# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albums of Potter's Lane (Mike &amp; Steve)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review(s)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushville</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Spotlight</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classifieds</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Notes</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dandelion</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for <em>NorthView</em> Submissions</td>
<td>January 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directory</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emperor's Letter</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expiration Date</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslea Newman</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to the Editor</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masthead</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership/Pledge Form</td>
<td>Inside front cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obituaries</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potluck/Social</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queer Abby</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate Sheet</td>
<td>Back Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Identity NorthView

Identity NorthView is a monthly publication of Identity, Inc., a non-profit [501(c)(3)], Alaska 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, Tori Lentfer, Shirley Randall-Harris.


Distribution: the NorthView is mailed (non-profit, bulk mail) to members 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 receive 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 on 3.5 or 5.25 diskette (IBM compatible 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 at 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.

Support the Gay and Lesbian Community

Tell Our Advertisers You Saw It In the NorthView

Do you appreciate having the Calendar of events published in NorthView? Do you really feel it serves a useful purpose? Did you know it will disappear from NorthView unless we find a person willing to take it over?

That's right! After 3 years of gathering the information and putting it together, Tori wants to serve in other ways. So, you are looking at the last Calendar to appear in NorthView unless someone comes forward NOW!

Will that someone be you?

Contact Ruth at 563-1324 to volunteer.
Editorial
“Say the Secret Woid”
by Ruth Mathes

Is there something about December which makes you grit your teeth and silently vow to make the next year an improvement over this past one? Do you secretly promise that it (the new year) will be more or better or easier or a zillion other different things?

I am doing that. I am making that vow, and the word I am using is slower. I am promising myself that, come hell or high water, this year I am going to slow down. I am going to stop and smell the roses whenever and wherever I can.

I am going to do this because I am afraid that I will miss something important if I do not. I am afraid I will miss ... the sound of a raven’s wings on sub-zero air just above my head as I reach for the mail ... the warmth of a compliment that I am not supposed to hear ... the look of deep happiness on the face of my lover as we dance.

I know there are deadlines and emergencies and crises aplenty to grab my attention and absorb my thoughts. But I must not let them obscure that precious breath of air which, I am discovering, makes everything else pale by comparison. I think that I will just take a moment now and wish that wish for everyone I know. I wish for each of you the gift of SLOW!

Have a safe and serene holiday.
And remember -- in the immortal words of Mahatma Gandhi -- “There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.”

Identity, Inc.
Fourth Friday Potluck & Social

Join Identity at its celebrated Fourth Friday Potluck & Social. Bring a dish, whether soup, salad, entree, deviled eggs, hors d’oeuvres, fruit, bread, desert, chips, dip, pizza, etc. Identity provides the drinks: tea, coffee, punch. Admission is free but we cheerfully accept donations.

Date: Friday, December 22

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

Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street

Program: “Marg & Ruth Christmas Caroling indoors and outdoors (weather permitting)”

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., 1995/10. If your renewal is due in the near future, please help paperwork and postage-wise--send it early.

We are struggling to continue our activities, which include the NorthView, the monthly Potlucks 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!

Many Thanks!

ALTA’S
BED and BREAKFAST
11.5 Mile Elliott Highway

457-0246

P.O. Box 82920
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
Pete Pinney, Proprietor
Women's Coffeehouse
by Barbara J. Soule and Candy Bonham

Mark January 13, 1996 on your calendar as a winter interlude night of rhythm and blues at The Wave's Sociatic Tide, 8pm to 10pm. Organized by pianist Barbara Wish, the evening includes the expertise of Lisa Jamieson, Linda Kellen, Kippy and Donna (SideFX).

Erotic Poetry Contest Update: Some of the poetry contest information was missing in last Northview. Contest entrants may submit up to ten poems of any style or length no more than ten typewritten double spaced pages. Include a cover sheet with your name, address, contact phone number and title of poem(s). DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON EACH POEM.

Contest is open to Gays, Lesbians, Bisexual, Transsexual and their allies, including our P-FLAG supporters. Poetry must be turned in postmarked by February 1, 1996. Poems may be dropped off at Cyrano's Bookstore, 413 D St., mailed to Poetry Contest, c/o Identity, P. O. Box 200070, Anchorage AK 99520-0070, or given to Barbara Soule or Candy Bonham.

Winners will be announced, prizes awarded and winning poetry read during an Evening of Erotic Poetry, February 24, 1996, at The Wave's Sociatic Tide, 8pm to 10pm. First prize is one hundred dollars cash.

The Coffeehouse is still looking for performers or presenters for the March and April Coffeehouse. If you are interested or have an idea, call Barbara Soule or Candy Bonham at 337-2011.

Sleepless in Seattle
or Ken Went Where?
Part II

We know you want to hear how Ken is doing, so we're gonna tell you. He's doing better. He actually has a projected surgery date for January, and the prognosis is positive.

There is a down side... he will need more chemotherapy than was originally thought but some of that will be done in Anchorage. He will also need physical therapy on that arm. The happy news is that there will be an arm to do therapy on!

Ken's folks are with him, taking care of him, being with him, loving him. They are moving into an apartment and you can write to him there. The address is:

F. Kenneth Freedman
139 26th Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112

No, we won't give you the phone number, but, if you write to him and he wants you to have it, he'll tell you himself. Do write to him. He really does need to hear from all of you often. He misses us and he is homesick for us. (If you had left home for a week and wound up staying eight months, you'd be homesick too!)

Remember, he reads every word of this rag each month, so now he knows that you know where he is. No excuses... just do it!
Financial News
"Give The Gift of Saving"
by Chris Olson

My fellow investors: I am just gay with excitement over this year’s profits the stock market has bestowed upon us. Unbelievable gains have occurred in the last twelve months. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has soared past two century marks from under 3,600 to over 5,100 during this time. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out what your gain would have been if you had been invested during this period. Lumps of coal to you who did not invest anything. (You only hurt yourself by waiting but I will not say “I told you so”.)

Investments make wonderful gifts for friends, lovers, children, parents. You can give as little as $100 to a mutual fund in someone else’s name. I have one client who gives $25 per month as a perpetual gift to a friend. This is a great way to introduce someone to the world of investing. Over time this gift will grow to much more than its initial value. Most gifts are consumed, break, or wear out over time. An investment will double in 7 years if invested at 10%. If invested at 20% the gift will double in 3½ years. This is the rate of return many investors have seen this year.

Saving’s Bonds can be purchased at most banks. These are safe investments secured by the “creditworthiness” of the federal government. They are bought at half their value and mature to full value over time. The interest rate is low but is guaranteed not to sink too low. Opening a savings account is another gift idea. Gold and silver appreciate over time. These are very inexpensive gift in small quantities.

For larger amounts of $1,000 or more you can buy tax deferred annuities as a gift. Several of you can pool your money and give an annuity as a joint present. These investments grow, tax-deferred, until withdrawn at retirement.

Offer to start a college fund for a child. Deposit money into an existing college fund. This is always a welcome present to the parents of a young child.

I admit that I love my “things.” I am indeed a materialistic woman. I do have a hard time following my own advice: “Do not ever become emotionally attached to your things!” Giving an investment is a wonderful and pseudo non-materialistic way of expressing your holiday cheer. Try this once and see if you don’t just love the idea.

I look forward to 1996. What will the market have in store for us? All I can say is that I’ll be pleased if it continues to go up — I make money when it does. I will also be pleased if it goes down — that is the time to buy, buy, buy at bargain prices. Either way it is a win-win situation.

May you all have a warm and rich New Year.

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.

---

You yearn to ask religious questions in a place where scepticism and questioning are welcomed.
You’d like to be among thoughtful, friendly people who stick up for gay rights.
You’d appreciate joyful religious services that encourage our good instincts and offer inspiration to people of differing beliefs.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

See the Saturday religion page of the Anchorage Daily News for topics and speakers.
3201 Turnagain St., 248-3737. Informative recorded message: 248-0715.
COME ON OUT
(outdoors, that is)

If you’re gay, lesbian or bisexual and would enjoy getting together with other outdoorsy queer folk, we’d like to hear from you. We know there have to be lots of men and women out there who like to get out into the woods, but it can be hard to find them, can’t it? So here’s an opportunity to get out and have some fun with some kindred spirits.

The group is just getting started and the actual form it takes will depend on the ideas of those who join. The range of possible activities is as great as all outdoors: easy strolls, vigorous mountain climbs, backpacking, camping, fishing, cross-country and downhill skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking — its up to you. We’ll be depending on members to organize and lead activities, which will be listed in a monthly newsletter.

The group is being organized in the Mat-Su Valley but folks from any other area are also welcome to join. If you’re interested, give a call to Howie Peterson at 907-746-7778 or write to Out in Alaska, HC 2 Box 7810B, Palmer, AK 99645.

If you’d like to organize and lead an activity, write down a brief description of the event with day, date, time, level of difficulty, a contact person and telephone number and mail it to us. If we receive it by the 5th of the month, we’ll list it in a newsletter to be sent out around the 12th. Eventually (maybe sooner) we’ll ask for a donation to cover the cost of the newsletter.

We’ll have our first outing on Saturday, December 30th: cross-country skiing at the Crevasse-Moraine trails off the Palmer-Wasilla Highway. We’ll meet at the parking area at 1:00pm and ski (or hike, if there’s no snow!) for a couple of hours on the hilly trails, then stop somewhere for a hot drink. Call Howie at 907-746-7778 for more information or directions and let him know if you can provide a ride for others.

So, whether you’re just getting interested in the outdoors or have many years of experience, we hope you’ll join Out in Alaska. If you’re a beginner, you can gain experience in good company. If you’re an old hand, you can introduce others to your favorite activities and outdoor spots. Hopefully there will be a wide range of events, locations and levels of difficulty. Don’t stay shut up in your apartment, house, cabin or condo this winter — come join us for a fun remedy for those cabin-fever blues!

Howie Peterson is spearheading this new group in the Mat-Su Valley.

Getting Acquainted

At our last meeting on November 15, Dan Carter, as co-chair, gave a rousing and interesting description of EQUAL, its beginning, goals, gains and losses, and the work they are doing for the betterment of gays. Dan wore the banned T-shirt from Zimbabwe, illustrating their international thrust, and the P-Flaggers were fascinated with the aims and involvement of the group.

