Call Beth Barrett for more information, (202) 332-6483, ext. 3215; babnglaf@aol.com]
Positive Print

- The power (and empowerment) of books

Dan Carter is a local gay activist

(I read the following article in the latest issue of Lambda Rising NEWS. Lambda Rising Bookstore in Washington, DC, had a contest for their 20th anniversary. As literature and art are such an integral part of the LGBT culture, I would like to reprint the article for NorthView readers. We are extremely fortunate in Anchorage to have a first-rate bookstore for our community. Al and I have visited many bookstores when we travel Outside and few can compare with our own Bona Dea Women's Bookstore. Thanks to Joann & Mariah for all their work, commitment and vision!)

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY STORY
by Reverend J. Bennett Guess

In the summer of 1985, I had just completed my first year at the University of Kentucky. Still only eighteen years of age, I was in Washington, DC to serve as an intern with my member of Congress. At this stage in my life, I was very much in the throes of the college experience—fraternity parties, student government activities, and lots of good times—but the serious side of me was intent on getting ahead and becoming someone great. My summer experience in Washington was meant to be the jumping-off point for what I had wanted all my life: a career in politics.

I felt I was well-groomed for politics. I had a great interest in social issues and public debate. I was a member of a respectable family in western Kentucky. I had been interested and involved in politics since childhood, and was convinced that I was headed for elective office someday myself. There was only one major problem—I was gay. I knew I was doomed to a life in the closet if I ever wanted to realize my professional goals.

Being in Washington, DC—as a young gay man—was both exciting and frightening. I felt too afraid and too young to experience the bar scene. Besides, my new-found intern friends wouldn’t have understood my desire to go out and about by myself every night. I felt trapped, wanting to be my self and find others like me, but feeling too fearful of the seemingly overwhelming consequences.

One Saturday in Georgetown, during lunch, I spied a copy of the Washington Blade that had been left near my table. Not knowing what it was, I began to read it and soon realized: a gay newspaper! As I poured over the pages, I found an ad for a gay/lesbian bookstore: Lambda Rising. I had to go!

Lambda Rising was my first connection to the gay community. In fact, I spent my summer there and nearly every dollar I made during my internship. I browsed and read and cruised and watched—soaking up the atmosphere of my new-found life. I vividly remember the feeling of safety I experienced there. The place was clean and bright, the boys at the counter were especially handsome, and I remember pouring over the information available to me—everything from gay pornography to gay spirituality. It was all so new; I had so much to learn and experience and it all felt so good and right—me.

Few straight people can understand the empowerment that young gay men and lesbians feel when they finally get the nerve to peek out of a dark closet, expecting the worst, only to find the pain of the closet is all more self-induced than anything else. Lambda Rising was my first experience in feeling the joy of letting go of others' expectations and experiencing what it meant to be a part of the gay community. That summer, Lambda Rising gave me the courage to take a first step and come out to myself. My frequent trips to the bookstore that summer provided the initial connection I needed in order to dispel the dirty myths that a homophbic culture had wrongly put on me.

After graduating from college, I realized politics was not the best outlet for my interest in social activism. My liberal politics and justice commitments eventually led me to pursue graduate education in theology at Vanderbilt University. Today, I am a gay rights activist and an openly gay minister in the United Church of Christ, serving a most wonderful gay-affirming congregation back home in western Kentucky. I often joke that I knew I couldn’t make it as a gay person in politics—so, instead, I chose the church!

Last year during the March on Washington, I went back to Lambda Rising. This time, my mother was with me. Not much had changed at the store, although I couldn’t help but reflect on how much I had changed since I had last been there. I couldn’t help but retrace the steps my life had taken—from fearful gay teenager to openly gay activist and minister.

In 1985, I was full of fear. I felt it literally impossible to ever tell my well-to-do, well-thought-of parents that their son was homosexual. I was certain I could never be "somebody" if I ever let my secret be revealed. Yet, because of Lambda Rising, my summer in Washington became less focused on politics and more centered on personal courage and integrity.

In 1994, I firmly believe the greatest enemy of our movement is misinformation. There are so many lies about us. The Extreme Right is engaged in terrorist tactics which are trapping young gay people in states of fear and shame. And this is true: The more we know, the more we read, and the more information we can make available to our community and others—the more we are empowered to fight and to make a difference and to know we are not alone.

At a particular frightening period of my life, that connection was made available to me thanks to Lambda Rising. Mine is only one story, but I am sure there are many, many more just like it. Thank you.

