come one, come all!

alaska pride conference
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Editorial

The three months are already up being the editor of the NorthView. Ruth and Tom have honed this process to a very well oiled and ordered procedure. What used to take four days, now takes only two. Tom picks up the e-mail each day, edits it and has it in the computer before any of us start on Saturday. What Tom can’t scan, Joyce or Fred type. When I come in, Tom has a printout for me. Amy, Mike, Fred, Gretchen and Tore help edit the copy. Tom makes the corrections on the computer — which takes the most time. He uses his whole weekend to put out the NorthView. Robert converts all our work to the graphics program, makes additional corrections and takes it to the printer. It costs him a whole day plus part of a second. The bulk mail crew, Chris, Michelle, Kurt, Tom, Al, Mike, Fred, Shirley, FKer, and others have the mail process down to a science. A big THANK YOU to all for your help these past three months.

We are very lucky to have people like Tom and Robert who are willing to volunteer so much of their time for our community. Tom is planning to retire and leave the state. Robert would like some of his life back, again. More volunteers are needed who can get e-mail or have a graphics program. Truthfully, I just feel like I’ve finally learned the ropes of putting the NorthView together. Next month, PFLAG member, Joyce Bauer, takes over as editor. Joyce is a great person. She’ll do an excellent job. I’ve promised to be there and help her out.

The thing I hear the most, particularly from newcomers and people who are planning to come to Alaska is, “Where is the gay community?” Lucy Frey was in town last month, and over sixty women showed up at the women’s potluck and sing-along. We all said, “It was great to be together.” Women, who ordinarily don’t talk to me, said that they missed my deviled eggs! We all missed each other and agreed that we need to get together more often. There’s another women’s sing-along on Saturday, September 21.

This month the Pride Conference at UAA, September 27-29 is another place to go to find the community. I urge all men and women from our teenagers to our older people — gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, PFLAG and any other category, to “come out” and show up. The Friday Night get together is potluck at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish, bring yourself and bring the kids even if you can’t afford to go to the conference. Ann Reed’s doing a concert, Saturday the 28th, at the Lousac Library. Come out women, and let’s get together. Do the Sunday Brunch, if you can afford it, or just come by Sunday for coffee, we’ll spring for the coffee.

Show up and say, “Hello, how are you?” to everyone, catch up on the news and get a hug. We need each other. If you are new or an old timer, whether you know who you are or not, just mention you’ve read the editorial and claim your hug. I’ll be happy to supply one.

Again, thanks from my heart and soul, to all the people who helped me put out the NorthView the past three months.

PFLAG, Southcentral Alaska

by Joyce Bauer

PFLAG Southcentral was deeply honored to have Kay Brown speak at our meeting September 11. Ms. Brown was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives in 1986 and served five terms beginning in 1987. It was a great loss to all of us when she found she had to resign. While a member of the House, she spoke eloquently against the Defense of Marriage Act and also voted against it.

Ms. Brown will probably run for office again some time, but right now she’s quite busy with wrapping up legislative work and with her new baby daughter whom she adopted from China. She’s also starting a new business called Explore Ware which is a computer game for girls. She found legislative work very interesting, and it had a lot of appeal. She said we need more women in office, and people need to become sensitive to and welcome diversity. Let’s hope whoever replaces her carries on her good work.

From all reports, we had a wonderful discussion of youth issues at our August meeting. The discussion was led by Fred Hillman and Ruth Mathes.

PFLAG’s 15th Annual International Conference, Love Takes Action: Building a Nation of Equality, takes place October 11-14 in Washington, DC, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. The full conference costs $25; 2nd participants are just $55. Registration deadline is October 1. Call Joyce Bauer at 333-1790 if you need a registration form.

Remember, everyone is welcome at our PFLAG meetings held each second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. A year’s membership is $15 and can be sent to PFLAG, P. O. Box 203231, Anchorage, AK 99520-3231.
Setting them straight

by Marin Liebman

I would like to bring to your attention an important book recently published by an old friend of mine, Dr. Betty Berzon, titled “Setting Them Straight”. It deals with homophobia in our society and provides the means and the words to fight it. The book is a truly transcendent guide to dealing with the bigotry, stereotyping, and hatred that affects each and every lesbian and gay man in the country.

Psychotherapist Betty Berzon has published an extremely useful handbook for gay people dealing with homophobia in their daily lives — and which one of us isn’t interested in that? Berzon’s approach “... is if gay and lesbian people do not take responsibility for changing how we are to be treated by the larger society, who will?”

We’ve all found ourselves in a paralyzed state when we hear somebody else’s anti-gay comment or joke. We often don’t know how to respond or how to correct the other party’s misinformation. And, even if we did know how to respond, on many occasions we are so overcome by fear of self-exposure that we don’t say anything at all. This inability to respond to homophobia not only leaves the bigot in unenlightened ignorance, it causes damage to one’s own self-worth. As Berzon points out, “the more enduring source of self-esteem for anyone gay or lesbian is the freedom to be authentically who and what we are, anytime, anywhere, and with anyone.”

Berzon’s is a far-reaching book. She writes in the same easy-to-understand, hands-on style as her earlier best-selling classic, “Permanent Partners”. She examines why people hate — “because they are unable to love” and because “hating helps to make the world seem more manageable.” Scapegoating makes the gay individual “the villain who is threatening the welfare of nice people going about their decent heterosexual lives.” She explains how individuals develop (or fail to develop) a sense of morality; a sense of decency towards other people.

Berzon explains that prejudice can often be understood as a product of the “frenzy-aggression cycle.” People become frustrated by problems that seem unmanageable so they agress against a target group rather than addressing their own issues. The religious right has defined gays as a “predatory outside force” that can be blamed for many of the failures of American life.

But all of that is useful background information for what is really the central thesis of Berzon’s new book — the guidelines of dealing with anti-gay situations. It’s as if she has personally observed each and every one of our confrontations with bigotry with notebook and pen in hand, and has compiled them in one volume. For each sample situation — comments by an anti-gay co-worker, for instance, or even another gay person’s homophobia — Berzon provides a positive scenario for dealing with the situation. But she also takes it a step further. She provides a list of specific points said or done (which are also listed in full in an invaluable appendix) as an imaginary scenario which can be repeated in other scenarios — actions such as “shifting the focus from your gayness to his problem with it.” Thus, each “case study” is more easily applied to situations beyond the ones provided. Berzon provides the reader with specific, informative, and invaluable tools to respond to anti-gay bigotry.

None of the actions Berzon looks at in order to combat homophobia would be successful, however, unless the gay subject is out of the closet. The common theme throughout the book is that the most important thing we can do to defeat bigotry in our lives and in society is to come out. As Berzon points out, there’s nothing wrong with “keeping a lid” on matters which might create conflict with others, but by remaining in the closet to make it easier for the homophone “you are essentially keeping the lid on you.”

I believe that “Setting Them Straight” ranks with “Permanent Partners” as an invaluable “how-to” for every gay man and lesbian in America. As Berzon says in her final paragraph. “You are not alone. There are people you’ve never met, in places you’ve never seen, thinking and feeling exactly what you are, taking the same uneasy first steps, discovering the excitement of being in on the world changing. They are your gay and lesbian companions in this struggle. They are your family.”

Thanks to you all

Financial news

by Chris Olson

Some of you may not realize that I had a different career before entering the financial services profession. My first profession was residential treatment for juvenile delinquents. For 15 years I worked my way up the ladder from “grunt” to supervisor, all the while contributing a ton of money to my retirement plan. The success I had with this company plan [403(b) in my case] was what led me to my current career. I realized that I had a gift for saving and directing my money. My wealth continued to grow with very little effort or pain on my part. I thought I could make a living helping others do the same.

Part of my journey included learning to value the frugal lifestyle. Frugality is relative, I realize, but for me it meant few trips Outside, a small clothing allowance and infrequent dining out. I seldom “do the town” and have sizable savings to show for it. It certainly didn’t hurt when I stopped drinking in 1982. That one move by itself propelled me into financial success.

For over three years now I have sought to counsel other people on how to accumulate wealth. I have advised people on how to protect the assets they own through responsible risk management and insurance. I am pleased with the success of my growing practice. I have clients all over Alaska who consult with me on their investing and insurance needs.

Two years ago I began an educational/accreditation program to become a Certified Financial Planner. The curriculum was wild: income tax, estate planning, investments, ethics and regulations, insurance, qualified retirement planning, employee benefits. My hope was that eventually I would qualify for the CFP marks and be able to use the knowledge in my practice.

I graduated from the College for Financial Planning in June. Whew, what a process. That allowed me to sit for the boards. The board examinations were scheduled for July. I went to San Diego to prepare for the exam. Professionals from all over the country converged to take the review course. The boards were brutal. My friends and family know just how brutal. I was not a human being during the entire process.

On August 22, 1996, I received notice that I had passed my CFP boards. Sometime in late September I will be able to call myself a Certified Financial Planner. The remaining hoops to jump through are nothing compared to the past two years. I have a life again and feel like a human being. I truly look forward to using the CFP techniques at work. They will only enhance my practice.

I tell you all this because I would like to say “thank you” to all of you who put up with me during the past two years. It wasn’t easy for you either. Michelle and I are planning a celebration to which you all will be invited. Look for time and place in the next NorthView. Octoberish. Happy investing. Remember: It is not how much you earn that counts — in the end what is important is how much you have saved.

Chris Olson is a fully licensed insurance and securities representative, and has lived in Alaska for 14 years. She welcomes new clients and referrals, especially from the gay & lesbian community.

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Queer science

We present the very first installment of "Queer Science", a new syndicated column on gay and lesbian science topics by Simon LeVay, Ph.D. Thus far, 21 publications in 16 states and 2 countries subscribe to "Queer Science".

As many of you know, Dr. LeVay is perhaps the most prominent gay scientist in the country, having made a major impact on the way people think about the nature vs. nurture question when his research on the hypothalamuses of gay and straight men was published.

There was a minor fanfare in the gay press, back in 1977, when ecologists George Hunt and Molly Warner, of the University of California, Irvine, announced their discovery of "lesbian" seagulls. The Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California were thick with them, they reported: about ten percent (that famous fraction!) of the pairs in the breeding colonies consisted of two females; the birds had sex together, set up nests together, and raised their young together, just like the male-female pairs. (For the eggs to be fertile, the lesbian gulls also had to copulate with males from neighboring nests.)

It's hard to tell male and female gulls apart by their appearance, but it was easy to spot the lesbian pairs, because with two egg-layers in the family, their nests contained more eggs — up to six, compared with three for a heterosexual pair.

During the late seventies, the gay movement was defending itself against attacks from so-called Christians like Anita Bryant. Homosexuality was "against nature," Bryant claimed. But here was blatant same-sex eroticism among creatures who were still in a "state of nature." Lesbians and gay men gloated: one cartoon in a gay paper showed Anita Bryant shaking one hand angrily at a flock of gulls overhead, while wiping something out of her eye with the other. This May, Hunt led a group of gays and lesbians, including myself, on a tour of Anacapa Island, an hour's boat ride from Oxnard harbor, north of Los Angeles. After disembarking and clambering up the steep cliff to the island's flat summit, we gathered together for an open-air lecture. Some Boy Scouts who were camping on the island listened in, but they started snickering when Hunt got to the lesbian part.

After the lecture, we roamed around the island, eagerly checking out the hundreds of gulls' nests tucked in amongst the ice-plants. But it was three eggs... three eggs... three eggs... and so it went all afternoon. We couldn't find a nest with even four eggs — let alone five or six. (The scenery was beautiful, though.)

So what happened to the lesbian birds? Well, this is the embarrassing part. It turns out that the rampant lesbianism among the seagulls of the 1970s wasn't quite so "natural" after all. In fact, it had a lot to do with the millions of pounds of pesticides, including DDT, that the Montrose Chemical Company had been dumping into the Los Angeles sewer system, and hence into the ocean. According to Michael Fry and Cyndi Toone of U.C. Davis, the DDT severely weakened the male gulls, so that many of them were unable to fly to the islands to breed. This left an excess of females, who then paired with each other. After DDT was banned, the levels in the marine environment gradually declined, and the sex ratio among the gulls in the breeding colonies reverted to 50:50. By the end of the 1980s, heterosexual pairing had become the rule again.

The way Hunt and other ecologists look at it, female-female pairing is a natural response of seagulls (and some other birds) to an imbalance in the sex ratio. Such imbalances can occur naturally: for example, newly-founded breeding colonies often have an excess of females, because the females are more adventurous, while the males like to breed wherever they bred the previous year. And in these circumstances female-female pairing makes good sense: two female gulls are just as capable of raising young as a male-female couple, aside from the insemination part. But the marked skewing of the sex ratio in the Channel Islands during the 1970s, and the resulting high frequency of lesbian pairs, had more to do with human wrongdoing than with "nature."

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of "Queer Science" (MIT Press, 1996) and the co-author (with Elisabeth Nonas) of "City of Friends". He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached at SLeVay@aol.com

There's a moral in here somewhere, which is that there's no moral to be drawn from what animals do or don't do. We can find animals that are peaceful and altruistic, and others that kill their own siblings. We can find animals that enter into lifelong monogamous relationships, and others that are promiscuous, incestuous, or polymorphously perverse. None of that has much to say about what is appropriate or natural behavior for human beings. (Having said which, I won't be able to resist writing about the gay sheep of Idaho in a future column.)

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.
Where in the world?

Aircraft Safety
With all the recent attention focused on airline safety, perhaps some statistical information is in order. According to the New York Times and Avitas, Inc., the following information was current as of February: The average age of the US fleet of aircraft is 15.0 years old with the oldest being those of ValuJet at 26.4 yrs and the youngest aircraft those of Southwest at 8.3 years. Kiwi is next highest with 22.8 years followed by TWA at 19.8. The five lowest are: 1) Southwest; 2) American 9.2; 3) America West 10.1; 4) Delta 11.5 and 5) United 11.6.