Next meeting will be an introduction to the 4As by Executive Director Arlene Ninzel, together with a brief sketch of her varied and interesting background. From its inception, the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association has been a leading institution of help for all those affected by the HIV virus and has been involved with and relied upon the help of the gay community.

Celebration

Together with the above program, at the December 21 meeting P-FLAG Southcentral will be marking the winter Solstice and celebrating the birthday of our local founder, Fred Hillman. The meeting will be on a Thursday (7:00pm), and the decision on regular meeting nights will be made that night. Everyone is welcome!

Youth Group

Kathy Shankle and Michelle Moon are facilitating the P-FLAG youth group and welcome all gay youth between ages 13 and 19. Contact Leon Webber (277-6888) for dates and times.

March March

Planning is going ahead for support of the March 19-20 P-FLAG march on Washington. Letters are being written in support of passage of ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) which is one aim of the march.

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

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Manager
Where in the World?
by Bob DeLoach

As promised last time, I have a report on Holland. Thanks to the Holland Board of Tourism, I enjoyed first-class passage on KLM to and from Holland, and then a 5-star hotel in that great country.

The service aboard KLM is great ... that helped to soften the 9 ½ hour direct flight from San Francisco to Amsterdam. Schiphol airport is a delight. It is one of the world's best airports and customs was quicker than I have experienced in most any other airport in the world. A short trip down the escalator and you are in the train station of one of Europe's finest train systems. You can virtually travel from your plane to the capitals of Europe starting from here. My first trip with the familiarization tour group was a speedy one to the seat of government in Holland: The Hague. Amsterdam is actually the capital, but the royal palace and all of the government buildings are located here.

Aside from its location near the sea and its fascinating buildings, the gay scene in The Hague is more like what one might expect in a small town in the US (worth a visit, but I wouldn’t want to live there).

From The Hague we visited the city of Delft, known the world over for its blue pottery. Some people call it porcelain, but in fact it is Holland’s attempt at Chinese porcelain and it is a very special pottery product. For the purist: you must have the true Royal Delft; the price is high with a small 3” high 1” square Dutch house selling for approximately $100. Larger pieces, if you have to ask, may not be in your budget. I enjoyed watching the hand-painting and various procedures in the manufacturing process.

From Delft we traveled to the ancient village of Thorn which was established as a village for women. Listen up girls -- the only men allowed were some hired hands provided by the military to protect them.

A favorite city I was able to visit was Maastricht, located on the border of Germany and Belgium and very continental in flavor. The narrow ancient streets are a shopper’s paradise with hundreds of shops located in 15th century buildings. One unusual sight in most of Holland’s cities is at the coffee houses where those so inclined can order marijuana off the menu. The price for large rolled joints with plastic mouth pieces is approximately $4.

Between Maastricht and Amsterdam are located many of the country’s saunas and health spas, as well as another favorite ... the city of Utrecht. A canal tour of this city is like a trip into the past with some of the most beautiful sights in Holland available for your perusal. A 14th century church with its 400’ bell tower is a great sight among many others.

Amsterdam is the featured attraction for gay visitors in Holland. There is much to be said about the city and it may well be the gay capital of Europe, as many have implied. There seem to be an endless variety of gay bars, pubs, clubs, and unique attractions, and the city seems to attract more than its share of the beautiful men and boys of Europe. But aside from these attractions the city offers some of Europe’s grandest museums and greatest feeling of “Europe as you always thought it should be.”

One of the greatest things the Holland Board of Tourism booked for us was something called a “Mystery Tour.” We each were given the grand sum of $25 in Dutch guilders (approximately $16.65 US), a first-class train pass good for the day, and a map of Holland. We were also given a list of places of interest in the country. Our goal was to see as many of the attractions as we could and, at the same time, make our way from Maastricht in the very southeast of the country to Amsterdam in the northwest. The whole point of the exercise was to show us just how easy it would be for an American to travel around, even though they did not speak the native language. I was very impressed with the helpfulness of the Dutch people, almost all of whom spoke English (even in the smallest villages), and the ease and safety with which one can travel through this great country.

Don’t forget the Gay Games which will take place in Holland in ’98. Consider Holland as a great ‘jumping-off point’ to the entire continent of Europe. For more information on this fascinating country, see your full service IGTA travel agent.

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

“I think extreme heterosexuality is a perversion.”
—Anthropologist Margaret Mead
Queer Abby,
I'm bisexual, much to the dismay of many of my friends. Sometimes I feel completely alone because they'll say I'm just afraid of coming out of the closet, but I really love both women and men. Each one is different, but I don't think I should have to choose lesbianism because it looks more unified and politically correct. To be really honest, sometimes I feel more connected to my best friend, who is straight, than to any of my other wimmin friends. Like she and I can talk about things like how we feel, and I'm not afraid of her getting biphobic and lecturing me when I talk about whoever I'm seeing. Plus, she's funnier and more easygoing. She taught her boyfriend how to check her for lumps.

How can I get my other friends to be more understanding?

V, Vancouver

Bi V,
I am happy to hear you have such a wonderful best friend and that sexual identity is not an issue. About your other friends: as our community grows, its members will become less afraid or unaccepting of people who aren't in any expected norm, plus get past some internalized phobias. Be patient with these friends, but also be resolute; talk about the woman you love, even if he doesn't have a vagina. You may hear sighs, groans, even curses, but soon you'll find out who makes love political instead of celebratory.

Don't bow down to your other friends' fears and biases. People who hate others for what they are usually hate that very thing about themselves.

Love, Abby
"Quality of Life is our Goal"

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OutSounds:
The Year In Gay Music 1995
by Will Grega

Year 1995 was a transitional year for gay and
lesbian music, but will be remembered as
perhaps the most important year for the
fledgling genre.

Mainstream artists continued to play the queer
card in 1995: k.d. lang, Melissa Etheredge, Boy
George and Elton John released the most forthcoming
music of their careers. Elton’s Top 40 hit “Made In
England” frankly addresses feelings about being a
“homo,” and was broadcast coast to coast. The
Village People’s “Macho Man” was turned into ad
jingle “Nach Man” for Old
El Paso chips, as their own
brand of subtle subversion of
the mainstream lives on.

Unprecedented support by
Billboard Magazine (the
Bible of the music industry)
for indie gay/les recording
artists continued, and included
stellar reviews for the
work of Grant King, Mitch
Gallab, Doug Stevens & The Outband, Diane Lind-
say, Tom McCormack, and a slew of others from our
community.

Fantastic new queer artists emerged in 1995, in-
cluding pop-rocker Jallen Rix, modern rock wizard
Paul Delph, white soul master Jeff Krassner, dance
diva Karel, metal vixen Jean Navarr, and lesbo rock-
ers Too F.I.N.E. Minds.

Major queer compilations hit the stores, including
A Love Worth Fighting For: A Celebration of Gay &
Lesbian Singer/Songwriters from Streeter Records,
and This Way Out, an urban/edge disc from Trip
Records.

Openly gay recording artist Keith Christopher
made television history as the first gay, HIV-positive
person to play an openly gay, HIV-positive character
on a daytime soap (Wyatt on Another World).

The Advocate established the Top Gay & Lesbian
Albums chart, based on sales from the Lambda Ris-
ing Bookstores.

Mainstream labels Atlantic and EMI took timid
steps into gay marketing, rejecting many indie artists
as either “too gay” or “not gay enough.” Go figure.

Gay & lesbian people buy 8 times as many cas-
settes and CD’s as the average consumer, spending
billions of dollars last year on hundreds of millions
of albums. Yet the major labels have yet to sign and
promote an openly gay male artist or band.

Will Grega is the author of the Gay Music Guide (Pop Front
Books).
GAY-RIGHTS ACTIVIST COUPLE FOUND MURDERED IN OREGON

ASHLAND, OR - The murder of a lesbian couple who fought an anti-gay rights measure last year has sent a shiver of fear and pain through their friends in gay and AIDS support groups.

Police discovered the bodies of Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill in the back of their pickup truck Thursday in neighboring Medford, and authorities were investigating whether their deaths were linked to their political activism.

"The gay community is rightly very concerned right now," said Medford police Sgt. Mike Moran. "But we have no real information pursuing the hate crime angle. We are also considering the possibility this could be a personal vendetta, a business grievance, and the less likely scenario of random crime."

Ellis, 54, and Abdill, 42, were domestic partners as well as partners in a property management business in Medford.

"To me they modeled how to live as active community members who were proud to be lesbians," said Brenda Brown, a lesbian activist and member of the board of directors of the Lambda Community Center Association.

On Monday, Ellis had an appointment to show a duplex apartment. She phoned her daughter, Lorri Ellis, several hours after the appointment to say she was going shopping.

That evening, Lorri Ellis drove by the apartment to check on the couple and told police she saw her mother's pickup drive away.

On Thursday afternoon, a cable television installer spotted the pickup in the parking lot of an apartment complex across town.

Taken from the December 9 Anchorage Daily News.

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT?

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Tragedy Averted
(The following article began as a personal letter from Steve Williams to a friend in Seattle. However, we feel it will be of interest to the community at large.)

There was a terrible accident this last weekend involving Lucian. He's "OK" but what happened was horrifying.

Lucian, Greg Johnson, Matthew Gurnett ("Windsong") and I were hiking in Fall's Creek. The hike is just 5 miles round trip but it's very steep the entire way, paralleling the creek. It was extremely muddy in the lower reaches, then some snow, then all snow. Maybe 5" - 6" deep at the end, at about the 3,000' level. But the trail is never level, always rising and on a day in the 30's it is very slippery.

We were maybe a half mile back when Matthew decided to cover some distance a little quicker by sitting down and sliding on the snow. He slid maybe a hundred feet, stopping near the edge of the gorge. So did I, so did Greg. But Lucian couldn't stop. He tumbled over a rocky outcropping then fell into the creek, maybe a 15' free fall. I saw him land face down in the shallow water, arms and legs outstretched just like in a belly flop.

Matthew was first to reach him and pulled him out of the water. He was bleeding profusely from a number of head wounds but was sort of conscious.

Within a minute, after leaving what clothes we could so Matthew could bundle him up (he was thoroughly soaked) and use what he could try and stanch the bleeding, Greg and I took off for the highway. We figured later it probably took us close to an hour to get out.