(Bill, this one's for you!!)
On May 18, I once again testified at the quarterly meeting of the Anchorage Equal (?) Rights Commission. As many of you know from my past reports, the new ERC members appointed by Mayor Mystrom showed great promise at their initial meeting.

During my testimony in May, I once again—as I have during 13 of the past 14 quarterly meetings—informed the Commission of activities of Commissioner Michael Johnston which I feel are incompatible with his position on the commission. I specifically mentioned his political activities and his attempts to use and promote hatred of particular group(s) of Alaskans for purely political gain. In the past, the Commission has failed to respond to complaints about his attacks on gays/lesbians because gays/lesbians are not covered by their Commission. I reminded the Commission that Johnston had also printed and distributed materials labeling Unitarian Universalists and Metropolitan Community Churches as "fake religions." I reminded the Commission religious bigotry is covered by their charter and I felt the main reason for the existence of the ERC was to eliminate/reduce discrimination in Anchorage. Commission David Levy did respond favorably and at one point suggested Commissioner Johnston should refrain from these activities. Johnston replied that he has First Amendment rights and would, himself, be discriminated against if the Commission curtailed his political rights.

Regrettably, one of the Mayor's new appointees sided with Michael as far as his First Amendment rights are concerned (I later asked her why the ERC had a Censure Clause in its bylaws if they could not be applied).

As I have reported previously, I felt progress was being made using a low-key, rationale approach with the Commission and letters from the Mayor's Office had led me to believe he was concerned. I no longer think this is true. I ask all of you who can attend the next ERC meeting (see below) to be there and to testify. It was very evident at the last meeting they intend to do nothing and one or two of us attending their meetings has left them with the impression that no one is interested.

Let's make sure they know we are still here and very much interested!

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

Name(s):__________________________
Mail Address:__________________________
Home Address:*__________________________
City:__________________________ AK Zip:________
HOME PHONE:__________________________

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFO, IF YOU KNOW IT:
YOUR VOTER PRECINCT NUMBER:________
YOUR VOTER DISTRICT NUMBER:________

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

Bob Ralphs, the founder of Oregon's Bigot-Busters, died of an apparent heart attack on Friday, May 5, 1995. Ralphs, in 1992, transformed his Sherwood, Oregon farm into Bigot-Buster Central, where he fielded thousands of calls reporting 'bigot sightings' during the signature gathering campaigns of the Oregon Citizen's Alliance. Ralphs would receive the 'sighting' calls and dispatch activists to those locations. Ralphs helped to develop the project, trained hundreds of "Bigot-Busters" and trained activists around the country in the fine art of "Bigot-Busting." In 1992, Ralphs was featured on a '48 Hours' special about the initiative campaigns. Ralphs served on the steering committee for the March on Washington and was president of the Gay & Lesbian Democratic Club of Oregon. Bigot Buster Bob will be missed.

Thanks to the GLAAD Dispatch-Bulletin, June 1995.

Paul T. Terry
A celebration of life will be held at noon Saturday at Washington Park in Portland.
Mr. Terry was born April 25, 1959, Oakridge, Ore. He lived in Anchorage from 1983 to 1989, when he returned to Portland.
Mr. Terry owned the P.T. Sweat Shop and P.T. Graphics while in Anchorage.
He enjoyed plays, workshops, modeling and acting. He was Alaska's representative in the first 10-K KayPro run in Las Vegas, and also won a Mayors' Midnight Sun race in Anchorage.
His family said: "Paul's influences will always be remembered for his pursuit in physical, spiritual and mental health."
Mr. Terry is survived by his life partner, David Lyons of Portland; parents, Leonard of Eugene, Ore., and Margaret and Wayne Hall, of Springfield, Ore.; siblings, Sally Powell of Chugiak, Melvin, Bill, Bob, Tim, Sherman, Alisa Kounovsky, Susan Terry-Vanata, all of Eugene; and grandparents, Dale and Jane Hall of Eugene.
Memorial donations may be sent to the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, 1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Anchorage 99503.
Arrangements were handled by Wilhelm Funeral Home in Portland.

Randall Deane Upton
Former Alaska resident and KTUU-Channel 2 News Director Randall Deane Upton, 39, of Seaside, Calif., died of cancer at Community Hospital in Monterey, Calif.
A celebration of life will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Asilomar's Surf & Sand Room in Pacific Grove.
Mr. Upton was born Jan. 9, 1956, in Burlington, Iowa.