Naked Caribbean Revisited
Due to the enormous popularity of their last naked cruise, Naked magazine is offering a new series of naked cruises. Set aboard their four-masted schooner SV Fantome built in 1927, these voyages are for free spirits who truly want to enjoy the great out of doors. The all-inclusive sailings include double occupancy cabins, all meals aboard ship, open bar, welcome party, parties and activities hosted by the boys of “Naked Videos”, services of a professional host, and several “deserted island” experiences. Prices start at $1449 for a deluxe cabin to $1689 for an admiral suite. The next two sailings are January 5 from Cancun, Mexico to Belize for 7 days and January 12-18 for the outer islands of Belize. A $200 deposit will hold you a spot on one of these fabulous cruises. Oh yes, the company also offers clothing optional cruises. More on those later.

International Complaints
The Department of Transportation listed the number of complaints received against US and International carriers during 1995. US carriers received less than 10 complaints in the year. The complaint list was headed by British Airways with a total of 71 and the lowest number of 11 was shared by Air Afrique, Philippine Airlines, and Turk Hava Yollari. The next highest after the Brits were Alitalia with 44, Taca Int’l with 35 and Air France with 32.

Parties in Paradise
Several 1997 Mardi-Gras-in-Sydney package options are available, ranging from the 5-night “Budget Buster” to the 24-day “Best of the South Pacific Tour.” Limited seats are available to the “Sleeze Ball” (theme this year is “Voodoo Circus”). It starts September 30th and runs thru October 7th.

Due to a great deal of acceptance for their Fiji Man Friday resort package, Above and Beyond has extended the package price of $1098 through February 1997 (except December). Price includes RT air from Los Angeles, 6 nights accommodations, airport transfers, daily breakfast and resort activities. A special Women’s Week is also being offered.

October Events
The Castro Street Fair in San Francisco celebrates its 23rd year on the 7th. Vancouver, BC’s “Luv Ball” is the 11th-13th. Provincetown’s Women’s Week is in October. In Key West it’s Fantasy Fest the 18th - 27th. In Europe there’s “Glasgay Lesbian & Gay Arts Festival” in Glasgow and Munich plans a double header with Leather Week and the 2nd weekend of Octoberfest.

Disney Number One!
America’s theme parks were rated by Amusement Business Magazine. Disney took the top four sports (Disneyland — 1, Disney World — 2, Epcot Center — 3, and Disney MGM Studios — 4). Next in order were Universal Studios — Florida; Sea World; Universal Studios — Hollywood; Six Flags Great Adventure — Jackson, NJ; Busch Gardens — Tampa; and Sea World — San Diego.

Women’s Sonora Bay
It’s not too late to get in on Olivia’s all inclusive resort vacation for women October 5-12th. Located on Mexico’s Sea of Cortez, it is an oasis of green with a variety of restaurants, 24-hour tennis, sailing, arts and crafts, or just strolling beautiful beaches. At $1295, including air from Phoenix, you get all meals, wine, beer, and soft drinks during lunch and dinner, entertainment, and most activities.

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.

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Does EQUAL Have a Role in Alaska?

by Dan Carter, cochair, EQUAL

I have just returned from Chicago (last night) where I had the pleasure (and honor) of being one of the two openly gay members of the Alaska delegation to the Democratic National Convention. Mark Tumeo, from Fairbanks, was a delegate and I was Alaska's sole representative to the Standing Committee on Rules for the convention. (By the way, CONGRATULATIONS to Mark and Kate for winning the Community Service Award at the Coronation Ball!!).)

I also attended OutVote'96, the first Lesbian & Gay political convention sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) the week prior to the Democratic Convention. This was my first contact with HRC and was extremely impressed with their professionalism, message and ability to get the job done. HRC, with almost 200,000 members, is the largest lesbian and gay lobbying group in the country.

At both the HRC conference and the Democratic National Convention, I occasionally ran into that same old tired question — “Are there really gays/lesbians in Alaska?” But this time I also met many people who were aware of EQUAL and knew we had been involved in both the fight in the Municipal Assembly concerning the addition of Sexual Orientation to the list of protected groups and our efforts to encourage Governor Knowles to veto the anti-domestic partnership and anti-same sex marriage legislation.

I attended numerous seminars relative to grass roots organizing within the lgbt community, getting out the vote on election day and methods to fight the right. I have felt for some time that possibly EQUAL has served its purpose by registering over 400 new voters over the past few years and providing information/reminders about elections. Are we different in Alaska or do organizations Outside operate similarly?

I was somewhat surprised to hear from many attendees of the conference and convention of the dissolution of l/g/b/t political groups over the past few years. After thinking about it for awhile, it began to “sink in.” Our community has been a “political football” and “scapegoat” for too many politicians over the last decade. Politicians we supported and voted for have seemed to have forgotten us and knuckled under to the Religious Political Extremists on many issues of great importance to our community. It is no wonder many of us have pulled back from politics.

Have we accomplished all we can in Alaska? Are we so far behind the rest of the country in the struggle for equal rights that organizations such as ours are irrelevant? Do Alaskans truly believe that discrimination based on sexual orientation is acceptable?

These questions have been on my mind for quite sometime as interest in politics has seemed to diminish. My 2 1/2 weeks in Chicago have convinced me that we have much more to do in Alaska. The fact that approximately 3.5% of the delegates at the Democratic Convention were gay while over 9% of Alaska’s official delegation was openly gay gives me hope that we may not be as far behind in obtaining equal rights as we often think. I also believe that Alaskans, as well as most other Americans, do not believe in job discrimination! Polls show that 84% of Americans would support legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act currently before Congress. I think many of the political leaders of the progressive movement have found it easier to desert us than to try to explain how foolish the Religious Political Extremists have become.

We must continue to be involved. We must defeat politicians who support discrimination — of any kind. We must elect our friends and then demand their support of our issues in recognition of our support for them.

---

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The last day to register for the November 5 election is Sunday, October 6, 1996.

If you are going to be out of town or want to vote an Absentee Ballot to save time on election day, you may vote from 8AM-5PM Monday-Friday at Dimond Center starting October 21. You may vote on Saturday (11/2/96) from 10AM-4PM and Sunday (11/3/96) from noon-4PM.
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Older lesbian and gay activists want their issues addressed
by Mark F. Johnson

Lesbian activist and author Del Martin addressed the nearly 1,000 delegates to the White House Conference on Aging last year, entreating them to acknowledge the existence of older lesbians and gay men. When her language of inclusion was incorporated in the final conference report, Martin, her partner Phyllis Lyon, and some other lesbian and gay senior activists thought they had scored. Perhaps, they hoped, government officials, fellow seniors and younger gays and lesbians would finally pay attention to the concerns of gay and lesbian seniors, just as they had learned to listen to the issues of people of color, the disabled and women.

Now, however, many of those who are gay and gray are not so sure. They feel that what began as a moment of promise has been deflated by apathy and slow reflexes. “If the national organizations had gotten onto this, it might have made a big difference,” says Martin, referring to major lobbying organizations including the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the national gay and lesbian advocacy groups. She attributes the lack of interest to little publicity for the accomplishments at the White House Conference on Aging, which is only held once a decade.

“We are asking for more awareness of aging lesbian and gay issues in the gay community,” adds the advocate regarded by many as the Martin Luther King Jr. of the senior gay and lesbian civil rights movement. “There is a great deal of denial of getting old in the gay community, both among older gays and lesbians and also among younger and middle-aged gay people who fear the loss of youth and access.”

Other senior gay and lesbian activists offer different explanations for what they consider a less than aggressive push to get more attention paid to their concerns by national senior groups as well as national gay groups. Shevy Healey, a member of the steering committee of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, says many older lesbians and gays don’t realize the political strength that they have.

“We need to rid ourselves of entrenched homophobia and ageism,” she says. Then, “we look at younger gays and lesbians and train them to think differently, too.”

Many senior gay and lesbian activists feel that many of their concerns — such as health care and hospital visitation rights, homophobia, domestic partnership and marriage, ageism — are issues that affect the gay and lesbian community generally.

Same-sex marriage and domestic partnership are issues that concern older gays, too, especially after they retire, says Arlene Kochman, director of Senior Action in Gay Environment, a service organization headquartered in New York. “What they’re concerned about is the death of a partner and the loss of that partner’s Social Security check, which they’ve depended on for so many years,” she says. If these couples were legally married, this would not be an issue because the surviving partner would have the option of getting the larger check.

There are signs that things are looking a little brighter for older gays and lesbians as the sun sets on their days of activism. A recent issue of Modern Maturity, the membership magazine of AARP, featured a young lesbian couple as part of a cover story on American families. Many senior activists say they never thought the day would come when the AARP would even use the word gay or lesbian, much less include a same-sex couple in a magazine article.

Many others see hope in the change of leadership at AARP. Margaret Dixon, newly elected AARP president and the first African-American to hold that position, has given great encouragement to aging lesbian and gay activists through her public statements on greater inclusiveness. Likewise, the Human Rights Campaign has increased its efforts to respond to older lesbians and gays, particularly in the area of health-related legislation. HRC has recognized the importance of reaching out to members of the aging gay and lesbian community and has pushed for legislation that takes into account the health needs of older lesbians as well as the concerns of aging gay men who are faced with HIV infection and hospital visitation problems.

Frank Kameny, a gay activist well before Stonewall, is hopeful that younger gays will help older gays get these issues addressed. “Many older gays reflect the attitude of the period they came out of as younger people,” says Kameny, citing internalized homophobia and fear of confronting their own aging as roadblocks.

But Kochman holds out more hope for senior gays to help themselves. “This is the group that survived,” she says, pointing to McCarthyism, the women’s movement and the fight for black civil rights as well as gay civil rights. “We are the ones who marched in the early gay pride observances. That’s political activism.”

Mark F. Johnson is a former legislative specialist with the American Association of Retired Persons and former news media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

—Human Rights Campaign Quarterly, Summer 1996.

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Consistently, I work at trusting and following my senses, hunches, gut responses and intuition. The more I trusted my intuition the better I got at it. People who develop their “sixth sense” are psychic. I really believe if I can be a psychic anyone can be a psychic. I don’t believe that I started out in life with any more intelligence, family support, education or opportunities than anyone else has coming into this world. Having an unusual, incredible, wonderful spiritual life started with trusting those senses, hunches, gut responses and intuition. If you do the same the “powers-that-be” will eventually test you just to see how far you are willing to go. Some of those tests I failed and they were hard lessons, but very interesting stories. (It’s that lucky star I was born under — even the bad stuff is a blessing in disguise.)

I wasn’t always successful at totally trusting my “gut” responses. For example, my former husband, Ken, was a carpenter. He got a job with Smitty and his partner, Al, building houses. Smitty looked okay. Ken liked Smitty because he kept his word and paid on time. Ken helped Smitty and Al build two houses. Smitty’s business partner worked two jobs. Al was a carpenter on their building project from six in the morning to three in the afternoon; from four to midnight, he worked another job. When they got the bid on a third home, Al wanted out. He had a bleeding ulcer.

Smitty asked Ken to be his partner on the project. It meant Ken would only be paid on the “draws” from the financial backer instead of monthly. A contractor starts a project with his own money. When a third of the project is complete, the bank draws a third of the loan and gives it to the contractor. The draw is paid at two thirds completion and the last when the project is finished. I asked Ken not to be partners with Smitty. All I could tell him was that my “guts” said something was not right about Smitty even though I’d never found him to be one iota out of line. I looked very closely because every time I was in the same room with Smitty my abdominal muscles contracted painfully.

Ken looked forward to the final draw. Smitty was to go to the bank late Friday afternoon to get the final payment, put the money in the business account. Monday they would pay the bills and divide the profits. Ken went over to Smitty’s on Monday and there was no one home. Ken called Al. Al’s wife told Ken that Smitty and his wife had gone to Las Vegas on Sunday. What money Smitty didn’t spend on an alcoholic binge his wife lost at the gambling tables. None of the suppliers got paid out of the last “draw.” It took the two of us over three years to pay those bills — financially, a very costly lesson. After that, when my guts said “No”, I said “No way!” no matter how good the circumstances might look on the outside.

I learned to follow my “guts” and intuition because, if I obey, everything comes out well. If I didn’t follow the directions, the results were very unpleasant. While following my intuition, I learned to both pray and meditate. Praying is talking to the Divine Source. Meditating is listening to the same Divine Source which can enhance listening to your “guts” and trusting your intuition. As your intuition develops, if you will really trust it, then your own psychic abilities develop. In the meantime, trust your “guts” on the mundane. The “powers-that-be” have wonderful things waiting for all of us. More stories to come...
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Out North

Business spotlight

In a precedent-setting first, Jay Brause and Gene Dugan sipped fruit(!) juice around my kitchen table while we chatted about Out North.

NY: I’ve never featured a drama company in our business spotlight before ... I hardly know where to begin!
ON: Let us help you by saying that we are not a ‘business’ nor are we owners of Out North. A board of directors provides the leadership in this not-for-profit organization. Gene is the artistic director for programs which is the creative half, and I (Jay) am artistic director for projects and deal with the practical half.

NY: What is your main artistic emphasis ... what are you really about?
ON: We support professional contemporary artists who could be called unique, with an emphasis on diversity. We also offer works from the gay and Latino communities, as well as women’s works. We look for artists who use their own words and their own experiences to create their art and control their own work. There is a political edge to this theater which seems to particularly appeal to women.

NY: Do you think Anchorage perceives your company differently?
ON: The straight community assumes that we have only gay work (subject material) because we are so “out” to the public as a whole. They also tend to forget that featuring works from different cultures can be perceived as “weird” or not relevant by homogenized folks. The visual artists we exhibit are more free-form than the verbal artists. All the works are contemporary, and we do not believe they must be “timeless”. Some messages, hopefully, will not be valid 20 years from now!

