Are you missing local and national news about the gay and lesbian community and the opportunity to network locally?

Your membership in Identity, Inc. gets you twelve issues of the *NorthView*, Anchorage's lesbigay newspaper. Simply return this page with your tax deductible $25.00 membership/donation (more if you can, less if you can't) to the address indicated below.

The *NorthView* has: a complete monthly calendar of events, a directory of lesbigay friendly businesses, national columnists, political information, editorials, local news and opinion pieces, cartoons, a balance of male and female contributors and much, much more!

Once you get your first issue, you'll wonder how you ever got along without it.

**Membership/Pledge Form**

Identity, Inc., PO Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070

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

Enclosed is my contribution of $25.00 (basic membership).

I'd like to contribute ____$25.00 ____$50.00 ____$100.00 more just to help out.

I'd like to make a monthly pledge. Please send a reminder each month to send my supporting commitment of $_______. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Mailing address: ____________________________

City: ______________ State: ____________ Zip: ____________

Signature: ____________________________

Phone (home): ____________________________ (work): ____________________________

I got this copy of *NorthView*: ___ from a friend, ___ at a bookstore, ___ at a bar, ___ from a business.

I want to show my support for the lesbigay community in other ways: (Please circle.)

*NorthView*: typing, editing, reporting, graphics, gattering

*Potlucks*: setup, cleanup, monthly programs

*HelpLine*: telephone volunteer, training, potlucks, resource manual, volunteer scheduling

*National Coming Out Day Dinner/Dance*: organize speak out, organize dance

*Lesbigay Pride Picnic*: organization, publicity, setup, cleanup, entertainment, vendors, permits

*Fund-raising*: progressive dinners, bake sales, dinner/dances, yard sales, picnics, other
Summer's fun for everyone!
### Table of contents

#### Advertisers
- Alta's Bed and Breakfast ........................................ 28
- Alaskan AIDS Assist. Assn. back cover ................. 12
- Alaskan Urban Coffee & Art ................................... 12
- Anchorage Press .................................................. 20
- Apollo Travel Service ............................................. 6
- Barron Investments ............................................... 31
- Bela Bodnar .......................................................... 10
- Breast Cancer Detection ........................................ 14
- Capri Theater ....................................................... 36
- City Mortgage ....................................................... 13
- Classifieds ads .................................................... 6
- Courtney's ............................................................ 18
- Damron ............................................................... 17
- Fotos by Frank ...................................................... 22
- Freedman, Ken ..................................................... 8
- Frigid North .......................................................... 3
- Gallery Bed & Breakfast ........................................ 20
- Gabriel Salon ......................................................... 21
- Hill Clinic ............................................................ 2
- Hoelting, Jill ......................................................... 33
- Identity Helpline ................................................... 1
- Imperial Court Campaign ...................................... 43
- Island Watch B & B ............................................... 29
- Knik Glacier Tours ................................................ 35
- Mendel & Associates ............................................. 33
- National Gay & Lesbian Helpline ......................... 3
- Oldtime Music Co. ................................................ 23
- Olson, Chris .......................................................... 27
- Parks Highway Express ........................................... 42
- PFLAG Southcentral .............................................. 25
- Professional Infusion ............................................. 24
- Puffin Family Charters ......................................... 10
- Rhodes, Phylis ...................................................... 29
- Sauerdough Lodging ............................................. 12
- Short, Gene ......................................................... 14
- Short, Sylvia L ...................................................... 19
- S.T.A.R. ............................................................... 25
- Sweeping Lady .................................................... 34
- TimeFrame ........................................................... 27
- Travel Lambda Connections ................................... 15
- Triangle Tours ....................................................... 25
- Tryck Nursery ...................................................... 40
- Unitarian Fellowship ........................................... 10
- Wave, The ........................................................... 26

#### Views
- Barbara J. Soule ................................................... 10
- Business Spotlight, Akn' Urban Coffee & Art .... 12
- Calendar, current and on-going .......................... 41
- Club notes ............................................................ 39
- Comics ................................................................ 11, 27, 39
- Cyberlust ............................................................. 41
- Dan Carter ............................................................. 9
- David Bianco ....................................................... 30
- Directory .............................................................. 37
- Editorial ............................................................... 2
- Fairbanks News .................................................... 28
- Imperial Court ..................................................... 17
- Jen Kohout ............................................................ 18
- Ken Freedman ...................................................... 8
- Ken Lovering ....................................................... 16
- Lee Lynch ............................................................. 21
- Masthead ............................................................. 1
- Michael Thomas Ford ........................................... 22
- Paige Turner ........................................................ 19
- PFLAG ................................................................. 3
- Potluck ................................................................. 26
- Simon LeVay ........................................................ 5
- Travel, Bob DeLoach ........................................... 6

### Advertising rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classified ad (five lines)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Card</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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### Discounts
- Three months .................. 10%
- Six months .................... 15%
- Twelve months ................. 20%
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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Chair: Shirley Randal and Kurt Parish; Treasurer: Mikel R. Haase; Secretary: Joyce Bauer; Members: Candy Bonham, Jon Deininger, Morgan Grey, Ruth Mathes, and Amy O'Mara.

NorthView Editorial Board

Distribution
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).

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

Submissions
We welcome articles and letters from community individuals and organizations. Ideal length is 750 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.

ARE YOU “IN THE PINK”?!?
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! RENEW!

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

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

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

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

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

Having been active in production of the NorthView for over a year, I had a hunch my turn would come in the lineup of editors. Frankly, it’s a little unsettling. A sincere desire to rise to the occasion keeps whacking solidly against a feeling of unsuitability. That NorthView is a newsletter “for Alaska’s gay and lesbian community” is troublesome in some small way. There’s a sneaking suspicion my discomfort is due to an incongruity, lurking somewhere like a nightmarish demon clown. At the same instant in which I claim membership in the community, I feel least a part of it. This cannot be classified as a Hallmark moment.

At its most basic, a community is composed of members linked by a common trait, experience or goal. At this level, we are a community of people who are attracted to others of the same sex. This I belong to. Open and unashamed about my sexuality, I’ve no reservations or doubts about being a lesbian. I would be unlikely to qualify even as mildly bi-curious.

While this definition is simple, it is only the first stop on the route and there’s an awful lot of baggage to load. It is difficult to avoid the connotations of community, the idealized version of community. At this point, my sense of belonging withers. It is only oddly consoling that others have expressed similar feelings.

To define the gay and lesbian community is like taking a political and/or emotional inkblot test. Seen from the farthest right of the spectrum, the gay and lesbian community seethes with manipulation, perversion, predation. It is the realm of nameless, agenda-driven, unrepentant sinners rejoicing in their bedevilment. In this realm, the inkblot test is administered by the Marquis de Sade on a really bad day. This is not a community I belong to, and I sincerely doubt you do either.

At the other end of the spectrum lies that point at which a community is ideally self-defined. Here, the inkblot test is administered by a kindly doctor dispensing a wide variety of marvelous treats. Here we find a polished community of fit, vigorous, equally charismatic persons who have never needed an hour of therapy in their entire lives. All are unified by some unstated, though politically correct, ideal.

This utopia is the land of Jane and June Cleaver, Outward Bound instructors and inveterate recyclers. The finer details include “The Advocate” arriving exactly three days before their synchronized menstruations, as well as their coupled attendance at every gay function. These lesbians, like their gay male counterparts, move fluidly among all lesbians and gay men. They are hip, slick and cool and I am their antithesis. This is definitely not a community I belong to.

Like the purported gay lifestyle and the unstoppable notion of the gay agenda, the gay community with all its connotations might be nothing more than a construct of imagination or desire. Beyond its most basic definition, I believe any notion of gay community is simply a broadening of stereotypes. This fosters, in turn, its own stereotype which we may be perpetrating on our diverse, magnificent selves. Like you, I really want to believe, yet the evidence is largely to the contrary. As lesbians and gay men, our sexuality is our only common thread. Homosexuals are no more homogeneous than heterosexuals, yet the notion of a single-minded, unified community persists. Bottom line? I am simply a lesbian, unwaveringly Amy, living in the sweetness diversity affords.