I ran right out onto the highway to flag down anybody I could get to stop, hoping for a cell phone. The very first four vehicles stopped and two had phones! Right from the first call to 911 I pleaded for a helicopter dispatch immediately, but they won't do that on request. It has to be checked out first, to ensure it's really necessary.

So there Greg and I sit...stand...pace...scared shitless as to what may be going on up there. Is he OK? That's impossible of course. Could Matthew stop the bleeding? Could Lucian walk at all? Was the appearance of the wounds worse than they actually were? Or...was he dead?

A State Trooper arrived within 15 minutes. Alone, there was nothing he could do but call for the Alaska Mountain Rescue team, an all-volunteer group with many members in Anchorage. It took more than an hour for the first person to show up, an hour and a half before they dispatched a 4-person team to go up. They decided from our description as to what had happened and what he looked like, the awfulness of the trail and the darkness--get that helicopter on its way!

The helicopter arrives. It shines an intense spotlight onto the creek where it enters Turnagain arm, then moves inland with the beam on the creek leading the way. In two minutes, he is over Lucian and the ground rescue team has also arrived. The helicopter (Air National Guard) lowers a medic, they stabilize him then lift him up and out, and it's off to Providence.

He did not break his skull; he did not suffer a concussion, he didn't even get a headache! Not then or later! But boy oh boy did he cut himself up. As the nurse "joked" with him, he was practically scalped--really. The worst of the wounds is a jagged break from above his right ear up to the center of the skull, then back and down to near the bottom of the left ear. He also damn near severed the right ear, from the back. There are numerous other smaller breaks in the skin and one deep cut in his forehead. Nobody counted, but we estimate 60 - 80 stitches in total.

It was a horrible, horrible accident. I can't imagine how he got off so "lucky." The three of us are emotionally exhausted--and he's joking around. "It was a Fall day; we went to Fall's Creek--but did I have to take it so literally?"

We can have nothing but the highest praise for Matthew. He is an absolute hero in what he did for Lucian. He kept his calm and performed incredibly well, using great common sense and doing all the right things, from working with the wounds properly--deciding to try to walk out with him. Bottom line, Matthew saved his life.
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
SYLVIA SHORT, ATTORNEY AT LAW
BY RUTH MATHES

Sylvia Short, longtime friend and ally of the Les/Bi/Gay community, greeted me at the door of her home and led me to her office. Coffee in hand, I juggled a pen and pad as she began to talk of her latest project: the “Death With Dignity” bill due in the Alaska House of Representatives in January.

IDENTITY: What brought you to a major level of involvement with this bill, Sylvia?
S.S.: In my association with the Community, I have been involved with AIDS patients who could have benefited from the humanity this bill would bring to all Alaskans. I have done a lot of work with wills and durable power of attorney documents, and I am aware of the high degree of interest in the Les/Bi/Gay Community.

IDENTITY: This sort of thing is really critical when one does not have a legal marriage partner to act as emissary, isn’t it?
S.S.: Absolutely. And this legislation covers more than the “living will” (no heroic) statements ever could. This is the opportunity for a terminally ill person in agony to end their life without government intervention.

IDENTITY: Is all this legal?
S.S.: A request for medication, which is previously arranged suicide, is not against the law. Assisting in a suicide is a Class ‘A’ felony, fully punishable by law.

IDENTITY: What is the prognosis of this bill, in your opinion?
S.S.: Our basic opposition is through the Roman Catholic Church and is led by Right-To-Life groups. However, Alaska stands a good chance of passing this bill, especially in light of our ‘privacy’ clause.

IDENTITY: Are there other states attempting this sort of legislation?
S.S.: Nine other states are considering bills similar to this one: New Mexico, New Hampshire, Maine, Colorado, California, Connecticut, New York, Washington and Oregon. Actually, Oregon passed a bill like this one, but there is pending litigation which has tied it up in court.

IDENTITY: Is this legislation being actively sought throughout the U.S.?
S.S.: A recent national survey indicated that over 70% of the American population is in favor of this legislation. All kinds of people see the need for some type of legislation which will sanction a private act of dignity without government intervention. High on the list are cancer patients and AIDS patients, but victims of catastrophic illness certainly can be counted among those who need this bill.

IDENTITY: Has this topic surfaced in other organizations with whom you work?
S.S.: I helped to start the “Hemlock Society” in Anchorage two years ago, and served on its first board of directors.

IDENTITY: I assume your private practice is still open. (I struggled into my coat and headed towards a sub-zero automobile.) What can I tell our readers which will drive them in herds to your doorstep?
S.S.: Well, I still do wills, durable (and regular) power of attorney documents, and legal counseling. I do a fair amount of work with 4As, the Senior Center, and the Women’s Resource Center, so folks need to make an appointment. Tell them I serve a potent cup of coffee, too!

Ruth Mathes is up to her antlers in greenery.

Angie Slingluff
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Telephone (907) 562-4992
Community Heroes:
Do you know any?

Earlier this year, America OnLine created a "room" in the Gay and Lesbian Community Forum allowing AOLers to "nominate" individuals to a position of "Community Hero." For many of us, 1995 has seemed to be a rougher year than others. I have reprinted some of the postings and hope you will add your own ideas to those following.

Subj: Heroes: UFMCC Rev. "Dusty" Pruitt
Date: 95-05-27 22:11:42 EST
From: MackTIII

After a 12 year battle Capt. Carolyn "Dusty" Pruitt finally was awarded a settlement by the Govt. In a ceremony on Saturday, May 27, in Long Beach, CA she was awarded a Major's gold oak leaves pinned on by her life partner and none other than Col Margarthe Cammermeyer. Many gay and lesbian veterans were in attendance as were media representatives.

Subj: The real gay and lesbian heroes
Date: 95-04-27 11:49:24 EST
From: WolfePax

The history of our movement will not be measured so much by the grand gestures of gay and lesbian activism. The courage it took to shut down Wallstreet or the Golden Gate Bridge Pales in comparison to the courage of one lone teenager in Muncie, or Durango, or Little Rock who comes out to his/her parents, friends, teachers, neighbors, and church. Those are the real heroes and our success will be measured by those innumerable individual acts of courage. We are only as strong as we choose to be visible, and nobody out there is fighting for anyone's right to remain silent and hidden.

Subj: Superheroes
Date: 95-04-18 20:10:34 EST
From: KathyWWW

(Please note: I use the word Gay inclusively: to mean homosexual, bisexual and transgendered people.)

Most Americans at some point in their lives have played at, or dreamed of being, a superhero. Who the superhero was depended mostly on when we were children: was it Roy Rogers or Dale Evans? Sky King? The Lone Ranger? Superman or Batman? Wonderwoman? A Power Ranger?

We've watched movies or read about World War II and the Holocaust and we've imagined that WE wouldn't have been Nazi supporters. WE would've been heroes, members of the Resistance, war heroes. WE would have helped the Jews like Schindler. If we'd been a Jew we would have resisted or fought back, like the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto.

When presented with Right vs. Wrong, the good guys vs. the bad guys ... if courage and risk taking is ever called for, WE'LL rise to the challenge, take a stand, make a difference. WE'VE never been able to understand about ordinary German citizens during the Holocaust who just minded their own business, did nothing, hoping someone else would take the chances, hoping SOMEONE ELSE would DO SOMETHING.

As Gay Americans in the 1990's, we have our chance to be heroes, even superheroes. On a daily basis we have opportunities to be courageous, take a stand, make a difference.

There are, I think, some clear cut issues of right and wrong at stake here and it's OUR Lives, OUR Rights, OUR future that's on the line ... as well as the lives, rights and future of other Gays across the country and around the world.

If there's one thing that Gay leaders and activists across the country agree on, it's the importance of coming out. From small town activists to leaders of the nation's largest Gay rights organizations we've heard it: the single most important thing Gay Americans can do is to come out. One of my heroes, Martina Navratilova, said it at the March on Washington in 1983. Yet many Gay Americans don't even come out to their own parents and families, let alone to coworkers, neighbors, classmates and strangers. It's too Hard, too Risky. Too Scary.

Here's the challenge, Gay America: Come OUT! Do it now. Do it everyday. Tell your parents, your coworkers, your friends and neighbors. Hold hands when it feels appropriate. Put a photo of your partner on your desk.

Call your Congresspersons or legislators and tell them your name, tell them you're Gay, that you're a constituent, and that you want. Better yet, go visit them. If you're a couple, go as one. Sit down, tell them what you do for a living, how old you are, where you live. Do you have kids? Tell them. Let them see the real people whose rights they're thinking of voting away. It'll take courage. It'll be hard. It will take time, effort and sacrifice.

That's OK. YOU'LL take the chance. YOU'RE Courageous. YOU'RE a Superhero, remember?

Think about it. Who in your life is a hero because of something she/he has done to help you or the gay community? In my case there are many. I will only list a few: Ken, Ruth, Doug, Joanne & Mariah, Rev. Jim, Wes, Mo, Rebecca, Rand, Carol and, pardon me for putting this person in a category by himself, but after almost 27 years of patiently putting up with me and trying to keep me 'straight', Al is my super hero!

Dan Carter is a local gay activist
The Pen is Mightier Than the Charge Card
by Lesléa Newman

I'm sitting in front of the TV weeping at the sight of that Michelin baby up to his double chin in tires.

"Hey, Flash," I say, "let's have a baby. She would be so cute, with my hair, your eyes...."

"Have you forgotten that two dykes cannot a baby make?" Flash always was a stickler for details.

"Hey, cheer up. I'll take you on a field trip tomorrow."

The next morning I am up early, dressed in a short black dress and low suede heels. Flash drives to the outskirts of Lesbianville and pulls up to a store called The Joy of Toys.

"Oh, Flash, you devil. I have been trying to get my ex-nun to a sex shop for years. But we're not talking sex toys here. We're talking toy-toys. And mothering gadgets. Breast pumps, not tit clamps. Rubber pants, not edible underwear. Books like Ten Tricks to Keep Your Child in Bed, not Ten Tricks to Keep Your Lover in Bed. Oh, but the babies: Twelve babies screaming, eleven babies shouting, ten babies crying, nine babies drooling, eight babies burping, seven babies belching, six babies pooping, f-i-v-e s-e-t-s o f t-w-i-n-s. Four grabbing babies, three kicking babies, two spitting babies, and one baby barfing on my shoe.