NY: Your new space seems to suit the works you present. What’s your opinion?
ON: The space is great for what we do. In the beginning some audience members displayed fear of participatory drama ... they complained that they were “too close” to the performers. It has limits for greater works, and when that happens we move a show to more suitable digs. The Asian Culture Night at West High last year was a huge success, and lots of folkscs forget that it was one of our productions. Performers really love our theater. Many out-of-towners compliment us on how luxurious it is. Off-Broadway spaces are really seedy, for the most part.

NY: Let’s talk about money (Jay’s eyes lit up) and recognition (and so did Gene’s).
ON: We present 4 to 6 events each year, plus a large variety of events outside our own space. Ticket prices only cover 20% of the cost of a normal season. The rest is made up in grants, foundation dollars and donations. Part of our mission is to bring theater up close. The kids’ events ... local gallery stuff ... training-in-arts programs ... these are what really excite us. The “Youth At Risk” pilot project at McLaughlin (one of 5 selected across the country) gave us the opportunity to work with ‘lock-up’ kids and was truly rewarding.

NY: How do you find the artists/works which you present each year?
ON: It is tough to keep in contact with the national market. We visit performances outside, talk to other producers. Out North has a fine reputation as a truly professional organization which showcases both national and local artists’ work. Unfortunately, local artists are not always perceived by the public as being worthwhile ... it’s the ‘hometown’ syndrome. Every performer has experienced great road show crowds and poor ones at home.

NY: The NorthView readers would like it if you would say a few words especially to them.
ON: Producing works from different cultures has been a joy. It helps us to switch gears occasionally and gives us good energy. We exist for the artist to make a living. It is what we are about, and what we believe in. Part of our job is to find good artists before we can’t afford them! We produce professional caliber stuff which will stand on its own with any theater company. We hope the gay/lesbian community believes that we do good things for them, too!

Ruth Mathes is watching for termination dust on the mountains!

Ruth Mathes

by Ruth Mathes

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The taming of the screw

All’s quiet on the writing front. I’ve given Flash a kiss she’ll taste all day and shoed her off to work. The Cat Formally Known as Princess and New Cat on the Block have destroyed my pink feather boa and fallen asleep. Nothing can stop me from writing the Great American Lesbian Novel now. I pick up my Bic and... the phone rings. Who can that be? This is my writing time. What inconsiderate oaf has the nerve to call me during the peak hours of my creativity? My mother of course.

“How are you?” she asks.

“Ma, I can’t talk now. I’m working.”

“No, Ma. I’m writing.”

“Oh, you’re writing. I thought you were working.”

“I am working.”

“You’re working! I thought you were writing.”

“I am writ — Ma!” I interrupt our little Abbott and Costello routine. “What’s up?”

“I’m calling to ask what I should get Flash for her birthday.”

“You remembered,” I say, as if the woman had any choice. Last time I visited my parents, I attacked the calendar with a magic marker: 99 days ‘til Flash’s birthday, 98 days ‘til Flash’s birthday...

“So,” she continues, “what about a nice blouse?”

“Flash doesn’t wear blouses. She wears shirts.”

“Skirts? That’s a good idea. A nice skirt.”

“Ma, I don’t think clothes are a good idea.”

“What about a nice necklace?”

“What’s with the nice? Flash doesn’t even have a nice girlfriend. I’m sure she doesn’t want a nice necklace, as it would clash with her nasty necklace: a three inch labry she never removes except to sharpen its blades when the moon is full. “I don’t think so.”

“What does she need?”

Impatience makes me blurt out the truth: “Money.”

“Money?”

“Yeah, you know: dough, bread, bills, loot, cash, greenbacks, geld...”

“I can’t send Flash money.” My mother is shocked at the idea. “That’s so impersonal.”

“You send me money every year.”

“You? That’s different. I know. I’ll send you a check and you buy her something from me. You know what she likes.”

That’s personal? “I can’t do your shopping, Ma. I have to get back to work.”

“You got a job?”

“Ma!”

“All right. Call me back. And don’t tell Flash. I want it to be a surprise.”

I hang up and call Flash. “My mother wants to get you a birthday present. What do you want?”

“Money.”

“I tried that. Call me back so I can call her back.”

I hang up but instead of going back to My Daughter the Dyke, my mind is now focused on Flash’s birthday. I don’t know what to tell my mother to buy Flash.

Now if my mother had asked what I wanted for my birthday, I could have given her a list longer than RuPaul’s arm: anything with rhinestones, rubies, diamonds, emeralds, amethysts, opals or pearls. Flash on the other hand would be satisfied with anything held together with nails, screws, nuts, bolts, batteries, glue or duct tape. How can I explain to my mother that the way to a butch’s heart is through her toolbelt? Actually, this is something my mother will understand. Necessity is the mother of invention, but my mother found it necessary to invent ways to keep the house from falling apart, as she married a man who spent day after day playing with his one and only six-inch tool: a butterknife. My mother is known around the neighborhood as Mrs. “Fix Up or Shut Up.” I remember one summer afternoon when little Binky Shmendrick got his foot caught in his bicycle. Mrs. Shmendrick called the fire department but before they arrived, my mother had taken apart Binky’s bicycle, put it back together and raised the seat two inches. The last time Flash and I visited my parents, my mother dazzled my darling by assembling a bookcase with her cordless screwdriver. “Your wife is a whiz at screwing,” Flash said to my father, who luckily had his hearing aid off at the time.

I call my mother back. “Flash would love a cordless screwdriver.”

“A cordless screwdriver?” my mother repeats. “I wanted to get her something nice, like a sweater set.”

A sweater set? Even I don’t wear sweater sets. Suddenly I see what my mother is doing. Since I didn’t turn out to be the daughter she’s always wanted, she thinks she has a second chance with Flash. “Ma, do you want to buy Flash a present that will make you happy or a present that will make Flash happy?” I hold my breath as my entire childhood flashes before my eyes.

A week later a package arrives for Flash. My beloved gasps at what she finds inside. “Quick,” she yells, “get

continued...
... continued

me something to screw.”

“At your service,” I unbutton my blouse.

Flash ignores me and attacks the telephone table with passion. She goes through the entire house tightening bookcases, doorknobs, table legs, bureau drawers, chair backs, cabinets and shelves. When everything in the house has been screwed except moi, I hand Flash the cordless phone. “Don’t you think you should call my mother?” She dials and barely waits for someone to answer. “I’ve screwed everything in sight today,” she shouts, “including your daughter!”

“Flash!”

“Relax, it’s busy.” My darling takes me in her arms.

“This was your doing, wasn’t it?” she asks, giving me a kiss. Just as I slip off her toolbelt, the phone rings.

“Cordless interruptus,” I murmur. It’s my mother, wanting to know how Flash likes her present. “She’s screwing?” my mother asks.

“She’s screwing,” I pant.

“Tell Flash I said happy birthday,” my mother says.

“May she screw in good health for many years to come.”

Amen.

Please note: It is with a great deal of regret that we inform our readers this is the last of Lesléa’s columns. The NorthView staff appealed her decision to cease writing columns but she held firm. If you re-read her by-line above, you will note she is busy writing another book for our amusement. Editor.
The homophobe as closet queen

by Ken Levering

Gay men and lesbians can feel enormous satisfaction from the August issue of The Journal of Abnormal Psychology. Only twenty-five years ago, it would have been common to see an article about “the homosexual” in this highly respected journal; homosexuality was, after all, diagnosed as a mental disorder by the American Psychological Association until 1973. This month, the journal has published a report which focuses on the type of person who placed us on that disorder list not so long ago: the homophobe.

Researchers at the University of Georgia have found evidence that homophobia may result from the adamant denial of one’s own latent homosexuality.

Now there’s a big surprise. Leave it to researchers and their grant money to tell us what we already know.

Sixty-four straight male subjects volunteered for the study, which was conducted by Henry E. Adams and his colleagues. Based upon the men’s responses to the Index of Homophobia questionnaire, which measures comfort levels toward gays and lesbians, they were divided into two groups: homophobic and non-homophobic. Then they were outfitted with penile plethysmographs, devices which would keep track of the circumference of their penises while they watched four-minute segments of hard-core porn.

I can see the ads in Atlanta’s papers now. “WANTED: straight men to view pornographic films for posterity.” That’s “posterity,” not “posterior.”

Each group was shown clips of straight sex, lesbian sex, and gay-male sex, and it should come as no surprise that both the homophobic and the non-homophobic groups showed about the same levels of arousal from both the man-woman scenes and from the woman-woman scenes. The male-male scenes, however, brought more revealing results. From the group of homophobic men, 54% became aroused by the gay male videos.

Now hold on, before you jump to conclusions: the researchers are careful to distinguish that these men were only half as aroused from gay videos as they were from the straight and lesbian ones. In no way, however, does this fact downplay the significance of the men’s homoerotic responses. Though it is true that, in the scientific community, data is data and not much more, and one could certainly theorize about what the data might suggest, arousal is still arousal and if the stimulus (in this case gay men doing it) gets the blood flowing, then the body is trying to say something about its natural proclivities.

Besides, the whole notion of being half-aroused doesn’t quite sit right with me. It’s kind of like being half-pregnant: you haven’t quite reached the end of the process, but just wait a while.

Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, would’ve loved this study. It seems to support one of the oldest theories about homophobia. Freud proposed that, as young children, we are all bisexual and we are socialized to repress our same-sex attraction as we grow older. In 1914, Sandor Ferenczi, one of Freud’s followers, wrote that the heterosexual man’s revulsion toward the gay man serves as a defense against these repressed homoerotic feelings (of course, they didn’t have penile plethysmographs back then to measure this).

But Adams and his colleagues are careful not to draw any unfounded conclusions from their study. They say they have not proven that homophobia stems from the violent denial of one’s own gay feelings. It might be that the levels of arousal recorded in the 54% merely indicate high anxiety.

Well sure, I experienced high anxiety when I first came out, too.
Invocation prayer for the Imperial Court of All Alaska 1996

by Rev. Ed Knisley, Ph.D.

The Rev. Ed received so many positive comments on the invocation prayer he felt he would like to share it with the Community as a thoughtful moment for everyone.

As we come together again this day, as we have in years past, let us give praise and honor to the one who has created us.

Let us pause for a moment of silence as we reflect upon the memory of our brothers and sisters who have departed from our midst. Give us your peace just as you gave to them the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life. We thank you for the miracles of modern medicine which are constantly being made known to us, may they help us to live fuller and richer lives.

We thank you for your whole creation; for our biological families and our extended family with which we are gathered here this evening. Enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another.

Thank you for using Emperor Madeline and Empress Lana Duvall as instruments of love, peace and unity in our community this year; for those who have worked so hard to make the year a source of light to all of us; for the many organizations which have done so much to enhance our community’s family well-being. Give our newly elected people the wherewithal to make wise decisions as they lead us into the next year. Cause us to understand that there are no losers, only different tasks needing to be done for the betterment of our community.

Grant us your peace as we continue to strive for perfection in an often hostile world. Teach us to love our enemies. Bless our courts of justice and give them wisdom and understanding as they continue to discern truth and impartiality such as in the case of Colorado’s proposition 2 and the pending decisions in Hawaii, here in Alaska, in the nation and in the world. Erase the barriers that divide us, and grant us the ability to live together in love, peace and justice.

As we continue with our celebration this evening, grant that we may enrich our lives by widening our circle of friends. Show us your presence, creator, not only in ourselves, but also in those who differ from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all people. Amen.

The Rev. Ed Knisley, Ph.D., is the interim pastor of the Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church.

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Rule number 1: don’t run

Random observations on sex and the single gal

by Jen Kohout

Somebody should have warned the poor woman. Heck, she barely knew me. Some mutual friend, upon hearing of our weekend plans, probably should have chuted her in.

“Uh, Karen. So you are gonna spend an entire weekend with Jen? Alone?” But no one had said a word. When she hit the Russian Lakes trailhead, Karen thought she was headed out for three peaceful days of lugging a pack, sleeping on the ground, and picking small twigs out of her pasta. The sorts of things that outdoor gals enjoy. No one had warned her that her backpacking partner for the weekend was on a mission. A quest completely unrelated to the successful navigation of the well-marked trail or simply enjoying the fresh air. Within a few moments of hiking, however, Karen began to catch on.

“Nice view, huh?” I asked to break the ice.

“Sure is,” she agreed good-naturedly, taking in the sunshine which bounced off the lake just to the right of the trail.

“So, Karen, how would you define dating?”

“Dating?” She asked trying to buy herself a little time. Either to think of an answer or figure out what the heck she’d gotten herself into. “Why do you ask?” she inquired.

I explained that I was trying to find someone who could explain the concept to me. Not that patient friends hadn’t tried before. They had — on numerous occasions which I’d dutifully chronicled. It’s just that the entire endeavor seemed much like quantum physics. An intriguing concept but one well beyond my ability to comprehend. At some point, I figured, if I asked enough people maybe I’d start to identify some common themes.

I could see the wheels beginning to turn. She glanced down the trail, wondering if she could stall for a couple days. But it was a hopeless cause. I was carrying the tent poles. She couldn’t get too far away. “Well, I guess I could come up with a couple rules.”

“Like?” I asked enthusiastically. Being a military brat, I always found rules to be very comforting.

“Well,” she continued, “first, there’s a bit of fate involved. You have to meet the right person.”

“Hmm...” I responded, stepping carefully over an crusty pile of bear scat. As far as I was concerned, Karen’s rules weren’t off to a very encouraging start. Rules to me mean something I have some control over. If I obey, someone puts me on the head and says good job. The idea of trusting the cosmos to bring me crashing into some prospective girlfriend, however, connotes something other than control. In fact, seems like I have about as much control over meeting the right person as I would over winning the Publisher’s Clearinghouse Giveaway. I can paste the gold seal in the right place and even order a magazine subscription or two if I’m really desperate. But once the envelope’s in the mail, the whole thing’s out of my hands. I swatted at several pesky mosquitoes buzzing around my head.