Write Us!

We are eager for your comments. Please write us publishable notes about our columns, articles, or their content. We wish you would complain on paper so that others who agree (or disagree) might feel inclined to voice their opinions as well. Controversy is healthy! Send your comments to Identity, Inc., P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070, or e-mail us at <rumar@pobox.alaska.net>

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- Neck pain
- Shoulder pain
- Low back pain
- Leg pain
- Stress

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She is a graduate of the Texas Chiropractic College, and has done post-graduate work in neurology and low back disorders.

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GLSTN Chapter Official Now

GLSTN Alaska, Inc. has received notification from the national office of GLSTN that it is now recognized as an affiliated chapter. There are still some hoops to jump through before we achieve tax-exempt status in October.

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network was founded in 1990 by a group of educators in New England who were concerned about discrimination in public schools against gay students and teachers (i.e., gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender). The organization has grown rapidly, now has over forty chapters across the nation and is rapidly becoming a significant voice advocating for changes in schools in order to create a safe climate for gays and lesbians. Its motto is “teaching respect for all.”

Among the newest chapters is GLSTN Alaska, Inc. While this local chapter is based in Anchorage, its founders intend it to be a state-wide organization. Moreover, despite its name, the organization welcomes all those who share our goals, including non-teachers and non-gays.

Our postal address is P.O. Box 243555, Anchorage, AK 99524-3555; e-mail address is <fhillman@alaska.net>; contacts are Fred Hillman (562-7161), Madeline Holdorf (338-3327), and Ruth Mathes (563-1324.)

GLSTN Conference in Seattle

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) will hold a conference in Seattle August 18-19, titled “Bridging the Gap: Moving from Ideas to Action.” Several well-known activists and educators will lecture and lead workshops on reducing homophobia in America’s classrooms. Among them is Suzanne Pharr, author of the classic “Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism.”

Over 300 registrants are expected, from Montreal to Los Angeles and points in-between. This promises to be an exciting conference; teachers and school administrators are encouraged to attend. For details, call Fred Hillman locally (562-7161) or Kirk Bell in Seattle (206-329-3391). E-mail address is <GLSTNWASH@aol.com>

PFLAG, Southcentral Alaska

by Fred Hillman

Picnic Potluck for PFLAG
Come one, come all! Everyone is invited, straight or gay, old or young!

Bring a friend and a food item!
We will supply the main course; additional salads, desserts and beverages are welcome.

TIME: Wednesday, August 13, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
PLACE: Fish Creek Park on South Turnagain, four blocks south of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

** FOOD ** GAMES ** FUN **

IMRUI2 Help Wanted!

What we need are people with outgoing, generous natures, who have an ability to stimulate conversation, and who are not allergic to teenagers! For every session we supply two facilitators, and applications are now being accepted for two more. In addition, we need a coordinator who will join our IMRUI2 Advisory Board and help facilitate the facilitators! We will supply training and information, and all we ask is some of your time to help. If you are interested in facilitating or would like to know more about it, telephone Elliott at 258-0133. Information on the Advisory Board can be obtained from Elizabeth at 278-6732.

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline

1(888) THE GLNH (843-4564) Toll-Free
Free peer-counseling, information and referrals
http://www.glnh.org/
Open Mon-Fri 6-11p.m. EST (2-7p.m. AST)
Midlife Dyke Tales, or Lee Lynch Refuses to Become a Fossil

by Carbo Seltzer

(LL): I loved the ‘tragic lesbian’ paperbacks I read as a teenager. I loved those books because that was all I had until Jane Rule’s “Desert of the Heart,” which Barbara Grier sent me in 1969 or 1970. I wanted to write so lesbians would feel like I did when I read that book and another book, Isabelle Miller’s “A Place for Us,” which I read shortly thereafter. We were not sick sad women, just as I had suspected! I wanted to get us down on paper and make lesbians feel better about ourselves.

(GS): You’ve done a bit of erotic writing over the years. Any inspirational works you remember?

(LL): The first lesbian novel I read was “The Well of Loneliness” in which erotic scenes were implied rather than graphically detailed. The most famous of these has to do with the first time Stephen and Mary make love and the reference is something like, and then they closed the door. Although current readers’ tastes demand a different approach, I’ve always clung to the charge of the imagination. Besides, how many writers can sustain such tension beyond a few sentences? Not that any of this is planned. Whatever the characters do, they do. I just try to make myself fertile ground for their libidos, and never do a love scene when I would not find such goings on compatible with my own mood.

(GS): Your novel “Toothpick House” was probably the first realistic lesbian novel I ever read. Can you tell me about writing it?

(LL): I was living in a condominium near Long Island Sound with a partner of 13 years, and I’d quit my job as Training Manager for a retail food chain because it allowed me no time to write. This was in the fall of ’77. Over the next three years, my stories appeared in “Sinister Wisdom” and “Common Lives,” and I always sent copies to Barbara Grier, who had just started Naiad Press. She said she’d do a volume of my stories if I’d write a novel first. At the same time, Adrienne Rich had suggested that one of my stories might be “the germ of a novel.” So in the mornings I would clean the house and then I would sit in my room from which I had a tiny view of the Sound and fight the urge to go to the bar or downtown or take a walk by the water and force out the words. After some months I learned not to clean the house in the mornings. And Naiad published “Toothpick House” in 1983.

(GS): And sometime after that, you moved to Oregon.

(LL): I moved to rural Oregon in March 1984, with one published book under my belt. The idea was to live more cheaply and be able to work part-time, both of which happened, but not all at once. I remember getting my first copy of “Old Dyke Tales” and “The Swashbuckler” in my country road mailbox and racing up the road to share their arrival with a friend, think about the irony of these city books of my past blooming in the woods.

(GS): I’m trying to remember what other modern lesbian novels were already out by the time Naiad put out “Toothpick House.” Can you remember?

(LL): I’m no historian, but besides “Desert of the Heart” and “A Place for Us,” I remember Sharon Isabell’s “Yesterday’s Lessons,” and Judy Graham’s two-volume “True Adventure Stories” and also her “Common Woman Poems.” And Valerie Taylor’s books and Ann Aldrich/Vin Packer’s books and Ann Bannon’s books, the last three authors from my teens.
Are gays and lesbians an economically privileged group, much sought after for our purchasing power and our trend-setting buying habits? Or are we an economically oppressed minority, forced to accept substandard wages or jobs that do not match up to our abilities? And are gay men better off than lesbians? The answers to these questions, like so many questions about us, depend on who you believe.

Of course, we know that our community is very diverse economically, as in most other respects. We are wealthy Hollywood executives, we are mired in rural poverty, and we are everything between. So, to get a true picture of the average income of gay and lesbians, we need to do some kind of statistical survey, and that's where the trouble begins. Because identifying gays and lesbians in the population is not easy.

One approach has been to survey gays and lesbians contacted through gay newspapers and magazines. According to several surveys of this kind, gay people in the U.S. earn significantly more than the national average. In addition, they tend to live in two-income households. Thus, one study conducted in the late 1980s reported that gays and lesbians have an average household income of $63,100 compared with $36,500 for the general population.

When one throws another factor into the equation — the presence of fewer children in gay households — one is left with an image of gay people as having unusually high disposable incomes.

But these conclusions are suspect for two reasons. First, gay people who read gay magazines and respond to the surveys may be a privileged minority within the entire gay community. Second, one has to be concerned about potential bias on the part of the people who organize such surveys — perhaps a desire to help gay people feel good about themselves or to prove that gay people are a worthwhile target for advertising dollars.