I give my baby a look that says get me out of here. "Thanks a lot, Flash," I rub my heel. "These shoes are ruined."

"Just a little dose of reality, dear."

I suppose Flash is right. The point isn't whether I want a baby or not. The point is I'd make a lousy mother. Which reminds me for the millionth time, I don't really want to be a mommy. I want to have a mommy.

"Flash," I say, "my mother hasn't called me in six months."

"So? Your dialing finger isn't broken."

"You're right," I say. "I'm a lousy daughter."

"It's never too late to have a happy childhood."

Flash reads the bumper sticker on the Subaru in front of us. I take that as a sign to mend my relationship with my mother. I'll call her once a week, like a good daughter should. Sunday afternoon rolls around, and I still haven't dialed. Flash points to the phone at 4:59. We both know I'll never call after 5 once the rates go up. I sit down on the couch and call.

"Hello?"

"Hi, Ma."

"I think you have the wrong number." She hangs up. "I'm still here."

"Hello? Who is this?"

"Your daughter."

"Oh, it's you. I didn't recognize your voice."

(Translation: my child hasn't called me in so long, I've forgotten what my own flesh and blood sounds like.) "So, what's new?"

"Um...well, Flash and I went to Maine last weekend."

"How was the weather?"

The weather? My dating and I never emerged from our hotel room long enough to find out, which was the whole point of getting away. "It was okay."

"It didn't rain? Here it was very wet all weekend."

There it was very wet all weekend, too, but I doubt my mother wants to hear about that. I change the subject. "Ma, I'm going on a book tour for my anthology of les...."

"Rain, rain, rain, from Friday to Sunday," she interrupts.

"...bian love poems," I finish my sentence. They're sending me to New York, Chicago, Denver, L. A...."

"It's very cold in Chicago. They have that wind that comes off the lake. And Denver I think they have snow already. L. A. is nice, if they don't have an earthquake...."

I change the subject again. "What did you do this weekend?"

"Oh, it was a nice weekend. There was a drop or two of rain, but nothing to talk about really...."

"Then why are you talking about it? My beloved walks by my room, and I get an idea. "Ma, I gotta go. They're talking about Flash floods."

"Really? Those can be very dangerous."

"I know. I'll call you." I hang up, and Flash tries to console me. "Maybe things will go better when you call next week."

"Why would I call next week?"

"Because you said you were going to call your mother every week."
“I did?”
“You have to call next week,” she says. “Next Sunday is your mother’s birthday.”
“What should I get her? A storm chaser video from the weather channel?”
Flash thinks. “Why don’t you write a poem for her?”
“That’s not fair.” Flash knows I can’t refuse a writing assignment:
Everything I Need to Know about Life I Learned from My Mother
▼ If the shoe fits, buy three pair (in black, brown and navy).
▼ Talk is cheap (especially after 11 pm).
▼ There’s no such thing as a fat-free lunch.
▼ Beauty is in the eye of the beautician.
▼ If you don’t have anything to say, keep talking.
▼ A leopard-print skirt can never change its spots.
▼ Who cares if the glass is half full or half empty, as long as it’s from Tiffany’s?
I mail the poem and the following Sunday the phone rings. “Hello? Is this my daughter the writer?” I must be dreaming. I’ve waited ten years and twenty books to hear those words. “Why didn’t you ever tell me you were such a good writer?”
“You never asked.”
“So, I’m asking. What are you working on now?”
I’m working on a play. It opens with a punk dyke in a Pussy, Breakfast of Champions T-shirt telling the bouncer of the Clit Club how she fell in love with the lady who pierced her labia. I can’t possibly tell my mother that. “How’s the weather there?” I ask her. “Here it’s warm, hot really, in fact I’m schwitzing from just holding the receiver against my ear....”
Like mother, like daughter.
Leslea Newman is the author of twenty books and the editor of five anthologies. Her newest titles are The Femme Mystique and A Loving Testimony: Remembering Loved Ones Lost to AIDS.
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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.

91

In In re Guardianship of Sharon Kowalski, the Minnesota court of appeals awards guardianship of a woman severely injured in an automobile accident in 1983 to her lesbian lover over the objections of the woman’s parents. Kowalski’s lover, Karen Thompson, had demonstrated she was better able to care for Kowalski, the court ruled.

Judge Clarence Thomas is confirmed as a Supreme Court justice after charges that he sexually harassed a female subordinate bitterly divides the nation.

In Barnes v. Glen Theatre Inc., commonly known as the Kitty Kat Lounge case, the Supreme Court okays Indiana’s ban on nude dancing.

In Soroka v. Dayton Hudson Corp., a California appeals court rules that requiring job applicants to take psychological tests that include questions about sexual orientation violates their privacy rights.

In Schowengerdt v. United States, a federal appeals court refuses to reinstate a civilian defense worker who was fired after supervisors found swinger magazines and evidence of his bisexuality in his desk.

92

Colorado voters pass Amendment 2, an addition to the state constitution that would repeal gay rights laws on the books in three cities and prohibit the enactment of such laws in the future. A similar statewide measure fails in Oregon. Implementation of the Colorado measure is delayed while it’s challenged in the courts.

NGRA -- once one of the nation’s wealthiest gay groups but now more than $200,000 in debt -- ceases operations.

Aileen Wuornos, said to be America’s first lesbian serial killer, is sentenced to death in Florida.

Jeffrey Dahmer is convicted of raping, killing, and cannibalizing 15 young men and boys in Milwaukee.

In In re Jacobson the Supreme Court voids the child-pornography conviction of a Nebraska farmer who was ensnared by a federal sting operation.

In Gay Men’s Health Crisis v. Sullivan, a New York supreme court judge strikes down a congressional ban on federal funding for AIDS education materials that explicitly discuss homosexuality.

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

Anchorage Gay & Lesbian HELPLINE

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Lesbian/Gay Community
VISA Card Users Top 10,000

Uncommon Clout! VISA card users get the personal satisfaction of knowing that they help local and national non-profit organizations each time they make a purchase. And as of Feb. 1, they have the satisfaction of knowing that their "strength in numbers" exceeded 10,000, according to Jim Nathan, founder and president of the McLean Va., based organization which began only six months ago.

"When the card was first introduced we had no idea it would be this popular this quickly," said Nathan. The company donates 10 cents to gay- and lesbian- groups each time the card is used.

Users Choose Beneficiaries
Unlike other "affinity" cards which usually benefit only one organization, the Uncommon Clout card yearly contribution is determined by users who in January are sent ballots on which they indicate which organizations they want to receive donations.

Among the 82 choices for 1994 are national non-profits such as P-FLAG, AIDS Action Foundation, In the Life, Lambda Youth Network, National Center for Lesbian Rights, and LLEGO. Other organizations on the roster are health- and AIDS-related as well as cultural, educational, and political gay and lesbian groups.

Ballots are counted in March and organizations chosen receive contributions soon thereafter.

BUYcotting Newsletter
Along with benefits of no annual fees, low annual interest rates (current introductory APR of 9.9%) and domestic partner cards at no additional cost, users receive a free quarterly newsletter with "BUYcotting" information, which are tips that help cardholders target their purchases to goods and services offered by gay- and lesbian-sensitive corporations. The publication also rates companies by their policies that affect the gay and lesbian community.

Economic Clout
Touted as the great untapped market of the 90s by The Wall Street Journal, gay and lesbian shoppers have been the target of nationwide advertising, such television commercials by the IKEA furniture stores showing a gay couple in a "normal" family setting. Other companies tapping into this market are Saab, AT&T, Apple Computer and Virgin Atlantic Airways.

Community Supporters

In addition to annual contributions to more than 80 non-profits, Uncommon Clout sponsors have been active in a wide range of community events, including the June 1994 Gay Games in New York and various gay/lesbian expositions and pride celebrations across the country.

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Homophobia in Lesbian Health Care
By Katherine A. O'Hanlan, MD

"I've like putting your health in the hands of someone who really hates you." That's what one survey respondent said in a 1990 report on lesbian health care by Patricia Stevens, Ph.D., and Joanne Hall, Ph.D. Other quotes in the article paint an equally frightening picture of women who trusted a system that betrayed them. This is not totally surprising. Having attended medical school in the late '70s, I am acutely aware of how homophobic doctors can be. Classmates used to hiss and boo whenever I raised my hand to object to homophobic or misogynistic comments made by lecturing professors.

Nowadays, I teach medical students myself, and things are very different in my classroom. But in medical practice, homophobia is still rampant. In a 1986 survey of 930 San Diego doctors, for instance, 40% of them admitted that they were frequently uncomfortable providing care to gay or lesbian patients. The most homophobic doctors were involved in family practice and general medicine and in obstetrics and gynecology—the gatekeepers in any health maintenance organization. Nurses are not necessarily different: A Midwest nursing school faculty survey published in 1989 revealed that nearly half of the teachers thought lesbianism was unnatural and disgusting. Some believed that lesbians molest children.

In 1994 the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) surveyed its 13,000 members of U.S. and Canadian physicians and medical students and reported that more than half of GLMA physicians had observed their heterosexual colleagues providing substandard care to a lesbian or gay patient.

What does this mean for lesbians who are seeking health care? Sometimes it means they simply don't. A 1981 study by Patricia Robertson, MD, an obstetrician-gynecologist at the University of California, San Francisco, showed that lesbians typically wait nearly three times as long as heterosexual women before going in for their next Pap smear.

The bottom line is that it's important that you feel comfortable sharing information with your health care provider. If you are sexual only with women, for instance, but your physician is unaware of this, you risk receiving unreliable advice and tests that are unnecessary or inaccurately interpreted. If your provider knows you are a lesbian, she can focus on the health issues pertinent to you, avoid unnecessary lines of questioning, support your relationship in rough times, offer sexual counseling when necessary, and avoid referring you to homophobic colleagues.

Unfortunately, while 98% of GLMA doctors agree that accurate information about sexual behavior is essential to an effective health care relationship, two thirds also believe that patients do risk compromising the quality of their care in coming out to their doctors.