Karen, sensing a respite from my inquisitive barrage, had headed up the trail with a burst of energy that left me plodding along a few yards back. “So how do you do that?” I shouted up to her.

“Do what... oh, meet someone?” she responded when she realized that I was still pondering Step 1 of the dating process despite the barrage of bugs. “Oh, I don’t know. Just doing what you enjoy I suppose. Like two-stepping or...”

“Two-stepping?!” I interrupted. “I’d rather spend the evening at a Monster Truck Pulling contest,” I insisted, completely missing her point. I have a few theories as to why I have such a visceral reaction to that “slow-slow, quick-quick” thing. Might have something to do with the fact that I prefer beat-up Saucony’s to cowboy boots and that two-stepping requires some other equipment I don’t necessarily have at my fingertips, namely, a partner. Heck, even if I did have someone handy to dance with, stomping on some poor woman’s feet for an entire evening, even in my running shoes, is probably not the way to get invited over for some herbal tea. Karen, concerned that I’d gotten too much sun and was getting a bit worked up over nothing, suggested we take a water break.

I swung my pack to the ground and sat next to it guzzling water. I stripped down to my jog bra and leaned back on the grassy slope where I could scan the hillsides across the valley for brown specks in motion. Took a couple deep breaths and decided to bag the mental gymnastics and relax for awhile. Maybe this meeting the right person was kind of like looking for bears — in reverse. You keep your eyes open, look for the telltale signs, make a lot of noise and trust that your paths won’t cross — or in this case that they will. And you don’t worry about it too much, cause if you do you’d miss a lot of wonderful scenery along the way.

Jen Kohout is happy to be back in town exercising her hiking boots; but hopefully not her bear spray.
Emperor's letter

To the Good People of All Alaska

As of this printing you have two newly-crowned Monarchs: Jerry Baltazar is your new Emperor and I, Salmon Ella, am your new Empress. Of course some of you know me better as Boston Bob! Maybe we should address that part first.

Many of you are wondering what the hell am I doing in a dress? Am I trying to be pretty, have I turned into a drag queen? The answer is quite simple. Once upon a time the old Empresses were “campy” and the Imperial Court was fun. What I hope to do is make it fun again and give us all a good laugh. I think all will agree that our lives are serious enough already and some folks have more than their share of heartache. The last thing we need is seriousness in our social lives. Out with the snobs and the stuffy — in with the fun and the happy!

In October we will begin our year of fun and fundraising. October 13 will be our Investiture Ball (watch for posters or call me) and October 31st will be our Halloween Ball (location to be announced.)

I know that you expect great things from us this year and we are ready to take up this task. Great things and great times are our goals and we will accomplish them through your help and support.

I know that this letter is shorter than I wrote as Emperor, but after Coronation XXIV last weekend, Mammy is pooped! We will see you in October.

All my love,
Salmon Ella, Empress XXIV of All Alaska
If you need me, the imperial pager is still the same: 275-0046.

Obituaries

Laurie Rae Love

Lifelong resident Laurie Rae Love, 43, died Sept. 5 in an automobile accident near Mile 2 of the Hatcher Pass Road near Willow. A funeral was held at 1 p.m. Thursday at Kheel's Forest Lawn Chapel with a visitation preceding the service.

Ms. Love was born on May 5, 1953, in Juneau. She attended West High School in Anchorage and worked enthusiastically as a commercial fisherman in Kodiak. She also worked in floral and food service industries in Anchorage. Her hobbies included a collection of vintage comic books and Native American prints.

Her family said, “Laurie had an extraordinary zest for life. She was high-spirited, always generous and willing to help anyone she met. Laurie had a special place in her heart for animals and children; she and her dog, Poe, were constant companions. She loved the sea, the outdoors, and commercial fishing. Her special place was Karluk Lagoon on Kodiak Island. Family and friends will miss her. She was a unique individual, and had an impact on everyone she met. She had a strong conviction in her beliefs.”

Ms. Love is survived by her mother, Emma of Anchorage; sisters, Janice and Marsha, both of Anchorage, Gloria Oberholtzer of Nome, Jeannine Marsh of Kodiak; Brother, Steven Love of Anchorage; longtime companion, Lisa Ture of Willow, nieces and nephews, and many aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Kenneth and Norman.

Anchorage Daily News
"The Whole World is Watching"
Dan Carter is a local gay activist

In 1968, anti-war protestors chanted "the whole world is watching" as they were being beaten by Chicago police during the Democratic Convention. This year, Judith Light, AIDS activist and actress, made an emotional speech using this same theme to the 700+ delegates attending OutVote'96 — the first lesbian and gay political convention. The whole world truly is watching...watching how the major political parties in this country advance or retreat on the issue of equal rights for gays and lesbians...watching how the voters accept or reject the messages of the candidates...and, more importantly for our community, watching how lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens turn out to vote in 1996.

In the 1992 elections, of all the constituent groups, the l/g/b/t community provided Democrats with their most solid support. George Stephanopoulos, a top advisor to President Clinton, conceded in his speech to the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) conference held the week before the Democratic National Convention that Clinton could not have been elected without our support. In 1994, over 8 million of these voters stayed home — including 40% of the l/g/b/t voters from 1992. The result was Newt Gingrich as Speaker of the House, a man who believes so strongly in "family values" that he has stated he will not attend his sister's holy union because she is a lesbian. It also gave us Dick Armey, Republican Majority Leader in the US House of Representatives who referred to Congressman Barney Frank, one of the three openly gay members of Congress, as "Barney 'Fag'". He later said it was just a "slip of the tongue" since the words are so similar (sorry, Mr. Armey, my brother's name is Frank and I have never called him "fag"). The '92 elections elevated Bob Dole to the position of Majority Leader of the Senate — a position he used to actively support Jesse Helms and others with their anti-gay agenda.

Now we approach the 1996 election. How will the l/g/b/t community react? Will we turn out in huge numbers as we did in 1992 or will we decide to let this election take place without our input? Either way, WE will decide who wins!!

There are some in our community encouraging us to vote for Dole or, worse yet, not to vote at all. I find it ironic the Christian Coalition and some in the l/g/b/t community are supporting Dole for the same reason — because Clinton attempted to allow lesbians/gays to serve openly in the military.

In my opinion, we as a community, have come too far to retreat now. We don't need to drop out of politics, we need to turn up the heat and get more involved. We also need to put more pressure on our "friends" after they win races with our support!

The Lesbian & Gay Caucus at the just concluded Democratic Convention in Chicago was the largest in history with more than 160 "open" gays/lesbians in attendance (including 2 from Alaska). Most of them share our frustrations with the pace of change over the past two years but also realize the importance for our future efforts to obtain equality by being involved. Congresswoman Maxine Waters, speaking to the L&G Caucus said it best — "The President has his heart in the right place on lesbian/gay issues but some of his advisors are too cautious. We must reelect him and then continuously kick him in the butt to keep him moving in the right direction." She also had an excellent point concerning the difference between the two major candidates for president — "The big difference between Dole and Clinton is that, although both parties NEED gay/lesbian votes to win, only the President 'WANTS' our communities support and is willing to ask for it publicly."

Current polls show a healthy margin for the President's reelection, however, most people believe it will be a very close election in November. There are many fine progressive candidates from both parties running this year for the Alaska legislature. Rather than sitting on the sidelines and letting the Religious Political Extremists set the agenda for the remainder of this century, we all need to do all we can to improve our community and the nation for ourselves and, more importantly, the next l/g/b/t generation. See you at the polls!

NOTE: Opinions expressed above are mine and not necessarily those of Identity, Northview, EQUAL or any other group in which I am a member.
The shameful truth

I never thought I'd be the kind of person who would pay money to look at pigs. Yet every year, in the same week that throngs of lesbians celebrate at the Michigan Women's Music Festival, Lover and I visit our County Fair.

I've never been to Michigan, but I've been to the fair at least a half dozen times. Surely there must be something wrong with me to stay here with these adorable suckling piglets when I could be frolicking with a multitude of bare-breasted, body-painted, hand-holding women.

The shameful truth is that I'm a homebody. Oh, I've heard the stories of enlightenment through sisterhood and spiritual recharging and mass menstruation. I've been at other festivals for the proud construction of stages and the strutting of security patrols and the cheerful mingling on interminable scrambled tofu lines and the midnight howling as Alix sings.

In the Northwest I've chopped my share of onions and picked up my tons of trash. At Bloomington I've done the workshops and attended the candlelight 12-step meetings. I've walked the miles from tent to dining hall and I've tried to sleep through nights reverberating with drums. I've endured gnat invasions in New England and pitched my tent in mud.

I've watched for wildfires at Yosemite.

I've blocked country roads on ticket lines where every driver wondered whether she was creating more pollution by repeatedly turning her car on or by letting it run. I've been shouted at by local boys with itchy trigger fingers. I've sobbed with Festi Stress Syndrome. I've left for home with complaints for souvenirs as well as a year's supply of must-have t-shirts I wouldn't dare flaunt. I've read the festi-flaming letters in Lesbian Connection with feelings of validation as well as annoyance.

But tomorrow night Lover and I will hitch up the ol' Subaru and mosey on over to the County Fair. With any luck the feature will be Big Wheel, the monster car that thrills audiences by crushing a line of vehicles as long as one waiting to get into a small women's festival. Not that we'll be in that audience. The midway clears for Big Wheel and we'll be practically alone in the garish neon glow of ferris wheel and Tilt-a-Whirl. We'll tempt ourselves with silly games of chance and wish we weren't too health conscious to eat cotton candy.

While lesbian comedians tickle the crowd at Michigan, we'll admire Lover's co-worker's third prize stringbeans and Joanie's candidate for Great Pumpkin. Instead of avoiding the body-piercing demonstration, we'll wander the craft building to ogle intricate needlework and lust after racks of glorious quilts. While amazon night stage stars tune their guitars, we'll meander through the art show, disagreeing with the judges' choices and marveling at Hazel's watercolor. Although we won't spend a cent at lesbian craft booths, it's likely the fair won't empty our pockets either. Well — I do have to replace that five-buck straw hat I picked up a few years ago which now looks like a 4-H goat thought it was dinner.

It's true that I find some of the fair booths offensive. The right-wing politicos strong-arm passersby and the Gideon Bible people proselytize the kids. But the Seventh-Day Adventists do a real service with their blood pressure monitoring and the Girl Scouts are always there. Not to mention Smokey the Bear.

There's no accounting for taste. I know lots of women who enjoy the festivals, but I'm no adventurer. Fighting the fair traffic is challenge enough for me. I'm glad I've had the chance to be knee-deep in lesbian culture (as well as mosquitoes), but I got to see Feron at an outdoor concert really close to home this summer and that satisfied me.

I guess I'm just a little old fashioned. It's neat to watch the square dancers although I know what would happen if Lover put on a floency gingham square dance dress, a string tie, and we tried to join them. It's easier to be a vegetarian at a women's festival, but being around well-treated horses and bunny rabbits has its good moments. Maybe it's growing up in Queens that makes county fairs just a little bit exotic. Maybe it's the American in me. Maybe it's the need for a balance — steeped in lesbian culture as I am through my work — a balance among all the cultures that I claim for my own.

Or maybe it's just the new crop of adorable piglets that draw me back year after year.
Homo improvement

My queer life

I love hardware stores. Blame it on some rogue butch gene roaming my system, probably the same one that commands me to watch baseball. There's just something about a well-ordered collection of hand tools, gardening implements, and fasteners of various types that can fascinate me for hours, even when there's nothing in the store I actually need. If the place also carries lumber, I'm lost in rapture as I inhale the scent of freshly-sawn pine and envision a Sunday afternoon constructing a deck.

My favorite hardware store of all is Home Depot. The Valhalla of home improvement centers, it floats majestically in a concrete parking lot sea, calling to the many do-it-yourselfers who flock there from morning 'til night, drawn by the siren song of circular saws and the magical lure of easily-assembled kitchen cabinets.

My first visit to Home Depot was nothing short of a religious experience. A cavernous space, it is crammed floor to ceiling with every conceivable hardware, gardening, and plumbing product imaginable. I had gone there for a simple screwdriver, but by the time I wheeled my cart to the checkout line several hours later, I had also picked up such indispensable items as a butane fireplace starter, new wallpaper for the bathroom, iris bulbs in various colors, and a tool of which I had not even the vaguest notion of its use but which leapt unbidden into my arms as I passed by. Such is the magic of this wondrous place.

Not the least of Home Depot's charms is the large number of attractive young men who work there. Invariably clean cut and hunky, they are all clearly designated by their festive orange aprons and by the fact that, at least here in Boston, they are all named Tom. The Toms swarm all over Home Depot like ants over a fallen peach, appearing at regular and often startling intervals to say hello and ask if they can be of service. Once I decided to test a Tom who had asked me four times if he could help me. Picking up a wicked-looking piece of PVC, I asked him to explain it to me. For the next fifteen minutes, he entertained me with a demonstration of how one could, by using the remarkable device, change one's ordinary kitchen sink into a garbage disposal. Impressed, I bought one.

Despite their charms, the Toms are not what fascinate me most about Home Depot. What I find even more interesting is the enormous number of queer men who, like me, seem to spend hours roaming the aisles. Home Depot is cruisier than any bar I've ever been in, and this despite the unflattering fluorescent lighting that falls from some nether region far overhead. At any given time, the place is crawling with fellow queers looking for everything from geraniums for the summer house to real Italian marble for the bathroom. Yet neither the host of actual repairmen, plumbers, and carpenters who do business there nor the Toms seem at all phased by sharing their Palace of Masculinity with a bunch of queens. I've often wondered if they don't recognize the homos in their midst or if they simply don't care.