Another approach has been to use data derived from national random-sample surveys. One such survey, conducted in 1993 by the market-research firm Yankelovich Partners, reported that self-identified gays and lesbians have personal incomes about the same as those of heterosexual people of the same sex. In accordance with the generally higher incomes of men than women, gay men in the survey had an average personal income about 60 percent higher than that of lesbians. But this difference disappeared when the data were corrected for household structure: both gay men and lesbians live in households where the average income per household member is about $12,500. Thus, if gay people's households function as economic units, the disposable income of lesbians and gay men may be about the same.

The finding that gay and straight people have similar personal incomes is a little puzzling, because several surveys have reported that gay people are more educated than straight people, and also are more likely to live in large cities. Both these factors are usually associated with higher income. So is something else operating to keep gay people's income down?

To address this question, another study was conducted by economist and lesbian activist Lee Badgett of the University of Maryland. Badgett re-analyzed data collected by the National Opinion Research Center in 1989-91. The raw data indicated that, on average, lesbian or bisexual women earn an average of 18 percent less than heterosexual women, and gay or bisexual men earn 7 percent less than heterosexual men. The gay or bisexual men earned 75 percent more than the lesbian or bisexual women.

Badgett then used detailed statistical tests to remove the effects of other variables, such as occupation, race, educational level, and area of residence. After correction for these variables, the gay or bisexual men earned about 24 percent less than heterosexual men, while there was no significant difference between the incomes of lesbian or bisexual women compared with heterosexual women. In other words, gay men take a significant hit in income simply because they are gay. Lesbians may not take a big hit in income for being lesbian, but they do take a significant hit for being women.

Badgett believes that these income differences demonstrate the effects of discrimination against gays and women in the workplace. In fact, she uses her results to argue in favor of legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, that came close to passage in the U.S. Senate last year.

I'm not sure that Badgett has made a watertight case with respect to anti-gay discrimination. For one thing, it's possible that gay men aren't as focused on salary when they choose their positions. Maybe they lay more emphasis on the intangible rewards of work such as the opportunity for service, creativity, and the like.

Such preferences might lead to fine differences between the positions held by gay and straight men, differences that are not captured by Badgett's broad occupational categories. Or maybe, having fewer dependents, gay men are more motivated to work overtime or to seek promotion.

But still, it seems pretty clear that gay people earn either the same as or somewhat less than heterosexuals. It's time to retire those "statistics" about the supposed affluence of our community. They may make us feel good, but they're probably wrong, and they also feed into a belief that we don't need gay-rights legislation.
Where in the World

"Thanks Babs"

Babs Daitch of Thanks Babs was in town last week meeting with the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association October Familiarization committee in her capacity of treasurer of IGLTA. Her firm is offering women a variety of tours in the coming months. She's offering a land package to Las Vegas of 5 nights/6 days starting at $207 pp/dbl. Sun and Fun in South Beach, FL, starting at $369 pp/dbl for 4 nights/5 days. For the previously reported Womenfest '97, Sept 3 thru 9, starts at $599 pp/dbl. Paris (7 nights/8 days) starts at $639 for the land portion. For you women who plan ahead, Babs, as well as Mariah Wilderness Expeditions, is offering a grand tour of a Guatemala Eco-adventure with 60 like-minded women from April 4 thru 11. The tour includes a cruise on board the "Temptress" as well as food and transfers. International air is not included to Belize City; the rate is $1925 pp/dbl.

Apollo's Package

Sept 1 thru 9, Men on Vacations is offering a tour of Athens, Mykonos and London (8 nights/9 days.) Package includes air from New York to Athens, overnight in Athens and Athens city tour, round trip ferry from Athens to Mykonos, 5 nights in the heart of Mykonos, including a 2BR apartment, and a preferred admission to all 12 Gods Parties, air to London, overnight accommodation and London City tour, plus arrival and departure tours. Price per person quad is $1899.

Broadway Goes to Sea

Pied Piper Travel is offering a fantastic tour on the QE2 October 12 thru 21. This all-inclusive Broadway musical package includes: ticket to Broadway musical comedy and back stage tour, cocktail reception at Sardi's, first night's stay in the theatre district, New York City tour, transfer to QE2, 6 night transatlantic crossing including tips, events on board with Broadway professionals, London transfers and 2 night hotel stay, London sightseeing, ticket to West End musical comedy, airport transfer and one way flight back to NYC. All for $3399 (spendy, but it's the QUEEN!).

All Women Raft Trips

Mariah has added several raft trips to this summer's lineup. Starting Aug. 11 thru 14, $558 will buy you ladies the chance to join 24 women for class III+ rapids for 4 days, 3 nights down the Green River's Ledore Canyon, Northwestern Utah. Aug. 29 thru 30 it's the Middle Fork American River for $240 with 30 women, and Sept. 2 (one day), you, too, can risk your neck in class IV & V+ rapids with 20 other like minded women for just $175 each.

Rushing the Season

Gone With The Wind Travel is staging the latest thing in Halloween travel — a trip to Dracula's castle. Tour includes air from New York to Bucharest, airport transfers, hotels, taxes, all meals, all sightseeing, the Dracula show, castle visit and masquerade ball with local gay, lesbians and ghouls. Price is $1897 per person. The firm is also offering "The Best of Gay & Lesbian Russia" from Dec 5 thru 13 for $1759 pp/dbl. It includes air from New York, hotels, gay guide, airport transfers, hotel taxes and more.

Excitement is High!

You have only until the 30th of July to reserve your cabin on Celebrity Cruises' November 30 sailing from Fort Lauderdale to the Western Caribbean with your local friends and gays & lesbians from around the USA. From only $779 pp/dbl (for an inside cabin) you can enjoy the 5 star cuisine for which Celebrity is famous. Check out the color flyer in this issue for more details.

Gay Games in Amsterdam

One event which is attracting a lot of interest is the Gay Games in Amsterdam. Over a year away, a lot of folks are planning on attending this mega event. While most of the airlines serving Holland will release their fares for August 1998 next month, several groups already have blocks of hotel space in and around Amsterdam as well as tickets to the events. Boy am I excited!!! I just found out that I, too, am eligible to be in the games as they are offering Bridge playing as an event. Look in this space next month for special prices and all the latest on Gay Games '98!!

Bob DeLoach

by Bob De Loach

House Mate Wanted:

My cat and I are looking for another woman to share our 2-bedroom condo after September 1. The unit has a laundry room and is on a bus route. $300 per month includes utilities except long distance and food. Call Shirley at 338-3708.
Fuzzy Logic

The Department of De-Engineering, Fuzzy Logic
- Why isn’t phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- Why are there Interstate highways in Hawaii?
- Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?
- Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetically situations?
- How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?
- If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?
- If nothing ever sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?
- If you’re in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?
- Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?
- Why do we drive on parkways and parks on driveways?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it’s called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it’s called cargo?
- What happens if you’re going the speed of sound and turn on the radio?
- You know that little indestructible black box that is used on planes? Why can’t they make the whole plane out of the same substance?
- Why is “abbreviation” such a long word?
- Why is it that when you’re driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?

Found on the Internet. No credits were provided.

Who Created Louisiana?

In a legal transaction involving transfer of property in New Orleans, a firm of New York lawyers retained a New Orleans attorney to search the title and perform other related duties. The New Orleans attorney sent his findings, stretching back to the year 1803. The New York lawyers examined his opinion and wrote again to the New Orleans lawyer, saying, in effect, that the opinion rendered by him was all very well, as it went, but that the title to the property prior to 1803 had not been satisfactorily answered. The New Orleans attorney replied to the New York firm as follows:

“I acknowledge your letter inquiring as to the state of the title of the Canal Street property prior to the year 1803. Please be advised that in the year 1803 the United States of America acquired the territory of Louisiana from the Republic of France by purchase. The Republic of France acquired title from the Spanish Crown by conquest. The Spanish Crown had originally acquired title by virtue of the discoveries of one Christopher Columbus, sailor, who had been duly authorized to embark upon the voyage of discovery by Isabella, Queen of Spain. Isabella, before granting such authority, had obtained the sanction of His Holiness, the Pope. The Pope is the Vicar on Earth of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the son and Heir Apparent of God. God made Louisiana.”