Lesbians deserve respectful care. Before seeking a new physician, it may be wise to get opinions from gay or lesbian friends. Another way to discern a physician's attitude about homosexuality is to call his or her office and ask: If the office personnel take your question seriously, you'll know you're dealing with people sensitive to your concerns. If they don't "get it," then you've saved yourself a trip. Another way is to choose one of the 1,600 gay and lesbian physicians who are GLMA members. For names of the doctors nearest you, call (415) 255-4547.

What are lesbian health issues?
Do lesbians have different health care needs than heterosexual women do? We think so, but there are no solid data to provide it. What we do have are multiple studies conducted over the past ten years suggesting that lesbians have a different health profile of risk factors (e.g., smoking, lack of exercise, toxin exposure, poor nutrition, and unprotected sex, all of which carry a mathematical probability for causing related diseases, such as cancer, heart attacks, or infections) compared with heterosexual women. Some studies suggest that lesbians weigh more than heterosexual women; abundant body fat has been associated with a higher risk of heart attacks and cancers of the breast, uterus, and colon. Studies also suggest that lesbians drink more alcohol and smoke more cigarettes than heterosexual women, implying that we are more at risk for heart attacks and strokes as well as cancers of the lung, breast, colon, and stomach.

Surveys also confirm that lesbians have fewer babies: About 15% to 30% of us have babies compared with 85% to 90% of heterosexual women. Why is that important? Because having completed one or more pregnancies reduces the risk of cancers of the breast, uterus, and ovaries. Long-term use of birth control pills has been associated with a lower risk of cancer of the uterus and the ovaries, but fewer lesbians need or take them.

Are these surveys correct? Do lesbians get more cancers of the breast, ovaries, or uterine lining? Do we get heart disease at an earlier age or more frequently? Exactly what is our health profile? The answers can come only from quality research, which is usually affordable only by governmental health research agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

There are, however, two encouraging developments on the horizon: The Women's Health Initiative (WHI)—an NIH-funded, 163,000-woman, eight- to 15-year study covering diet, exercise, hormones, bone density, and heart disease—agreed to add a question about participants' sexual orientation to provide a lesbian demographic profile. And the Nurses Health Study, an ongoing 20-year study of 21,000 nurses, will also stratify by sexual orientation. From these two studies we should soon get some important information about the actual cancer and heart attack rates among lesbians. Postmenopausal lesbians between the ages of 50 and 79 are encouraged to join WHI. Call (301) 402-2900 to find the WHI center nearest you.

O'Hanlan is associate director of the Gynecologic Cancer Service at Stanford University Medical Center and an assistant professor at Stanford University School of Medicine. Send your questions to The Advocate, P.O. Box 4371, Los Angeles, CA 90078-4371, or send a fax to (213) 467-6805.

Thanks to The Advocate, March 7, 1995.
Suggested Reading List, Lesbian & Gay Titles

Sociological/Historical
Lesbian Nuns Breaking Silence by Curb. True stories of courage, struggle and change;
Our Right to Love by Vida. Lesbian Resource Book;
Positively Gay: New Approaches in Gay Life by Benson;
Gay/Lesbian Almanac by Katz. History of Lesbians and Gay People
And the Band Played On by Randy Shulds. Politics, People and AIDS epidemic.

Coming Out
Are You Still My Mother? by Bach. Written by the mother of a Gay son for the families of Gays.
Coming Out to Parents by Berhek. Two-way survival guide for Gays, Lesbians and their parents.
Different Daughters by Raffkin. Book by mothers of Lesbians.
Loving Someone Gay by Clark. Breaks through the myths surrounding the Gay community.
Now That You Know by Fairchild. What every parent should know about homosexuality.
Parents Matter by Ann Muller. Parents’ relationships with Lesbian Daughters and Gay Sons.

Parenting and Children
Considering Parenthood by Piet. A workbook for Lesbians.
Whose Child Cries by Gantz. Children of Gay Parents talk about their lives.

Sexuality and Relationships
Lesbian Sex by Loulan. A book about Lesbian sex for “garden variety” Lesbians.
Lesbian Passion: Loving Ourselves and Each Other by JoAnn Loulan.
The Male Couple by McWhirter & Mattison. How relationships develop, stages of male coupling.

Legal/Medical
When Someone You Love Has AIDS by Moffatt. Book of hope for family and friends.

Religion/Spirituality
Is the Homosexual My Neighbor? by Scarzo & Mollenbatt.
Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality by Boswell.
Embracing the Exile: Healing Journeys for Gay Christians by Fortunato.
The Lord Is My Shepard and He Knows I’m Gay by Perry.

Chemical Dependency/Therapy
Dual Identities: Counseling Chemically Dependent Gay Men & Lesbians by Finnegran & McNall.
Out From Under: Sober Dykes and Our Friends by Swallow.
Gay and Sober by Monegon, Ziebold. Alcoholism and Homosexuality (Male) ▼

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once dated a birder. Personally, I could never figure out what she found so fascinating about rat-like creatures with feathers but my judgment was slightly clouded by love (or maybe it was just hormones). In any event, she ended up leaving me for a woman she met on an overnight bird sighting trip to the shore, at which point I grew to despise birds even more.

Recently, however, I've come to appreciate the patience and observation skills that make a good birder. Let's call them “skills which are particularly handy for lesbians who are new to town and eager to meet other lesbians” or “swaphfiwantatexmol” for short. Now, I realize that attending a WARP event or visiting the Atb Bar would be a much easier way to meet other lesbians. But it lacks the excitement of grinning at some random woman in Borders who (a) knows you know that she knows you know she is; (b) thinks you are and really wants to be; or (c) wants you to stop blocking the row of gourmet cookbooks she is trying to reach.

Spotting lesbians in the wild however is not an easy task in this day and age. When I first moved up to Anchorage, my home for the past four years, I was dismayed to learn that my lesbian radar would have to be completely recalibrated. Short-haired, muscular women wearing flannel were a dime a dozen and many of them had boyfriends. Which isn’t to suggest that they weren’t incredibly inspirational people. It’s just that it’s nice to have some women friends who don’t spend all their time complaining about men. I’ve recently discovered that even outside Alaska, all sorts of women have shaved heads and hairy legs completely independent of their sexual orientation.

Not that my technique for identifying lesbians by their plumage had much chance of success in the face of the lipstick lesbian phenomena. Long hair and mascara? Maybe she is. Maybe she isn’t. I must admit that initially I harbored some suspicion of lesbians who chose to adopt the prevailing societal notions of beauty. And I’d engage in long philosophical arguments about “passing” with my lipstick lesbian friends. Recently, however, I’ve decided in many cases high heels are less about passing and more about the fact that there are lesbians in the world who have a heck of a lot more fashion sense than I. That’s probably a good thing.

Besides its narrow application, another disadvantage of identifying “family” by attire or hair length or swagger is that it’s much too subtle for a society that would like to pretend we’re not here in the first place. I see lesbians because I look for the familiar cues. Straight Ann Arbor sees a straight woman. This is why it always warms the cockles of my heart to see an undeniable expression of self—a large pink triangle, women holding hands, a rainbow flag. Granted, it removes the challenge of trying to figure out who is and who isn’t but it’s well worth the trade-off. It’s a fabulous way to undermine homophobia. And I get to meet lots of great dykes without having to risk annoying women at Borders.

Jen, lawyer by day, lesbian activist by night, may soon return to Anchorage.

Gay Bar

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

Second Monday of every month, 7:00-8:30pm.

Open to the public. No charge.

Bring your questions:
any concern or issue....

Mendel & Huntington
845 E Street
279-5001
Hawaii. Here We Come!
by Karen Cartistle

We're going to Hawaiiiiiiiiiiii! It was 80 degrees there yesterday ... above zero! I won't have to walk around with a breathable, wrap-around face mask to keep my face from cracking and breaking off because the cold starts burning the instant I go outdoors. I won't have to wear Sorrels studded with screws that weigh ten pounds each or sit in my car with my fur hood totally covering my face while the engine warms up because it won't idle so I have to keep my foot on the accelerator. I won't have to scrape intricate ice sculptures off the inside of the front car window as I chug to work.

And you won't believe this: Dear Love and I are staying at her former lover's house and the dear woman is moving to a friend's apartment to accommodate us. Can you fathom that? My last lover won't even talk to me. Thinks all my stories and poems in the KK/NorthView were about her. Truth is, some were. Truth is, some weren't. She didn't seem to mind when I read love poems about her at Celebration. But, I digress. Nevertheless, I would far rather be friends with my former lovers than enemies or objects of scorn or indifference. I harbor no hard feeling against any of them, and I wish them all well. Isn't that good of me? But let them stay in my house with the girlfriend that came after me (usually the girlfriend that supplanted me)? I don't know. It could be that I do not possess such a generosity of spirit as Dear Love's She-Who-Was.

Not only is she letting us have her apartment, but once she leaves on vacation, her car too. Such kindness makes me wonder why Dear Love left home. But I'm glad she did. And we're going to have such a wondrous time. Dear Love lived in Hawaii for 11 years you know. She knows all the secret wonderful places to go, and the names of all the birds, plants, volcanoes and can say all these things in Hawaiian that sound as musical as bells. Did you know there are no hairy mammals in Hawaii? I guess that excludes humans, and heaven knows, us older lesbians have less and less as time goes by. Why is it that hair travels from the mons veneris to the chin after 60? Can anyone answer me that? In the maqi the other day (steam bath to the rest of you gususks), my 65-year-old friend told us not to pull the hairs when they start growing or they'll get thicker; she uses electrolysis ... and LF shaves. YUCK! Maybe I'll grow a beard. I wonder if Dear Love would still want me?

We are going to learn the hula together from a Hawaiian friend. I'm excited, because Dear Love doesn't want to learn the kinds of dances I know, so we only get to dance in our kitchen. True, I won't get to hold her in my arms while we're doing it, but maybe success at learning the hula will give her the confidence to let me sweep her off her feet. We may have to buy new grass skirts; the one I wore last when I was five years old is probably too small.

And speaking of size, Dear Love has friends in Hawaii, old friends. Friends that knew her and the Dear Generous Lady Love she used to have who also happens to be tiny and svelte, not given to the softg swells of abundance my body has acquired. I just know those old friends are going to be comparing me to Her Graciousness in form and in substance and what if they think "What does Dear Love see in her?" Do I sound self-centered and shallow? I do, don't I? This nervousness over what I look like usually only happens when I go visit my size 5 sisters, because the first thing they say to me is "you've lost weight" or they avoid looking at me below the chin and keep a polite verbal distance. Well, Dear Love's friends are not going to be doing THAT! Yes, but what are they going to be doing?