A few months ago, I had occasion to find out once and for all. I made a happy trip to Home Depot in order to fetch some padding to lay under the host of tasteful yet affordable oriental carpets I had recently purchased. In a hurry to get there and back, I had written the measurements of all the rugs on the back of the nearest piece of paper. In this case, it happened to be an envelope which contained a letter from my friend Hank.

Paper in hand, I made my way through the electrical wiring, past the paint shakers, and down the flooring aisle. There I discovered roll after roll of handy backing. I needed a Tom to help me. Luckily, one popped up not two seconds later, asking if he could be of use. When I said he could, he seemed genuinely glad, unlike young men whose job it is to ask such questions at, say, Macy's, where an answer in the affirmative is likely to result in an hour of petulant and reluctant service.

Tom and I pulled out a hefty roll of padding and rolled out a length of it. We then stood there, hands on our waists, looking down at it as we shared a moment of common manliness. We were about to embark on a home improvement journey together, one that would require both strength and cunning. "Beautiful padding," Tom said. "Sure is," I answered. "Looks sturdy, too."

Thus invoking the Hardware Gods, we got to work. Tom produced a handy utility knife from his back pocket, and we set to work hacking up the padding. I took out the paper with the measurements written on it and handed it to Tom. He studied it manfully.

Then he turned it over. Hank makes his own stationery, and on the back of this particular envelope, where it had been sealed, was a giant pink lip print. Tom looked at it, then grinned. "A love letter, eh?" he said approvingly. "Is she a real Betty?"

I thought seriously about this. Certainly Hank has many appealing qualities. Yet I doubted that he was what Tom would consider a Betty. I had two choices: I could lie and say that no, it wasn't a love letter, or I could come out and announce that yes, he was a real sweetheart. Either one would...
require an explanation I wasn’t sure Tom would understand. Beyond that, I wasn’t sure I wanted to shatter the illusion of male bonding we had created there on the floor of Home Depot. Gay men don’t get a lot of opportunities to be just “regular guys” these days, and it was sort of fun running around such an uberbitch place blending in. Like Cinderella, I wanted the ball to go on a little while longer before Tom turned into a pumpkin.

I looked down at the envelope and said a silent apology to Hank for the betrayal I was about to commit. “Not so much a Betty,” I said. “More of a Mary.”

“A Catholic girl,” Tom said, nodding sympathetically as he began to cut pad. “I know how that is.”

Reno responds to task force

Attorney General Janet Reno has assured the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) that investigators are considering anti-lesbian bias as a possible motivation in the slaying of Julianne Williams and Lollie Winans. In a letter to NGLTF Executive Director Melinda Paras, Reno stated investigators are “...pursuing all motives, including the possibility that the crime was motivated by the sexual orientation of the victims.”

William and Winans were found murdered in Virginia’s Shenandoah National Park on June 1. The Appalachian Trail was the site of the 1988 murder of Rebecca Wight. Wight was murdered, and her partner, Claudia Brenner, was seriously injured after being shot because they were lesbians.

The Task Force contacted Attorney General Reno by letter on June 7 when concerns were raised that the possibility of a hate crime was not being seriously considered by investigators. These concerns stemmed from a conversation with an FBI official involved in the case and from various statements to the press by investigators that indicated the possibility of anti-lesbian bias was being prematurely dismissed.

In a statement from Ms. Paras, “We do not know if Julie and Lollie were killed because they were lesbians. We do know, unfortunately, such a possibility is all too real. We also know it is important that all hate crimes be identified accurately and honestly by the media and the criminal justice system.”

Judy Carter’s homo handbook, don’t come out without it!

Just in time for National Coming Out Day (October 11), “The Homo Handbook: Getting In Touch with Your Inner Homo” (Fireside Books/Simon & Schuster) by stand-up comic Judy Carter, (pictured above) offers both chuckles and solid advice for anyone who’s been in the closet longer than it takes to grab a coat. As part of her critique of the top ten excuses for staying in the closet ("It’s amazing to me how many people are gay only when they’re drunk”), Carter’s ten-step strategy guides readers through the never-ending coming-out process.

Prior to penning “The Homo Handbook,” Carter wrote the book on stand-up comedy. Literally. She’s the author of “Stand-Up Comedy: The Book” (Dell Books), which is in its fifth printing and has been featured on “Oprah,” “Entertainment Tonight,” and even “ABC World News.” One of the first women on the stand-up circuit, the Los Angeles-based comic began her career in 1975. She spent more than fifteen years on the road opening for everyone from Pat Boone to Prince, and she was a regular on “The Merv Griffin Show.”

“When I first started doing stand-up, I wasn’t aware that I was gay,” says Carter. “About five years into my comedy career, I came out in my personal life. My life changed, but my act remained the same, except that I began avoiding pronouns.”

She took time off from the road and wrote “Stand-Up Comedy: The Book,” decided to return to the stage as an out lesbian, and returned to pounding the keyboard to produce “The Homo Handbook.” For both ventures, Carter has drawn from her personal coming-out experiences as fodder for laughs. “I didn’t come out to myself until I was twenty-eight — I was bogged down with fear, denial, and a bad wardrobe,” she writes.

“This book is for you no matter where you are in your journey to be who you are.”

Ed Karvoski, Jr., is the author of the forthcoming book “A Funny Time to Be Gay,” which will be published in January.
Book notes

Book discussion groups to meet
Two new book discussion groups have formed in the community and are worthy of your attention:

(1) Over 50's: A lesbian book and support group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Videos and books will be a part of this positive energy discussion group. For location, call Rose Beth (337-6779) or Lorraine (276-3337).

(2) Barnes & Noble: A gay/lesbian book discussion group beginning Wednesday, September 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the bookstore (200 East Northern Lights Boulevard). Co-hosts are Kim Meck, Community Relations Coordinator for B & N, and Howard Bess, local author of “Pastor, I Am Gay.”

New lesbian erotica anthology seeks stories
PILLOW TALK: an anthology of erotic lesbian short stories edited by Lesléa Newman to be published by Alyson Publications seeks sexy, breathtaking, HOT stories written by women who identify as lesbian or bisexual. All serious, funny, tender, angry, lusty stories about sexual encounters (or near encounters) will be considered. Editor is looking for well-written stories complete with plot, fully developed characters and emotional content, as well as body parts.

Deadline: December 31, 1996.
Before submitting stories, writers should send SASE for complete guidelines to: Lesléa Newman, P O Box 815, Northampton, MA 01061.

Barnes & Noble: Community friendly bookseller
by Kim Meck
A notable bookseller has arrived in Anchorage, and its reputation precedes its presence. Barnes & Noble is known for taking a non-discriminatory stand on all civil rights issues. They have a national reputation for being unbiased, and routinely advertise in gay/lesbian publications throughout the country. (They mandate Gay Pride Month displays in all 400 of their stores.) We can expect to see the same support here in Alaska.

The store has an extensive Gay/Lesbian Studies selection and can order any book currently in print. Gay fiction is shelved in the Fiction/Literature, Mystery, Romance section (alphabetically by author’s last name), and the Sexuality section offers other titles of interest. Magazines are located in the NewsStand area, and the minority offerings are well-balanced.

For those readers interested in book discussions groups, the following organizational meetings are scheduled for September and October: Fiction - September 4 & October 9; Sci-Fi - September 10 & October 15; Gay/Lesbian - September 18 & October 23; Non-Fiction - September 24 & October 29; Young Adults - September 12 & October 3; American Girls - September 17 & October 1; Goosebumps - September 24 & October 8. Starting time for all groups is 7:00 p.m. but ending times will vary, depending on the decision of each group.
Discussion leaders will also vary; suggestions and volunteers are welcome.

Barnes and Noble welcomes your specific literary requests, and will do their best to fill them. We know that Anchorage feels the loss of Bona Dea (Alaska Women’s Bookstore), but we can help all our readers to remain current in their reading endeavors. We are committed to all members of the Alaskan community.

Kim Meck is the Community Relations Coordinator for Barnes & Noble in Anchorage.

Christian group boycotts Barnes & Noble
The Barnes & Noble bookstore in Springfield, IL is facing a possible boycott by a local Christian fundamentalist group. Why? Because the bookstore presented a display for Gay Pride Month. As a national chain, Barnes & Noble has been very gay friendly and provides partner benefits to same-sex couples. In smaller towns, where there is not a great deal of information readily available to the gay and lesbian community, this kind of visibility is important.
—“Seattle Gay News,” July 14
Love made visible: The NAMES Project
by Joyce Holly, Director of Education, AIDS Project

The poet Kahlil Gibran said, “Work is love made visible.” The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt embodies that statement. The Quilt consists of more than 26,000 panels made by lovers, family members, and friends of people who have lost their lives as a result of AIDS. In the face of the AIDS epidemic’s overwhelming cumulative statistics, each panel is a unique collage of memories which serves to remind us of the individuals infected and affected by this disease. Although we are individuals, the Quilt demonstrates our connections to one another.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt began in 1987. The Quilt’s founder, Cleve Jones, was among a group of men in San Francisco who had lost friends and lovers to AIDS. Families would often take their loved ones back to other parts of the country for burial leaving behind grieving friends and partners. To memorialize their losses, banners with names were regularly carried during candlelight marches and vigils. To preserve these banners as a lasting monument, the NAMES Project was conceived.

Each Quilt panel is 6’ x 3’, standard coffin size. While this may seem a bit morose, the panels are filled with reminders of lives to be celebrated. Panels may be decorated with iron-on photographs, articles of clothing, favorite keepsakes, embroidered letters and poetry — just about anything that can be attached to fabric. Some are elaborate and intricately detailed; others have an understated simplicity. All the panels are equally beautiful labors of love.

When submitted to the NAMES Project, a panel is joined to seven other panels to form a 12’ x 12’ square. These larger squares are opened ceremoniously at Quilt displays all over the world which are viewed by several hundred thousand people each year. Most Quilt displays consist of a small number of panel squares.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in Washington, DC from October 11-14, 1996. This rare opportunity to view the entire Quilt is sure to be an inspiring and moving experience. The Quilt has only been shown as a whole on two other occasions. The last complete showing was in October 1992 when the Quilt covered an area equal to 14 football fields.

For further information about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, including how to make a Quilt panel, please contact the AIDS Council at (518) 434-4686 or the AIDS Council’s Hotline/InfoLine at 1-800-201-2437.

From: “Community” Newsjournal, Albany, NY

PFLAG VP Testifies

National PFLAG Vice President Nancy McDonald testified before the House Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee at a hearing on HR 3396, the “Defense of Marriage Act,” commonly referred to as DOMA. Largely considered an election year strategy to divide the gay and lesbian community coordinated by religious political extremists, HR 3396, and its companion bill in the Senate, S 1740, are moving rapidly through Congress. President Clinton has indicated that he will sign the bill if it passes Congress in its current form.

In her testimony before the subcommittee, McDonald stated, “I find instead of defending marriage, I need to defend the people — gay and lesbian people — who are being denied the right to marry. This bill is yet another piece of legislation that tells the American people, in no uncertain terms, that we do not value the contributions of gay and lesbian Americans. The bill tells me that the federal government does not consider all Americans equal.”

Of her experience in testifying before Congress, McDonald commented, “I was grateful for the opportunity to speak against the legislation, but it was clear to me that the bill is nothing more than Congress playing politics with my family. PFLAG will continue organizing until this legislation is ineffective as a divisive political tactic.”
The marriage debate

by John D’Emilio, Director NGLTF Policy Institute

Like the military issue in 1993, marriage has suddenly jumped to the top of our so-called “gay agenda.” Despite the range of opinion about the importance or wisdom of fighting for it, the right-wing seizure of the issue has pushed it to the center of our radar screen.

Yet the marriage issue is filled with meaning and potential that begs for more than a simple “pro” or “con” analysis. The debate over marriage illuminates fissures in the body politic and provides an opportunity to examine some normally unquestioned assumptions about society. The debate, in other words, may be as important as the issue itself.

First, some background. As recently as ten years ago marriage elicited barely a murmur of interest among us. Instead, a cluster of “family issues” did begin percolating, and by the early 1990s had heated to boiling. These included domestic partnership registration, workplace organizing for partnership benefits, and a host of policy matters relating to our right to parent. Marriage ran at the back of the pack.

Then, in 1993, an unexpected court ruling in Hawaii raised the possibility of same-sex marriage there and, because of the Full Faith and Credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, by extension, in all 50 states.

Enter the right wing. Having met electoral defeats and court setbacks in its effort to block protection of our basic civil rights, the right has shifted its line of attack. The pattern was already clear last year. In “Beyond the Beltway,” our 1995 survey of state legislation, NGLTF identified family issues as the wedge used by the right to arouse hatred against us.

Marriage is now the heart of their strategy. Through the “Marriage Protection” rally and resolution that circulated in Iowa in February, the bills in 36 states to preemptively strike against developments in Hawaii, and the Defense of Marriage Act in Congress, of which Dole was lead Senate co-sponsor, the issue has become a right-wing crusade.

From one angle, President Clinton’s promise to sign the bill might steal the political thunder away from the issue, but it also functioned as a slap in the face of our community, and it reinforced the divisive rhetoric of “traditional family values.” His stance may also make it more likely that this far-reaching piece of homophobic legislation will become law.

Under these circumstances we must respond to the threat at hand. At the same time, we will lose a tremendous political opportunity if we let the right’s line of attack shape how we approach our issues. The fastest way of getting to civil marriages for same-sex couples is not likely to be a straight line. If the issue is relatively new to us, it still seems revolutionary to much of America.