Been in Tom Rachal’s possession for so many years he cannot remember where it came from.
This article is the first in a series that explores what might be called Queer Psychology. This inaugurall piece will explore a few of the issues around identity and maturing, but because of length considerations, must be quite general and will omit many important details.

Everyone's talking about lesbians sleeping with men and gay men sleeping with women. This "cross-sexing" is most intriguing from a psychological viewpoint and, in my opinion, speaks to the development of the Gay Rights Movement as well as individual growth.

In psychological growth models, there are identifiable stages we go through that help us grow psychologically, acquire skills and knowledge, develop our character and identity as individuals, and assume values that help us in our lives and, as Freud postulated, to love and to work.

Erik Erikson has written extensively on growth and development as has Jean Piaget and many others. James Fowler writes about the stages we go through as we develop our faith; Vivienne Cass and Richard Troiden, among others, write about the stages gays and lesbians go through to reach maturity. Interestingly, they all speak to the issue of a universal kind of consciousness that is at the mature end of the development scale. I haven’t the room to detail the stages and their implications, but in my opinion, and based on the research I've been doing, lots of gay men and lesbians (and, incidentally, the American Gay Rights Movement, too) are about 15 years old psychologically, meaning fairly self-centered, focused on sexual exploration, and not very aware of the wide-world and the opportunities that await.

Why do I say this?

Because I believe that we still tend to identify ourselves sexually (gay men may be, how shall I say, a touch more guilty of this than lesbians). To advance to the next stage of growth, we need to look more honestly and deeply at our manner of defining relationships and alliances and intimacies (sexual and otherwise). I have always capitalized the words gay and lesbian to connote that they are cultures, which implies a far broader identity than bedside activities. [Editorial Note: It is the policy of NorthView not to capitalize gay or lesbian in our publication.]

At the top end of Erikson's development model is what's called ego integrity. This stage describes the person who has transcended the "triumphs and disappointments adherent to being" (Erickson, 1950, p. 231). Fowler's stage of universalizing faith is defined by such people as, including but not limited to, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mother Teresa. Fowler warns us that "...we must not fail to attend ... to the criteria of inclusiveness of community, of radical commitment to justice and love and of selfless passion for a transformed world, a world made over not in their [leaders'] images, but in accordance with an intentionality both divine and transcen-

dent (Fowler, 1981, p. 201). Gays and lesbians, at this comparable stage, "retain a deep sense of pride but now come to perceive less of a dichotomy between the heterosexual and homosexual worlds. A homosexual identity becomes an integral and integrated aspect of the individual's complete personality structure" (Blumenfeld and Raymond, 1988, p. 89).

For me, this calls for being gay or lesbian culturally. Psychologically, I believe, we are still at the stage where we hate (but still identify with) the abuses we suffered when we were young (personally as well as in the early Gay Rights Movement), and still haven't processed through the hurt enough to get past it to the more creative and fulfilling stages of life.

This, I believe, is where the cross-sexing seems to make sense: since many of us are still teenagers, we experiment sexually. But why sample only the vegetables, for example, when there's a whole smorgasbord available? I think we have tied up our sexuality with our identity and fail to see that one can be an Asian lesbian, for example, have straight friends, sleep with an Hispanic man, enjoy opera, be a Jain, and still be an Asian, and still be lesbian. It's about growing ourselves and our culture authentically. And helping ourselves to become part of the multicultural fabric that is The World, rather than an isolated sexual subculture.

If we confuse sex with intimacy (leading to emotional isolation), and confuse self-disclosure with deep processing, we will remain immature and marginalized individually, socially, and politically. Living mindfully and proactively, however, are two important first steps on the path toward healing and maturing.

References:

F Ken Freedman is a counselor with a private practice in Anchorage, former co-editor of the NorthView, and a gay activist. Copyright 1997 F. Kenneth Freedman.
As we celebrated Gay Pride Week and Independence Day during consecutive weekends in Anchorage, I thought it would be a great time to review news from around the world about our struggle to be recognized as citizens worthy of full participa-

and the general gay community, which I describe as another big closet, lack of response and connection with any social affair, plus the new government and Beijing do not like human rights and tends to control people's different thoughts and voices, road in front of us definitely much more difficult than before. Brothers and sisters in Hong Kong, wake up, it is time to change our policy.

At last, I want to thanks again, all your support and concern overseas.

**UK Pride Parade**

LONDON, July 3 (Reuters) - When London's annual Gay Pride Parade fills the streets this Saturday, marching with an array of 300,000 drag queens and muscle-bound, leather-clad men will be a host of corporate sponsors which are increasingly recognising the value of the so-called "pink pound."

"The main sponsor of Pride '97 is United Airlines, and we have also got support from Befoether Gin, Finlander Vodka and Holsten Pils among others," a spokes-

woman for the Pride Trust, the parade organiser, told Reuters in an interview on Thursday.

**Note of Concern from a Hong Kong Friend**

From Julian, Hong Kong

Dear Dan & Al,

For sure that the road of gay rights in Hong Kong becoming more difficult now. As externally we have no relationship with the new management of Hong Kong, nor any other solid relationship with other community groups in Hong Kong. And as internally gay community groups are lack of support of general gay population, lack of communication and unification between groups,

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON**

**GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE CELEBRATION, 1997**

Warm greetings to all those participating in the 1997 Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration.

Throughout America's history, we have overcome tremendous challenges by drawing strength from our great diversity. We must never believe that our diversity is a weakness. The talents, contributions, and goodwill of people from so many different backgrounds have enriched our national life and have enabled us to fulfill our common hopes and dreams. As we stand at the dawn of a new century, we all must re-

**Montana Moves into 20th Century**

HELENA, Mont. (AP) - The Montana Supreme Court threw out a 24-year-old ban on homosexual sex Wednesday, concluding government has no business meddling in the sexual activity of consenting adults.

**Pride/March in Rio**

A law to allow gays and lesbians to be married in civil ceremonies is currently under discussion in Brazil's lower house of Congress, but deputies have come under strong pressures from church leaders not to vote in favour of the legislation.

Deputy Fernando Gabeira, who took part in the march, said approval of the law would help diminish prejudice and aggression against homosexuals. He said one homosexual was killed every three days in Brazil, often in knife attacks.

**PARIS (Reuters) - France's new government will deliver on a promise to give homosexual couples the same legal rights as heterosexual couples. Justice Minister Elisabeth Guigou said Monday, "This is a promise we have made, and we will keep it," Guigou told the French daily Le Monde. "He also said. "One cannot describe the union between two people solely in terms of marriage."
Stargazer Commentary

To this day, people whisper among themselves of secret rituals, clandestine meetings, unknown forces working, unholy things done and Satan invoked. It is hard to believe, but modern Church-going people ask me, because I have openly said that I am a psychic, “Are you in league with the Devil?” There are Christian religions that focus on sin, evil and Satan. It is true that evil does exist. What is not true is that all psychics align with the Devil.

In the Middle Ages, the Church of Rome waged a campaign to eradicate the lingering vestiges of the pagan naturalistic practices that earlier missionaries had let the people carry over into their Christianity. The Church claimed the exclusive power over the truth of prophecy. This, in turn, invalidated any single person’s good sense, intuition and precognition. Human ignorance, the Inquisition and human greed for power, territory, land and materialistic wealth facilitated the myth of the witches conspiring with the Devil to harm good people. The Inquisition tortured, drowned, crushed under boulders and burned at the stake thousands of people. Their land and possessions were confiscated by the State or the Church. For the Establishment to go to such lengths to suppress humankind’s psychic abilities, that ability must be a very powerful and intimidating force.