What they're going to be doing is exactly what my friends did when I brought Dear Love around; they're going to check me out to see if I'm doing right by their girl. I wish I could feel completely innocent and pure in this department, and God knows I try to do right by their girl, but sometimes I fail miserably which is sort of the case right now. I am too demanding and too controlling to deserve any Dear Love, much less this one. Why can't I just keep my mouth shut and the pinched look off my face at certain times? Does any of the stuff we fuss about amount to a hill of beans? No. And No. And No. I do not get to have everything my way!

When I am watching a dear friend with a new love, there are the things I look for: Is their friendship, commonality, respect, kindness, equality? Do their strengths and their weaknesses complement each other? Does each take care of their health needs? Are there hidden agendas or is everything on the table? Is there a balance of dependency? Does each have their own friends? Does each have a passion besides each other? Do they both contribute well to their financial needs? If not, what are the trade-offs? Are both forgiving and flexible? Does each have an accepting nature? Of course, I have to wait until the last wears off; it so distorts everything
else. There’s a magic veil attached to our clitorises that turns every other consideration to mist until the little she-devil has had her fill. Then, when we lift our heads long enough to see the overdue bills we flung on the floor as we headed toward the bed, we discover, regrettably, that a few other things matter. The question is, how much?

So if I use my checklist for myself, I can tell you this, that sometimes my kindness takes a powder and my respectful behavior doesn’t behave itself. And my flexibility is running a little low right now. Maybe the rest of the stuff is okay ... none of it is static, that’s for sure. But Dear Love would never tell on me to those friends. She talks about me as if the sun rose in my eyes. It’s almost embarrassing. Wait until they see how human I am. Too human.

I’m going to get ready for my inspection by practicing saying nothing unless it’s really nice, by ignoring things that distress me, and by turning the corners of my lips up instead of down (it’s easier to do anyway, and I’m all for the softer, easier way especially when it’s good). And I’m going to practice random acts of kindness to my Dear Love every day, not so she’ll give me a good report card, but so I can feel better about who I am and how I love.

©Karen Carlisle
Blemished in Bushville

it’s all in the

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

Part 32
"Open House"

John Day kept the clinic very busy the summer of 1940, first with measles, then with chicken pox. Mike was beginning to think he and Steve were not going to be at the grand opening of the house on the island. Mother was flying in to Seattle for four weeks primarily to be at the festivities.

Victoria and Cha Cha picked all the furnishings: they were ready. The two had planned two weeks of parties, the first week for their gay family and the second planned around the business/social acquaintances of Victoria, Cha Cha and Mother. Miss Cha Cha was even bringing up the Pink Lady. The women thought they had everything planned, until mother requested that her staff be brought in. But Victoria hired a staff and Cha Cha hired a catering crew. Needless to say, when Mike and Steve arrived the 'short hairs were ablaze.' Even worse ... no one had planned where all these people were going to be housed.

There was no screaming, but the looks and atmosphere could be cut with a dull knife. It was Nick, Joe and Neal that came to the rescue. They had found a boarding house on Orcus Island that would accommodate all the staff each night. Nick and Joe would take them there every evening and pick them up early the next morning. Mother's staff would stay in the attic. Mike reduced the staff to one week ... none of them wanted strangers around. It was a lot more fun helping each other in the kitchen, and they all could do without someone fussing around them.

The R.S.V.P invitations had gotten the response the girls were hoping for. Most were only staying one evening ... just about everyone either had their own yacht or were coming with someone who did.

Mother was riding a fine line with Victoria. This was not Mother's party, but she wanted it run. Each woman tried to put Mike and Steve in the middle and they hadn't even arrived at the island.

Victoria wanted Mother Potter to be proud of what she had done. She was looking for approval and what she was getting was the opposite. Mike didn't want to step in, but he had to after Victoria screamed "I'm not your blankety-blank secretary," and stormed out of Mother's estate. Mike thought she was going to spill the beans about her being 'good old Dads' illegitimate daughter.

Mike got his Mother to apologize, pointing out that the island belonged to him and Victoria, and that a misunderstanding like this could get in the papers (God forbid the gossips get this). Mother saw the logic. The white flag went up, but there wasn't a total truce.

The grand opening week for the Family couldn't have been more wonderful. Cha Cha's house-warming gift was a flag with the crest of each family ... the Styles' and the Potters'. When each was in residence they could raise it along with the State flag and Old Glory.

That week went too fast, and by Sunday morning The Sisters were headed for Seattle with Mike, Victoria and all their friends. Mother was at the pier as The Sisters sailed in. She was with the cream-de-la-cream of Seattle society, and to see Victoria and Mother 'kissy-kissy,' anyone would have believed they never had a bad word between them all their lives.

Cha Cha wasn't helping the cause. She let Mike know her Victoria had best not be hurt by his Mother. He really didn't need to hear that. He loved all three women and he thought he knew them. WRONG. "If you're not a woman, I don't care how gay you are, you can't understand when they get mad," Mike continued.

Cha Cha never pulled any punches, so Mike took her aside and asked her what the heck was going on. She told them to forget it ... the women knew the problem. The fact was, all three women were feeling left out. What they were doing was just the opposite of what they all wanted, and that was to make Mike and Steve proud of each of them.

Cha Cha said she could live without the equal time they had to give quality time to Mother and Victoria ... if they did that, the problem would solve itself. She was right. Even these three successful women needed strokes and when they didn't get them from the ones they considered most important in their lives, you might as well get the sauce of milk out because sure as shootin' there's going to be a cat fight.

The Yacht clubs from Mexico to Canada were there and invitations were much sought after. The entrance and the cove itself were packed and resembled an armada about to conquer the island. When the Commodore arrived with his four-masted schooner, the Coast Guard threw up their hands in dismay. The party had too many dignitaries, including the Lt. Governor with the Governor's yacht. It was the final weekend and there were so many people Nick and Joe had to double the food order and
then try to squeeze their boat into the dock without
sinking someone’s “big boy or big girl toy.”

Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served buffet-
style each day, and that included high tea as well as
Bloody Mary’s to those who had a little too much
party the night before (dancing each night on the
decks of the ferryboat to the hit records of the day).
The evenings were formal ... white tie ... and all the
ladies were in long gowns. The Open House was a
huge success. Joe and Nick were asked if they
wanted to be the caretakers of the estate, and they
accepted. Three weeks after the party, a small prob-
lem came up. The stream that fed the water wheel
was in the way of the spawning salmon. The men did
their best to get most of the salmon above the wheel,
but discovered that the pond was full of dead fish.
They buried the salmon in the flower beds. Steve got
in touch with the architect, and by spring there
would be a fish ladder that wouldn’t compromise the
landscaping or the fish.

The days of pinching pennies were long gone, but
old habits are hard to break if they’re good ones.
Mrs. Holt and “the girls” still canned fruit and
vegetables each year. Mr. Holt laid out the garden
the same way he had for years and every morning
before breakfast you could hear Mrs. Holt feeding
her prized chickens. By the time the first frost came,
all the shelves were full of canned food and the
smokehouse was full of pork, beef, cheese, salmon
and smoked Canadian geese.

The riches of any ranch or farm were not what you
had in the bank, but what you had on the shelves.
You could catch Mrs. Holt admiring the rows of
glass jars. Her eyes would twinkle each fall as she
complemented Dove and Rose. Yes, if there was a
receipt for happiness they all had found it at the end
of Potter’s Lane in 1940.

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.] 7.

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**StarGazer**

**Commentary**

by Barbara J. Soule

The holidays are upon us ... Hanukkah, Solstice
and Christmas. I can't just do Christmas, so I
say I'm doing the "Holidays." My partner is a
Christian, one of my long-time best friends is Jew-
ish, and I am a Pagan. With eight grandchildren,
the seven heavens help me if Grandma's Santa Claus
didn't do Christmas! On top of that I work in a post
office. It's our heaviest season and we only get
Christmas Day off, period. There are already sixteen
projects on my "to do list" and eight social events for
the month of December in my Day-Timer. As a still-
recovering co-dependent, I try to do it all.

Of course, I adore the holidays and being with the
friends and family I love. Why couldn't we do this at
break-up time instead? It would be a
great 'perk up' when
we are slogging
through puddles and
picking up dog poop
from our yards. In my
heart of hearts what I
really want to do is to
be calm, be quiet and
be at peace ... to go as
deep as I can and be
as close to the Divine
Source as possible. It is what I hunger for in my
soul, instead of the circus of shopping, decorating,
baking, visiting and gift-giving.

My assignment from my first spiritual adviser, Loy
Young, was, beginning with Halloween and ending
with the Winter Solstice, to put aside everything
from my mind, to completely clear out mentally any
inner voices, to be totally quiet inside. (The task is
not easy to do. Just as I reach the point where I'm
clear, the Solstice arrives and it's time to move on.)

I have to admit that I must make myself take the
time to meditate. Keeping up a spiritual life doesn’t
always just happen. It takes constant refocusing and
commitment on my part. On Thanksgiving I was
visiting my mother in Vancouver, Washington. She
claims to this day that I was her most stubborn child.
Being stubborn is not a virtue, but being steadfast
and committed can be great assets in living an un-
conventional spiritual life for those of us who "do it
our way."

Whatever way you do the holidays this year, I hope
you do for yourself that which satisfies your soul at
the deepest level. Happy Holidays!

Barbara Soule is a Reiki Master, a clairvoyant psychic, a Lesbian
artist, performer and writer.
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Happy Holidays from
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Adopt a Child for the Holidays
This year Four A's has 45 kids who have been affected by HIV/AIDS and who want a Holiday Season full of fun and toys. Can you help one or more of these kids believe in Santa Claus by donating new toys or other gifts? You can adopt a particular child, or simply donate new toys and we will find the children they are perfect for. If you can help, call 263-2050 or bring the items to our office.

True Meaning of the Holidays
The true meaning of the Holidays is giving to those who have less than we do. We at the Four A's are trying to put together 50 Holiday baskets for some of the 230 clients and 17 families we assist. We need turkeys, hams, other Holiday foods, gifts and toys. If you can help, call 263-2050 or bring the items to our office.