He had worked as managing editor for KCCN-TV in Monterey from 1992 to 1994; as assignment editor for KSBW-TV in Salinas from 1990-92; and as news director for KTUU from 1987 to 1990.
While news director at KTUU, he engineered the coverage of the Valdez oil spill, which won the station the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award. He also broke the story of the three California gray whales trapped in the ice at Barrow.
Mr. Upton is survived by his life partner, David Magana of Seaside; his mother, Jaye Coleman of Carmel, Calif.; his brother, Rollie Ford of Katy, Texas; his sisters, Peg Siegried of Springfield, Ill., and Jan Rowe of Yreka, Calif.
Service arrangements are being handled by Paul Mortuary in Pacific Grove, Calif.

Robert G. Sowle II
Robert George Sowle II, 40, died June 4, 1995, at his brother's Eagle River home due to complications from AIDS.
A service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church 17545 N. Eagle River Loop Road in Eagle River. The Rev. Janice Hotze, Rev. Greg Kimura and Walter Bradley will officiate.
Mr. Sowle was born March 29, 1955, in Sitka, and lived there for 10 years, then in Wrangell for one year. The family then moved to Seattle where he graduated from Ballard High School. He attended college, then served in the U.S. Army. He worked as a health educator for the Alaska Native Health Board and retired last year due to a disability.
Mr. Sowle lived between Anchorage and Eagle River for the last 10 years.
He received the Barbara Berger Award for Excellence in Health Education and was awarded for Outstanding Service by the National Native American AIDS Prevention Fund in 1994. He was a member of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center Special Initiatives Advisory Board and one of the founders of Alaskans Living with HIV in Juneau. He was also a member of the Positively Native board of directors and an Alaska delegate and presenter at the National Congress on the State of HIV/AIDS in Racial and Ethnic Communities in Washington D.C.
A co-worker said: "Robert was a vocal activist and advocate for HIV/AIDS issues in Alaska Native communities and Outreach. Robert's approach to AIDS prevention was to inspire action within all Alaskan communities to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. He freely shared his own story of living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. A common theme in his talks to communities across the state was that HIV prevention is not a moral issue, but an issue of public health. He had a famous sense of humor, a broad and friendly smile that helped his message be heard. Robert especially felt a strong commitment to reach Alaska native youth."
Mr. Sowle enjoyed coin collecting, cooking and painting.
He is survived by his mother, Rae of Eagle River; brothers and sister-in-law, Lawrence of Kingston, Wash., and Patrick and Loni of Eagle River; sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Kjell Nore of Wrangell; and many other relatives.
Memorial donations may be sent to the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, 1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 102, Anchorage 99501.
Jun. 19, Mon:
- Gay, Jovous & 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
- Alaska Bon Voyage Dance, 8:30pm, Sheraton Hotel (Olivia Cruise). Tix at Bona Dea Women's Bookstore. Information: Breakeven Productions: 277-5630

Jun. 21, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at AAs, 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
- OK 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, Bisexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm (Juneau), call 907-463-5688 for information
- I.M.R.U. Youth Group-MCC Outreach (ages 15-21), 7:00-9:30pm, Rick Wright & Anne Marie Grant-Good Leaders, MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr., #5, 258-5266
- Gay, Jovous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

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

Jun. 24, Sat:
- Identity Potluck, "The Other Side of the Closet," panel presented by PFLAG, 6:30pm, AUUF
- 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.
- AGLA Gay Pride Dance, 10:00pm-3:00am, Musher's Hall, contact Jenna, 907-479-3183
- AGLA Gay Pride March, 1:00pm, Bicentennial Park to Alaska; Laura: 907-479-7948.
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:
λ Dyke Hyke: Crow Pass/Raven Glacier, 9:00am, meet at Bona Dea Women's Bookstore. 337-0253
λ AUUF Services, 9:00am (“Highlights of the U.U. General Assembly,” Ruth Dickens & Fred Hillman) & 10:30am (“Gay Pride, Inside and Outside,” Doug Frank), 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 of Gay Men's AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
λ Northern Exposure Bowling League, no gutter balls 'til Sept!

λ Pride on the Parkstrip, 1:00-5:00pm, West end of the Park Strip at the Rose Garden, info, entertainment, booths, food, etc., call Beth 277-9763

λ Anchorage Lesbian Families' Alliance (ALFA), on vacation til September, Mary and Val Jeannie's, 276-3478
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun. 26, Mon:
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

Jun. 27, Tues:
λ PFLAG Juneau Meeting, noon, Mendenhall Mall/Valley Library, 907-462-4205 for information.
λ Identity Board Meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF, Room A
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm, 566-1133

Jun. 28, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
λ Updated AIDS 101, 6:30-9:00pm, for all old and new volunteers. Call 4A's for information, 263-2050.
λ Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
λ MCRQ Meeting, 7:00pm, Juneau, 907-586-6623 (info)
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
λ "In The Life," KTOO, 11:00pm. Gay Pride