Trusting your “gut feeling,” intuition and psychic abilities threatens the Establishment because a person using that ability does not accept the situation as presented. Intuition forces a person to question underlying motives and, subsequently, question the system’s status quo. If the system is challenged, the system has to change. Then it is no longer an established system.

The rejection by the Church, the society and our families is very painful and continues to be an issue in the gay community. Low self-esteem coupled with alcohol and drug abuse is still a problem. Even with a considerable on-going effort by many people to provided an alternative, the gay bar remains a place for gay people to socialize.

Many people in our community are on an alternative path in one form or another. While the issues are still the same, gay people find an alternative for their lives by not settling for the place society establishes for us. By taking positive action to affirm the “gut feeling” of “I am a homosexual and I know in my heart I am a good person,” many of us in the gay community find a path to an alternative healthy, happy lifestyle. There are a lot of ways to get there. Follow your intuition for what is best for you.

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

“Drag queens, while entertaining, seem to have less in common with me than with circus clowns.”
— Former gay porn star Scott O’Hara in his syndicated column for June.
PFLAG to Receive Biennial Human Rights Award

LOS ANGELES — Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (PFLAG) has been named the recipient of the 1997 Human Rights Award presented by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). The announcement was made by the Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of UFMCC.

The international award will be presented on July 20 in Sydney, Australia during opening ceremonies for UFMCC's General Conference XVIII. UFMCC's Human Rights Award is presented biennially to organizations and individuals who have furthered the cause of social and political justice. Previous recipients of UFMCC's Human Rights Award include Amnesty International and the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

Nancy McDonald, president of the board of directors of PFLAG, will accept the award in Sydney, Australia. A mother and grandmother, McDonald is a long-time community activist and educator who envisions "a time in which all children are treated equally, and all people can respect each other's differences."

UFMCC will also present an award to salute the pioneering work of PFLAG Australia. Heather Hornvedt, vice president of PFLAG Australia, will accept the award on behalf of the Australian organization. Hornvedt was instrumental in lobbying the West Australian Parliament to enact gay-rights provisions into its laws.

“We recognize the invaluable contributions of PFLAG in strengthening the cause of human rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons,” said the Rev. Troy D. Perry, UFMCC moderator. “We are pleased to salute PFLAG's ongoing, three-fold commitment to support families, educate the public and advocate on behalf of equal rights.”

“PFLAG has combined the work of social justice with a spirit of love and compassion that is helping to transform our world one family at a time,” Perry added.

UFMCC was founded the Rev. Troy D. Perry. Perry is the recipient of awards from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Gay Press Association. UFMCC is composed of more than 300 local congregations in 19 countries. With a combined budget in excess of $10 million, the UFMCC churches comprise the largest predominantly gay organization in the world.

Lavender Pages

Launching a new look and flying the colors of the gay flag, the redesigned On-line Lavender Pages invites the internet visitor to surf a rainbow of gay topics in the largest one-stop gay resource site on the Web. “Our goal for the On-line Lavender Pages is to promote the success, visibility and pride of the worldwide lesbian, gay, and bisexual community,” says Webmaster Tom White. “We have travel, events, business and service organization information available for 40 national/international cities.

The clubs and services section accesses a free interactive on-line listing which is available to all non-profits that help and educate the community through spiritual, physical, or emotional support services. It will also include a listing of social clubs throughout the U.S.


MCC Pastor Is Leaving

Ed Knisley, Pastor of the local Metropolitan Community Church, has announced his last sermon will be August 3 at 7:00 p.m. The congregation will be serving cake and punch immediately afterwards.

Ed will be leaving Anchorage on August 11 to study at the General Theological Seminary in New York City.
Business Spotlight

Alaskan Urban Coffee and Art

Talk about hidden treasures... I responded to a HelpLine request for a NorthView ad and found a sterling mecca on 6th and Barrow, of all places! The manager, Clarence Smelcer, gave me a tour and a HUGE cuppa, and I decided to interview him on the spot.

NV: What is your Alaskan history, and how come this particular business?

CS: I was born here, unlike most Alaskans, and I have always had a secret desire to operate a little shop such as this. I think it looks as though it was transplanted from Seattle, don't you?

NV: (I pulled my nose out of my coffee cup long enough to nod, and waited for him to continue.)

CS: The owner of this shop is involved with "Job Ready," which assists folks with disabilities in on-the-job skills and training. This is one of several businesses which provides such a worthwhile service. I am new at this... we've been open only three months. The new FBI building across the street, the museum, and several state office buildings have discovered us and kept us alive during this first difficult period. We're advertising like crazy, which is why I called you.

NV: Is there a particular "draw" to your shop? Something unusual or different?

CS: Yes... everything here is uniquely Alaskan. The food is prepared from scratch, the coffee (Heritage brand) comes from Juneau, the artists are Alaskans, the suppliers and products are all Alaskan. We are strictly a coffee/sandwich/salad shop, though. We can't have a stove.

NV: (My head automatically comes up at the word "can't.") Why not? Is there some fire code?

CS: No, but the reason is unusual. This is the tallest completely wooden structure in the world. There is a sister structure in Seattle on Capitol Hill which was built by the same builder, but it is no taller. I realize the facade is something other than wood... that was added in an effort to 'update' the appearance of the building. It is put together completely with wooden dowels... no nails... and it was 'written up' in the Architectural Digest in Japan because of its rare construction.

NV: (I realized that my mouth was agape, and I closed it in order to backtrack to a previous question.) I'm truly impressed and really astonished, but what about that stove thing?

CS: Oh, that. Well, you see, the building sort of... breathes. Odors travel easily from floor to floor, and the tenants on the 6th floor were not pleased with cooking odors from the ground floor. So, we try to keep folks happy by serving things we don't have to actually 'cook'.

NV: (I looked around at all the marvelous paintings, drawings, pottery, and jewelry.) What about all of this? Everything seems like one-of-a-kind and very different.

CS: It really is. Andy Kursch made the little tables for our diners. The Japanese pottery is raku, but is done by an Alaskan who trained in this art. All of our artists are Alaskan, but their art is decidedly un-Alaskan. The gay jewelry is by Tom Plattenberger, and is different from other things available in catalogs.

NV: (I made ready to leave and asked Clarence to offer a word or two to our readers.)

CS: This shop is decidedly different and well worth a visit. We believe that folks who do will return often. It offers a warm hospitality and a sense of comfort which grows on the visitor. We hope everyone who reads your column will pay us a visit!
It's a pleasure to serve the Community!

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GLAAD Praises Supreme Court Decision

Court Strikes Down Communications Decency Act

NEW YORK, June 26, 1997 — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) applauded the Supreme Court's decision to preserve free speech on the Internet by finding the Communications Decency Act (CDA) in violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution. Many feared that the CDA would limit the rights of Internet users to freely discuss and explore issues around sexual orientation.

The Communications Decency Act, which was passed as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, prohibited "patently offensive" or "indecent" content on the Internet. Last June, a three-judge panel ruled the CDA unconstitutional, at which point the Department of Justice appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court's decision is a victory for all those who believe that the Internet is a vital source of both information and community for Americans," said Joan M. Garry, Executive Director of GLAAD. "For the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, the Internet has been particularly important, both in advancing our visibility and as a political, cultural and social tool. The Court's determination of the CDA as unconstitutional is one which rejects silencing vibrant Internet communities, and in the best traditions of free speech, allows for a diversity of voices on what is a still evolving media form."