Warm Hats, Coats and Gloves Needed!

New Drug: Invirase
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved on Wednesday squinavir, the first of a new class of drugs called protease inhibitors. Drug manufacturer Hoffmann-La Roach Inc. of Nutley, N.J., pledged to have the anti-HIV drug, which will sell under the name Invirase, in pharmacies within 48 hours. This has been the fastest approval process for the FDA ever, taking only 97 days from the submission of the application. Research shows that squinavir has been able to stem the reduction in CD4 cells, at least temporarily, and moderately increase levels with only relatively mild side effects. (NY Times 12/8/95 p. B12)

Events for December and January
- "AIDS 101 Training" Dec. 13 & Jan. 18 for anyone interested in HIV/AIDS 5:30pm - 7:30pm at 4A's
- "Four A's Food Drive" First Sat. of every month at Sears mail by Curr. 10am-4pm
- "Friends and Family Group" Every Thurs. For anyone affected by HIV/AIDS, 6:30pm at 4A's
- "Friday Lunch" for everyone every Fri. Noon-1pm at 4A's
- "Free HIV Testing" Every Wed. 2pm-4pm at 4A's

Four A's 1995 Season's Greeting Cards
This five color greeting card features an original illustration created for the Four A's and is printed on recycled paper. The greeting "may peace be with you and those you love" is on the inside of the card.

ORDER FORM
No. of sets (20 per set) __________
Cost ($20.00 per set of 20) $ __________
Your holiday tax deductible gift $ __________
Total enclosed $ __________
Name: _____________________________
Address: ___________________________

For more information call: Laurie Wolf, 263-2048

Please clip out this form and send with payment to the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Sta. 102, Anchorage, AK 99503. Cards may be picked up at the Four A's after November 3.

All proceeds from the sale of this card go to supporting the efforts of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's). The Four A's is a not-for-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
Tax identification No. 92-01-13798
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 K/K at 337-0253.

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

All listings are in Anchorage unless otherwise indicated.

AA:
(G) Midnight Sons, see Calendar

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

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see 4A's page)
(A) Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHW), Juneau, Rita, 463-5688
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interim AIDS Assoc., 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Fund, (WA), 206-383-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Juneau, 278-5819

Air Service:
(L) Mt. McKinley Air Service, Keli or Lee Ann, 800-564-1765; 907-733-1765

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Gatekey, Ketki/Jainmi, 561-7327

Amusements:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 561-8737

Apparel:
(A) The Look, Kari, 278-5666

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

Astrology:
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0852

Automotive:
(A) Courtnay's, Linny, 561-1227 (see ad)
(A) S&W Radeccor Supply (Fairbanks), BJ, 907-452-2220

Bakery:
(G) Illusions, Brian, 561-8458 (see ad)

Bars:
(G/L) The Blue Moon, 277-0441
(G/L) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1089, 563-1080 (see ad)
(G/L) Palace Saloon (Fairbanks), Allakland (Fri and Sat only)
(G/L) The Raven, 276-9672
(L/G) The Wave, 274-7511 or 561-WAVE

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) Blue Heron B&B (Missouri), Lucille, 417-993-4302

Bicycle Repair:
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8211

Boarding School Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 277-7084

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

Books:
(L) Bona Den Women's Bookstore, Joann/Marish, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Alaska, Gene, 561-3430 (see ad)
(A) Cyma's Books, Sandy/ Jerry, 274-2599
(A) Into the Woods Bookshop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-479-7701

Carpet & Linoleum Installation:
(A) Big Bob's, Mark, 561-2111
(A) Don, 349-1065

Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 561-8458 (see ad)
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

Chemical Dependency:
(G/L) Pride Institute (Minneapolis), 800-45 PRIDE (547-7433). Also Los Angeles, CA, Coconut Grove, FL and New York City.

Child Care:
(G) Kid Zone, Andrew, 337-3982

Churches:
see Spiritual

Coffee Houses:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 561-0277
(G/L) The Sonic Tide at the Wave, Trina, 274-7511 or 561-WAVE (see flyer)

College Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 277-7084

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

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

Computer Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(L) Angie, 337-0253 (see ad)
(G) By-Tex Alaska, Inc., Tken, 248-2422
(L) CDA Services, Walltraud, 276-6862
(A) Computer Magic, Phil, 274-3528
(G) gra fh's, Lucian, 561-5856
(G) Helleck & Assoc., Tony, 276-3869
(G) Mark, 338-3367
(G) PC Possibilities, 248-6277

Computer Training:
(G) Seven Treasures Ent., Don, 338-9068
(A) Find It!, Business Services (Macintosh); Larry, 279-4862

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

Construction:
(L) R&L Construction, Lita, 279-4606
Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Connie, 562-1826
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(L) Katia, 562-2684
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
(L) Tess, Alternative Counseling, 562-8281

Dancing:
(G/L) The Wave, Trina, 274-7511 or 561-WAVE (see flyer)

Deal Support:
(A) Interpreter Referral Line, 277-3323 vole, 277-8735 tty
(A) Deal Rehabilitation Serv., 277-3456 vole, 258-2232, tty

Dental Care:
(A) Ward Hubert, DDS, 248-0622

Drug Shows:
(G/L) The Blue Moon, Misty Dawn, 277-0441
(G/L) The Wave, Trina, 274-7511 or 561-WAVE (see flyer)

Drug Dependency:
(G/LB) 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) Frigida North, Tom, 561-4633 (see ad)

Electrolysis:
(A) Anchorage Skin Care Clinic, Barbara, 277-4247
(A) Gentle Touch, 561-6606 (see ad)

Entertainment:
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(A) Mascarella Music, Diane, 277-9751
(L) Real Talent Productions, Karyn, 562-5777, 278-5683
(A) Syzygy/Music Magle, Linda, 274-2599

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-8049/338-3962 (see ad)
(G) Jon, Bank of America, 263-3273

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

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

Flightseeing:
(L) Mt. McKinley Air Service, Kell or LeeAnn, 800-564-1765; 907-735-1765

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

Florists:
(G) Every Bloomin' Thing, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3158
(A) Growing Concern Florist, Darin, 279-8688

Flying:
(L) McKinley Air Svc., Lee Ann & Kell, 800-564-1765

Furniture:
(A) Design Craft, Laura/David, 279-0636 (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) Rona Des Women's Bookstore, Joann/Marish, 562-4716 (see ad)
(A) Design Craft, Laura/David, 272-4436 (see ad)
(A) Love of Alaska, Talyn, 243-8876

Glacier Landings:
(L) Mt. McKinley Air Service, Kell or LeeAnn, 800-564-1765; 907-735-1765

Hairstyling:
(G) Gabrielle, 272-9045
(A) 36th Ave. Hair Design, Ledha, 561-8967

Health:
(G/L) Gately, Ketki/Jainal, 561-7327
(L) Health Advocacy/Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0753
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816
(A) Nature's Own Way, Roberto/Debby, 561-0811
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372
(G/LB) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433). Also Los Angeles, CA, Coconut Grove FL and New York City.
(A) Skin care, Shari, 345-7451

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

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

House Cleaning:
(L) Connie's House Cleaning Svc., Connie, 276-3147
(A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4657
(G) Randy, 345-4607
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

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

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

Imperial Court:
(G) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Madeline, 338-3327

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

Independent Marketer:
(A) Mark, 279-5264

Jewelry:
(A) Peggy's Jewelry & Repair, Peggy, 562-1895

Kites, Games, Banners, Puzzles:
(A) Northwind Kites, Pat, 279-4386

Landscaping:
(L) Wood Nymph Landscaping, Valerie, 274-8006

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

Massage:
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-8842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(G) Howie, LMT (Palmer), 746-7778
(A) Joyce (CMT), 562-1916 (see ad)
(L) Leslie (non-sexual), 278-3346
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(L) Vicki, 277-5222

Media:
(L) NLGJA (National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association), Kim, Alaska chapter coordinator and board member, of 277-2704

Meetings:
(G/L) The Wave, Trina, 274-7511 or 561-WAVE (see flyer)

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

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

Native Arts/Culture:
(A) Moon Dancer Arts, Rosemary (Wasilla), 373-5353
Veterinarian:
(A) Ginny, 345-1515
(L) Vicki, 345-1515
(A) Dr. Joan Battig (Fairbanks) 452-6055

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

Writing & Editing Assistance:
(A) Kathleen L. McDonough, School Survival Skills, 274-5059
(L) Kathy, 278-2840

e-mail

Burleson, Laura: Gay
Rights activist, Chair of
Equal of Fairbanks, and in the Alaska Gay and Lesbian
Association: <flsleb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Blumenfeld, Warren: Author/educator/ Pride Conference presenter:
<blumenfeld@edu.umn.edu>
Capri Cinema, Rand Thornley: <geh91a@prodigy.com>
Carlisle, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist:
<mkte@aurora.alaska.edu>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal:
<alaskadan@aol.com>
Cracium, Jean: market research, Pride Conference:
<jcracium@cracium.alaska.net>
Digital Queers, Technical philanthropic organization:
<dpnw@aol.com>
Chrysler, Stephen: writer/NorthView contributor:
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Gingrich, Next: Speaker of the House,
<georgia6@house.gov>
Keltner, Tam: Digital Queers: <dqnw@aol.com>
LGNY, new NY LesbBiGay newspaper,
<http://www.fly.net/~lgny>
McMullen, John: Chapter Co-Chair/Project Manager for
Digital Queers Northwest: <jmcMullen@com.com>
Finney, Pete: UAF instructor and owner of Alta’s B & B,
<tp Finn@aurora.alaska.edu>
Severson, Kimm: Entertainment editor Anchorage Daily
News, board of Nat’l Lesb & Gay Journalists Assn:
<Kseverson@targets.com>
Signorile, Michelangelo: writer The Advocate:
<angel@pipeline.com>
Thornley, Rand: Capri Cinema: <rthomlin@al.com>
Walton, Eric: NorthView Fairbanks co-Editor, Q*K
Outdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.: <shev@aurora.alaska.edu>
Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house:
<wave@alaska.net>
Wockner, Rex: San Diego-based journalist, LesBiGay info
(Internet): <wockner@netcom.com>

Want to be listed? Write to Identity and include information similar to what you see above, or call Ken at 248-7722.