Yet our pressing the issue has opened a fascinating debate. Large numbers of journalists, editorial boards, columnists, mainstream elected officials, and ordinary citizens are asking some basic questions: What is marriage actually for? What does it mean to call it the foundation of civilization? What kind of public policies do we need to recognize the same-sex committed relationships that exist in America? What desirable social goals are we trying to foster through marriage, and does same-sex marriage help or hinder that?

Rather than make marriage the litmus test of whether someone is our friend or foe, we can instead productively engage in this debate and shape it to our purposes. Marriage is only one among a cluster of family issues; the debate about it is really a debate about how a society fosters caring, commitment, and bonds of support among its members.

Let’s participate in this broad social discussion about family and community, issues that large numbers of Americans are struggling with as they look for workable private and public solutions.

Coming out as families and pressing the full range of needs that we have as families are more likely to advance our goals than a single-item plank of marriage. Rethinking family and community opens possibilities for victories in the short run as well as creating a more solid foundation for moving on the marriage front in the long run. Of course we need to expend the energy to expose the right-wing’s strategy and the dangers of anti-gay marriage-related legislation. But let’s not let the intensity of their assault sweep us along until we, too, come to believe that marriage is our panacea, that marriage is the issue. A “magic bullet” focus on marriage narrows our opportunities and leaves us standing on the political ground defined by our enemies.

Dr. D’Emilio is a noted historian and author. His books include “Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics and the University” (Routledge, 1992), “Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970” (University of Chicago Press, 1983), and he is the co-author of “Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America” (Harper and Row, 1988). He is currently working on a biography of the late Bayard Rustin.

—National Gay and Lesbian Task Force OPED

Crisis line volunteers needed for STAR.

Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) needs volunteers to answer their crisis line. The next training begins on October 9, 1996. Both women and men are encouraged to volunteer. Call Jessica at STAR (276-7279) for an application.
Teachers support network
by Fred Hiltman

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers’ Network (GLSTN) was organized six years ago in Boston with the goal of ending homophobia and heterosexism in schools. I see its role as threefold, similar to PFLAG’s: to support public school personnel through organizational strength; to educate the public in the idea that discrimination against gay people is bad for our schools and unhealthy for children; and to advocate for both teachers and students who are victims of discrimination and harassment.

There are 40 chapters across the nation, but so far none in Alaska. This is an invitation to you to start one!

One does not have to be a member of the national organization to help start a chapter here (although I predict that you will want to be). I should emphasize also that non-gay teachers, school administrators, nurses, and counselors are especially welcome and especially needed, because your presence adds much credibility to GLSTN’s work. Indeed, one need not be a teacher at all, but just a person who is an advocate for youth and education. One can be “out” or not, active or retired. The cause needs everyone!

If you would like information about the organization, send your inquiries to me or to Ruth, c/o Identity, Inc., P O Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070, or phone me at 562-7161. All inquiries will be strictly confidential.

An organizational meeting is being convened on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Turnagain Street and West 32nd Avenue. If this is not a convenient time for you, please get in touch with me or Ruth anyway, so that we will know that you are interested.

NEA endorses diversity of sexual orientation instruction

In the Voice of the Times half page on September 7 was the following quote about the mighty National Education Association: “This (NEA) resolution calls for the instruction of ‘diversity of sexual orientation.’”

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School officials face lawsuits if they ignore sexual harassment

by David G. Savage, Los Angeles Times staff writer

WASHINGTON — As students return to the classroom this fall, school officials have been put on notice that they can be sued if they ignore instances of gross and repeated sexual harassment of girls by other students. Three federal courts ruled this summer that school districts, and perhaps school officials themselves, can be forced to pay damages to former students who were ridiculed, embarrassed and grabbed in hallways or on school buses. In each case, the girls and their parents had repeatedly complained to school officials, but nothing was done.

One sixth-grader from rural New York said she underwent a daily barrage of taunts, including “lesbo” and “dog-faced bitch.” Several boys grabbed her breasts in class, she said. According to the lawsuit, her mother’s complaints were brushed off with a school official’s observation that “boys will be boys.”

A Georgia case involved a girl who was mocked by comments about her breasts, and who endured daily grabbing. In Northern California, a mother reported that her daughter, having retreated into silence after boys repeatedly shouted “moo” at her, considered committing suicide rather than enduring the humiliation at school. In this case, federal appeals court Judge Rosemary Barkett said school officials can be forced to pay damages if they are told of the problem and “knowingly fail to act to eliminate the harassment.”

Not all the cases involve girls. A U.S. appeals court in Chicago in July reinstated a damage suit against a Wisconsin school district brought by a gay student who was repeatedly called “fag” and kicked and beaten in hallways. The July 31 ruling marks the first time federal antidiscrimination law has been extended to anti-gay harassment in schools.

Three weeks ago, civil rights lawyers at the Department of Education sent a directive to the nation’s 15,000 school districts telling them they have a duty to protect students from sexual harassment. Currently, 278 school districts are being investigated by the department over complaints of sexual harassment of students by other students.

While lawsuits and damage claims might not be an ideal way to force a change, they will certainly get the attention of school officials, says one expert on discrimination law.

“Employers woke up to this when a few big damage awards were handed down,” said Merrick T. Rossein, a law professor at the City University of New York. “The school people need to wake up to this issue and take action. I think a few damage awards will do it.” A legal expert on workplace discrimination, Rossein was contacted by the parents of the sixth-grader who had suffered daily harassment at her junior high school. “They would have accepted an apology and a commitment to do something about the problem,” he said. But they decided to file suit after the harassment became so severe they felt it necessary to transfer their daughter to another school, he said. Lawyers for the school had maintained that officials could not be sued over the actions of students. But on July 24, U.S. District Judge Thomas J. McAvoy in Binghamton, NY, disagreed. He ruled that educators, if told of a sexual-harassment problem, can be held liable if they fail to take action. The suit goes to trial this month.

On July 22, U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken in Oakland, CA, cleared the way for a damage trial against the Petaluma, CA, school district. She acted on a suit filed by a young woman who says she was repeatedly called “slut” and “whore,” among other things, during her junior high school days in 1991 and 1992. Before that, another federal judge had said the school could be found liable only if its officials engaged in “intentional” discrimination against the girl. That high standard would be hard to prove, if not impossible. But Wilken ruled that the workplace standards for sexual harassment also apply in the schools. Petaluma officials are liable if they “knew or should have known” of the harassment suffered by the young woman, yet “failed to take remedial action” to stop it, she wrote in her opinion. That case also goes to trial soon.

The new round of legal actions marks a major expansion of Title IX of the federal education code. In 1972, Congress added Title IX to make clear that schools and colleges could lose their federal funds if they discriminated against girls by, for example, offering sports teams for men but not women. Four years ago, the Supreme Court raised the stakes when it ruled school districts could be sued for damages for violating Title IX. The Georgia case, Franklin vs. Gwinnett County Schools, arose when a young woman complained that a sexually aggressive teacher had harassed and seduced her in high school. School officials had been warned several times about the teacher’s pursuit of his female students. The high court ruling established that school officials are responsible for sexual harassment by teachers or other employees. The latest decisions extend that duty to include harassment of students by other students.

Not all federal courts are in agreement. In April, a U.S. appeals court in New Orleans threw out a sexual-harassment complaint brought by the mother of a Texas girl. “The mere existence of sexual harassment [at school] does not necessarily constitute sexual discrimination,” wrote Judge Jerry Smith for a 2 to 1 majority. But Clinton administration lawyers have joined the mother’s appeal to the Supreme Court. The school is being sued “for its own conduct in knowingly allowing a discriminatory environment to continue,” said U.S. Solicitor Gen. Walter Dellinger.

School lawyers question the need for lawsuits. But they also are rushing to get the nation’s secondary schools to enact strict policies against harassment of students by their peers. “It’s horrible what some of these girls have gone through, but it’s not that easy to stop it,” said Gwendolyn Gregory, counsel for the National School Boards Association. “This is not like employment. There, you can continued...
...continued

say, 'If you do this, you’re fired.' You can’t do that with all the boys at school.” She said federal officials should help school districts adopt grievance procedures and educate their staffs, rather than bringing legal complaints. “Surely there is a better way to deal with this than lawsuits,” she said.

Meanwhile, the organization that represents junior and senior high school principals is urging its members to adopt clear policies against student harassment, as well as procedures for victims to complain about violations. “They need to be proactive. That’s what we have been telling them,” said Stephen Yurck, general counsel for the National Association of Secondary School Principals, based in Reston, VA. “They can’t just sit back and say, ‘Well, boys will be boys at that age.’ They need to be clear that it’s not permitted. They need to have a way to report problems. They also need to make sure they are investigated and something is done.”

Federal officials stress that schools can avoid liability simply by acting on complaints. “That’s why we wanted to get these [draft regulations] out, to show schools how they can avoid a problem,” said Roger Murphy, a spokesman for the Office for Civil Rights.

—September 2, 1996 Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA, 90053 (Fax 213-237-7679) (e-mail: voices@latimes.com)

—From: Jessie NR Greenman (jessee@uclink4.berkeley.edu)

Society

Union news and other special occasions

Reverend Nancee Sweeney presided at a very, very private commitment ceremony for women’s community members, Bonnie and Mo. The happy couple were gracious hosts to a number of women friends and acquaintances at a gala reception the following Saturday in their lovely home. Guests served themselves from a buffet with an array of culinary delights and participated in a lively social exchange through the afternoon and into the evening hours. Heartfelt congratulations were extended to Bonnie and Mo. One guest gushed, “I’m so glad they are no longer living in sin!”

Mariah, Joanne, Yukon Rose and her sister, Chacote, are on the road in their RV. After months of having their trailer home on the market, a buyer suddenly appeared. The legal papers and transfer occurred on Monday, August 26th. The two women and their dogs moved the RV to MaryLou’s driveway for a few days and were on their way before the end of the week. Bon Voyage and keep us posted, women!

Karen Carlisle and “Dear Love” have made the move from Bushville to Missouri with all their cat companions. We are sorry to have no column this month from Karen. She is “off line” for the time being. We hope to hear from her in the future when “the family” is more settled.

Kurt and Bill opened their new home in Eagle River and entertained the HelpLine volunteers at a social in August. One week later they hosted a barbecue fundraiser for the Alaska Pride Conference. Their house has a fantastic view of Eagle River and is tastefully decorated without a hint of beige.

OWLS

by Barbara J. Soule

How about going steppin’ at the bar tonight — whatya say, hoe? I’d say — you were lookin’ for love in all the wrong places!
Past out

What was the Alpine County Project?
In October 1970, the Los Angeles Times ran a story about a plan by the local Gay Liberation Front (GLF) to establish a gay colony in Alpine County, California. The ensuing brouhaha — which spread to the national media and caused an uproar in the tiny, snow-bound county itself — is a fascinating episode that illustrates the utopianism, the folly, and the media savvy of the early gay liberationists.

The plan originated with underground newspaper reporter Don Jackson, who urged gays to move en masse to California’s least populous county, register to vote, and elect an all-gay government which could then use tax dollars to create a gay civil service, community college, museum, and other public facilities and services.

Jackson’s plan was dismissed by many as a quixotic fantasy. But the demographic and legal hurdles to actually setting up a “gay county” were relatively small. The 450-population Alpine County (nestled in the Sierra Nevadas 10 miles south of Lake Tahoe) had only 367 registered voters, and new residents could register to vote after only 90 days. It seemed to some that the plan required only a few hundred gays and lesbians willing to make a three-month experiment.

Meanwhile, many members of the Los Angeles GLF were frustrated by the lack of media attention to their movement. A group of them decided to use the Alpine County idea as political theater in hopes of gaining the attention of the Los Angeles Times and other mainstream news outlets. They called a news conference to announce that hundreds of gays and lesbians were already preparing to move to Alpine County. Only the medical reporter from the Times covered the conference, but his article quickly gained national attention, with stories soon appearing in the Wall Street Journal and Time, as well as on every network news broadcast.

The GLF members continued the hoax, even sending a scouting party up to Alpine County during Thanksgiving 1970 to make “preparations” for the gay colony. Some GLF supporters — men and women — who read about the plan in the papers or saw it on the news took it seriously and even started planning to move. One lesbian couple from Long Beach told The Advocate they were planning to open a “little country store” in Alpine County.

When the long-time residents of Alpine County heard about the plan, however, they were not amused. The chairman of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors noted the cold climate of the region and said that “no fruit is very welcome up in our particular county.” The county began to explore the option of merging with the more populous neighboring El Dorado County.

In any event, by February 1971, the plan had lost steam. The GLF issued a statement that they were abandoning Alpine County for a “more temperate county” with better soil and rivers. The media attention had died down, although the GLF had achieved its goal of being taken seriously by the press as a political force, not a medical issue. The project was not publicly revealed as basically a hoax until many years later.

Identity’s Fourth Friday Potluck Dinner

IS BEING HELD AS PART OF THE ALASKA PRIDE CONFERENCE AT THE UAA CAMPUS CENTER. BRING A DISH, WHETHER SOUP, SALAD, ENTREE, DEVILED EGGS, FRUIT, BREAD, DESSERT, PIZZA, ETC. IDENTITY WILL PROVIDE THE DRINKS: TEA, COFFEE, AND PUNCH. ADMISSION IS FREE BUT WE CHEERFULLY ACCEPT DONATIONS.

WHEN: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27;
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 P.M.;
DINNER SERVED AT 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: UAA CAMPUS CENTER CAFETERIA (INFO: 566-2048)

PROGRAM: ENTERTAINER ANN REED AND COMEDIENNE AMY BOYD
THIS IS OPEN TO EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF CONFERENCE REGISTRATION.
How did Billie Jean King come out?

Seven years after marrying Larry King (not the talk show host) in 1965, tennis champion Billie Jean King began a relationship with Marilyn Barnett, a Beverly Hills hairdresser. Barnett even moved into the Kings’ Malibu house, and was at Billie Jean’s side as her “secretary” when she defeated Bobby Riggs in the much-hyped “Battle of the Sexes” at the Houston Astrodome. The women were not public about their relationship, and the tennis star gained a reputation as a “women’s libber” — but she was relatively safe from suspicion as a married woman.