Writing for the majority, Justice John Paul Stevens said, "The CDA is a content-based regulation of speech. The vagueness of such regulation raises special First Amendment concerns because of its obvious chilling effect on free speech." Loren Javier, Interactive Media Director for GLAAD, commented: "Justice Stevens sums up the ambiguous and vague language of the Communications Decency Act quite well. The law would have had dramatic effects on a medium where the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community thrives. If small minded bigots were making decisions based on hate regarding 'indecency' on the Internet, many lesbian and gay sites, including GLAAD's, might have perished."

GLAAD is the nation's lesbian and gay news bureau and the only national lesbian and gay media watchdog organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Their website is located at: <http://www.glaad.org>.

Gay Pride 1997

Barbara and I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who helped make Pride on the Parkstrip a success. Thank you to: Donna for organizing the entertainment, Kurt for getting the permits, Identity for sponsorship and advance money, the Imperial Court of all Alaska for the use of their sound equipment, the vendors, information booths, craftspersons and the entertainers. Finally, thank you to all the people who came out, brought their families, kids, friends and dogs. Working together we made the celebration a success.

See you next year.

Candy Bonham is a local gay activist, Identity board member and the Identity HelpLine Coordinator. Originally from Montana, she is proof there are actually gay people in Montana. You can e-mail her at <solcandy@alaska.net>.

"Of course I saw it! Every self-respecting lesbian saw it. I think it was very well done. There was nothing that I would have changed about it. Hopefully, the writing will continue to be excellent. Now they can be free and not try to force something. It was very educational, I think, for straight America and feeling good for the gay community."

— Tennis champ Martina Navratilova on Ellen's coming-out episode, to Pittsburgh's Out newspaper.

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Dear Anchorage Gay and Lesbian Community Members:

On April 26 the Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA) and the Juneau Duchy presented their 9th Annual “La Fabulous Femme Fatales” fund-raiser in Juneau. The event achieved its goal of raising over $5,000 which will be disbursed by the ICOAA to agencies providing direct services to persons living with HIV/AIDS. In these days of declining governmental funding, such fund-raisers are greatly needed to help keep these agencies functioning to provide the necessary care and emotional support to AIDS victims and their families.

We would like to offer our thanks to the following individuals. A great big hug and thanks to all of the performers who took the time out of their busy and often hectic schedules to participate and help make the show successful. You were just “absolutely fabulous” darlings!! This year’s performers were:

- The Aurora Empress XXIV, Salmon Ella
- The Firebird Aurora Empress XIII, Misty Dawn
- Lady Klondike of the Melting Glaciers, Rosy Rotton
- The Beautiful and Bodacious, Babes
- The Ravishing Raquel Duvall
- Lena Loop Duvall

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank and publicly acknowledge the following individuals, who were not able to attend the show, but graciously donated funds for this event:

- Empress XII & XX, Reyna
- Empress XVII, Kristina
- Imperial Crown Princess, Taylor
- Imperial Crown Prince, Michael Deel
- Mr. Tyler Grenshaw
- Mr. Mikey Richardson
- Mr. Ron Royal
- Mr. Eldon Kirby
- Mr. Ross Crich, Emperor XXI

Also, thanks to our mom, now residing in Anchorage, who provided the show with her witty personality and fabulous hair and makeup tips;

- Miss Lana “I don’t do it no more” Duvall
  (a.k.a. Granny Duvall in Anchorage)
- WE LOVE YOU!!!!!

We also want to give a great big hug and thanks to Jerry and Malcom for helping us track down the needless but necessary paperwork and information for the Duchy. It was truly appreciated. Thanks guys!

And, finally, to the Imperial court of All Alaska for their support which has allowed us to continue producing the show each year. The show is the only positive public function for our gay and lesbian community here in Southeast Alaska.

We would like to extend an invitation to all people of the great State of Alaska, and especially to the members of the Imperial Court, to join us next year on May 2, as the Juneau Duchy proudly presents the 10th Anniversary of the “La Fabulous Femme Fatales”.

- Lena Loop Duvall, Grand Duchess X
- Richard D. Porria, Grand Duke X

The Juneau Duchy can be reached at P.O. Box 22888, Juneau, AK 99802-2888 or telephone (907) 586-6705.

“[I] procrastinate for as long as I possibly can until I’m in excruciating agony and then I start working. And then I build up momentum until I’m in this totally focused, concentrated state and then I finish and then I collapse.”

— Dykes To Watch Out For cartoonist Alison Bechdel to Los Angeles’ Lesbian News, July issue.

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Anchorage Gay & Lesbian Helpline

258-4777

A community service of Identity, Inc.
PO Box 200070, Anchorage AK 99520
Let Freedom Ring

by Ken Lovering

Hot on the heels of Pride Month, the Fourth comes and goes without much notice from me and mine. While most of the townsfolk scramble to Main Street with their lawn chairs and coolers to stake a claim on their parade-viewing territory, my partner Paul and I ease into the day and, once coffee has sufficiently awakened us, work on some home-improvement projects or go hiking.

The only thing I can appreciate about the Fourth is the day off. I feel as if I’m riding on the tails of a holiday in which I refuse to participate. There is no reason for me to celebrate: not until I and other gay men and lesbians are part of the “all” in the phrase “with liberty and justice for all.” We all memorized that pledge of allegiance in grammar school. It indoctrinated us, as if it were an agent of the state, into believing that our country stood tall above all others.

Anyway, we stood there beside our fat desks, the ones with the hinged compartments, our hands resting over the very hearts which would — thankfully — lead many of us astray from the pack, our eyes fixed upon the stars and stripes which would one day deny us the right to legal marriage, and we recited. We could have recited in our sleep (and, in fact, some of us probably did). We didn’t know any better, blindly loyal to a patriotism we couldn’t yet understand.

Since then, we’ve come to understand just what American patriotism is. In general, it seems to hinge on a sort of dumb faith that everything in our K-12 history books was true. We readily ignored the fact that those books were written by white straight American males who, by the very nature of their whiteness, straightness, and American maleness, tended to neglect the contributions of gay and lesbian Americans throughout history.

More specifically, today’s American Patriot:

• stands proudly by the image of our wigged forefathers gathered together to sign the Declaration of Independence. Were our Patriot to walk into a room full of wigged men today, however, s/he would label them all perverts.

• believes that Eleanor Roosevelt was a devoted and faithful first lady to FDR. And if she wasn’t, she certainly wasn’t romantically involved with a woman. Lesbians, after all, didn’t exist in the 1940’s.

• believes that Harvey Milk is the has-been cartoon mascot for Hood products.

• sees no homoerotic element whatsoever in a showerful of nude men, all of whom have been buffed by rigorous months of training at a U.S. Army base camp.

• believes that camp is nothing more than a place to pitch a tent.

• thinks that “Stonewall” is either a masonry term or a military strategy.

Today’s American Patriot has no idea how much richness and diversity s/he lost from censored high school readings of Tennessee Williams, Willa Cather, Lorraine Hansberry, James Baldwin, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, and Walt Whitman. And s/he likely wouldn’t even care to know.

But God Bless America anyway. God bless an America that won’t allow a significant segment of its own citizenry to defend her. Stand beside and guide an America whose gay youth are at risk for suicide because they are made to feel like outcasts by the larger culture. God shed His grace on thee whose state legislatures have been working to pass laws banning marriage between two people in love, and whose Congressional majority still seems to believe that gay men and lesbians are deviant and unnatural.

In many ways, the Fourth is a day of mourning for those notions and proclamations set forth in 1776. No person knows Life who cannot show love for another — a kissed cheek, a held hand — in a public space without concern about recrimination. No person knows Liberty who must constantly judge when it is safe to reveal the very essence of his or her being. No person knows the pursuit of Happiness who cannot speak openly and lovingly about a spouse in the workplace.

Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness are empty concepts when they can’t be applied to all citizens of a nation. Without them, the democratic spirit is dead.

