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Identity NorthView

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

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The NorthView is mailed (bulk mail) to members of Identity. Identity’s mailing list is confidential and is not sold, given or loaned to anyone; however, special mailings under the auspices of Identity are occasionally sanctioned. Copies of NorthView are also distributed at select businesses in the Anchorage area. Financial contributions are gladly accepted to defray mailing costs.

Upon request, you may receive the NorthView in a First Class large envelope. Cost is $60 per year (includes membership in Identity and private mailing).

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Submissions
We welcome articles and letters from community individuals and organizations. Ideal length is 1,000 words or less. Please submit on 3.5 (IBM compatible or Mac HD). All media will be returned. All contributions must be signed, but upon request names will be withheld or pseudonyms used. NorthView reserves the right to edit as necessary and to refuse printing any article submitted.

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Look at the renewal date above your name and address on the mailing label. If it is highlighted in fluorescent pink, your subscription has either expired or will expire this month. Help the NorthView stay “IN THE BLACK” — RENEW! RENEW!

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

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

What an honor and a privilege it is for me to be editor of such a wonderful publication as NorthView. Barbara Soule was a fine editor for July, August, and September; and I will be editor for the October, November, and December issues. I became interested in gay causes because my teenage daughter had a close friend who was going through the turmoil of “coming out.”

From that point on, through reading everything I could on the subject, I realized that there was much discrimination against the GLBT community. I first joined Equal, then PFLAG, and then Identity, Inc. From time to time I write letters to the Anchorage Daily News editor to counteract other letters that are extremely homophobic.

I believe it to be very important that everyone VOTE. Find out where to vote. The Legislative Information Office at 258-8111 will let you know where to vote. When a candidate comes to your door, ask if he or she supports the retention by employers of employees who reveal they are gay and if he or she supports employee benefits for gay couples.

Let’s do all we can to make Anchorage a friendlier place for gays.

Wasn’t the recent Pride Conference at UAA wonderful! I really enjoyed the sessions I was able to attend. And once again, thanks for letting me be your editor, and many, many thanks to all the volunteers who help get the NorthView out each month.

PFLAG, Southcentral Alaska
by Sylvia L. Short, secretary

PFLAG at the Pride conference:
Southcentral Chapter, PFLAG, was well represented at the September Pride festivities. Not only were a number of members present, enjoying the highly successful proceedings, but we also presented a workshop titled “Gay, Non-Gay: Healthy Together.” A friendly audience attended and interacted with a PFLAG panel composed of a cross-section of who we are. We had the viewpoints of two gay parents of non-gay children, a straight parent of a gay child, a straight friend, a lesbian, and a gay man. A frank discussion was held concerning coming-out issues, confidences, handling questions and working with others. Moderator Shirley handled the proceedings well and kept them lively. We all learned from the meeting. While every case is different, we find in personal experiences many parallels which are helpful to everybody.

Other members were also involved with the conference, including a representative of National PFLAG.

Recent Meetings
In August we considered the plight of GLBT children in our schools.

In September Representative Kay Brown spoke to us on gay and lesbian issues from a legislators point of view.

In October Dan Carter, Co-Chair of EQUAL, reported on his experiences as a delegate to the Democratic Party’s National Convention. It was also our Annual Meeting, in which we elected directors and set yearly goals. Two of these concern the situation of GLBT adolescents in Anchorage’s public schools and PFLAG’s sponsorship of the IMRU2 youth group.

Join us!
Anyone who is interested in helping us in our mission of support, education and advocacy toward making this a better, more-balanced, happy and healthy world for GLBT people, their friends and families, come to our meetings the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the UU Fellowship (where Identity has potlucks!) and/or become a member. A year’s membership is still only $15 and may be sent to PFLAG, P.O. Box 203231, Anchorage, AK 99520-3231.

Sylvia L. Short, Attorney at Law, is a community activist and lives in Anchorage.
Invite everyone to the party

Gay men and lesbians are caught up in the cult of “cute.” Without exception, all of our “cute” ones are young. This focus on youth and physical attraction in our community narrows our outlook and diminishes our ability to mature. It also does a great disservice to older (and, like me, just plain old) gay men and lesbians, the no-longer cute. By the same token, this attitude deprives the young men and women of our community a wealth of experience, knowledge and love.

My friend and younger mentor, Betty Berzon (Ph.D., author of “Permanent Partners” and editor of “Positively Gay”) wrote in The Advocate: “...older gays don’t get invited to the party. I wish it made more of them angry. By passively accepting a segregated status, the elders give permission to the younger to continue stereotyping and segregating them. It is the same dynamic that keeps so many gays and lesbians in the closet. The heterosexual society has conspired for years to keep us invisible, and you know what? We gay and lesbian people are co-conspirators.”

Many of our elders just return to the lonely closet from which they came out when they were younger. They are the disappeared, the invisible men and women of our community. Then there are the unhappy few who still dream of taking part in the oft-heralded “lifestyle,” the old gay men and lesbians, always outside, looking in at the party to which they were not invited. Finally, there are the lucky ones like me, who still find love and respect in spite of, or maybe because of, all the years. I’ve found some of the young men and women of a new generation, those who are truly accepting of the diversity of our community, who are anxious to learn from past shared experiences and pain.

There is much to learn, so much to share in our singular community. What has happened before has made today possible. What happens today will make it better for those who follow us. For most of us, our community is the family that supplants our own. With some happy exceptions, too many of our biological families simply can’t or won’t really understand what we’re all about. Even the most accepting, the most sympathetic, feel the difference between us and them.

I strongly believe that we are a community, a family unlike any other. And I, and my multitude of brothers and sisters, are your parents and grandparents. We love you with all our hearts because we have been where you are. We know.

Most of us were “cute” in our day. Many of us, like me, were in the closet, especially in those dark ages before we had a real community. But, all of us, each and every one of us, was young like you.

Young gay men and lesbians, let us in. Invite us to the party. Most of us are pretty good cooks by now, so there’ll be plenty to eat. We’re really not as boring as you may think. Love us as we love you. Go out of your way. Make the effort to find some of the senior gays and lesbians in your community. Remember, you will be us someday.

And, to my peers, I ask that you open your hearts to the young gays and lesbians in your community. It’s worked for me, and I am truly enriched by my young friends. Call your local gay and lesbian campus and youth organizations. Ask some friends to join with you in inviting the young people over. There are any number of young gays and lesbians who are thrown out by their families and desperately need help — for housing, for tuition. There are agencies in your community, both straight and gay, which can accept tax-deductible contributions for such help.

There is so much you can do. But, none of this will just happen. You have to make it happen. If we are able to rid ourselves of the stereotypes and the fears, our community will only be strengthened: young and old; lesbians and gays; of every ethnic, economic, and racial group. We are represented everywhere and bound together by shared pain and joy and experience. We can build a family together that will have value beyond any other. We can build a community of liberation and freedom and love — for each other and for the world.

Marvin Liebman lives and works in Washington, D.C. Taken from the December 2 - December 9, 1993 Equal Time, published by Lavender, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation.
Coffeehouse news

by Candy Bonham

Well, summer is over, the days are getting cooler and so it’s coffeehouse season again. Normally, we start out the season in September, but the last weekend in September was not only the Pride Conference, but Ann Reed was in concert at the Loussac Library on Saturday and Sunday nights. We didn’t want to compete with Ann Reed, plus I’m a big Ann Reed fan and I had tickets for the Saturday concert, so there was no coffeehouse in September. I hope you enjoyed Ann Reed, I sure did.

The first coffeehouse of the season will be October 26. We will be featuring local author, Dr. Susan Johnson. She will be talking about her new book, “Lesbian Sex: An Oral History,” which has just come out from Naiad Press. Quite a tongue twister. It should be lots of fun. All of her books, including her new one, will be available for sale that night, so don’t forget your checkbook. No coffeehouse in November or December, I don’t compete with holidays either. January’s coffeehouse will feature two talented women, Lisa Parker and Barbara Wish. If you remember last year, they performed in our women blues night. February’s performer will be our own Wendy Withroe.

We still need programs for March and April, so if you are interested, please call myself or Barbara Soule at 337-2011. It can be musical, literary, anything you can think of we can probably do. Remember all the coffeehouses are the Fourth Saturday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Sociate Tide, a nonsmoking coffeehouse upstairs at the Wave on Spenard Road. There is a $3 cover charge. We raised money last year for RAW, the Identity HelpLine, 4 A’s and the coffeehouse itself. We were able to buy an amplifier; this year we hope to buy a couple of microphones and mic stands. This year we will continue to support the community. Remember that half of what we collect at the door will go to a local gay and/or lesbian organization, so come out and have fun knowing that in doing so it makes our community stronger. I’m looking forward to a new coffeehouse season and look forward to seeing you there.

Besides doing the Women’s Coffeehouse, Candy Bonham is also on the Board of Directors for Identity, Inc., is the HelpLine Coordinator and has recently put herself in by putting the word Lesbian on her checks.

Support for teachers

by Fred Hillman and Ruth Matthes

“Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network” (GLSTN) is a national organization that aims to bring together gay and straight teachers, parents, and concerned community members to work to create schools where respect for all is taught. As yet there is no chapter in Alaska. An organizational meeting for one is being convened on Saturday, October 19, at 10:00 a.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Turnagain Street at 32nd Avenue. You do not have to be a teacher! Your sexual orientation makes no difference! Come and bring your ideas and enthusiasm!
Queue science

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

All your friends are doing it, so finally you go with the flow and decide to have a child. You take a class in gay parenting, and you learn about in vitro techniques, surrogacy, first-, second-, and two-parent adoptions, and what have you. But there’s one little nagging question that no one discusses: do you want a gay child or a straight child, and how do you get the one you want?

“For shame!” I hear you saying. “I’ll love my child and support her or him in whatever sexual orientation, gender, or lifestyle he or she chooses.” Fine. I applaud that. But the fact is, parents often want their children to be like themselves. Adoptive parents generally prefer children of their own race, for example. It’s just easier. And who would do a better job of raising gay kids than gay parents?

Up until recently, if you’d asked your doctor about this, s/he would probably have advised you as follows. In the case of a son, the mother should be as close-binding and dominant as possible, and the father (if any) should be detached or hostile. In the case of a daughter, you should do your best to stir up penis envy and sibling rivalry — maybe even arrange to have her molested. Not a very appealing strategy, of course. You’d probably end up with kids who hated you, whatever their sexual orientation.

But now comes the gay gene and the human genome project, and it’s a whole new ball game. Step up to the DNA salad-bar and put together the child of your dreams: cute, smart, socially responsible, and queer as a three-dollar bill. Well, we’re not quite that far yet. We have to make do with “intermediate technology.” But here are some pointers.

First, just because you’re gay, and homosexuality is partly genetic, that doesn’t guarantee that your biological child will be gay too — far from it. In fact, most studies indicate that the children of gay men and lesbians are only slightly more likely to be gay than children of heterosexuals. In the case of the sons of gay men, the reason for this may have to do with the specific pattern of inheritance. Dean Hamer and his colleagues at the National Institutes of Health have reported that at least one gene predisposing to male homosexuality lies on the X chromosome — a chromosome that men never pass on to their sons, only to their daughters.

So if you’re a gay man and you want a gay son, you need to think about the son’s mother. Not whether she’s lesbian, because that won’t help. But whether she has a gay brother or (preferably) brothers. If Hamer is right — his results haven’t yet been replicated — the sons of such a woman would have about a 12 percent likelihood of being gay. Or, you could look for a woman who’s already had a gay son. If she’s still of child-bearing age (and could be persuaded to have your baby), you could up the chances of your son being gay to about 25 percent. But still, you’d have to have two such sons just for an even chance of having one of them be gay. And of course, you’d be just as likely to have daughters as sons.

So, it’s not a sure-fire thing right now. All the more reason to support genetic-engineering research. But in the meantime, there is another way, and that is to adopt a “pre-gay” child. If you can find a young boy who is so outrageously gender-nonsnormous that he’s the despair of his biological parents, and the object of scorn and derision from schoolmates, teachers, neighbors and practically everyone else — why then, snap him up, because he’s got about an 80 percent chance of turning out gay, according to child psychiatrist Richard Green. And vice versa for lesbians, although the statistics aren’t quite so favorable.