Jun. 29, Thurs:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 5:30pm, 566-1133
λ AIDS Helpline Training, 6:30-8:30pm, for all old and new volunteers. Call 4A's for information, 263-2050.
λ Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm (Juneau), 1-907-463-5688 for information
λ 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., #5, 258-5266
λ Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

Jun. 30, 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 of Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30-9:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
λ Welcome to Fairbanks Party, 8:00pm, Big Blue Warehouse. Michelle & Linda: 907-479-2343
λ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskanLand

July 1, Sat:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1133
λ The Family (UUA), call Kimberly for Time & Loc, 786-4959
λ Women's 2-Step, resumes in the Fall
λ KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music, Fairbanks)
λ Alaska Women's Music Festival VII (women only), 6:30pm, Moose Mountain Ski Resort. Louise: 907-479-0618
λ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskanLand

July 2, Sun:
λ AUUF 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 of Gay Men's AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
λ Alaska Women's Music Festival VII (women only), 2:00pm, Moose Mountain Ski Resort. Louise: 907-479-0618
λ Northern Exposure Bowling League, reset in Sept.
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
λ Alaska Women's Music Festival VII (women only), Annual Softball Challenge, Moose Mountain Ski Resort. Louise: 907-479-0618
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

July 3, Mon:

λ Alaska Women's Music Festival VII (women only), Annual Softball Challenge, Moose Mountain Ski Resort. Louise: 907-479-0618
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

July 4, Tues:
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

July 5, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
NorthView Deadline

July 6, 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 907-463-5688 for information
- Equal Meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF. Dan: 274-9226
- 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
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

July 7, 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.
- Outdoors—Gulkana River Trip, contact Kathy: 907-455-6358
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand

July 8, Sat:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00, 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 AlaskaLand

July 9, 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, split ’til Sept.
- Anchorage Lesbian Families’ Alliance (ALFA), on vacation ’til September, Mary and Val Jean’s, 276-3478
- Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

July 10, Mon:
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Gay Bar, 7:00-8:30pm, Legal Q&A, bring questions & concerns, Allison or Lisa, 279-5001

July 11, Tues:
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

July 12, Wed:
- Free HIV TEST at 4A’s, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
- 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. S3 Cover

July 13, 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 907-463-5688 for information
- 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
- Gay, Joyous & Free AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave. (non-smoking)

July 14, Fri:
- PLWA lunch, 4A’s, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050
- AGLA Fairbanks, 6:30pm, Jenna: 907-479-3183
- 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

July 15, 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
- Feminist Sing-a-Long, 6:30pm, potluck; 7:30pm singing, 1741 Westview Cir., Carol or Fran, 337-3543
- The Family (UAU), call for Time & Place, Kimberly, 786-4959
- Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand

July 16, 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.
- AGLA Sunday Chat, 1:00pm. Richard Collins'. Jenna: 907-479-3183.
Identity NorthView

July 17, Mon:
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

July 18, Tues:
◊ PFLAG Fairbanks Monthly Meeting, for time & place call 907-459-8629
λ SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 8:00pm; call 566-1133

July 19, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Ste. 102, 263-2059
◊ Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
λ Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00pm, service, 615 Hollywood Dr., 258-5266
λ PFLAG Southcentral, 7:00pm, AUUF, Fred: 562-7161 or Sylvia: 562-4992
◊ "Women's Prerogative," KTOO FM, 9:00-10:00pm, Juneau
λ Blue Moon Follies. 10:00pm, $3 Cover

July 20, Thurs:
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 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)

July 21, Fri:
λ PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Ste. 102, 263-2059
λ Identity Potluck, "Gay Art on Tape: Video Review," presented by Bona Dea Women's Bookstore, 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! 9:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand

July 22, Sat:
λ 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
λ Women's Coffee House, on hiatus 'til the Fall
◊ Dancing in Fairbanks! 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand

July 23, Sun:
λ AUUF 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, no gutter balls 'til Sept!
λ Anchorage Lesbian Families' Alliance (ALFA), on vacation 'til September, Mary and Val Jean's, 276-3478
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

July 24, Mon:
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

July 25, Tues:
λ AUUF 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, no gutter balls 'til Sept!
λ Anchorage Lesbian Families' Alliance (ALFA), on vacation 'til September, Mary and Val Jean's, 276-3478
λ Gay, Joyous & Free, AA Meeting, 7:00pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.