It’s the thought that celebrants of Independence Day are commemorating something that does not fully exist in their own culture that so disturbs me and keeps me away from parades and fireworks on the Fourth. For far too many in this country, freedom is nothing more than an imagined notion enjoyed primarily by the heterosexual majority. And the parades and fireworks and lofty rhetoric are merely benevolent carnivalesque masks to hide the truer faces of intolerance and fear.
Imperial Court

To The Good People of All Alaska:

The end of the 24th reign is in sight! On Sunday, August 31, 6:00 p.m. at the Egan Center, Jerry will step down as Emperor, and Salmon Ella will spawn and die! Tickets are on sale at Carrs Tix, and are going fast. We expect seven to eight hundred people for Alaska's Silver Anniversary Coronation, which is the theme for this year's event. Guests will be coming from all over the USA, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

Some of the events connected with Coronation are:

- Friday, Aug. 29th - The Alaska Show at the Wave.
- Saturday, Aug. 30th - Portage Glacier and Brown Bear Saloon bus run, departs from The Raven at 10:00 a.m. - $5
- Saturday, Aug. 30th - The Minions Lunch, 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. at The Peppermill: $15 (no Monarchs, please); Monarchs' Brunch, 12 noon - 2:00 p.m. at Sea Galley: $20 (Monarchs only); “Silver” Coronation '97, 6:00 p.m., at the Egan Convention Center.
- Monday, Sept. 1 - Victory Brunch, 12:30 p.m. at Days Inn. Theme is “Pajama Party - The Morning After”: $16; followed by the Infamous San Francisco Party: The Raven.

This year’s candidates for Emperor are: Mike Jones, Mikey Richardson, and Michael Deel. For Empress, running unopposed is the fabulous Rosey Rotton (otherwise known as Ross Crich). Voting is at the John Thomas Building, 3rd & Cordova, Saturday, Aug. 25. 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Your support this year has been wonderful. Please come and share this reward for all your hard work.

All my love,
Salmon Ella, Emperor XXIV of All Alaska

Helpline Training

By Candy Bonham

The next HelpLine training will be Sunday, August 24, from 5 pm to 7 pm in the Identity office upstairs at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. We need volunteers! We are seriously understaffed at a time when we have expanded the HelpLine to 7 days a week. This is your HelpLine, this is your community, and you need to get involved.

Call me at 337-2011 if you are interested in volunteering.

"Others march in the name of battle, revolution and religion. We march in the name of love."
— Actress Kathy Najimy upon being selected grand marshal of the June 22 Los Angeles gay-pride parade.

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Pondering Gay Community in the Back of a Sports Utility...

by Jen Kohout

...Vehicle While Reminiscing about Childhood Television Programs (or what I do for fun)

I'm sitting in the back of Katie's Pathfinder bouncing along the Parks Highway on my way to another summertime adventure with the gals. Mountain biking is on the agenda. And I'm admittedly a little nervous about trying to keep up with the mountain biking queen herself. I'm a gal who likes her brakes — a bicycle feature I'm not sure Katie has ever utilized. At least that's how it's always appeared from my customary vantage point — watching her back get smaller and smaller as she flies down the trail in front of me.

In an effort to assuage my nerves and simultaneously entertain my Pathfindermates, I pull out the Klondyke Kontakt and start reading out loud. Flipping first to one of my favorite writers, the mysterious Sapphoi who is ruminating on the subject of community. It's a topic that fascinates me and I find myself nodding in heartfelt agreement at her observations even as I lose Katie and Carol in the front seat who have started to argue over whose almond biscotti has more chocolate.

Karen is still listening so I keep reading.

And thinking.

In another lifetime, I was an activist. Coordinating the HelpLine, serving on the Identity Board, working on the Pride Conference. I loved it. Because I feel passionately about the need to stand up for myself and for those who don't have that luxury. I knew that I wouldn't lose my job, the roof over my head, or my kids. But others might. I loved it because it mattered. The community here is small and my contributions seemed to have impact. And I loved it because I found my life enriched by the connections I made with others who shared this passion. My community. It was incredibly rewarding.

And occasionally troubling. I remember one night I was answering the HelpLine. A man called. He asked where the bar was. Another call. Male voice asking about the adult bookstores. Another male caller. "Are there any bath houses in Anchorage?" At this point, I was starting to get that uncomfortable feeling I experienced every time I brought a copy of the "Washington Blade" home and worried that my parents would pick it up and start flipping through. Not because I was ashamed to be carting around a gay paper, but because I was afraid they'd see the personals and 900 telephone ads at the end. If this was part of my community, it wasn't anything I could relate to. And I wasn't sure I wanted to.

At moments like these I start to suspect that the richness of my relationships with gay men has a lot more to do with our differences that our similarities. Something about spanning a large gap makes a connection feel more rewarding. On a large scale, some days I suspect that if gay men and lesbians didn't share similar enemies, we would drift apart rather rapidly. I once was in a room with several very conservative attorneys. Folks who, other than a law degree and the fact that we all had noses, I have very little in common with. Then Theresa Obermeyer walked into the room and launched into an anti-attorney diatribe at high decibel. Suddenly, there was a palpable connection between us lawyer-types.

Are external foes a legitimate way to define the bounds of a community?

Maybe. Or maybe the whole point of this movement is reaching across the vast divisions within. Learning to accept everyone on the continuum from gay/lesbian to straight. And maybe even reaching beyond that one continuum and including in our notion of community, the transgendered and transsexuals. First, because we recognize that, like sexual orientation, gender is also on a continuum. And second because we also know that people's objections to homosexuality are inextricably linked to gender stereotypes. Ultimately, maybe we can even envision a truly tolerant community that spans racial, ethnic and class lines. But I'm getting ahead of myself — especially since I'm only on page three of Urvashi Vaid's manifesto on the topic, "Virtual Equality."

Besides I'm also noticing that the bag of biscotti in the front seat is getting much lighter as I stare out the window struggling to sort out something I should have learned from "Sesame Street," where folks were always odd and occasionally grumpy but always got along. I toss the newsletter back with the bike gear and reach for a cookie.

Jen Kohout is squeezing in her summer writing efforts between weekends full of hiking, biking, and other assorted outdoor activities.

"My parents are very supportive of me. God, I generally don't like to go into personal issues, I'm pretty private. I was never in the closet, anyway, but I think that, within a family that's heterosexual, you're always going to be an outsider if you're gay. I don't think it's easy to grow up gay anywhere, especially with the amount of fear and uncomfortableness that surrounds sexuality, let alone homosexuality. It's painful. But I think we've made some big strides now, we don't have to apologize for being gay. I believe we were created this way by God."


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Deep Inside Hollywood

by Miss Paige Turner

PBS Bans Gay Documentary

Controversial funding sources are no longer just a problem for major politicians. PBS has recently refused to air the documentary “Out At Work” as part of their much-lauded P.O.V. series — claiming its underwriting is “problematical.” While Sandra Heberer, PBS Director of News and Information Programming, felt that there was no impropriety with this particular documentary, the show was canceled because “PBS’s guidelines prohibit funding that might lead to an assumption that individual underwriters might have exercised editorial control over program content.”

“Out At Work,” which critically examines the treatment of gays and lesbians in the workplace, is particularly frank in its coverage of companies like Atlanta’s Cracker Barrel restaurant and Chrysler Corp. Both companies have received harsh treatment in the press for their difficulties with gay issues. Most recently, Chrysler experienced protests at its dealerships for refusing to air a commercial during the “Ellen” coming-out episode, though it has since resumed advertising on the lesbian-themed sitcom.

Critics of PBS contend that it is showing its own bias toward corporate America, which provides much of its network’s funding. Other PBS series, such as, oh, “Wall Street Week” (sponsored by Prudential Securities, among others) and “James Reston: The Man Millions Read,” based on the history of the New York Times sponsored by the newspaper itself, are apparently not considered “problematical” by the member-supported network. In discussing the issue, Ruby Lerner, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers stated, “It appears there’s a double standard here. Large corporate donations for any program never seem to be in question. Yet independents are penalized for their entrepreneurial success in raising small amounts of money from a diverse array of sources that might be genuinely interested in the exploration of a particular issue.”