You don’t want a son who spends all his time trying on negligees? Don’t worry, it’s just a phase. Most of these kids turn into pretty conventional gay men (if that isn’t an oxymoron). Levi’s, leather, and so on. Perhaps they keep a few silk dresses in the back of their closet, but don’t we all? Strictly for Halloween.

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

Queer Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

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I woke to the sound of goat bells, clinking from the mountain side, and step out into the morning to see what awaits... I am not disappointed. Azure seas and white domed churches. Terraced mountains ripening with the fruit of the olive trees in every direction. As I take a deep breath of the jasmine scented air, I let Crete overwhelm me, and I am hers.

The largest of the Greek Islands, Crete marks the boundary between Europe and Africa, separating the Libyan Sea from the Aegean. It's mountainous terrain gives way to fertile valleys and deep gorges, perfect for hiking. I found myself surprised by how fertile this Mediterranean island is. Olive trees abound, but in addition there are walnut, chestnut, fig, orange, and pear trees. There are vineyards that are very well tended and productive — protected from the sheep and goats. Not to be outdone, the sheep and goats head into the roads — driving is an adventure on Crete.

There are many package tours bringing plane loads of Europeans to Crete's more popular beach resort areas, but if you're looking for something a little less crowded, never fear. It is easy to rent a car, get a map, and set about exploring the many wonders. Thirteenth century Byzantine churches, old stone farmhouses, and monasteries hidden away in gentle, old growth forests of cypress, olive, or pine trees are a few of the sites you will see. Signs for rooms, cafes, and tavernas are clearly visible, enabling the explorer in you to come out with no worries. Each day affords a new discovery on this incredible island.

Crete is steeped in history, including ancient ruins left by the Minoan's (2800-1150 B.C.), who built palaces at Phaistos, Malia, Zakros and Knossos (well preserved and worth the trip). There are stories told of the 400 hundred year old Turkish occupation, as well as the occupation of Germany during the second world war. Throughout all, you can still find villages tucked into the mountain sides where little has changed in the way of life over the centuries.

There is something for everyone here. The markets are exciting and different. Hours of operation vary, so ask before you make a trip only to discover the stores closed for siesta, another wonderful tradition! The beaches are stunning, and it is easy to find your own. There are popular areas to go, too. The advantage to these being umbrellas and beach chairs readily available for about 500 drachma (less than $2.00) a day, as well as tavernas and facilities close by.

While you could undoubtedly spend an entire vacation just on Crete, there are easy ferry or plane connections to the other islands as well. We have all heard of Mykonos and Lesbos, assuredly worth the trip, but don't miss the opportunity to see any one of the many islands of the Cyclades. Each has its own beauty and charm and affords you the chance to feel as though you have personally discovered an as yet unknown tourist paradise.

Spend some time in Athens, especially to experience the Acropolis with it's many ancient temples — the Parthenon has been in the restoration process since 1983 — and spectacular views of the Aegean, Lykavittos, the Ancient Agora, and the neighborhoods of Athens. Get to the top of Lykavittos, the mountain in the heart of Athens, not only for the amazing view from the top, but for the church and taverna as well. You can have lunch and take in the view of the Acropolis in the distance. It is very easy to get about Athens; most everyone speaks English and many of the signs are in English as well.

Some suggestions for those seeking a little bit of nightlife. There isn't one "gay" district in Athens, per se. However, I enjoy the Kolonaki district located at the base of Lykavittos, for it's uptown feel and youthful atmosphere. Amidst Kolonaki's boutiques and patisseries, there is a wonderful pub called Aleko's Island, where Aleko himself will serve you, offering cheese and fruit or a piece of somebody's birthday cake. (I watch the boys speak in Greek — of course I don't know who's birthday it was!) For dancing and a younger crowd, Alexander's is just a block away.

Take some time to wander around Plaka, the old city of Athens. Located at the base of the Acropolis, you'll find in Plaka lots of beautiful architecture and narrow city streets, some affording a view of the Parthenon. It is in Plaka that you'll be able to find everything you need in Greece to shorten your Christmas list, and when you just can't shop anymore, or stroll through one more gallery (like that's possible), soak in the atmosphere at one of the many outdoor sidewalk cafes or tavernas. Refreshment is not hard to find. Greece, as in most of Europe, has it's share of delicacies and a tradition of maximizing their enjoyment. It was easy to find wonderful food. (The nose, knows!) Lamb and Greek salad, domades and retsina, Greek pastrami — and the cheeses! Eat or shopping? The choices!

Greek hospitality is beyond belief. Escape to a destination that provides something for all of your senses — and fulfills all of your expectations. Whether on a cruise, an escorted tour, or going on your own — Greece extends her arms in a welcome embrace to all.

Happy Travels!

Greg Kramer is co-owner of Triangle Tours, dedicated to providing the lesbian and gay community with quality travel related services.

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# CLINTON vs. DOLE:
## A Study in Contrasts on Lesbian and Gay Issues

The outcome of this year's presidential contest will determine whether gay and lesbian Americans continue to make progress toward an equal place in society or are shoved backwards. Who sits in the Oval Office makes a critical difference in our lives—as it already has under President Clinton. The Human Rights Campaign has examined the records of Clinton and Bob Dole and found stark contrasts between the two candidates. Here are some of the highlights of how the two candidates compare, based on their own words and deeds.

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<th><strong>CLINTON</strong></th>
<th><strong>DOLE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUPREME COURT</strong> and other appointments</td>
<td>Appointed first open lesbian federal judge; Deborah Batts, to the 1st District in New York. Appointed more than 100 openly gay/lesbian individuals, including first confirmed by the US Senate, Roberta Achtenberg, as an assistant housing secretary.</td>
<td>“Clinton’s judges are precisely the ones who are dismantling those guardrails that protect society from the predatory, the violent, the antisocial elements in our midst.” Dole (Chicago Tribune, 4/4/96)</td>
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<td><strong>CIVIL RIGHTS</strong></td>
<td>First president ever to endorse gay civil rights statue, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would bar employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Implemented non-discrimination policies covering sexual orientation in all non-military Cabinet-level agencies and departments. Lifted the long-standing ban on openly gay people obtaining security clearances to deal with secret federal documents. “We continue to lead the fight to end discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation. We support efforts like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to end discrimination against gay men and lesbians and further their full inclusion in the life of the nation.” 1996 Democratic Party Platform</td>
<td>“I oppose the special interest gay agenda that runs from gays in the military and reaches as far as to suggest special status for sexual orientation under federal civil rights statues.” Dole (Washington Times, 3/21/95)</td>
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<td><strong>MEDICAID</strong></td>
<td>Protected Medicaid as a federal entitlement.</td>
<td>“We’ll end Medicaid as an entitlement.” 9/14/95</td>
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<td><strong>YOUTH</strong></td>
<td>Initiated research on suicide and sexual orientation to identify gaps in scientific knowledge of gay, lesbian and bisexual suicides.</td>
<td>Voted for Heim’s amendment to cut off federal funds to local schools with programs aimed at preventing anti-gay violence, HIV transmission and gay suicide.</td>
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<td><strong>LESBIAN HEALTH</strong></td>
<td>Invited openly lesbian health advocates to policy formation meetings for the first time in history. Expanded National Institutes of Health research for lesbian and bisexual women by including lesbians in current studies and questions on sexual orientation in women’s health research.</td>
<td>Nothing on record.</td>
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**EQUAL**
P.O. Box 244452
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<th><strong>CLINTON</strong></th>
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<td><strong>AIDS</strong></td>
<td>Co-sponsored the Ryan White CARE Act.</td>
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<td><strong>DOLE</strong></td>
<td>Voted for Senator Jesse Helms' amendments to the Ryan White CARE Act to cut off all funding to gay community health organizations and to freeze Ryan White spending at 1995 levels despite rapidly growing case loads. S.641, Amends. 1854 and 1855.</td>
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<td><em>“The gay people that have AIDS are still our sons, our brothers, our cousins, our daughters, our citizens. They're Americans, too. They're obeying the law and working hard. They're entitled to be treated just like everybody else.”</em> 7/8/95</td>
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<td><strong>GAYS IN THE MILITARY</strong></td>
<td>Voted against lifting the ban.</td>
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<td>“We can’t let homophobia blind us to our obligations.” First White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, 12/5/95 Promised but failed to lift ban, offering instead the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.</td>
<td>“I oppose lifting the ban on gays in the military. I haven’t moved one inch on the issue.” Dole, 3/21/95</td>
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<td>“It’s fair to say that I have thought a lot about this and that there are some things I think I should have done differently. I now believe that we needed to build a broader consensus on this important issue before moving forward. Sometimes change comes best when it is achieved through incremental steps.” President Clinton — The Advocate, 6/25/96</td>
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<td><strong>GAY MARRIAGE</strong></td>
<td>Was an original co-sponsor of the “Defense of Marriage Act.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agreed to sign so-called “Defense of Marriage Act.”</td>
<td>Endorsed anti-gay marriage resolution promoted at a rally of religious political extremists during the Iowa Presidential Caucus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I have no intention of being a party to letting this legislation moving through Congress become an excuse for diverting and dividing the American people and getting into a round of gay-bashing. I am bitterly opposed to that. I will not participate in it.” Clinton, 6/7/95</td>
<td>“In fact, the anti-gay marriage resolution does not go far enough.” 2/8/96 in a letter to National Campaign to Protect Marriage, sponsors of the measure promoted in Iowa.</td>
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There has been considerable talk in our community about not voting in the upcoming election. After reading the above article, I hope you will reconsider. Additionally, if you decide not to participate in the Presidential election, there are many candidates running for state legislature who support us to have either Domestic Partnership Benefits or the right to marry. They are: House candidates, Ethan Berkowitz (D-Anch), Ann Spohnholz (D-Anch), Eric Croft (D-Anch), Sue White (D-Anch), Charity Kadow (D-Anch), Catherine Doss (D-Anch), Bill Lester (I–Eagle River), Caren Robinson (D–Juneau), Kim Elton (D–Juneau), Ben Grussendorf (D–Sitka), Joni Whitmore (D–Homer), Alan Austerman (R–Kodiak), John Davies (D–Franks), Tom Brice (D–Franks), Gene Kubina (D–Valdez), Carl Moses (D–Unalaska) and Senate candidates, Pat Abney (I–Anch), Susan Reeves (I–Anch), Judy Salo (D–Kenai), Bettye Davis (D–Anch).  

NOTE: The views expressed on this page and the previous one are for voter education efforts only and are not necessarily shared by NorthView, Identity, Inc., EQUAL or other organizations I am associated with. Thanks, Dan Carter
Stargazer commentary

Listening to your guts and intuition is a very valuable skill and can save a person a lot of mistakes and grief even in a very ordinary life. If you listen to your "guts," your intuition develops. Start by using it on the little things. As your intuition develops, if you will really trust it, then your own psychic abilities develop. The "powers-that-be" will eventually test you to see how far you are willing to go. 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 enhanced listening to your "guts" and trusting your intuition.

When I decided that I wanted to learn how to meditate in 1973, I lived in Palmer, Alaska. The little volunteer-run public library had one book on the subject that was published in 1964. Alan Watts wrote it. He's a "big poohbah" Zen master. A Zen meditates on the questions. The most basic of which is, "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" After learning some basic meditation techniques, I contemplated that question. The answer I got was just as silly as the question. It hit my funny bone so hard that I still laugh when I think about it. Ask me sometime, I'll tell you the answer I got, but it probably won't make much sense. Solemnly, I was told that I got only one of the answers. Try Zen if it appeals to you; it's too esoteric for me. Besides I live in the real world and work forty hours a week. I can't sit and meditate all day on a question that doesn't make any sense. Give me a real answer to the question.

It's very difficult to contemplate the question unless one has learned some meditation techniques. The end of Alan Watts' book did have one proposal. It suggested that one count to ten slowly and then begin all over again until one was in an "altered state." How does one know if one is an altered state? For the first nine months, counting to ten and then starting all over again, about the fourth set of ten, I was sound asleep. Afterwards, I'd be counting and gently be aware, as I counted, that I was not asleep and had the sensation that I was floating. The place just before the floating feeling is an alpha state. Achieving an alpha state is scientifically measurable. The brain waves change. The physical benefits are great for the human body — the heart rate, blood pressure and stress level reduce. The floating state is theta. One can meditate in either place. It took me several years to think coherently in a theta state.