July 26, Wed:
λ Free HIV TEST at 4As, 2:00-4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Ste. 102, 263-2059
◊ Social at Summit Lounge, after work (Juneau)
◊ MCPRTF Meeting, 7:00pm, Juneau, 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

July 27, Thurs:
λ 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
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)

July 28, Fri:
λ PLWA lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Ste. 102, 263-2059
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.
◊ AGALA Dance Fairbanks, 10:00pm, Dog Mushers' Hall on Farmer's Loop. Jenna: 907-479-3183
Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand

July 29, Sat:

\* SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00; call 566-1153

\* KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music), Fairbanks

\* Women's Coffee House, on hiatus 'til the Fall

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

July 30, 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!

\* Anchorage Lesbian Families' Alliance (ALFA), on vacation 'til September, Mary and Val Jean's, 276-3478

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

July 31, Mon:

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

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Bosnia

The tears of a woman tell of winter madness.
Too long her season of pain, her cries, repeated in rapid-fire sequence from the mouths of young girls whose innocence has been shattered by hard, warring marches through sacred landscapes.

They whisper winter madness in the open market where freedom sells for a fortune and in darkened recesses where life is defined by the firmness of girls-bodies after the march.

Winter madness reflected in pools of blood, shed in the name of piety, cloaked in miserable God-states run by want and poisonous need.

The tears of a woman tell of winter madness and lost hope.

Forgotten names careening non-stop off of minds locked tight with fear as legs are prised open again and again to accommodate victory.

Oh the tears; the tears of a woman glisten with Winter Madness.

Monalesia Earle

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Deadlines: All articles must be received by the 5th of the month for inclusion in that month's NorthView.
Music Festival is a Winner
by Barbara J. Soule

Linda Kellen and the One World/One People International Women's Choir accomplished the Amazon task of organizing the Alaska Women's Festival of the Arts extravaganza. Starting at eleven thirty Saturday morning, June 3, on the main stage, there was a stop-motion stop-grade music and vocal in just about every musical variation.

The program began with the original music and lyrics of Lisa Parker. Lisa's stage presentation is polished and professional, tempered by a little of her droll, mid-western "down home" folksiness. Her vocal range is broad, clear, and carries quite a torch singing the blues. The next up, Mary Shaltlett, was a treat.

She is a folk and bluegrass musician of varied skills. Mary plays guitar, violin, autoharp, mandolin, banjo, and piano. She sings like a ray of sunshine. Ms. Shaltlett and three young women, including the Wildflowers, came together for a fine bluegrass medley of music. Wendy Wroth and her lovely talented daughter, Jesse, are a better-than-ever duo. Wendy's bell clear lyric soprano improves with age. On and on, through the day, one woman after another presenting wonderful entertainment. I was impressed.

The Sky Is Blue no longer exists, but Ms. Hoppi Hopkins has gone on her musical way. Hoppi's singing has improved dramatically with clearer vocals while not losing the vibrato that is one of her unique vocal signatures. Kim Acuna is back in the community after a five-month song-writing hiatus. Kim presented both creative new material and old favorites. Since Ms. Acuna's return, she has published a songwriter's newsletter and organized a songwriter's forum.

Later on, the International Women's Choir gave a well-done, vocal presentation retaining their commitment to presenting a sampling of musical styles from many cultures. The lively and energetic Umoja dancers took our breath away.

In the evening, the bands came and the clans gathered for slick smooth sounds of Side FX, the all-out rock and roll of Beyond Basic and starburst pulse of the new Hoppi & Co. until after midnight. After the bands, the impromptu guitar jam went on until four in the morning.

My Sunday morning latte ritual was accompanied by the sweet serenade of Maureen Suttman. She has me pegged as the Amazon who consults the oracle. Two years ago, Maureen was my roommate singing and playing the guitar in her room alone. One night, I said, "Hey, that sounds good enough for the women's music festival." Maureen's eyes got as big as round as a doe caught in the headlights, her mouth went sideways and she cracked, "Not in a million years!" Cowabunga, look at Suttman, now!

For the traditionalists, there was a violin and flute, semiclassical interlude by Mari Jamieson and Kay Fuller in our forest cathedral. This was followed by a heart beat drum and violin, new age, untraditional composition. The folk anthems by the Monaghan's, Eileen and Peggy, who are sister-in-law's, enhanced our Sunday reverie. Kippy Lanz, as always, gets to the heart of the matter with her soul stirring voice. During the intermission, Amrita had us get in touch with our bodies, stimulate our endorphins by unusual exercises and led the group into deep meditation so that we not forget our divine origins.