In 1979 the affair ended, and the Kings planned to sell the Malibu house, worth about three quarters of a million dollars. Barnett refused to leave, and became distraught. She attempted suicide twice, then began to threaten to go public with more than 100 amorous letters Billie Jean had sent her. Despite receiving $25,000 in hush money from the Kings, Barnett was not satisfied and in April 1981 brought a “pamphlet suit” against the tennis star, alleging that she had been promised financial support for life.

Two days after the suit was filed, Billie Jean King called a press conference in which she declared, “I’ve decided to talk with you as I’ve always talked — from the heart.” With her husband at her side, King conceded that she had been Barnett’s lover and called the relationship “a mistake.” Larry King publicly took the blame for the affair, by saying that he had neglected his wife through his frequent business trips. In subsequent interviews, the tennis champion repeatedly denied being a lesbian, telling People “I hate being called a homosexual, because I don’t feel that way. It really upsets me.”

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge threw out the case, calling Barnett’s use of the letters “certainly close to extortion,” but the scandal nonetheless clearly hurt King’s career. She found herself heckled on the court during the summer of 1981, and she lost six endorsement contracts. In addition, Avon cosmetics threatened to withdraw its sponsorship of women’s tennis as a whole.

At the time of the Barnett lawsuit, several publications ran stories exploring the extent of homosexuality in professional sports. Some of these stories were sensationalist — calling lesbianism “rampant” in women’s tennis or questioning whether homosexuals were appropriate role models for children. But other news outlets were more pro-gay in their approach to the issue, notably Sports Illustrated, which declared, “The sex lives of individual athletes are strictly their own business.”

In the decade after the scandal, King was largely out of the public eye. But she did make a bold appearance at a tribute to Navratilova in the summer of 1993. At a fund-raising event for the 1994 Gay Games (for which Navratilova was the spokeswoman), King thanked her fellow athlete (and partner in victory in the 1979 Wimbledon women’s doubles tournament) for helping her understand her own sexuality. She declared: “One thing I love about Martina is that she demands acceptance on equal terms for all of us. Not tolerance, but acceptance. Because she is comfortable in her own skin, she helps all of us be more comfortable in ours.”
AIDS has made sex dangerous. We have to re-invent it (reprinted from Colors magazine n.7 p.72 paraphrased)

It's a whole new experience. Caressing, fondling and licking aren't the things we do before we make love; they are making love. The body is a long, complex field of pleasure zones. So make a map; lick armpits and abdomens, suck toes and fingertips, nibble your lover's inner thighs. Create sensations. Dominate with a tickle. Soothe with a massage. Just one rule: don't exchange fluids. The rest is up to you. Sex isn't just one thing, it's anything you care to try. There's so much to be done.

**Biting**
Don't be ashamed to let your lover see your tender side. The gluteal region is one of the body's erogenous zones. The skin is delicate, excitable, delicious. Perfect for a nibble.

**Dry Fucking**
Studies have shown that you don't need to wear Levi's jeans to do it dry. As long as you're covered, you can grind all you want.

**Listen**
Ear-kissing, lobe sucking, canal navigation, and all other forms of ear love are irresistible. Give an ear the attention it deserves. You will be rewarded.

**Riding**
Bareback sliding can bring a woman to orgasm. And whoever plays the horse gets a lower back massage, compete with lubricants.

**A Little to the Left**
The small of the back is one of the most sensitive spots on the body. Rub gently to arouse your lover. Then massage the entire back, using lubricants to smooth the stroke. When your lover is quivering, turn him/her over and localize. A hand job must be a work of art.

**Eat Me**
Start with spaghetti and tomato sauce on the small of the back. Turn over for dessert.

**Masturbation for Two**
Getting off with a friend can be a turn on; try talking each other into orgasm with vivid, "(900) number" descriptions. Cheaper than the real phone sex and tailor-made!

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I deserve to look to share I deserve to feel my desire my passion my urges companionship I deserve thrill I deserve sex the excitement I deserve to caress, to love with intensity and happiness respect I deserve peace I deserve a world without AIDS

There are thousands of reasons to live Being gay is one of them

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Early-care education for clients is a focus area for this fall. Prevention and Education manager Michael Covone is working with Jesuit Volunteer Martha Giffin to develop a New Client Handbook. This handbook will outline the basics of the HIV disease as well as describe lifestyle choices and changes that affect the quality of living with HIV. Topics such as Stress Management, Nutrition, Exercise and Safer Sex will be covered. The handbook is being produced in-house and will be available to all clients of the Four A's. Also this fall, an education survey is being designed to pinpoint the interests and educational needs of the client community. The results of the survey will greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Four A's educational endeavors.

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**Upcoming Events** (call 263-2050 for INFO)

- AIDS 101 Training Tuesday October 22, 5:30-7:30pm
- Every Thursday “Friends and Family Support Group” for anyone who has a friend or family member with HIV/AIDS 7:00 pm at Four A’s call 263-2050.
- Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers. 12 noon at the Four A’s office.
- The Alaska Pride Conference “Health, Growth, Spirit” Sept. 27 - 29, 1996 University of Alaska, Anchorage Campus. Call 566-2048 to register

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**Free HIV Testing**
Every Wednesday 2pm - 4pm at Four A’s
The Directory

AA...

This directory is our “yellow pages” and reference guide. It’s free! Write Identity or call our helpline 258-4777. The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (A)djustly indicate the business or service ownership. All people are welcome to call for further info. NOTE: in some instances you might encounter employees who are unaware of this Directory and its significance. Don’t be offended: enlighten. All listings are in Anchorage unless indicated.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

(A) Gay, Joyous and Free, see Calendar
(A) Live and Let Live, see Calendar
(A) 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 (ALHIV), Juneau, 463-5688
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Foundation, WA, 206-383-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Kodiak, 278-5019

Alternative Medicine/Health:

(A) Hope, 561-2830
(A) Gatekay, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(A) The Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996.

Apparel:

(A) The Look, Kari, 278-5665

Architectural Designs:

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

Art/Graphics:

(L) Catworks, Catherine, 563-5492

Arts & Crafts:

(A) Daymoon (Seward, AK), Jan, 907-224-7009.

Astrology:

(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0582

Automotive:

(A) Courtney’s, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)

Bakery:

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

Bars:

(G/L) O’Brady’s, 344-8033, 388-1080, 563-1080 (see ad)

(B) Palace Saloon (Fairbanks), Alaska (Fri & Sat ONLY)

(L/G) The Raven, 276-6762

(L/G) The Wave, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad)

Bed & Breakfast Accommodations:

(G) Alita’s (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-457-0246 (see ad)

(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862

(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533

(B) Beach House, Mary (Homer), 907-235-5945 (see ad)

(L) Ross-Beth’s B & B, Anchorage, Ross Beth, 337-6779

(L) Cheney Lake B&B, Mary-Janetta, 337-4391

(G) Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501

(A) Fairbanks Hotel (Fairbanks) Doris Lundin 888-329-4685

(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567

(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 907-235-2265 (see ad)

(L) Northern Comfort, Reeda, 278-2106

(G/A) Sauerhoff Lodging (Seward, AK), Gordon, 907-224-8946.

Bicycle Repair:

(G) Roy’s Bikes, Roy, 333-8221

Body Work:

(L) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816

Books:

(A) Alaskana, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)

...Drag Shows

(A) Cyrano’s Books, Sancy/Jerry, 274-2599
(A) Into the Woods Bookshop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-679-7701

Carpent & Linoleum Installation:

(A) Big Bob’s, Mark, 561-2121
(A) Don, 349-1065

Catering:

(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 561-8458 (see ad)

(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

Chemical Dependency:

(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433).

Also Los Angeles, CA, Coconut Grove, FL & New York City.

Child Care:

(G) Kid Zone, Andrew, 337-3082

Churches:

see Spiritual

Coffee Houses:

(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 562-0737
(G/L) The Sojourners at The Wave, Vicki, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE

College & Boarding School Selection:

(A) Tom Croke, 277-7004

Computer Bulletin Board:

(G) The Wilde Side, 553-4089
(G) Wings, 243-7818; 243-7371 (G/L/Internet access)

Computer Supplies:

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

Computer Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:

(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4ASC
(L) Angie, 337-0252 (see ad)

(G) By-Teq Alaska, Inc., F. Ken, 248-2422
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 276-6862

(A) Computer Magik, Phil, 274-3528

(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert, 522-4275

(G) gra.fui, Lucian, 561-8586

(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869

(G) Mad Dog Graphics, Michael Ardaiz, 276-5062 (w)

(G) Mark, 274-9472

(P) PC Possibilities, 248-6277

Computer Training:

(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4ASC

(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert, 522-4275

(G) Seven Treasures Ent, Don, 338-9068

(A) Find It! Business Services (Macintosh); Larry, 279-4862

Costume Design:

(G) Every Bloomington Thing, Jerry, Malcolm, 274-3518

Construction:

(L) R & L Construction, Lila, 279-4606

Counseling:

(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Connie, 562-1826
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012

(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
(L) Tess, Alternative Counseling, 562-8281

Deaf Support:

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

Dental Care:

(A) Ward Hulett, DDS, 248-0022

Disk Jockeys:

(A) Lake Webb, 373-2689 (h), 279-3300 (w)

Drag Shows:

(G/L) The Wave, Vicki, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad)
The Directory

Drug Dependency...

Drug Dependency:
(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433)

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

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

Electrolysis:
(A) Anchorage Skin Care Clinic, Barbara, 277-4247
(L) Gentle Touch Electrolysis Clinic, Bronwen 561-6608/277-4744

Entertainment:
(G) Art Services North, Daryl, 561-2115
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(A) Mascocolla Music, Diane, 277-9751
(A) Syzygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599

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

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-8040/338-3962 (see ad)
(G) Jon, Bank of America, 263-3273

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

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

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

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

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

General Contracting:
(G/L/B) Mat-Su Weatherization Services, L. Hansen, 907-278-9726

Gifts:
(A) Design Craft, David, 272-4438 (see ad)
(A) Love of Alaska, Talyne, 243-0876
(A) The Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996

Greenhouses:
(A) Mile 5.2 Greenhouse, Dale, 694-3978 (see ad)

Hair Styling:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) 561-8967

Health:
(A) Gatekey, Kerki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(L) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816
(A) Nature's Own Way, Roberto/Debby, 561-0181
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372
(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433).
Also Los Angeles CA, Coconut Grove FL and New York City
(A) Skin care, Shari, 272-4751

Health, naturopathic:
(A) Hope, 561-2530

Helpline:
(G/L/B) Anchorage, Identity Helpline, 258-4777 (see ads)
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 907-458-8288
(G/L) Juneau, SEAGLA, 586-GAYS

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

Housewares:
(A) Design Craft, 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

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

Internet Service Providers:
(G) ServCom Alaska, Mark Mathes, 274-9472

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

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

Legal:
(L) Mendel & Huntington, Alison, 279-5001 (see ad)
(A) Mendel & Huntington, Karla, 279-5001 (see ad)
(L) Rhodes, Phyllis; Mediator, 346-2217
(A) Short, Sylvia, 562-4992 (see ad)

Massage:
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) Joyce, (CMT), 562-1916 (see ad)
(L) Leslie (non-sexual), 278-3346
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(L) Vicki, 277-5222

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

Meetings:
(G/L) The Wave, Vicki, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE

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

Music/Instruments:
(A) Oldtime Music Company, Marge, 561-6682 (see ad)

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

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(L) Klonody Kontakt (Alaska Women's Cultural Center), 277-9763
(GLA) NorthView (Identity), 258-4777
(GL) Perspective (S.E.A.G.I.A. (Juneau), 586-4297

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

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

Painting:
(L) L&L Painting, Lisa, 275-7549

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

Pet Care:
(A) Alaska Pet Palace, Sharon, 276-0668
(A) Doggie Hut, Arild, 279-5861

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

Political:
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth,
383-1190
(A) Anchorage Women's Political Caucus, Rhonda, 274-9308
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9226
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292
The Directory

Printing, Electronic Graphics...

Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-0460
(A) Mad dog Graphx, Michael, 276-5062
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
(A) Timeframe, 562-8822 (see ad)

Recreation:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(L) McKinley Air Svc., Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 786-3707, 800-779-3701
(G/L) The Wave, Vicki, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad)

Real Estate:
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(L) Bronwyn Real Estate, 907-277-4744
(L) Century 21 (Missouri), Lucille, 417-745-6798 (o); 417-993-4302 (h)
(A) Coldwell Banker, Elaine, 562-2378
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(L) Waileau Barron, 274-2684

Rciki/Counseling:
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916
(L) Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-4089

Research:
(L) Cracian & Associates, 279-3982

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

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

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

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

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

Sightseeing:
(L) McKinley Air Svc., Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765; 907-733-1765
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)

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

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

Spiritual:
(A) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(A) Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive Living, Rev. Nansec Sweney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Bess, 746-1089
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276
(A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824

Sports:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 658-2226
(A) Flies by Illene (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 338-8221

Student Organizations:
(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks), Pete, 907-457-0246 (see Club Notes)
(G/L) The Family (formerly Lesbian, Gay and Bi Student

...Writing and Editing Assistance

Association), UAA, (see Club Notes)

Support Groups:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(G) I.M.R.U.2 (Youth Group), 258-4777
(A) PFLAG Anchorage, Sylvia 562-4992, Fred 562-7161
(A) PFLAG Fairbanks, Mary Jo, 907-459-8985
(A) PFLAG Juneau, 907-463-4203

Tattoo/Pyrite:
(L) Spirit Services, Barbara, 274-4089

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

Theatre:
(G) Breakeven Productions, Linda 277-5630
(A) Out North Theatre, Gene/Jay, 279-8099

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Cheresse, 561-0661 (see ad)
(L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 907-786-3707, 800-779-3701
(G) World Express Travel, Greg, 786-3701

Tutoring:
(A) James, Biology, 248-6412
(L) Carolyn Lancaster, M.Ed., School Survival Skills, 274-0646
(A) Kathleen L. McDonough, School Survival Skills, 274-5059

Veterinarian:
(A) Ginny, 345-1515
(L) Vicki, 345-1515
(A) Dr. Jean Battig (Fairbanks) 452-6055

Woodworking:
(L) North Star Signs, Rusty, 338-7900

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

If the big religious questions interest you, you should know where to come on Sunday morning:

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

See the Anchorage Daily News Saturday religion page for topics and speakers.