There are ton's of relaxation/meditation tapes on the market and hundreds more books on the subject. I'd recommend the technique that starts the relaxation from the top of the head rather than at the feet. When, you get down to your feet, direct the energy into the earth to stay "grounded" — attached to the earth. After all that's were we belong. Then, a person doesn't have to learn a different technique, later. Meditation classes are advertised off and on — $60 to $120 are the going rates. Locally, Maureen Alyea, the Transcendental Mediation Center, Tao Wellness & Healing Center, ATOM Center and the Buddhists offer classes regularly. When you are trusting your intuition and meditating fairly regularly, your psychic abilities begin to develop further. Life takes on a new dimension. anything can happen and probably will. Have I got a story for you...

Barbara J. Soule is a Reiki Master, a clairvoyant psychic, a lesbian artist, performer and writer.

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Art Services North

Business spotlight

A visit to Darl Schaaff’s business is like taking a trip backstage in fantasy land, where creating magic is a daily event.

We chatted companionably between phone calls and an on-going staff meeting in waning autumn sunshine.

NY: How long have you been at the helm of Art Services North, Darl?

DS: I’ve owned the company for five years. Before that, I worked here for my great friend Guy Basset. Guy sold me the company when he became too ill to run it himself, and it has been a good move for me.

NY: What is the size of your staff?

DS: I have five full-time employees and five who are part-time. Our business tends to run in spurts of extreme activity, and we add extra crew members in “peak” periods, such as a recent series of back-to-back trade shows.

NY: Exactly what type of business is Art Services North? (The fading sunshine competed with dirty contact lenses and I squinted at my notes.)

DS: We do lots of exhibit design and convention coordination, as well as trade shows. We also do a large number of special events, galas, theme parties, and extravaganzas. We do rent and sell equipment whenever it is appropriate.

NY: Give us some idea of such special events.

DS: The annual Catholic Social Services Charity Ball is one such event. We are also often employed by the symphony, the opera, and the museum, as well as for many elegant private home parties. Holidays, birthdays and anniversaries are usually the reason behind such parties.

NY: I know the local gay/lesbian community has used your services extensively. How many corporations have you coordinated?

DS: I came to Anchorage to do the second coronation for Pépé. That should be 23 years!

NY: What part of the country are you from originally, and what is your formal training?

DS: I grew up in south Florida and did some college work there before moving to Seattle. I majored in speech and drama at the University of Washington, and worked for a time for a touring company in New York before relocating to Anchorage.

NY: Many folks in Anchorage know of your musical productions. (My stomach entered its “early warning” phase, and the sunset began to lessen visibly.)

DS: I’m particularly proud of the 15 years I’ve worked with Janet Carr producing “The Music Machine”. I am also very proud of my production of “Sorcerer’s Apprentice”, which ran every Halloween for 12 years.

NY: What’s the most fun you ever had doing an event?

DS: Private parties are always the most fun, because you have fewer restrictions and more artistic license. I did a theme party for Enstar Natural Gas based on “Alice in Wonderland”, complete with an entire live deck of cards and a full croquet field; that was really a blast!

NY: (I folded my notebook in the approaching gloom and asked my final question.) Has being gay and out made any difference in your business?

DS: I have always been supportive of the local gay/lesbian community, and have always felt completely comfortable, regardless of being gay, in the business world. I guess it’s just a “decorator” thing!

Quote/Unquote

by Rex Weckner

“No matter how much [Ellen DeGeneres] may protest, a lesbian storyline [for her ‘Ellen’ character] would also slop over into the actress’ private life. So far, she insists otherwise: The word out of ‘Ellen’ is that DeGeneres is not making any statement about her private life, which remains private. The media today seems less tolerant than it used to be of anything it considers an ‘open secret.’ When Time magazine says DeGeneres’ sexuality ‘is a topic of much speculation,’ you know the enquiring minds are loose. The speculation in the mainstream media has become more and more brazen. A San Francisco paper ‘outed’ Ellen Morgan in a disdainingous article that was really more about the actress than the character. After the New York Post ran an item about DeGeneres kissing a fan in a local bar, New York magazine — under the guise of ‘correcting’ the Post — ran details about the [female] fan and the [lesbian] bar. As DeGeneres stays quiet, the media has been drawing its own conclusions and passing them on.”

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette writer Robert Bianco.
It's a pleasure to serve the Community!

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Your lover rings the doorbell. You stand beside her wishing you could touch her, but following instead, the unspoken rule. You wait for a long moment until the door opens. “This is my mother,” your lover says. “This is my father.” “Nice to meet you,” you say to your lover’s mother. You nod at your lover’s father. So you’re the one who raped her when she was a baby, a little girl, a teenager, you want to say. I’ve heard so much about you. But of course you don’t say that. Another unspoken, yet understood rule. You follow your lover and your lover’s parents into the kitchen for a lunch of cold cuts that taste like cardboard. No one says much, except your lover’s mother who every now and then asks, “Would you like more potato salad?” Or, “How about some soda?”

Your lover’s father disappears behind a section of the Sunday Times. How rude, you think, insulted, even though your lover has warned you about his lack of social skills. You take this golden opportunity to study him. He has thick black-framed glasses and a completely bald head, dotted with many freckles. You wonder what picture would appear if you played connect-the-dots on his scalp. He is quite ordinary. Extraordinarily so. You were expecting some sort of monster, but no, there he is, your basic man, lifting a coffee cup into the air to receive a steaming refill from his wife.

The sunlight streaming in through the window shines on top of his head like a spotlight searching for someone. You stare at it until he turns the page of his newspaper. Then you look away and then you look back. This time you notice his hands. They are small and delicate, like a woman’s, almost. His fingernails are glossy, as though they have been buffed. Maybe even polished. This surprises you.

After lunch your lover’s father retires to the den for a nap. You follow your lover and your lover’s mother out into the backyard, each of you armed with a section of the newspaper. You sit on lounge chairs and read the paper, or pretend to. You are certainly not reading the paper and your lover hasn’t read a newspaper in the year and a half you’ve known her. Ah, but your lover’s mother is definitely reading the paper, parts of it loud, in fact.

“Three teenagers in a little town in Ohio all killed themselves in the same week. Isn’t that awful?” You nod, for she seems to be addressing you. “Oh, look. A&S is having a sale on those cute sundresses. We could take a ride over if you’re interested.” She holds out the paper to your lover who doesn’t respond. Your lover, you know for a fact, hasn’t put on a skirt, let alone a dress in over ten years.

It is time to go. Your lover’s mother gives you a bag of plums for the long ride home. Your lover’s father rouses himself and stumbles out of the den to say goodbye, his glasses slightly askew. You get in the car and your lover’s mother and father stand in the driveway, waving. You wave back, hating your lover’s father in his striped polo shirt and plaid Bermuda shorts. You hate him, yet you feel a little sorry for him at the same time and this is something you do not like about yourself.

You pull out of the driveway and glance at your lover, sitting beside you with the bag of plums on her lap. “You okay, honey?” you ask.

“Fine,” she says in a hollow voice. You know that voice. You look over at her again, seeing the same brown eyes you have looked into a thousand times, only this time there’s no one behind them. You drive around the block and pull the car over to the side of the road. You take her in your arms, not caring who might walk by in this straight suburban neighborhood. You hold her. You tell her she is very brave. You tell her how much you love her. You call her secret pet names only the two of you know. You wait. You wait until her body no longer feels like a rock in your arms. You wait and wait. It takes a very long time. You are patient, for you have done this many times before, mostly but not always in bed when your lover wants you to touch her but then she grow afraid and her body turns to granite. You hold her, convinced you can coax water from a stone. You hold her and talk to her and stroke her hair and soothe her and tell her how brave she is and how strong she is until finally the tears come and her body melts into skin and blood and bone. You hold her right there in her old neighborhood until her tears are spent and she has come back fully into herself. And then you take her home.

**Students march in protest**

by Jesse A. Greenman

Defying warnings from school officials, more that 25 middle and high school students marched out of classes Tuesday to protest their school board’s new “pro-family” resolution. The resolution, passed September 17, says “pro-homosexual concepts on sex and family will never be tolerated or accepted in this school.” Students also objected to the its description of the two-parent family as “the norm.”

“Why should gays be less important?” said Dave Fritz, a sophomore who joined the demonstration. “Why should kids with one parent be discriminated against?”

The high school’s 1,168 students had been told they would be disciplined if they protested. School officials, in classes Tuesday morning and in letters the day before, urged them not to join the demonstration. Some of the students carried signs saying, “We were taught to fight for what we believe in,” and “What does my parents’ marital status have to do with my education?” More than a dozen parents attended in support.

The board’s resolution matches one sent to districts by the Concerned Women for America, a conservative Christian group, in response to a National Education Association resolution on diversity, racism, sexism and sexual orientation.

Most students said their parents supported the rally, and that they were not concerned about being punished.

The Associated Press, October 8, 1996. Contact Jesse at: jessea@uclink4.berkeley.edu

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**OCTOBER MOVIES**

**big night**

An Italian family on the verge of losing their restaurant cook up a publicity scheme by presenting a well-known band leader with a lavish dinner. With Campbell Scott, Stanley Tucci and Isabella Rossellini. "R" From Oct. 4 indefinite run.

**BASQUIAT**

Jeffrey Wright portrays the gutt graffiti artist that rocketed to fame and fortune in the mid 1980s and then died of a drug overdose at the height of his career. David Bowie, Dennis Hopper and Gary Oldman costar. "R" Opens Oct. 11 for an indefinite run.

**Moll Flanders**

18th century epic drama of a poor girl who seeks love and happiness beyond her life of hardship. Robin Wright, Morgan Freeman, Stockard Channing and Brenda Fricker star. PG-13 Oct. 18-24

**Maybe...Maybe Not**

Romantic comedy about a handsome straight playboy who has to fend off unwanted advances from his new gay roommate after his girlfriend kicks him out. "R" Opens October 25.

**MOUTH TO MOUTH**

A night filled with entanglements, manipulations and celebrities alters the lives of four people in Madrid. In Spanish with subtitles. "R" Opens October 25

**Antonia’s Line**

Long-awaited Academy Award Winning foreign film. This Dutch drama spans 50 years in the life of a fiercely independent woman who lives in a small farming community with her daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter. Not Rated. Opens Nov. 1

All dates and schedules are subject to change. Please be aware that children under 13 are not admitted to "R" or "NR" films.

**Before or after the movie...**

**VISIT THE**

**hollywood canteen**

**COFFEE HOUSE AND AMUSEMENT CENTRE**
October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Susan C. Johnson

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, which seems like a good time to tell you about a breast cancer detection program that provides services we need to know about and also to give you an update on my personal situation.

Sixteen months have now passed since my diagnosis of breast cancer, and eight months since the end of treatment. I have been to four surveillance appointments with my oncologists and each time been declared cancer-free (as far as anyone can tell), though there was a major scare a couple of months ago when a tumor was found close to the site of the original malignant tumor. This one, however, was benign, which is the good news: eighty percent of women receive who discover lumps in their breasts. My energy is mostly back, I have nearly completely recovered from treatment (I never did have any symptoms of the cancer itself except, of course, the lump), and my hair has returned curlier and less gray than before.

My outlook on life, though, is forever changed. I think of the Susan-before-diagnosis as having been an essentially innocent person, only abstractly aware of her own mortality. Now, I, the Susan-I-have-become, is each day grateful for the miracle of being alive, both for myself and those I love. I am acutely conscious of how fast time passes, and of how important it is to use the time each of us has — however long that may be — to do the things that we value most.

Breast Cancer Detection Program

There is a Federal Program that I want to bring to your attention: The Alaska Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. This program provides free screening services of various kinds for women who meet the low income requirements of the program (currently an annual income of $24,156 for a "single" woman) and the following age guidelines: If you are 18 and older, the program will pay for a pelvic exam, a Pap smear and a clinical (physical) breast exam; ages 40 to 49, it may also pay for a mammogram; and age 50 and older, it will pay for an annual mammogram. In addition, the administrators of the program assure me that a way can be found for anyone who meets the income requirements to be treated free if a lump is found.