Diane Hall and her Mostly Harmless Band, Joanne and Meg, provided a lively afternoon of Melissa Etherage, Indigo Girls and their original music. It is good to have Diane and Joanne back in town again. While she was gone, Joanne said she's been in almost every Gay bar on the West coast, as well as a few of the straight bars.

Over all the music was impeccable. How Linda Kellen managed to pull it all together with having to change the site of the festivities in the middle of the preparation, may never be explained. The site is quite rustic, and I'm sure presented some formidable obstacles for the handicapped.

Elaine Giles set up the sound system and did her usual amazing audio magic. Members of the International Women's Choir cooked food, organized Towanda to provide security and directions for the event. If you weren't there you missed a great community happening. There were vendors with quality products, arts, crafts, and face-painting to please the youngsters and the inner child. Linda Kellen insisted this is the First Annual Women's Festival of the Arts. I hope Ms. Kellen still says the same thing once she's gotten a good night's sleep and recovered from the weekend. A big thanks to the One World/One People International Women's Choir.

Barbara Soule is a Lesbian artist, who loves a whole range of music.

Don't Look the Other Way

A significant new documentary by Debra Chasnov and Helen Cohen, focuses on preventing homophobia among elementary school children. The film, Don't Look The Other Way, is aimed at parents and teachers and it makes a compelling case that children should be taught to respect all people, including Lesbians and Gay men, as part of their early education.

For more information about this courageous project, contact: "Don't Look The Other Way" % SPL Group, 99 Colton, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Thanks to the GLAAD Dispatch-Bulletin, June 1995.
The Albums of Potter's Lane  
(Recalling)  
by Dan Cook  
Part 26  
"The California Family"  

The Commodore made sure Cha Cha and her guest had the keys to the city—one great party followed the other. Cha Cha was no fool, she knew he had something up his sleeve.

The morning before they sailed out of Vancouver the yacht club threw a wonderful breakfast and asked Cha Cha to judge the 1939 Canadian Cup Regatta held in Vancouver. Could Cha Cha bring a couple of movie stars as well? And please ask your friends, please.

She told the Commodore it wouldn’t be easy and if she were able to grant his wish her agency would expect a little something, of course. Even though she knew her friends loved great press and would jump at a chance to push their latest film, she wasn’t going to miss a chance to make a bundle.

Once again, yachts tugged their horns and rang their bells as they slipped into Georgia Strait. Cha Cha could hardly believe her good fortune: she would come back next summer with the Lady and it would all be on the Commodore. For the next seven days it was pure leisure—shopping at ports recommended by the Yacht Club in picture-perfect hamlets with Mama/Papa cafes featuring seafood and homemade pies.

They circled Vancouver Island and the album marked 1938 was packed with photos of wild life, beachcombing or having high tea on the high seas.

Victoria, Canada. The beautiful Empress Hotel had its own dock and customs officer. The horse-drawn surreys with top-hatted drivers met the Lady as she docked even though it was only a couple hundred feet away. This was a dream hotel and the key word was elegance and service. Each room had a basket of fruit and cheese, fresh flowers and a canopied four-poster bed. All that and the rich paneling combined with thick oriental rugs screamed money.

There was also a dress code. Dinner was black or white tie, ladies in evening gowns, no street wear permitted. The high tea was a little more relaxed. Blazers and slacks for the men and cocktail length dresses for the ladies. Very hoity-toity, Fingers thought. Nonetheless, they were all thinking one thing—and the conversation kept going back to the island.

By the time they sailed into Seattle, Victoria had Mike convinced she would have a complete layout in a couple of months for Mike’s approval: blueprints for a lodge that would include landscaping and whatever it would take to make the island a wonderful getaway for them all.

Victoria was going to do everything in her power to keep the last member of her family happy.

As soon as Mike got to the dock he called the ranch as he always did. But this time the news was Steve’s sister had passed away after childbirth. She had a couple of miscarriages since 1933, so Mama Lane had been in Iowa to help her daughter for the last month hoping she wouldn’t lose this baby. But she had lost her daughter instead. The religion her daughter belonged to wouldn’t allow a blood transfusion. She had pleaded with her son in-law but he said no. Now Mama needed Papa, Steve and Sister.

Steve made all the arrangements that day. He flew into Boise and flew his family out the following morning to Des Moines then took the train to Ames. By the time they got there the funeral was over and Mama was a wreck. What made it worse was her son-in-law wouldn’t allow mama to hold her only grandchild, a baby girl. It was something about not being a “witness.”

Mike was in Boise eight days later to pick up Steve. But the worst was yet to come. They would have to return two months later for Papa’s funeral.