3201 Turnagain Street, 248-3737
Informative message: 248-0715
Club notes

* New listings are asterisked

AA
Gay Joyous & Free, see on-going calendar.
Live and Let Live, see on-going calendar.
Midnight Sons, see on-going calendar.

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As) Anchorage
offers HIV testing Wednesday afternoons (2:00-4:00 pm) 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 lunches, volunteer with the 4As, or need information, please call the 4As at 262-2050.

Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association of Fairbanks (AGLA)
a UAF Student Organization, has regular meetings open to Gays, Lesbians and allies, 1st and 3rd Friday. For further information about meeting time and place, contact Christopher at 907-479-7348.

Anchorage Garden Buddies (AGB) Anchorage
a social group for Gay men looking for an alternative to the “bar scene.” For next meeting time and place or to get on the mailing list, call the helpline at 258-4777.

Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus
for Lesbians and non-Lesbians, meets 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church (Anchorage) on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

Community Connection Line
Voice mail for women’s events that missed the calendar(s).
Call 566-FEMM.

EQUAL, Inc. Anchorage
EQUAL provides education and information about political issues to our community. EQUAL is not a political action committee and does not endorse candidates. 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 e-mail FSLEB@aurora.alaska.edu.

Fairbanks Dance Club
the Palace Saloon in Alaska is still the hottest spot in town to meet. You can go dancing on Friday and Saturday nights from 11:00 pm till the wee hours of the morning (it’s a straight tourist bar at all other times.) The DJ will be spinning Country, Disco, Top 40 and Oldies for your dancing pleasures.
Info: Phil 451-6501

Fairbanks Gay Youth Group
Leave message on voice mail for info: 457-3524.

Fairbanks Radio Station
KSUA 91.5 “Queer Beans” on 5-7 p.m. Saturdays

Family—Anchorage
meets every Saturday from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Arts Building, Room 121 on the UAA campus. Social group after 7:00 pm (bowling, dinner, etc.) High school people, bisexuel men & women, transvestites and transsexuals most welcome! Call Harry O’Brien at 786-7644.

Feminist Sing-a-Long (women only), Anchorage
third Saturday of every month, 1741 Westview Circle; call Carol and Fran at 332-8871. Non-singers are more than welcome. 6:30 pm potluck, 7:30 pm 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, 7:00-8:00 pm at 845 “K” St. 279-5001.

Gay/Lesbian Book Club
* At Barnes & Noble beginning Wed. Sept. 18th from 7 to 8 p.m. 200 East Northern Lights Blvd. Kim Meek, Community Relations Coordinator for B & N and Howard Bess, local author of Pastor, I am Gay, co-host this discussion group.

Identity, Inc. 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 is held on the 4th Friday of every month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm; dinner at 7:00 pm; program at 7:30 pm. See the Calendar for this month’s program.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA), Anchorage
is a social and support group that contributes to our community by being active in many causes; we plan and present wonderful entertainment, and donate money to needy organizations for them to carry out their important goals. See Calendar for this month’s planned activities, or contact Emperor Bob at 276-8070 or write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.

I.M.R.U. 2
Anchorage gay youth group meets Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. at 4As, 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 102. Contact Identity Helpline 258-4777.

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 11:00 am and 7:00 pm, and Wednesday at 7:00 pm at 4th and Barrow. 258-4226 Church is open Sunday through Wednesday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Last Frontier Men’s Club, Anchorage
a members-only club for the Leather/Bear communities of Alaska. Meetings 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:00 pm at the Raven; campouts & weekend trips, too. Write T.I.F.M.C., P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99520-2054.

Mr. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, Anchorage
is a social group open to anyone Gay, Lesbian, or ally. Look for upcoming events in the Calendar, or call Eric at 277-3236.

Northern Exposure Bowling League, Anchorage
each Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm, Park Lanes. 561-8744 (Bob).

Over 50’s
* A lesbian book and support group which meets 2nd and 4th Mondays 7 to 9 p.m. Videos and books will be a part of this positive energy discussion group. For location, call Rose Beth (337-6779) or Lorraine (276-3337).

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) of Fairbanks meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Log Cabin (Noble & 5th). Contact Nancy at 45PFLAG for more information.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) of Juneau meets the 1st Saturday of every month at 10:30 am at Mendehall Mall Library. Phone 907-463-4203.
continued...

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) of Southcentral holds meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. For information call Sylvia at 562-4992 or Fred at 562-7161.

Q*Klatch, Fairbanks meets the first Wednesday of each month and is an informal gathering of GLBs. The group offers a place to discuss current events, ideas, hopes and needs, and it extends hospitality to newcomers. Generally, the theme of each gathering is determined by the volunteer host(s), from “Show ‘n Tell” to “My Personal Agenda” to “Open Forum.” Q*Klatch offers a casual environment in which to meet and share with others. For more information please contact Kathy at 907-455-6358 or Eric at 907-835-4051.

Q*K Outdoorss, Fairbanks an offshoot of Q*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 <sfbw@aurora.alaska.edu> or Kathy at 455-6358 or <klakld@northstar.k12.ak.us>.

Queer Round Table (QRT) Call to list your club’s events and hear about other club events. Barb (H) 274-4984 or (W) 564-5818.

Radical Arts for Women (RAW) Voice mail 566-3783 info and message.

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 22665, Juneau, AK 99802 2665, 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) a non-profit volunteer organization that provides a support network for lesbian and gay people in Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter Perspective. P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1452. Phone 586-GAYS

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 $3. Call Barbara or Candy at 337-2011 for information or if you wish to perform.

Anchorage Gay & Lesbian HelpLine 258-4777
A community service of Identity, Inc. PO Box 200070, Anchorage AK 99520

Burleson, Laura: Gay Rights activist, Chair of Equal of Fairbanks, and in the Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association: <isleb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capei Cinema, Rand Thorinsley: <geehb91a@prodigy.com>
CarlaLee, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist: <rrkic@aurora.alaska.edu>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskadan@aol.com>
Childs, Lucian: graphic artist <lucian@alaskana.net>
<http://www.alaskana.com/gfx/>
Covone, Michael R., AIDS activist and social worker: mrc@alaska.net
Crabtree, Phil, Crabtree B&B, Fairbanks, AK, <ispac@aurora.alaska.edu>
Cracium, Jean: market research, Pride Conference: <jcracium@cracium.alaska.net>
Digital Queers, Technical philanthropic organization: <SWaltonDQ@aol.com> <http://www.dq.org/dq/>
Chrysler, Stephen: writer/ NorthView contributor: <chrslyr@al.com>
Freedman, F. Kenneth: Gay/Lesbian activist, <fkenn@servcom.com>
GLAAD: Gays and the media <http://www.glaad.org>
Hein’s Ultimate Gay List: A launching pad to gay web sites <http://www.xs4all.nl/~neihein/heinidog/gayhtml1.html>
HRC: Sen a message to your congressman <http://www.hrcusa.org>
Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, <cwoods@polarnet.com>
Iris, Roberts: Computer training and production, <robairs@alaska.net> or <http://www.alaska.net/~robairs>
Kohout, Jen: <Jenkout@aol.com>
Last Frontier Men’s Club: sec club listing <FMCC@Micronet.com>
Lavender Youth Recreation and Info Center: <lyric.talkline.info@tig.net>
LGNY, new NY Lesbigay newspaper, <http://www.fly.net/~lgny>
Olson, Chris: <CMOFrida@aol.com>
Out North: <outnorth@artswire.org>
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays: Rob Banaszak <pfflagnt@al.com>
Phoenig gay community: http://www.comeout.com
Pinney, Pete: UAF instructor and owner of Alta’s B & B; <ftpwp@aurora.alaska.edu>
Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>
SEAGLA Web pages: <http://puffin.ptialaska.net/~seagla>
ScotsGay Magazine: Gay Scotland http://www.scotsgay.co.uk
Thorslensley, Rand: Capri Cinema: <filimgalry@aol.com>
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel services: triangle@servcom.com
Walton, Eric: Q*K Outdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.: <isfbw@aurora.alaska.edu>
Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net>
Wockner, Rex: San Diego-based journalist, LesbIgay info (Internet) <rwockner@netcom.com>
Youth web site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/B_Hartman3>
Calendar

September

Wednesday, 18:
A Barnes & Noble Book Club 7 - 8 p.m. See Club Notes.
A PFLAG at UUF 7 - 9 p.m.

Monday, 23:
A Over 50’s 7 - 9 p.m. See Club Notes.

Tuesday, 24:
A Identity Board Meeting at UUF 7 - 9 p.m.

Thursday - Tuesday, 26 - 1:
A Sweet Sadie at Out North. 7 p.m. start time. Call 279-8200

Friday - Sunday, 27 - 29:
A Pride Conference at UAA. See inserts.

Friday, 27:
A Identity Potluck held at the conference site. 6:30 p.m.
See ad in this issue.

Saturday, 28:
A Ann Reed in Concert at 8 pm call 1-800-947-9180.

LAMB OF GOD
Metropolitan Community Church

Metropolitan Community Church is an inclusive Christian fellowship. Our ministry and focus is with gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons, their families and friends in our community regardless of spiritual affiliation.

Schedule
Service of Worship Sunday 11:00 AM
Praise & Prayer Wednesday 7:00 PM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10AM - 4PM & 6PM - 9PM
Call 258-5266 for information or to arrange
for an appointment
Ministry Location: 417 Barrow Street

who
what
where
what
why
anchorage
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phone: (907)561-7737 fax: (907)561-7777 email: press@raven.alaskana.com
address:702 w. 32nd #203, anchorage, ak, 99503 mail:p.o. box 241841, anchorage, ak, 99524-1841
On-Going Calendar Items

SUNDAYS
A Metropolitan Community Church Services, 11am & 7pm, 4th and Barrow
A Northern Exposure Bowling League, 4pm, Park Lanes, Dan or Bob 561-8744.
A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
J Library and Coffee House, fourth Sunday of the month, 1-3:00 pm Mendenhall Valley

MONDAYS
A Gay Bar, Anchorage, 7 - 8:30pm, Second Monday, 845 K St., 279-5001.
A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Over 50's Lesbian book club. 2nd and 4th from 7 - 9 p.m. See Club Notes.

TUESDAYS
A Righteous Babes Radio Show, 7pm, KRUA-FM 88.1.
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 8pm, Church of Religious Science, 7th & A, 566-1133.
A MGD Light sports night at the Wave

WEDNESDAYS
A Free HIV TEST at 4A's, 2pm - 4pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, Lori 263-2050.
A IMRU2 6 to 8 pm at 4A's 1057 W Fireweed #102.
J Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
J “Women’s Prerogative,” KTOO-FM, 9pm-10pm.
A La Cage aux Wave (drag show), 10pm, The Wave, $3 cover.
A Dyke Night at Sears Carp 7pm to 9pm.
A Blue Moon Follies, 10pm, Blue Moon, $3 cover.
A MCC, 4th and Barrow Street, Praise & Prayer at 7 pm.
A Barnes & Noble Book Club. 3rd Wed of the month. See Club Notes. 7 - 8 p.m.

THURSDAYS
J Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Youth Meeting (26 & under), 5:30pm, 907-463-5688.
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 5:30pm, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
A Friends and Family Support Group, 6:30pm, call 4As, 263-2050.
A Alaska Pride Chorus Rehearsal, on summer hiatus.
A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Country Dancing at the Wave, 8pm, taught by Patty, 561-9283.
A Women’s Forum 7 - 9 p.m. at the Wave’s Social Tide. For info: 338-9184.

FRIDAYS
A Lunch, 4A's, 12noon-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, Lori 263-2050. Everyone invited - HIV, volunteers and friends.
A Live and Let Live, AA Meeting, 7pm, 637 A St. (non-smoking), (1st Friday, tradition/step study).
A Midnight Sons, Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30pm-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Identity Potluck fourth of the month at AUUF.
F Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon, Alaskanland.
J Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Youth meeting (26 and under) 5:30 pm. Call 463-4396.

SATURDAYS
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 12 noon, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
A The Family (UAA), 6pm (excluding school holidays). UAA Arts Bldg. Rm 121, Harry O'Brien at 786-7644.
A The Wave volleyball and B.Y.O.M BBQs at 4 pm.
F KSUA, 103.9 FM, 5pm-7pm, “Queer Beans” (Gay issues and music).
A IMRU2, Anchorage, 6pm-8pm, Anchorage 4As, 1057 Fireweed, call Identity Helpline 258-4777.
F Dancing in Fairbanks!, 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon, Alaskanland.
J PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 to 12:30 in the Mendenhall Library conference room.

Legend
A Anchorage
F Fairbanks
J Juneau
V Mat-Su Valley

Anchorage Gay & Lesbian HelpLine
258-4777
A community service of Identity, Inc.
PO Box 200070, Anchorage AK 99520
O'BRADY'S

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CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF FINE DINING

O'Brady's features the largest selection of beers and gourmet burgers in the Last Frontier, including the Prime Rib Burger made from fresh, hand cut prime rib. Try our new menu. Full service bar and full dinner menu at our Tudor location.