The Early Detection Program is very interested in contacting and serving the lesbian population of Alaska. Call the program to make arrangements: in Anchorage at 274-1572; outside Anchorage at 1-800-410-6266. Women in Anchorage are reporting very good experiences when they make appoint-ments to see: Barbara Norton, 561-5152; or Sandy Clapper or Joy Zimmerman, 264-2333. If you experience any problems with the program itself, please call Micki Boling (269-8021) a Public Health Specialist in the Program, who is eager to help facilitate all the women of Alaska in getting the medical services they need.

The American Cancer Society’s guidelines are that all women should do monthly self exams of their breasts, and have yearly clinical exams done by a doctor. Women who do not have a history of breast cancer in their family can forego other kinds of screening until they are thirty-five. Between the ages of thirty-five and thirty-nine, every woman should have a baseline (first) mammogram. From ages forty to forty-nine, a mammogram is suggested every one to two years, and an annual mammogram every year for women fifty and older.

Should a lump be found, and should it prove to be malignant, early detection of breast cancer is your best insurance that you will survive. So, may I suggest you use a small bit of your precious time to do the things that will help insure that you enjoy big bundles of precious time in the future. Take care.
LESBIAN BREAST SELF-EXAM
The Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project

BSEs are the natural key to saving your health, your breasts and even your life. Over 70% of breast lumps are found by women themselves and 8 out of 10 breast lumps are not cancerous.

Choose a bosom buddy and agree to perform the BSE on the same day each month. Get to know your breasts!

Call a Lesbian friendly health care provider if you notice any changes.

IN THE SHOWER OR LYING DOWN
Examine each breast and armpit from top to bottom, keeping your hand flat and using the pads of the fingers. Learn what your breasts feel like.

Some women have breasts that have lumps naturally. Look for any physical changes like knots or thickenings.

IN ADDITION:
Stand in front of mirror with hands on hips to look for any visible changes in your breasts. Check nipples for lumps, rashes, sores, discharge, bleeding, change in shape or location. Check breast shape for change in size, change in contour, bulges, flattening, or indentation. Check breast surface for puckered skin, dimples or bulges, moles that have enlarged or darkened, lumps, thickening or sores.

For cancer resources call the Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project at 522-019 or the Cancer Lifeline 24-hour phone at 1-800-4-CANCER.

For lesbian friendly health care providers call:
Aradia Women's Health Center 323-9388
Lesbian Health Clinic 461-4503

Serving the needs of lesbians and their families living with cancer

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Back to school

Random observations on sex and the single gal

by Jen Kohout

I'm out on the back porch reassembling my bicycle. Or trying to. I'm actually staring at the pedal in my hands. Trying to figure out which way to screw the darn thing to get it to stay on. That "righty tighty, lefty loogy" stuff always left me scratching my head. Which isn't a wise thing to do when your hands are covered in bicycle grease.

But the sun is shining and the breeze is blowing the mosquitoes past my legs, so I'm feeling good. Heck, I'm home and that feels good too. This bike has been in and out of its box several times in the past year. And it's satisfying to know that this sizable piece of cardboard will soon be on its way to the recycling center. And that I can unpack the rest of my belongings and plan on staying for awhile.

Of course, the fact that I've had so much practice dismantling and reassembling this two-wheeled tank might lead one to believe that I could do it with my eyes closed. But I can't. I've learned many things over the course of the past year. Which way the pedal screws in wasn't one of them.

Last summer, on the day before I left town, I headed out to the shed with Allen wrench in hand. And I yanked and pulled and wrestled with my bike, trying to get the darn thing apart so I could ship it south. After about an hour of struggling with one of the pedals, I gave up, tossed the whole thing into the back of my car and headed over to the bike store. Where the bike mechanic observed that someone must have really cranked on the pedal when they assembled the bike. I looked at my shoelaces and said nothing. I'd been turning in the wrong direction. Ultimately, it seemed like an apt analogy for other aspects of my life as well.

But then I had to pay more attention at "Forest Gump," I would have been reminded that life rarely gives you what you expect. Personally, I was more interested in my popcorn - loved the sound track but thought the movie was silly. It did, however, make me wonder about the phenomenon of lessons learned. And relearned. And relearned again.

Why it is that some things stick with me while others continually evade.

I was hanging out at the YMCA in Ann Arbor shooting baskets with a classmate one afternoon last spring when she made an observation that stuck with me. Actually, the first thing that stuck with me was that the two of us had graduated with honors from this fancy law school and now we were unemployed, playing basketball in the middle of the day. I marveled at the irony and focused on my jump shot in an effort to stem the sense of panic that gripped my chest whenever I started to wonder if I'd ever hold down a steady job again.

Rayne, however, seemed much less phased by her current employment status. So between points, I asked her why. She paused, probably trying to decide if it was a legitimate question or if I was trying to distract her quick drives to the basket. "It's like this," she explained, "I see being out of a job as an opportunity. There is some lesson I'm supposed to learn from this. And I figure I better pay attention and get it down. Because if I don't learn it the first time, you can bet that I'll have another opportunity."

Made perfect sense to me. She punctuated her point with a quick fake that left me on my heels and her with an open lay-up. I observed that it was probably time I went home and did some laundry. And thought to myself that lessons are like signs because they're completely open to interpretation. If I paid attention, I might learn that Rayne always fakes to her right and drives to her left. Or I might learn that my basketball skills peaked in high school and I should stick to some activity that doesn't require agility, like raking leaves. Or maybe the lesson I was meant to learn is simply to keep my shoulders square to the world and my eyes open.

Jen Kohout may still be learning but is happily no longer paying tuition.

International quotes from London

by Rex Wockner

Lloyds insures rent boys

Lloyds of London now insures British rent boys (male prostitutes) against accident and sickness, reported The Pink Paper. "Sex Workers’ Occupational Policy" holders who claim loss of earnings due to a sexually transmitted disease will be classified as having an "industrial illness."

TV show stuns closet cases

A storyline on the popular British TV series EastEnders about a bisexual who falls for his girlfriend’s brother has prompted a flood of calls to gay switchboards from closeted men trapped in straight relationships, reported London’s The Pink Paper. Hundreds of men have called local helplines after each recent episode of the three-night-a-week BBC drama.

"We've taken hundreds of calls from people who've been forced to confront their sexuality because of the EastEnders storyline," said London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard spokesman Gary Scott. "Most are men in their twenties and thirties. Many of them have told us that the bisexual character is saying what they've been wanting to say for years."
Emperor's letter

To the Good People of All Alaska,
My goodness, has it been a month already? We have a few things brewing. The Court Halloween party will be at the Wave on October 25th. The investitures will be the 10th of November. In the meantime, Jerry and I will be going to Portland for their coronation in mid-October. The idea is for us to take a few trips this year to promote Alaska's coronation in September 1997 as this is Alaska's 25th Silver Anniversary Coronation, and we want it to be the party of the century!

On a more serious note, the Court is in the final phases of obtaining a gaming license. With the money we generate from that we are looking at some full scholarships for gay students at UAA, as well as a host of other community charities. Of course, we will be holding our fund-raising functions on the average of once a month so that additional income with our gaming revenue should enable us to do some really good things this year. That is what it is supposedly all about, correct? Speaking of fund raisers, many have commented about having all of the fund raisers at bars. Well, due to your input, we have been in contact with the Elks Club, and they have a newly renovated hall they are considering making available to us! So it would appear that we should be able to have a Christmas Ball like we had two years ago again this year.

Oh, well, it is Saturday night and I am getting writer's cramp so I think I will say farewell for now. It's time for mummy to get pretty and go have a cocktail.

All my love, Salmon Ella the Empress XXIV of All Alaska

International news

ARGENTINE GAYS KEEP WINNING
The Statutory Convention that is drafting a new legal code for Buenos Aires, Argentina, voted unanimously to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Buenos Aires will be the only Latin American city outside Brazil with such a law.

"Lesbians, gays, transvestites and pansexuals made ourselves visible at the convention site," said correspondent Alejandra Sarda. "The rainbow-colored triangle and the banners with the names of intellectuals, artists and politicians who supported our claim were placed very early in the morning at the convention entrance. As soon as the doors were opened to the public, we went in, filling a whole sector of the available seats. We were not allowed to bring our banners in, but we did it anyway, by hiding them in our bags."

A few days earlier, the convention eradicated the infamous Police Edicts that have been used extensively against gays and transvestites. The edicts allow police to circumvent the regular justice system and detain people more or less at whim.

CARIBBEAN GAYS GATHER IN JAMAICA
Gays and lesbians from 14 Caribbean nations gathered in Jamaica in August for the region's first-ever gay conference. Funding and other assistance was provided by the government of The Netherlands.

Attendees formed a steering committee to advance projects hatched at the conference, and a follow-up meeting will be held next year in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.
Gay issues being banned in schools

by Jesse NR Greenman

Academy Award winner’s new film challenges that censorship

As right wing efforts to keep any mention of homosexuality out of school curricula escalate, “It’s Elementary,” directed by Academy Award winning film maker Debra Chasnoff, creates a compelling case for including it. The feature-length documentary, which won Best Documentary at the 1996 San Francisco and Chicago International Lesbian and Gay Film Festivals, shows what happens when teachers address lesbian and gay issues in the classroom.

At the heart of “It’s Elementary” is inspiring footage of how children, ages five through 13, respond when teachers find appropriate creative ways to confront anti-gay prejudice and counter gay invisibility. After filming in elementary and middle schools across the country, Chasnoff says, “We found by third grade, almost all children have already been exposed to information about gay people—from movies, TV, and the playground. Unfortunately, most of it is misinformation.”

American School Counselor Association president, Carolyn Sheldon, adds, “If schools are serious about preparing students for the future, we have to help them handle the diversity that exists in our communities. By addressing gay issues, we will prevent violence and foster equality. “It’s Elementary” is an extremely moving portrait of how it can be done.”

Finding schools in which to make “It’s Elementary” was not easy. In Madison, Wisconsin, for example, arguments over whether to allow filming of first through fifth grade lessons on lesbian and gay issues went all the way to the school board. Some students, including the daughter of the PTA president, were kept at home when the cameras were rolling. And that attitude is, according to a 1996 national report on anti-gay activity, not uncommon.

“Anti-gay groups furthered their agenda,” says Hostile Climate, published by People for the American Way, “by seeking to ban books and other educational materials with any mention of homosexuality, fighting any effort to provide anti-discrimination or anti-harassment protection for students...” Congress has also voted on measures to restrict federal funding to school districts that permit open discussion of homosexuality. Just last week Utah Senator Orin Hatch (R-UT) argued on the floor of Congress that public homosexual behavior should disqualify people from some jobs, such as being a teacher.

Helen Cohen, co-producer of “It’s Elementary,” says today’s political climate was a large obstacle to overcome in the film’s production. “The teachers and administrators we worked with took incredible risks by allowing us into their classrooms. But they did it so others could see what happens when children are able to talk about gay issues in school. They want parents and educators across the country to understand that it is appropriate, possible — and crucial —

to weave this subject into the fabric of elementary and middle school education.”

Director Chasnoff is no stranger to documentary films with controversial subjects. She won an Academy Award for her last film, the 1991 “Deadly Deception,” which exposed the negative impact of General Electric’s nuclear weapons manufacturing on the environment. (During her acceptance speech she electrified the viewing audience when she became the first woman to come out as a lesbian during the Oscar broadcast, and by calling for a boycott of GE).

Local and national educational, religious, and advocacy organizations including GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network), PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), ACLU chapters (the American Civil Liberties Union), HRC (Human Rights Campaign), and People for the American Way are among the organizations co-sponsoring the screenings.

The tour kicks off in Salt Lake City where the Utah State Legislature is currently being sued for secretly meeting behind closed doors to view “Gay Rights, Special Rights,” an anti-gay video, before eventually passing legislation specifically designed to prohibit lesbian and gay student clubs at Utah high schools.

“It’s Elementary” will be released for purchase on video, with an accompanying viewing guide, later this fall.