Mike and Steve put their collective foot down and finally convinced Mama to come to the ranch—doctor’s orders. Mama and Mrs. Holt were good friends. Sister had to stay, after all she was a school teacher, and besides someone had to take care of the boarding house.

Everyone needs a good buddy and Papa had been Mama’s. If Mama wanted to talk girl talk her best buddy for that turned out to be Mrs. Holt. It took a couple of months but mama’s “oh my’s” slowly came back with the help of Mrs. Holt. She started Mama out by collecting eggs, then shelling peas or collecting blackberries. Mama was in her element in the kitchen and keeping her hands and mind busy made for a quick recovery. During her quick stay she kept looking at and playing with all the newest gadgets in the kitchen. She told Mrs. Holt if she had all this she would open a pastry shop.

Now that went right to Steve and Mike. It only took a phone call to Sister and she agreed it would be great for Mama and give her a reason for living. Mike and Steve didn’t even give it a second thought, they told sister to get a contractor and have him call the ranch.

Mama had a project, but the year 1938 was a very full year. Victoria had sent three different sets of blueprints complete with landscaping all very grand—only to have Mike and Steve send them back. "Far too grand Victoria."

Her idea of a summer home was to be able to invite thirty or more guests, feed, house and entertain them. Everything was massive, but they left her know what they did like and most of it was wonderful. They were the first to compliment her and the designer. They compromised a lot. She wanted reflection pools, instead they would drain the pond, clean it out and landscape the area. The same for the lagoon. She thought a lighthouse at the entrance would look wonderful. Mike said lagoon lights but not a lighthouse. Fourteen bedrooms went to six, the ballroom was out and so were the stables, but the waterwheel went to the waterfalls to make their own electricity was in. To cut down the bugs Mike agreed to have the forest cleared and landscaped one to two hundred feet back from the lagoon. Victoria had to work with that. Her idea of a Mediterranean Villa on Puget Sound would have to be trimmed down.

They had to admit every time a new set of prints arrived that did make their day. Mike would get on the phone and invite their John Day Gay family over for dinner. Steve, Brisk, Roland, Etta and Robert loved big and grand while Mike, Charles, Mary, Bob, David and Parry felt a summer home should be more cozy. The conservatives usually won, but there were some draws. Victoria found ways around all of them.
The cruise last year put two elegant and rich ladies together. This combination was written in the stars if you believe in that. Before Cha Cha and Vince left Seattle the Captain, with the help of Cha Cha, Vince and Victoria went shopping for Victoria’s yacht. They ended up with two, one was almost the splitting image of the Pink Lady, the other was a derelict ferryboat she thought would make a good builder’s workshop, barge and sleeping quarters for the contractors' employees. It had its own electrical power (a floating generator) and would be able to take the heavy equipment and materials they would need. After the house was built she would decide what to do with it.

The Captain told her she could hire a crew for her yacht on a day-to-day basis through an agency. But Roland and Charles told her about their friends who had gone to California from Astoria: they had their own fishing boat and wanted to move back to the northwest, maybe they would help.

Victoria flew down to California to be with Cha Cha over the Christmas Holidays, 1938. They drove to San Pedro and met Nick, Joe and their adopted little brother Neal (single, 25 and their bait man). Victoria didn’t have to think twice—she liked them on first sight. They could fish out of Bellingham, WA and be her crew whenever she wanted. Three handsome Italians and all gay.

February, 1939. Nick, Joe and Neal had all their belongings in Bellingham and were now taking Victoria for her weekly trip to the island.

Cha Cha and Victoria christen the yacht “The Sisters.”

Back in John Day the clinic had one emergency after the other. Miss Fenny, one of the mustard ladies passed away in her sleep; Mr. Gibbons lost his life in a car accident, and Miss Millie, Mona’s soda jerk, was P.G. and didn’t know who the father was. This was making a lot of young men and their families very nervous so Parry and Mike helped her abort which went against everything they had been taught. But a lot of young men and their parents could breathe a lot better.

Lucy and Carl’s children had all graduated and left them for the big city life, except for her youngest daughter who was working at the clinic. Now she wanted to get her nursing certificate in California. Lucy and Carl were not happy campers. There would be no one to help them.

The Kroggers were moving to Tillamook this summer. They thought it would be a better place for their cheese company—there were a lot of dairies there.

The winter socials were not as upbeat as they usually were. But on the other side of the coin, the ranchers and farmers had a great year. Prices were at an all-time high so there was good news.

Then there were Bob, David and Robert who had turned the Party house into a home, with kitchen garden and all. These three were in love with life.