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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.

Gay & 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 Jenna at 907-451-8465.

Anchorage Garden Buddies (AGB) Anchorage: is 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 usually meets every 4th Sunday at various locations (mostly at Regan's) to socialize and provide support for one another. Adults, children, Lesbians, allies and newcomers are welcome. Call Regan at 243-3757 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 907-457-3876. For more information about EQUAL, contact Laura Burleson at 907-479-7348 or email FSL@aurora.alaska.alaska.edu.

Fairbanks Dance Club: the Palace Saloon in Alaska Vista 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 457-3876.

Family--Anchorage: Meets every Saturday from 6:00-7:00pm in the Arts Building, Room 121 on the UAA campus. Social group after 7:00pm (bowling, dinner, etc.) High school people, bisexual men & women, transvestites and transsexuals most welcome. Call Graham at 562-8463.

Feminist Sing-a-Long, women only, Anchorage: third Saturday of every month. 1741 Westview Circle; call Carol and Fran at 333-0871. 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, 7:00-8:00pm at 845 'K' St. 279-5001.

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

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

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOA), 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 Emperor Madeline XXIII at 338-3327. Or write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.

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.

Lamb 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.

Last Frontier Men's Club, Anchorage: a members-only club for the Leather/Bear communities of Alaska. Meetings 3rd Thurs. of each month, 6:00pm at the Raven;
camps & 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 (MMc(na)c) 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: each Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm, Park Lanes. 561-8744 (Bob).

Out in Alaska: A group of gays, lesbians and bisexuals from the Mat-Su Valley and beyond who enjoy outdoor activities and meeting other outdoorsy folks. Activities are lead by member volunteers. For information or to receive a newsletter, call Howie at 907-746-7778 or write to Out in Alaska, HC 2 Box 7810B, Palmer, AK 99645.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Fairbanks: 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 and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Juneau: meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at 12 noon at Mendenhall Mall Library. Phone 907-463-4203.

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

Q*K 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*K Klatch offers a casual environment in which to meet and share with others. For more information please contact Kathy at 907-455-6358 or Eric at 907-455-4051.

Q*K Outdoors, Fairbanks: an offshoot of Q*K Klatch and a member of IGLOO (International Gay & Lesbian Outdoor Organization), is an informal, 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 info, call Eric at 455-4051 or e-mail to <faebw@aurora.alaska.edu> or Kathy at 455-6358 or <klatchdf@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).

SLAA (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 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1452. Phone: 586-4297

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

Women's Coffeehouse, Anchorage: every 4th Saturday, 8:00pm. Sliding scale, suggested donation $2. Call Barbara or Sandy at 337-2011 for information or if you wish to perform. Check the calendar for this month's program.
Dec. 15, Fri:
◊ AGLA Meeting, 6:30pm, Gruening Building, Room 402, Jenna 907-451-8465.

Dec. 16, Sat:
λ Pride Chorus, 12 noon, Potluck; 2pm - 4pm caroling, AUUF, 3201 Turnagain St., Mike 243-6108.
◊ PFLAG Juneau Monthly Meeting, 12noon, Mendenhall Mall Library.
λ Feminist Sing-a-Long, 6:30pm potluck; 7:30pm singing, 1741 Westview Circle, Carol or Fran 333-0871.

Dec. 17, Sun:
◊ SEAGLA Board Meeting, 7pm Downtown Juneau Library, Studie, 907-586-2410.

Dec. 19, Tue:
◊ P-FLAG Fairbanks Monthly Meeting, 5:30pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Log Cabin, Mary Jo 907-459-8985.

Dec. 21, Thu:
λ The Last Frontier Men’s Club, 6pm, Raven.
λ P-FLAG Southcentral Monthly Meeting, 7pm, AUUF, Fred 562-7161 or Sylvia 562-4992

Dec. 22, Fri:
λ Identity Potluck/Social, 6:00pm doors open, 7:00pm dinner, 7:30pm program: “Caroling, Accompanied by a Mare Named Marge.”
λ ICOAA TOUR DE LUMINAIRES, bus tour of seasonal light displays with stops for Holiday Cheer, Nog and Fruitcake; info 338-3327.

Dec. 23, Sat:
λ ICOAA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BALL, Blue Moon; info 338-3327.
λ Women’s Coffeehouse, will return in January.

Dec. 24, Sun:
λ Anchorage Lesbian Families Alliance (ALFA) Potluck, 4pm - 6pm, Regan 243-3757.

Dec. 26, Tue:
λ Identity Board Meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF, Room A, Tom, 333-7504.

Dec. 27, Wed:
◊ Minority Community Relations Task Force Meeting, 7pm, info 561-0064.

Dec. 30, Sat:

Dec. 31, Sun:
λ Third Annual New Years Eve Party at The Capri Cinema, two movies “Lie Down With Dogs” and “Four Rooms”, 9:30pm, $8 single & $15 couple, info 561-0064.
◊ New Year’s Dance, 9:30pm - 1am, VFW Hall, $5 at door.

Jan. 3, Wed:
λ Alaska Women’s Political Caucus, 7pm, First United Methodist Church.

Jan. 5, Fri:
λ NorthView Deadline for January issue.

Jan. 8, Mon:
λ Gay Bar, 7 - 8:30pm, Legal Q & A. Bring questions & concerns. Allison 279-5001.

Jan. 9, Tue:
◊ Identity HelpLine Potluck, all volunteers (past, present & potential) invited to attend; prizes to be awarded; Tom, 333-7504.

Jan. 10, Wed:
λ Statewide Coalition Audio Conference, 7pm, Mike, 243-6108.

Jan. 13, Sat:
λ Women’s Coffeehouse, rhythm and blues: Barbara Wish, Lisa Jamieson, Linda Kellen, Kippy and Donna. 8pm, $3 (proceeds to 4As), Sociotic Tide, Barbara or Candy 337-2011.

Jan. 15, Mon:
λ KK Deadline for February/March issue.

Jan. 16, Tue:
◊ P-FLAG Fairbanks Monthly Meeting, 5:30pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Log Cabin, Mary Jo 907-459-8985.

Jan. 18, Thu:
λ The Last Frontier Men’s Club, 6pm, Raven.
λ P-FLAG Southcentral Monthly Meeting, 7pm, AUUF, Fred 562-7161 or Sylvia 562-4992

Jan. 20, Sat:
λ The Family (UA), first meeting of the Spring Semester, 6:00pm, UAA Arts Bldg, Rm 121. Graham, 562-8463.
λ Feminist Sing-a-Long, 6:30pm potluck; 7:30pm singing, 1741 Westview Circle, Carol or Fran 333-0871.

Jan. 23, Tue:
λ Identity Board Meeting, 7:00pm, AUUF, Room A, Tom, 333-7504.
**Jan 26, Fri:**
- Identity Potluck/Social: 6:00pm doors open, 7:00pm dinner, 7:30pm program: "The Family, Update from the University Les/Bi/Gay group."

**Jan 28, Sun:**
- Anchorage Lesbian Families Alliance (ALFA), 4pm - 6pm, Potluck, Regan 243-3757.

**Jan 30, Tue:**
- KK Town Meeting, 8pm, Sociatic Tide, Beth 277-9763.

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### ON-GOING CALENDAR ITEMS

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**SUNDAYS**

- Midnight Sons AA Meeting, 1:00pm, (Gay, Lesbian only), MCC Church, 615 Hollywood Dr.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 4:00pm, Park Lanes, Dan or Bob 561-8744.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.

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**MONDAYS**

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

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**WEDNESDAYS**

- Free HIV TEST at 4A's, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, 263-2050.
- Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
- "Women's Prerogative," KTOO-FM, Wednesdays, 9:00pm-10:00pm.
- La Cage aux Wave (drag show), 10:00pm, $3 cover.
- Blue Moon Follies, 10:00pm, $3 cover.

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**THURSDAYS**

- Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm, 907-463-5688.
- Alaska Pride Chorus, call Jeff 279-8308.
- Gay, Joyous & Free, 7:00pm, AA Meeting 1231 W. 27th Ave.
- Country Dancing at the Wave, 7:00pm, taught by Patty. 561-9483.

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**FRIDAYS**

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

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**SATURDAYS**

- The Family (UAA), 6:00pm (excluding school holidays). UAA Arts Bldg, Rm 121. Graham, 562-8463 or Kimberly 563-1421.
- SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous) 12-Step meeting, 12:00noon, 566-1133.
- KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5:00-7:00pm, "Queer Beans" (Gay issues and music).
- Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11:00pm-3:00am, Palace Saloon in Alaskaland.
Happy Holidays!

by Dan Carter, cochair, EQUAL

As we approach the end of another year, there is some feeling of loss in our community. With the departure of Bona Dea Women's Bookstore and the reduction in activities by some of our community organizations, this time of year is perfect for reflecting on where we have been and, more importantly, where do we go from here.

EQUAL will continue to address this issue in another meeting during late January (the time, date and location will be included in the January issue of NorthView). In our October meeting we discussed a variety of issues confronting EQUAL and our community. "Where do we go from here?" was the primary topic under consideration. We will continue this discussion at the January meeting.

Community organizations will only remain effective with your help! There are numerous groups and many if not all of them need volunteers to help them keep their activities and services available to members of the LesBiGayTrans community. For the coming new year, let's all pick our favorite group or groups and make a concerted effort to help them grow!

Sometimes it is easy to remember the negative events of the past year and forget progress we have made in spite of the groups aligned against us. Shown below are a few of the positive items over the past year from the Internet:

- El Paso Times (El Paso, Texas) began printing same-gender marriage announcements in section previously used for only "traditional" announcements.

- Voters in Anchorage elected/relected all three candidates for Municipal Assembly targeted for defeat by the Jerry Prevo/Michael Johnston "crowd."

- Gay/Lesbian Rights---
  - West Palm Beach, FL voted 56-44% for gay rights
  - Fort Worth, TX Star Telegram offers domestic partner benefits
  - Cleveland, OH passes gay/lesbian rights ordinance.
  - Dallas, TX reinstated gay/lesbian rights ordinance.
  - Atlanta, GA domestic partnership act was upheld by state Supreme Court decision.
  - Fort Wayne, IN mayor issued executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

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 or the nearest intersection to your home so we can determine which information will be sent to you. Thanks!
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