Jesse NR Greenman at: jesse@uclink4.berkeley.edu

No, I’m not kidding! If you came out publicly, do you know what that would do for our image?
The joy of us

by Lee Lynch

We watched from a window of the small restaurant as seven men pulled into the parking lot, assembled and headed in the door. They were a motley-looking bunch, clean-shaven, bearded, in neat work clothes or polka-dot shorts, long-haired, balding, from twenty-something to fifty-something.

I felt a twinge of aversion. Here we were, celebrating Catch’s birthday, and now we’d have to put up with a clump of beer-guzzling loud guys having some kind of stag blowout.

The waitress brusquely presented our food just then. I barely noticed that the men took a long table almost adjacent to ours as Lover and I toasted Catch and dug into our various delicacies. It’s always fun to discover a restaurant as good as this on the Route 249s of America. These are the roads littered with gun shops and struggling used car lots, carpet outlets and welding supply stores. This divey-looking eatery is smack in the middle of a U-Haul empire. The ambiance is not exactly your trendy gay watering hole.

There was something about that long-haired fella, though. Naw, a blonde surfer-type with a wide feminine streak.

A woman swaggered past on her way to the ladies room. The three of us looked at one another, looked over to the booth where she’d been sitting. Yup. Another woman.

“Sure,” said Catch matter-of-factly, “You see a lot of dykes here. The food’s good.”

Was that boy wearing nail polish?

Another woman went by. Short haired except for the long thin pigtail down her back, but she was in retro hippie-garb. Could be anything.

And then four of the men began to sing. Why, they were a barbershop quartet! They rolled out an exquisitely rehearsed “Java” and not a face in sight was without a smile.

“Hey!” Catch said. “That’s the group that opened when the Portland Gay Men’s Chorus was down here.”

We applauded. So did everyone else. Including the end booth with two old heterosexual non-gay couples. The men went over to serenade them with “Blue Moon.” A singer fell to one knee and extended an arm, crooning with gay abandon. “Happy anniversary!” we heard them say.

By this time there was no doubt. These guys were good, they were generous with song and they were gay. Their meals came and things quieted down, but we joked about having hired the group to celebrate Catch’s birthday.

After dinner the men were primed. The little dive was transformed into a scene from a fifties musical where the numbers are done in outrageously unrealistic settings — hay wagons, the streets of Paris, a rooftop in New York. Well, why not Route 249 in a dingy mill town?

They were up, by then, and singing an old rock song at our booth. One of the old men was headed for the cashier, dipping at the knees, silently shooing with his lips. His wife came along the aisle after him and the songsters whirled on her, fingers cheerfully pointing as if in this musical, she was the star.

The woman, obviously in her eighties, didn’t miss her cue. I could see the spotlight swerve to her. She did a quick, studied double-take and pointed at herself, eyebrows raised, then grinned and danced in place.

By this time, our fellow diners would have to have been from Saturn not to notice the show had turned camp. The counter-tenor with the glittery nail polish and long curls, Aaron Logsdon, I later learned, was not shy. Nor were Dave Decker, Tom Walker or Al Robins. They were swooning in one another’s arms, dancing together and getting pinched by the waitresses.

They were unstoppable! In the parking lot a group of young couples, newborn babe in arms, had an encounter of the queer kind with these high-spirited carolers of gay goodwill. The U-Haul empire was transformed into yet another set for this standing-room-only musical. “Rent?” “Bring In Da Noise, Bring In Da Funk?” Who needs Broadway?

Right there in the town where two lesbians were murdered less than a year ago — for being out lesbians — gay men were reaching out to the straight.

Even musicals end. The anniversary couples drove off. The newborn was carried inside. The crunchy-granola dykes got into a car with California plates — how had they heard of this gay hot spot? I got serious with the guys. Some of them were on their way to the annual radical faerie gathering further north. They were all locals clearly singing for the sheer pleasure of it — and vocalizing in yet another way what a special, talented and joyous people we are.

They’re called Delusions of Grandeur. Their card claims, “We’re the best barbershop quartet in the entire universe.” Their T-shirt admits they’re “Legends in their own minds.”

I suspect Catch won’t forget that birthday dinner for a while. Especially after the Delusions sang her their birthday song on that hot August night — “White Christmas.”

I hope the non-gays won’t forget either. Like all our choruses, the men of Delusions of Grandeur are musical ambassadors.
Why I hate shopping
My queer life

I do not like to shop. At all. For anything.

You can imagine my horror, then, when one day I went
to change the sheets and realized that there was simply not a
pair left with the elastic intact and without various unidentifi-
able stains mottling them like some kind of weird body
fluid-food-pet stain bataki. It just wouldn’t do. I had to buy
new ones, and that meant going shopping.

I decided to go to Filene’s, primarily because it was the
only store I could actually remember ever seeing in Boston.
I could get there, get my sheets, and be home within an
hour. While it wouldn’t be enjoyable, it would at least be
painless.

Or so I thought.

It started out well. I got on the train when it came and
sat down again eight stops later. I exited the train and pro-
cceeded immediately to the entrance to Filene’s, congratulat-
ing myself on an easy arrival. Once I got through the door,
however, I was met by the feverish screams of a frenzied
mob of eight million women. They were all running about
excitedly waving their arms in the air, as though someone
had just caught a glimpse of the Virgin Mary in a
Wonderbra and everyone was dying to see it before it
degenerated into just another 32A cup.

I flattened myself against the wall as a large woman
charged past, her arms filled with half slaps and her eyes
rolled back in her head. “What the hell is going on?” I said.

“It’s a sale!” someone screamed as she sailed past me on
her way to a table overflowing with black knee socks. Before
I could thank her for the information, she went down like a
wounded deer, felled by a woman holding up the last pair of
socks in triumph.

I spied the escalator across the room. There was no way I
was going to reach it with all the women creating cross
currents everywhere I turned. Like sharks worked up into a
feeding frenzy they were out of control, grabbing and push-
ing in the quest for bargains. I needed to create a diversion.

“Isn’t that a size 18 Lanz nightgown over there?” I called
out recklessly.

The flow turned instantly, with every woman in the store
charging for the sleepwear. As the aisle near me cleared, I
took advantage of it and sped across the floor. I ascended
into the upper reaches of Filene’s, and the din of voices
became a dull roar.

Upstairs, things were calmer. I leisurely made my way to
linens and started to search for sheets. I wanted plain white
cotton sheets. Nothing fancy. What I saw were rows and
rows of sheets in vibrant colors. There were displays of
cheerful bedding created by designers such as Ralph Lauren
and Laura Ashley. Their bright flowers and sporty plaid
rustled sound, and I felt the familiar spell falling over me.
Maybe I did need some nice green-checked sheet sets.

I picked up a package—$129.95 for a sheet. Just one.
And I needed at least two, plus pillowcases. The spell lifted.

But they were very attractive, as was the man in the photo
on the package. Maybe if I had sheets like this, I could have
a man like this as well. Maybe he came as part of the set. I
quickly moved away. Somehow, the spell became weaker.
Further away I got. I wondered briefly if there was some
chemical included in Ralph Lauren sheets that made them
irresistible to gay men. Pheromones maybe. That would
explain Calvin Klein underwear as well.

I searched the entire section, to no avail. I found purple
sheets, sheets with birds, abstract sheets, even black sheets.
But no actual white sheets. I did find a lot of sheets that
looked white to me, but they all had names like china, bone,
and, still inexplicable to me, Marilyn. The closest thing they
had to plain old white was a set of creamy linen sheets with
satin ribbon edging. They were called angel cloud, and they
cost $85. Maybe for Martha Stewart’s country home, but
not for me.

Finally, a clerk appeared from the recesses of the store
like a prophet sent to deliver the wisdom of Jehovah to the
ignorant. His hair was neatly greased back, and he looked
like he knew a lot about bedding. His name was Geoff.

“How can I help you?” he asked politely.

“I need sheets,” I said confidently. “White sheets.”

“White?” Geoff said, as though he’d never heard of the
color before.

“Yes,” I said. “White.”

“How about eggshell?” he suggested, starting for the
Laura Ashley section.

“No,” I said quickly. “Just white. Plain white.”

“What about this lovely buttermilk Vera Wang bed
ensemble?” he tried, waving a $625 set at me.

I could see where this was heading. “No buttermilk,” I
said. “And no ensemble. I just want sheets. White sheets.
No eggshell. No winter. No ennu. Definitely no Marilyn.
Just white.”

Geoff’s demeanor changed. “Fine,” he said shortly. He
led me to a dark corner of the store. “Normally we don’t
put these out,” he said, “but we had some left.”

He pointed at a stack of sheets carelessly tossed in a jum-
ble on the floor. They looked a lot like the Laura Ashley,
continued...
...continued

Ralph Lauren, and Vera Wang eggshell-buttermilk-Marilyn-winter sheets. But they said “white” on them in little letters, like it was a guilty sin to be so ordinary.

“Most of our customers prefer the more unique shades,” Geoff said, as though I’d just asked for Cheez Whiz and Wonder Bread.

“Most of your customers are downstairs wrestling over a bra,” I informed him. I picked up a set of sheets (only $39.95), paid, and left. As I exited the store, I rejoiced in what was, for me, a successful shopping trip, made even happier by the fact that I wouldn’t have to repeat the endeavor for another five years or so.

Back at home, I pulled my hard-won sheets from the bag and looked gleefully at the package.

They were the wrong size.

HRC publishes resource guide to coming out

In time for National Coming Out Day, booklet helps gay people be more open

In its ongoing campaign to promote the values of openness and honesty about being gay or lesbian, Human Rights Campaign’s (HRC) National Coming Out Project today announced the publication of its Resource Guide to Coming Out. Timed to coincide with National Coming Out Day on October 11, HRC is making the booklet available to lesbian and gay bookstores, community groups, student organizations and individuals.

“Coming out can be such a challenge for lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans, so HRC is providing people with basic information to show them where they can turn as they strive to accept themselves,” according to HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. “Polls show that Americans who know gay people are much more supportive of ending discrimination — so coming out is important both personally and politically.”

HRC’s booklet provides information to help people come out to themselves and others, and includes a listing of organizations and books they can refer to for further assistance. In addition to this Guide, HRC’s National Coming Out Project is sponsoring a “Come Out Voting” rally in Washington on October 11, and continues to provide guidance to local organizations that are planning their own National Coming Out Day events.

The rally is just one of hundreds of events around the country celebrating National Coming Out Day, created in 1988 to recognize the importance of coming out and to honor the first anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for lesbian and gay equal rights. HRC’s National Coming Out Project is an ongoing campaign to help end discrimination by encouraging and assisting gay people to be open and honest about their lives.

Copies of the HRC’s Resource Guide to Coming Out can be obtained by calling HRC’s National Coming Out Project at (800) 866-6263, accessing HRC’s Website at: http://www.hrcusa.org/whowhat/whatwe/do/ncop/resource, or sending an e-mail to: ncop@hrcusa.org

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A profile on Rodney Wilson, part one
by Carmen D. McDowell special to NorthView

History Month founder draws attention of NEA and religious extremists

The idea of standing before a classroom of teenagers is enough to give many people weak knees. It was doing much more to Rodney Wilson, a St. Louis area teacher. Says Wilson, “I was smothering to death.” He was teaching from the closet.

In 1994 during his fourth year of teaching, Wilson attended a National Education Association (NEA) conference in Washington and visited the Holocaust Museum. A poster showing yellow Stars of David and other patches from the Nazi regime was a souvenir from the trip. During a history lecture, he explained the meaning of each of the patches, indicated the pink triangle, and said, “If I had been in Europe during World War II, I could have been forced to wear this and could have been murdered, because I am gay.”

Wilson’s students were stunned at first by his announcement, but soon they literally applauded their teacher’s words. Wilson’s school administrators were less enthusiastic. “A memo accusing me of ‘inappropriate classroom conduct’ for revealing facts of a personal nature was placed in my personnel file,” says Wilson. Then untenured, Wilson could have been fired. But he was not.

Rodney Wilson’s classroom is no ordinary place, and not just because the teacher is gay. Overhead, the flags of dozens of countries flood the room with color. Near the door, a bulletin board features individual photos of students near a grave marker.