The three plus Charles, Roland, Parry and Brisk were all invited to Bellingham and the island by Victoria. She couldn’t be there but her crew would act as hosts. This was in May 1939. Everyone standing on the second deck promenade of Victoria’s yacht. The Sisters.

The guys swimming in Indian Cove, clamming and also, one of all of them standing in a human pyramid—
taken by Parry.

This one outing would tie friendships together for decades. Mike and Steve’s family had grown step by step—each link having its own beauty and strength—and that bond becoming stronger each year.

Victoria was becoming a loving and caring sister, not only to the women but to the men as well. She finally had a family to grow old with and she would never let anyone or anything destroy what had only been a dream, a little girl’s biggest wish.

Turning the page...

Cherresse AKA Dan Cook was Empress I of Eugene, Oregon, Empress 18 of all Alaska and very active in Gay politics over a long period of time.

(Note: if you’ve been following the saga of Steve and Mike and are missing sections of the storyline, please write or call Cherresse, who will send the missing sections at no charge.)

I don’t know what came over me. This morning I almost put on a floral-print dress.
Where in the World?
by Bob DeLoach

Go West young man, or woman

West Hollywood that is. This entire month the city of West Hollywood (CA) is celebrating 25 years of pride with the Christopher Street West festivities. CSW is a non-profit educational organization which has for the past 25 years striven to create a forum for education aimed at positive change in our society. The name comes from the famous Christopher Street in NYC and the famous “Stonewall Riots” of 1969. The events started in Hollywood in 1970 a year after the raids and were moved to their current home in West Hollywood in 1979.

This year participants include TV star Judith Light and author Patricia Neil Warren who will be the co-grand marshals of what promises to be the biggest proudest parade ever, which kicks off Sunday June 25. Special presentations are planned by the City of West Hollywood, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) and Capitol Drugs. Why not plan to take part in this all-out display of Gay pride throughout the City.

West Hollywood is one of the Gayest cities in America. Most of the happening Gay places, bars, hotels and everything else is in this city. Even stores you wouldn’t expect to be all that Gay, like the hardware store on Santa Monica Blvd. is a real trip. You’ll find everything you need to fix up your pad as well as wild and crazy things for decorating. The customers of this hardware store are really fun to cruise with some on the best builds I’ve ever seen on a handyman, and with some of the skinniest short shorts on them as well. Gay bars of all types are just a short stroll along the main boulevard as well as some fantastic side streets containing some of the most expensive real estate in America. Gay and Gay-friendly is the norm in West Hollywood.

Accommodations range from a quaint bed and breakfast one block off Santa Monica Blvd. to opulent suites renting for $2,000.00 per night. One is just as likely to spot a film or TV personality in the elevator or dining room of one of these great hotels as other Gay brothers and sisters in this fun fun city. West Hollywood also makes a great base for touring all the attractions like Universal Studios, Knott’s Berry Farm and that mouse place—all just a short drive south of town.

Southern Decadence Weekend

Planning a little farther ahead to Labor Day, why not consider a New Orleans weekend September 1-4. On Friday you arrive in the city and that evening enjoy a welcome cocktail party at the Queen’s Head Pub. For the rest of the evening you can get acquainted with some of more than 20 bars in the French Quarter and enjoy free drink coupons. On Saturday at a reasonable hour of 2:00pm it’s off to cruise (as in a boat) on the mighty Mississippi river with shows, disco and other live entertainment. The evening is free to re-visit that great bar you discovered last night. On Sunday it’s the all day Decadence Parade which wanders from bar to bar and ends up on Bourbon Street. Monday noon enjoy the “Queen’s” Jazz Brunch and make that last visit to your favorite bar (they’re all open 24 hours day). Price of the weekend is $269.00 per person double. Airfare is not included.

Cow Girls Special

The N-Bar Ranch is a working horse-and-cattle ranch in Northwestern New Mexico. It borders the Gila National Forest. This ranch offers women-themed weeks like: Back to the past week where 1890’s dress and wide open attitude is the rule, or, Posse Week for a heart pounding, butt busting, horseback adventure on 78,000 acres in which outlaws try and elude the persistent posse. Each team carries their supplies with them so that they can travel fast, and shoot the outlaws with laser loaded weapons. There is provision for those who just want to sit and rock with a good book or a friend. Three delicious home-cooked meals are served each day.

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.
O'Brady's is proud to feature Full Sail Nut Brown Ale on tap this month. Full Sail is one of Oregon's premier micro-breweries.

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Limit one coupon per person per visit please. Offer not valid with other offers, discounts or promotions. Contributions are sent to Identity, Inc. on an irregular schedule based on redemption traffic. Maximum value $5.75. Expires 7/15/95, N.V.

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