“That’s for extra credit. Students who go to the grave of famous former slave Dred Scott — buried here in St. Louis — get extra points if they bring me proof of their visit,” Wilson adds with a smile.

Wilson’s passion for history and teaching is obvious — it led him to dream in January of 1994 of a national celebration of lesbian and gay history, modeled after the well-known African American and Women’s History Months. The celebration has been endorsed by lesbian and gay organizations nationwide. The NEA passed a resolution supporting Lesbian and Gay History Month (LGHM) in July of 1995. This resolution became Section D of Resolution B-9, and was passed by a 2 to 1 margin before a body of 9,000 delegates in the NEA’s Representative Assembly.

Last October, the religious right used B-9 as an opportunity to attack the 2.2 million member NEA. The Concerned Women for America, in particular, ran full-page ads in newspapers nationwide and mailed fundraising letters targeting Wilson and Resolution B-9. Says Jim Testerman, co-chair of the NEA’s Gay and Lesbian Caucus, “Section D was used by Concerned Women for America to fractionalize some of the more conservative members of the NEA. Some 160,000 fundraising letters were mailed by CWA to elicit a negative reaction.”

The NEA scrambled to get out the message that while the organization supported LGHM, Resolution B-9 did not require any student, teacher, or school district to participate in the celebration. Most, including Wilson’s Mehlville School District, did not.

Despite the facts, CWA continued to push the fallacious notion that B-9 somehow required students to study or celebrate gay and lesbian history. In CWA’s January 1996 Family Voice Magazine, Beverly LaHaye stated, “This slap in the face from the NEA is another attempt to undermine the role of parents in their children’s education.”

CWA’s efforts moved the NEA to reconsider its support of B-9 at the organization’s Representative Assembly held this July in Washington. It rescinded Resolution B-9, revoking its support of LGHM.

Says Wilson of this move, “B-9 would still exist had it not been for the CWA campaign against the NEA. Support for Lesbian and Gay History Month was removed as a direct result of the CWA campaign.”

With or without support of the NEA, Lesbian and Gay History Month will be celebrated across the country in October of this year. Its founder remains positive. Says Wilson, “The past year, in dealing with the CWA and B-9 controversy, more NEA members have been educated around issues of sexual orientation than could have been hoped for even a year ago.”

For more information about Lesbian and Gay History Month, contact GLAAD at GLAAD/NFO, 1130 SW Morrison, Suite 415, Portland, OR 97205, (503) 224-5285, fax (503) 224-5480, e-mail: history.project@glaad.org, or internet: http://www.glaad.org/. Editor’s Note: Part Two of this article will appear in our November issue. Carmen McDowell is a freelance writer in Seattle.
I kissed John Schlafly

“I... embrace[d] John [Schlafly] and give him a peck on the cheek, from one gay man to another. This came after a 15 minute ‘conversation’ I had with John when I crossed paths with him at the GOP ‘Love Fest’ ’96 in San Diego. Phyllis [Schlafly] was participating in a pro-Buchanan press conference on the lawn in front of the Convention Center. A bunch of us were heading back to our Media Center from our own little press conference near the delegates’ entrance ...”

[When I looked through the crowd I saw Phyllis’ unmistakable hair (BIG is the operative word here). That and her bright yellow/red dress got my attention so I crashed her press conference. When I got to the front of the pack, about 2 feet from Phyllis, I could hear her talking about how satisfied they were with the platform, how it upheld all the conservative values of the Eagle Forum and Buchanan, blah, blah, blah. So I popped her a question: ‘Ms. Schlafly, how can you support the 1996 GOP Platform, the most anti-gay platform in the history of the Republican Party, when your own son, John, is openly gay?’ She made a pained, pinched face, gestured her hand as if to get me to go away, then said, ‘Oh puhleeze, that’s not an issue. Why don’t you ask my son John about that; he’s standing right behind you.’ And lo and behold, there was John Schlafly standing right behind me! It reminded me of some Woody Allen movie. So I said in a voice loud enough for the reporters to hear, ‘It’s John Schlafly, Phyllis Schlafly’s openly gay son!! Let’s ask him what HE thinks about the GOP Platform!’ This caused, of course, several of the TV crews and other reporters to swing their cameras and boomers over to us, which probably ticked Phyllis off since she’s a bigger media diva than me, if that’s possible. To be honest, I really did want to know what she thought about this because it does, to say the least, seem like a major personal contradiction. Anyway, John and I discussed gay politics. Well, ‘discuss’ is too definitive of a word. I made a point to keep calm and open to him. I wanted to try to connect on some level other than opponent vs. adversary... I don’t know, maybe on some gay personal level. But John stuck to the script created by his mom, almost like an automaton. Robert: ‘But John, a majority of Americans, no matter what they think about gays, believe we should not be discriminated against on the job. If you didn’t live with and work for your mom, you could be fired from your job just for being gay.’ John: ‘Homosexuals [his word] are trying to get special rights.’ Robert: ‘OK, what about hate violence. Nobody can condone violence against gays, not even your mother!’ John: ‘Homosexuals make up those statistics.’ Robert: ‘John, I know you have a boyfriend... What if you want to be married someday and have your love recognized, you can’t because gay marriage is not legal.’ John: ‘Homosexuals want to undermine families and marriage, the pillar of our society.’ And so it went. It was kind of sad, really. He seemed like a nice fellow, with a sensitivity about him buried under all that propaganda. He’s still a mama’s boy in a very big way. However, I did catch a gleam in his eye at one point. I think it was when I asked, at the end of our encounter, if there wasn’t some kind of common ground we could agree on, some value that protected the basic human worth of all people, including gays and lesbians, despite our differences around the politics of gay rights issues. He seemed to soften at that point. Unfortunately, that’s when one of Phyllis’ handlers came up to ‘defend’ John. She was a loud-mouthed, pushy person who injected herself into this close-up and personal conversation I was attempting to have with John. At one point, the handler said, ‘Stop picking on John, he’s a good boy. Why don’t you talk to Phyllis if you have something to say.’ To which I replied I wanted to talk to Phyllis but she said I should talk to her son instead, and that’s what we were trying to do. Finally, it was time to move on. So I told John that hopefully someday we could find that common ground of humanity for gay people, and that I hoped his life as a gay man was fulfilling and loving. And that’s when I grabbed John by the shoulders, pulled in close, and gave him a hug and a peck on the cheek. And off we went back to the queer media center and the next bizarre GOP Convention adventure. —Robert.”

[Note from Rex Wockner: E-mail from NCLT’s Robert Bray after this column asked him if it was true that he kissed John Schlafly at the Republican National Convention.]
National hotline

by Jesseca VR Greenman

Gay & Lesbian National Hotline
Only resource of its kind, toll-free, nationwide
After nearly 14 months of planning and national fundraising, an important new non-profit, all-volunteer organization, including service to gay and lesbian youth, is set to debut. The Gay and Lesbian National Hotline (GLNH) officially opened its toll-free telephone lines on October 1. The phone number is 1-888-THE-GLNH (1-888-843-4564).

The GLNH will provide peer counseling, information and referrals to gay, lesbian and bisexual people, as well as others concerned with gay-related issues. The services are without charge and totally anonymous.

"The Gay and Lesbian National Hotline meets a critical need in the gay and lesbian community today," said Brad Becker, president of the GLNH. "Last fall we conducted a survey of local gay and lesbian switchboards throughout the country. We quickly learned that many, vast areas of the country went unserved or, in areas with access to a local switchboard, the hours of operation were often limited.

"The Gay and Lesbian National Hotline aims to meet that need," he adds. "Callers anywhere in the country will be able to reach volunteers, any weekday evening, toll-free.

"A young person struggling with sexual orientation questions often times has nowhere to turn," Becker says. "Our volunteers are well-trained and compassionate -- they know how to listen and that can mean a great deal to a caller."

In addition, the GLNH maintains a database with more than 13,000 local community groups, organizations, businesses and professionals. With this extensive resource of information, the GLNH can link callers with thousands of services available. The entire organization is run by volunteers. All financial donations go directly to supporting these services.

The hotline accepts calls weekdays from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., EDT. With additional fundraising, the GLNH hopes to expand its hours in the future.

More information on the GLNH can be obtained on the world wide web -- http://www.glnh.org. Individuals interested in volunteering for the GLNH can call 212-633-7492.

E-mail Jesseca Greenman at: jesseca@uclink4.berkeley.edu

Quotes

by Rex Woakner

"Jac Wall is my lover. Jac Wall had AIDS. Jac Wall died. I love Jac Wall. Jac Wall is a good guy. Jac Wall made me a better person. Jac Wall could beat me in wrestling. Jac Wall loves me. Jac Wall is thoughtful. Jac Wall is great in bed. Jac Wall is intelligent. I love Jac Wall. Jac Wall is with me. Jac Wall turns me on. I miss Jac Wall. Jac Wall is faithful. Jac Wall is a natural Indian. Jac Wall is young at heart. Jac Wall looks good naked. I love Jac Wall. Jac Wall improved my life. Jac Wall is my lover. Jac Wall loves me. I miss Jac Wall. I will be with you soon."

—From a panel of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. The Quilt was displayed in full for the first time this month in Washington, D.C.

How come beauty is only skin deep but ugly is clear through?
Beetle Bailey

“If God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, who made Steve?”

—September 27 letter to the editor of The Des Moines Register from the Rev. David Holmes of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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Fairbanks

by Andy Binkley

Interior AIDS Association (IAA) adds new outreach worker to staff

My name is Andrew D. Binkley and I am the new Gay/Bisexual Community Outreach Worker with the IAA here in Fairbanks. I’m also jokingly called “the C.O.W.” which is short for Community Outreach Worker. It’s a privilege to have been chosen for this position and I look forward to working with the gay/bisexual and lesbian community here in Fairbanks. For those who don’t know me, here’s a little personal history. I’m 42 years old and was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. I’ve been “out” since age 23 and was active in the gay community back home. I moved to Fairbanks in May of 1980, and with the exception of one year in Portland, Oregon and two years in Juneau, I’ve lived in the Fairbanks area ever since. I’ve worked for the Forest Service, produced political cartoons for the All-Alaska Weekly, was part owner in a restaurant and have been a waiter or bartender in various establishments around town. Away from work, I make good use of the bike paths circling Fairbanks and I’m a Sci-Fi freak.

I’d like to share a few thoughts with everyone to give folks a better idea of who I really am and where I’m coming from. The primary goal of my job with the Interior AIDS Association is HIV prevention. With all the information about AIDS and safe sex we are still losing people to this virus. Recently the rates of infection among young gay, Hispanic and African American men have risen alarmingly. Drug and alcohol abuse coupled with low self-esteem appear to be part of the problem. In talking with some young men here in Fairbanks, I was surprised that so many are still having trouble just being gay. It wasn’t that they were having problems accepting their sexual orientation, but they have enormous problems related to stress and pressure at school, work, or within the family. Not surprisingly, a few of them were keeping their orientation a secret from most of the people in their lives. The old adage — “the more things change, the more they stay the same” — comes to mind.

I can remember back when I was a teenager hearing my Uncle Paul, who later became Police Chief, talk about the “queer list” kept by the Nashville police department. I’m not sure how they compiled such a list or what they did with it, but it contained over 100 names. I can remember my aunts and uncles laughing about “Captain Bob,” a local TV weatherman and children’s show host, being on the list. Over the years as the gossip about him increased, he started coming to work intoxicated. I had grown up watching “Captain Bob” and one of my most painful memories is seeing him doing his last few weather reports staggering drunk and barely able to speak. Eventually he was fired. Ironically it was not for being gay, but because he was an alcoholic. Would it have made a difference if had been able to live openly as a gay man? Maybe, maybe not. I do know that I’ve seen too many people whose lives were destroyed by alcohol or drug abuse related to the pressures they’ve endured hiding who they are.

Perhaps I’ve been naive in thinking that it’s easier to come out these days because there’s been so much change in my lifetime. Certainly more and more people are coming out and standing up for gay rights. But for every man or woman who has fought for equality, there have been fifty more that could not out of fear. Whether it’s fear of being associated with the AIDS epidemic, loss of jobs or physical attack, sooner or later we have to confront our personal fears and fight back. The greatest obstacle I think we face is that so many of us remain invisible. As long as our families, friends and co-workers believe that they don’t personally know anyone who’s gay, we will continue to be treated as an insignificant and “diseased” minority that contributes nothing positive to American society. I think that with so much negative rhetoric being used against us, we have to start pulling together, coming “out,” and making a stand. For the first time since the AIDS epidemic began we are finally beginning to see real glimmers of hope. While there’s still a long way to go before we have a cure, I think we can dare to be optimistic about the future again. Maybe it’s time for us to think some more about our political health — particularly after the recent defeats in Washington. Twenty years ago the idea of same sex marriage or job protection was practically unheard of, even in the gay community. The very fact that it’s become a matter of national debate is a small victory for us. I honestly believe that by being ourselves all the time we can overcome the fears and prejudices of the straight majority. As long as they live in fear of us we will continue to suffer the consequences of their fear and ignorance. Fear and ignorance are major “risk” factors in all facets of life, including health.

With the long winter soon to be upon us, we’re all thinking about ways to spend our time, and part of my job is to help organize events and activities here in Fairbanks. Right now I’m still in my “brain storming” mode and talking with people about what they would like to see happening. I’d appreciate any ideas you’d like to share with me. I also produce the Gay/Bisexual and Lesbian Community Calendar for the IAA which lists all the meetings, dances, and special events in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau. Contact me at 452-4222 if you have something going on that you’d like to have announced. I also maintain a confidential mailing list and will add you to it if you’d like to receive the GBLC Calendar each month.

The coming year should be an exciting one and I expect to see lots of things happening here with my Fairbanks “Family.”
Top 12 predictions

[Note: This comes from a former employee of mine. He now lives in Amsterdam and works as a computer systems project leader. He’s HIV+ and is a long-term progressor. He’s quitting computers to go to Hebrew Union in NYC to be a cantor, and he hopes then to return to Germany (his heritage) to restore Western Jewish music to Western Europe. He’s a pretty tough guy. F. Ken Freedman]

Top 12 Predictions for the New Year 5757

12. Virtual Hasidim are programmed for Sabbath demonstrations alongside Israel’s information superhighway.
11. Messiah arrives; stuns world by endorsing Macintosh computers.
 8. Pandering to the Christian and Jewish right, Bob Dole vows to move U.S. Capitol to Jerusalem.
 7. Chemical Bank rebuffs the United Jewish Appeal’s merger offer.
 6. PLO to print settlers’ slogan “Yesha is here” on bumper stickers — for use by US Jews in America.
 5. In a major blow against Islamic terror, Israeli government imports Tamil Tiger units from the Far East.
 4. Capitol Cities-Walt Disney Corp. announce opening of Gaza Disney. The Ibn Im Kasm brigade changes name to Hamaskeeters.
 3. Pat Robertson converts to Judaism to speed up the Second Coming.
 2. Colin Powell/Ross Perot independent ticket wins by landslide. President Powell’s continued good health becomes major concern of many Americans.
 1. O.J. Simpson, praising God for acquittal, converts to Judaism and changes name to O.U.

Society

Union news and other special occasions

Joanne and Mariah are in Oregon after 10 days on the Alaska Highway. They plan on Thanksgiving in Florida after a swing through California to pick up Mariah’s mother.

From their postcard: “Hello women! What a great test run for the RV- 2,600 miles down the Alcan to Portland - everything works just fine - slow going up & down the hills & around the curves - took us 10 days & we stayed just ahead of the snowfall in the passes - gas was high but the scenery was gorgeous - doggies are enjoying new scents & scenes & so are we!”

Susan Johnson and Connie Wolfe are celebrating their 10th anniversary! Congrats!

National Endowment for the Arts chairwoman Jane Alexander has appointed Gene Dugan, artistic director of Anchorage’s Our North, to the endowment’s panel for education and access. The panel sorts through funding requests and makes recommendations to the National Council on the Arts, which is appointed by the president.

Beth Vann has relocated to Banja Luka, Serbian Bosnia, where she will work for the International Rescue Committee which provides assistance to refugees from the recent war. She will return to Alaska in October 1997.

Fred Hillman is a grandfather (for the 5th time)!

Tell us about your birthday greetings, new births, anniversary wishes, wedding and commitment announcements and holiday hellos. Call Ruth Mathes at 563-1324.

OWLS

by Barbara J. Soule

Hey, Ms. Politically Correct, it’s breast cancer awareness month. Time to get our checkups... what say you?

I’ll worship at the altar of twin peaks. One peak or nothin’. I’m easy!

P.S. Take no chances. Do monthly self exams. Get a pap test and mammogram. The local community health clinic, Planned Parenthood, women of the YMCA can help make it affordable.
What is the history of the AIDS Quilt?
The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt is the brainchild of Cleve Jones, a longtime San Francisco politico who was as a college student in the 1970s interned for openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk. Jones was one of the organizers of San Francisco's annual candlelight march to commemorate Milk's assassination and celebrate his contributions to that city's gay, lesbian, and bisexual community. As he prepared for the 1985 march, he learned that more than a thousand San Franciscans had already died of AIDS. Searching for a way to display such a large number, Jones invited marchers to write the names of a friend or loved one who had died on a piece of cardboard. When the march arrived at San Francisco's old Federal Building, the participants taped their pieces of cardboard to the wall, forming a mosaic of names that struck Jones as a quilt.

The next year, Jones made what was to be the first panel of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, in memory of his friend Marvin Feldman. Jones began encouraging friends to make their own panels, and along with NAMES Project general manager Mike Smith started raising money and organizing to bring as many panels as possible to the October 1987 March on Washington for a public display. As he prepared for the quilt display, Jones found out that he was HIV-positive himself.

The nearly two thousand panels of the quilt were one of the most striking - and enduring - aspects of the 1987 march. Thousands and thousands of gay and lesbian Americans who were sorrowful, angry, and wearied from the toll of the epidemic were extremely moved by the sheer power of so many personalized panels. The next spring, the quilt toured 20 American cities, raising a half million dollars for AIDS service organizations and collecting thousands of additional panels. When the quilt was shown in its entirety in Washington in October 1988, it had more than quadrupled in size. The quilt continued to grow, with panels pouring in to the NAMES Project's San Francisco office from all over the country and the world. Portions of the quilt were displayed in hundreds of communities, and subsequent full displays in Washington in 1989 and 1992 attracted thousands of visitors, many of whom wept silently as a voice on a loudspeaker read name after name of people who were memorialized by a panel in the quilt.

The quilt has helped many Americans - straight people in particular - see AIDS as a disease they should care about. Visitors to quilt displays often come away with a better sense of the diversity of the people struck by the epidemic, not to mention the toll the disease has taken - not only on its gay and straight victims, but on their family members, lovers and friends.

This impact is no accident. The quilt's originsators consciously drew on an old American tradition of quilt-making, a form of art and craftsmanship that brought communities together. As Jones (now a long-term survivor of HIV disease) wrote, "We chose the symbol of the quilt in a deliberate effort to evoke and recapture the traditional American values that had yet to be applied to this apparently 'nontraditional' situation - values of cooperation, mutual respect and individual freedom."

continued...
What was the custody battle over Sharon Kowalski?

In 1979, Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski became lovers, exchanging rings and naming each other as life insurance beneficiaries. Living in St. Cloud, Minnesota, neither was public about her lesbian identity, nor was the nature of their relationship clear to anyone but their closest friends. Thompson and Kowalski were anything but gay-rights activists — Thompson even voted for Ronald Reagan for President in 1980.

A tragic accident on a Sunday night in November 1983 changed all that. Kowalski, then 28, was hit by a drunk driver while driving her car, and she suffered severe brain damage and became quadriplegic. During the first several months of Kowalski’s hospitalization, Thompson was at her side, providing love and support during her painstaking recovery. At first, the Kowalski family thought Thompson was a good friend, and they appreciated her help. But eventually Sharon’s parents began to ask questions about the nature of the pair’s relationship, and with a psychologist’s guidance, Thompson explained that Sharon was her lover.

The Kowalskis did not take the news well. Calling Thompson “sick” and “crazy,” they denied her further visitation rights and even accused her of sexually abusing their disabled daughter. They moved Sharon to another Minnesota facility several hours from Thompson’s home, even though several doctors had noted that Sharon responded best to therapy when she was in Thompson’s presence, and even though Sharon repeatedly indicated her desire to be reunited with her lover.

An intense legal battle ensued. At first, Thompson focused on the right to visit her lover. The Kowalskis and Minnesota courts denied her that right for almost four years. Thompson gave speeches and raised funds for her legal battle throughout the nation. The couple’s plight became a rallying point for lesbian activists throughout the country — but it also found much resonance for gay men, many of whom were themselves dealing with legal issues surrounding visitation and guardianship rights as AIDS repeatedly pitted devoted lovers against anti-gay parents.

In January 1989, Thompson finally won the right to visit her lover, although Sharon’s father Donald remained Sharon’s legal guardian. But Thompson’s legal battle was not over. Donald Kowalski had recently petitioned the court to be released from his legal guardianship of his daughter due to his own health concerns. Despite the fact that Thompson was the only individual to petition for guardianship, a Minnesota court awarded custody of Sharon Kowalski to a woman it called a “neutral third party.” The court criticized Thompson for invading Sharon’s privacy by publicly revealing her as a lesbian and using her situation to raise money.

The case finally came to an end in 1991, when a Minnesota Court of Appeals reversed the lower court’s decision and awarded guardianship to Thompson. The court’s decision contained words of encouragement for lesbian and gay activists who hoped the government would move toward greater recognition of same-sex families.
What are Protease Inhibitors?

I’m sure you all have heard of the new advances in HIV AIDS research. The media has aired both fact and fiction about these advances. The XI International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver has directed the world’s attention to the facts about the new ways to treat HIV disease and AIDS. One highlight of the wonderful advances in HIV/AIDS treatment in the last year is a new class of drug called Protease Inhibitors (PRO-tee-aze in-HIB-it-ter).

Protease Inhibitors are drugs that slow down the spread of HIV. Using measurements of HIV circulating in the blood, studies of protease inhibitors in people with HIV show that these drugs are more powerful than the first group of drugs used to treat HIV (the reverse transcriptase inhibitors like AZT): Certain protease inhibitors can reduce the amount of virus in a person infected with HIV by as much as 99%. But, a protease inhibitor alone is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The researchers studying these drugs still have a number of questions about how well they will work and how they should be used.

How does a protease inhibitor work? To make new copies of itself inside infected cells, HIV depends on several enzymes that it brings into the cell or makes inside the cell. All of these enzymes have specific jobs in the HIV replication (copy-making) process. Protease is one of HIV’s enzymes, and it is required to continue the process of HIV infection. It’s job comes near the end of the HIV replication process. By then, HIV had already entered the cell’s nucleus and has made long chains of proteins and enzymes that will form many new copies of HIV. But before they can start working correctly, the long chains have to be cut into smaller pieces. The HIV protease enzyme is like a “chemical scissors” because it cuts the long chain into shorter pieces.

Protease inhibitors are drugs that resemble pieces of the protein chain that protease normally cuts. By “gumming up” the protease “scissors,” HIV protease inhibitors prevent protease from cutting the long chains of proteins and enzymes into the shorter pieces that HIV needs to make new copies of itself. New copies of HIV are still made and still push through the wall of the infected cell even if the long chains aren’t cut up into the correct smaller pieces. But these new copies of HIV are defective (not completely formed), so they can’t go on to infect other cells.

*Upcoming Events*
- AID 101 Training  Tues., Oct. 22, 5:30 - 7:30pm @ Four A’s
- AID 201 Training  Oct. 8 & 15, 6:00 - 9:00pm
- Oct. 13, 1:00 - 5:00pm
- Every Thursday “Friends and Family Support Group” for anyone who has a friend or family member with HIV/AIDS 7:00pm @ Four A’s
- Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers. 12 noon at the Four A’s

*A Home to Call Your Own*
Subsidized Housing Available for HIV Positive people who qualify. Call Kristine at 263-2056 for more information.

Alaskan Statewide AIDS Helpline 1.800.478.AIDS
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)llelujah 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.

AA:
(G) Gay, Joyous and Free, see Calendar
(A) Live and Let Live, see Calendar
(G) Midnight Sons, see Calendar

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

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see 4A's page)
(A) Alaskans Living with HIV (ALHIV), Juneau, Rita, 463-5688
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing),
Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Found. (WA), 206-383-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Koola, 278-5019

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Gatecky, Ketki/Jamini, 561-7327
(A) The Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996

Apparel:
(A) The Look, Kari, 278-5655

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

Art/Graphic:
(L) Canyons, Catherine, 563-5492

Arts & Crafts:
(A) Daymoon (Seward, AK), Jan, 907-224-7009

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

Automotive:
(A) Courtenay's, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)

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

Bars:
(G/L) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080 (see ad)
(G/L) Palace Saloon (Fairbanks), AlaskaLand (Fri & Sat ONLY)
(G/L) The Raven, 276-9672
(L/G) The Wave, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad)

Bed & Breakfast, Accommodations:
(G) Alta's (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-457-0246 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(A) Beach House, Mary (Homer), 907-235-5945 (see ad)
(L) Rose-Beth's B & B, Anchorage, Rose 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) Sourdough 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) Alaskan, Genie, 561-1340 (see ad)

...Drag Shows

(A) Cyrano's Books, Sandy/Jerry, 274-2599
(A) Into The Woods Bookshop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-479-7701

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

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
(A) Quiverbeam Coffee Co., Scott & Becky, call or fax 278-BEAN

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

Computer Bulletin Board:
(G) The Wilde Side, 333-4039
(G) Wings!, 243-7181; 243-7371 (G/L/Internet access)

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

Computer Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4ASC
(L) Angie, 337-0253 (see ad)
(G) By-Tex Alaska, Inc., F. Ken, 248-2422
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 276-8682
(A) Computer Magik, Phil, 274-2528
(G) Ekstattic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) gra.f/x, Lucian, 561-8568
(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(G) Mad Dog Graphx, Michael Ardaiz, 276-5062 (w)
(G) Mark, 274-9472
(G) PC Possibilities, 248-6277

Computer Training:
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4ASC
(G) Ekstattic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Seven Treasures Ent., Don, 338-9068
(A) Find It! Business Services (Macintosh); Larry, 279-4862

Costume Design:
(G) Every Bloomin' Thing, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3518

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

Counseling:
(G) Axiology Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Connick, 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 Hubert, 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:
(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, Bronwyn 561-6608/277-4744

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

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

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-8940/338-3962 (see ad)
(G) Jon, Bank of America, 263-3723

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

Floors & Tiles:
(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) Mat-Su Weatherization Services, L. Hansen, 907-278-9276

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) 36th Ave. Hair Design, Ledjha, 561-8967

Health:
(A) Gayekey, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(L) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 272-0816
(A) Nature's Own Way, Roberto/Debby, 561-0118
(A) The Olde Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372
(G/L/B) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433)
Also Los Angeles CA, Coconut Grove FL and New York City
(A) Skin Care, Shari, 345-7451

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

Helpline:
(G/L) Gay & Lesbian National Hotline, 1-888-843-4564
(G/L) Anchorage, Identity Helpline, 258-4777 (see ads)
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 907-458-8288
(G/L) Juneau, SEAGLA, 866-GAYS

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

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

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

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

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

Independent Marketers:
(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, Allison, 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, 561-8682 (see ad)

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

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lec, 696-0924
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(L) Klondyke Kontakt (Alaska Women's Cultural Center), 277-9763
(GL) NorthView (Identity), 258-4777
(GL) Perspective (S.E.A.G.L.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, 277-7549

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

Pet Care:
(A) Alaska Pet Palace, Sharon, 276-0666
(A) Doggie Hut, Arlid, 279-5861

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

Political:
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth, 333-1190
(A) Anchorage Women's Political Caucus, Rhonda, 274-9308
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Printing, Electronic Graphics...
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9226
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292

Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-9460
(A) Mad Dog Graphix, Michael, 276-8062
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
(A) Timefranc, 562-3822 (see ad)

Recreation:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(L) McKinley Air Sv., 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, 261-7668
(L) Waltraud Barron, 274-2684

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

Research:
(L) Cracium & 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, 208-0720 (see ad)

Roaming Houses:
(A) Regna’s, 276-4904

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

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

Sightseeing:
(L) McKinley Air Sv., 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*Klatch (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. Nancee Sweeney, 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, 688-2226
(A) Flies by Ilece (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
(G) Roy’s Bikes, Ron, 333-8221

Student Organizations:
(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks),

...Writing and Editing Assistance
(Pete, 907-457-0246 (see Club Notes)
(G/L) The Family (formerly Lesbian, Gay and Bi Student 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

Tarot/Psychics:
(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, Genc/Jay, 279-8099

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Cherresse, 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, 333-7900

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

Call the Anchorage Daily News: Newsline (277-1500) and enter 5400 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 (2:00-4:00pm) at
their offices, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102. Friday at noon is
a lunchroom 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-
ing with the 4As, or need information, please call the 4As at
263-2050.

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

Bruin Brotherhood of Alaska
* Levi/Leather/Bear 1411 East 12 #2 99501. Contact Dan at
258-2629 or 276-6947. Meets 3rd Sat at 7 pm.

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 infor-
mation, call 274-9226.

EQUAL, Inc. Fairbanks
purposes is to keep the community informed about political
and legal events which have an effect on the Lesbian/Gay community,
to educate about community issues, to organize letter writing
campaigns and other forms of political action, and to promote
equal rights for all Alaska citizens, regardless of actual or per-
ceived 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 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 6:00-7:00pm in the Arts Building,
Room 121 on the UAA campus. Social group after 7:00pm
(bowling, dinner, etc.) High school people, bisexual men &
women, transvestites and transsexuals 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 333-0871. Non-singers are more than welcome.
6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm singing (from the KK—Thanks!)

Gay Bar, Anchorage
Free legal question and answer sessions on issues of interest to
Lesbians and Gays. Second Monday of every month, 7:00-
8:30pm at 845 3rd St. 279-5001.

Gay/Lesbian Rook Club
* At Barnes & Noble beginning Wed. Sept. 18th from 7 to 8
p.m. 200 East Northern Lights Blvd. Kim Meck, 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, under-
standing, 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
6:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm; program at 7:30pm. 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 pre-
sent wonderful entertainment, and donate money to needy
organizations for them to carry out their important goals. See
Calendar for this month’s planned activities, or contact
Empress Salman Ella at pager 275-0046. Or write P.O. Box
104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.

L.M.R.U. 2
Anchorage gay youth group meets Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. at
4As, 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 102. 566-IMRU.

Interiors AIDS Association (I.A.A) Fairbanks
offers medical and dental program assistance, “buddies” (vol-
unteers who help HIV & People Living With AIDS), meal
delivery food supplement program, a lending library and coun-
seling support. If you’re interested in volunteering or need
assistance, please call the IAA in Fairbanks at 452-4222.

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)
Anchorage holds Sunday services at 11:00am and 7:00pm, and
Wednesday at 7:00p.m. at 4th and Barrow. 258-4226 Church
is open Sunday through Wednesday 9:00am-4:00pm.

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

Mt. 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 4:00pm, 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 pos-
tive energy discussion group. For location, call Rose Beth (387-
6779) or Lorraine (276-3537).

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

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

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 907-455-6385 or Eric at 907-455-4051.

Q*K Outdoors, Fairbanks, an offshoot of Q*Klatch and a member of IGLOO (International Gay Lesbian Outdoor Organization), is an informal, 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 <esbw@aurora.alaska.edu> or Kathy at 455-6385 or <klatch@northstar.k12.ak.us>.

Queer Round Table (QRT) Call to list your club’s events and hear about other club events. Barb (H) 274-4981 or (W) 564-8518.

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 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437).

SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous) Anchorage 12-step meeting, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 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 907-362-2589.

Women’s Coffeehouse, Anchorage every 4th Saturday, 8:00pm. 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.

Computerlash

Burleson, Laura: Gay Rights activist, Chair of Equal of Fairbanks, and in the Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association: <lbb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capi Cinema, Rand Thornley: <capi91a@prodigy.com>
Carlisle, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist: <kcr@aurora.alaska.edu>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Danedelion, Equal: <alaska@dan.com>
Childs, Lucian: Graphic artist, lucian@alaskacom.net: <http://www.alaska.net/gfx/>
Covone, Michael R., AIDS activist and social worker: mrc@alaska.net
Crabtree, Phil, Crabtree B&B, Fairbanks, AK, <aspc@aurora.alaska.edu>
Cracium, Jean: market research, Pride Conference: <jcracium@cracium.alaska.net>
Digital Queers, Technical philanthropic organization: <swalton@Qmail.com> <http://www.dq.org/dq/>)
Freedman, E. Kenneth: Gay Lesbian activist, <kenf@servcom.com>
HRC: Send a message to your congressman <http://www.hrcusa.org>
Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, <woods@polarnet.com>
Iris, Robert: Computer training and production <robairis@alaska.net> http://www.iris.net > robairis@alaska.net>
Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@aol.com>
Last Frontier Men’s Club: meet club listing <FM@Micronet.net>
Lavender Youth Recreation and Info Center: <lyric@talkline.info@ig.net>
LGNY, new NY Lesbian Gay Newspaper, <http://www.lynx.net/~lgny>
Olson, Chris: <CMOFrida@aol.com>
Out North: <outnorth@artswire.org>
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays: Rob Banaszak <pflagnt@al.com>
Phoenix gay community: http://www.comcout.com
Pinney, Pete: UAF instructor and owner of Alta’s B & B; <ppinney@aurora.alaska.edu>
Rachal, Tom: <TomRachal@alaska.net>
SEAGLA Web page: http://puffin.pufinstate.edu/~seagla
ScotsGay Magazine: Gay Scotland <http://www.scotsgay.co.uk>
Severson, Kim: Entertainment editor Anchorage Daily News, board of Nat’l Lesb & Gay Journalists Assn: <kseverson@pop.adn.com>
Thornsley, Rand: Capi Cinema: <filmguy@aol.com>
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel services: <triangle@servcom.com>
Walton, Eric: Q*Klatch, Q*K Outdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.: <esbw@aurora.alaska.edu>
Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net>
Wockner, Rexi: San Diego-based journalist, LesBiGay info <email: rwockner@netcom.com>
Youth web site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/B_Hartman3>
Calendar

October

Wednesday, 16:
A Barnes & Noble Book Club 7 - 8 p.m. 3rd Wed.

Saturday, 19:
A Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers’ Network (GLSTN) at 10 am at AUUF. Call 562-7161. 3rd Sat.

Tuesday, 22:
A Identity Board Meeting at UUF 7 - 9 p.m. 4th Tue.
A Over 50’s 7 - 9 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tue.

Friday, 25:
A Identity Potluck held at AUUF at 6:30 p.m. Howard Bess “Gay and Christian.” 4th Fri.

Saturday, 26:
A Women’s Coffehouse from 8 to 10 pm at the Wave. Susan Johnson introduces her new book Lesbian Sex: An Oral History. 4th Sat.
A Halloween Party by Bruin Brotherhood of Alaska at the Raven from 9 on. Costume contest and prizes.
J Halloween Dance from 9 pm to 1 am at the VFW Hall downtown. Bring a jack-o-lantern. $8 admission.

November

Saturday, 2:
A Two-Step for Women at Pioneer School House, 7:30 pm. 1st Sat.

Wednesday, 13:
A PFLAG at AUUF 7 to 9 pm. 2nd Wed.

Tuesday, 19:
A Women’s Community Cooperative, UUF, 7 pm. 3rd Tue.

Friday, 22:
A Identity Potluck held at AUUF at 6:30 pm. Susan Johnson’s new book Lesbian Sex: An Oral History. 4th Fri.

Legend

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

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 Carurs 7pm to 9pm.
A MCC, 4th and Barrow Street, Praise & Prayer at 7 pm.

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 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 Sociatic 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.
F Dancing in Fairbanks, 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon, Alaska land.
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, call 566-IMRU.
F Dancing in Fairbanks, 11pm-3am, Palace Saloon, Alaska land.
J PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 to 12:30 in the Mendenhall Library conference room.
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.