This is not the first time that PBS has run afoul of the gay community over its refusal to air relevant lesbian and gay programming. Following the airing of the gay-populated “Tales of The City” generating PBS highest ratings ever, the network refused to go ahead with the planned sequel. The project has since moved to Showtime, which is currently in production (in association with the BBC) on “More Tales Of The City.”

Gay on Home Video

Anne Heche, who has been riding the crest of the “Ellen” media tidal wave for the last several months, is coming soon to a store near you in two hastily released videos. Currently, Heche is appearing on home video in the recent independent film “Walking and Talking” produced by James Schamus (“The Wedding Banquet”). The film appeared in theaters earlier this year and was rushed into video stores following Heche’s sudden rise to fame.

While the film includes a couple of gay references, Heche does play a heterosexual. However, her on-screen lesbian affair in the low-budget feature “Wild Side” is fueling a quick re-edit and release on video. The film was never shown in theaters because of an expected NC-17 rating, but a tamer version did appear on HBO in February of last year. In the film, Heche has sex scenes with co-star Joan Chen, as well as Christopher Walken and Steven Bauer. The producers of both films are hoping they will experience new life on home video because of Heche’s recent rise to prominence. This may be too much to hope for after her big-budget action film “Volcano” never became a hit in theaters at the height of her media attention.

Meanwhile, openly gay diving sensation Greg Louganis is also planning a home video appearance of his own. It seems that his best selling tell-all autobiography, “Breaking The Surface,” and the made-for-TV movie version which appeared on the USA Network a few months ago did not tell the whole story. “Looking to the Light” is a straight-to-video feature-length documentary featuring the 37-year-old Olympic gold medalist. After unveiling his battles with dyslexia, teen depression, homosexuality, racial prejudice, HIV status, and an abusive relationship, is there anything left of Louganis’ story to tell? The documentary chronicles his life more recently and includes footage of Louganis at an acting audition. Louganis has been anxious for some time to forge a serious acting career for himself and he recently appeared on-screen at the Cannes Film Festival in the film “Touch Me.” The low-budget independent film features Louganis playing a gay man and may be released in the U.S. this December.

“Looking to the Light” will be in video stores this season.

Miss Paige Turner can be contacted by e-mail at <paige@planetlou.com>

“Long-term relationships, trips to Disneyland, tame primetime comedy. Is this the ‘gay lifestyle’ that so threatens civilization? Looks to us like the Baptists have nothing to worry about, but we will appreciate the shorter lines for the Indiana Jones’ ride on our next trip to Disneyland.”

— June 21 editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Sylvia L. Short Attorney and Counsellor at Law

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Montana Strikes Gay Sex Ban

HELENA, Montana (AP) — The Montana Supreme Court drew out a 24-year-old ban on homosexual sex, concluding government has no business meddling in the sexual activity of consenting adults.

Although no one has been prosecuted under the law, a 1993 lawsuit by six homosexuals claimed that gays and lesbians live in fear of being charged with a crime and that takes a emotional and psychological toll. A district judge in Helena agreed in February 1996, and now the state Supreme Court rejected all of the state’s arguments on appeal.

Five other states — Arkansas, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri and Oklahoma — still outlaw gay sex, according to the Northwest Women’s Law Center in Seattle.

French Government Delivers

PARIS, June 23 (Reuter) — France’s new leftist government will deliver on a campaign promise to give homosexual couples the same legal rights as heterosexual couples, Justice Minister Elisabeth Guigou said. “This is a promise we have made, and we will keep it,” she told the French daily Le Monde.

“Homosexuals raised the question, but they are not the only ones concerned,” Guigou said. “One cannot describe the union between two people solely in terms of marriage.”

During the campaign leading up to the June 1 parliamentary election which swept the left into power, the Socialists pledged to create a “contract of social union” granting legal status to gay and lesbian couples. The contract would give such couples a formal legal status ensuring them equal rights with heterosexuals in such matters as housing, inheritance and taxes.

French law does not now recognize gay or lesbian marriages although a handful of cities issue certificates of cohabitation to same-sex couples. The certificates have no legal weight but entitle gay couples to certain rights such as discounts on the national rail system.
The Amazon Trail

by Lee Lynch

Batmuse

Sometimes, when I'm showing our rural home — we've got it on the market — to prospective buyers from a megalopolis, I wish I could tell them the whole truth about country living and send them scurrying back to the terrors they know. But we do want to sell our house.

Instead I tell them about the flock of twenty-two wild turkeys that lives here.

I tell them about the deer who, hugely pregnant, lies under the trees to rest and eventually births twin wobbly spotted fawns.

"Bambi!" the city slickers inevitably cry. I tell them about the wild flowers that blanket this knoll in May, and about the wild yellow iris that sprinkle the land like jewels.

I tell them about the swallows in the birdhouse on our deck, their scrawny young demanding bugs, bugs and more bugs!

But enough of charms. It's what I don't tell the house shoppers that makes up much of country living. Take today.

I woke at dawn to the sound of finches' incessant boom-box volume serenade, a Pileated woodpecker making its raucous Woody Woodpecker song of flight and dozens of nuthatches crying "Yank, yank, yank!" We may as well have garbage collectors rattling cans.

So much for sleep. I got into the shower and noticed a big dark "Thing" on the wall. I have taken so many showers with daddy longlegs that I hold the honorary title of lifeguard.

I pull the towel over the door only to uncover a wasp. Being closeted with a Stinging Creature is unnerving. They like to build hives under our eaves and I periodically stalk the perimeters of the house evicting squatters.

I love hanging laundry outside in genuine air. Until I drop an undergarment right into a luxuriant patch of poison oak.

Finally, I've got my laptop fired up and am summoning my illusion muse when I hear a commotion in our cold woodstove. It's a bat. I grab gloves, a tall glass, and crack the stove door. She's unexpectedly compliant, though squeaky, and lets me take her outside. She sits for a moment — it's full daylight — then slowly, elegantly flies off into the dark of the woods. And here I thought I was kidding about summoning up a muse.

There are some nights Batmuse is more welcome than others. I'll be reading in bed, lover drifting off beside me, when a dark object dives at us. "Oh, no," I'll groan. Batmuse.

We turn off all the lights, I put on a hat (just in case) and open a door. We drag a lamp outside, turn it on, then wait. Eventually our visitor stops feinting at us and finds its way out. We leap to close the door and stagger to bed.

Last year, a girl skunk rented the crawlspace under our house. This was not good. In mating season the males really got into protecting her with their natural critter-repellent. Which, when set off under a house, is potent. It took weeks, but we finally trapped the biggest momma skunk I've ever seen and relocated her about thirty miles from here.

We've taken the crawlspace off the housing market with heavy gauge screening.

They may make a mess on the deck, but listening to the buzz of a swift-winged hummingbird and watching it dip its needle-beak into a feeder, I know I've been given a gift.

Even the skittish little lizards doing push-ups on the woodpile have become precious to me.

The chemical industry would call some of these creatures household pests. Pesky they may be, and certainly not something I'd mention to a house-hunter, but to this city-bred dyke, they're not simply a reason to live in the country, but to live.
My Queer Life

by Michael Thomas Ford

When I Grow Up

The other day I made a list of careers that, because of my age (28), are no longer options for me:

Child prodigy
Teen model
Ingenue

Okay, so perhaps I never wanted to be any of those things in the first place. And being a certain age does have its advantages. I cannot, for example, be drafted in the event of war. I no longer have to pay outrageous car insurance premiums. I am almost old enough to run for Congress. But when it comes to having a career, my options are dwindling rapidly.

Remember those glorious days of youth, when everything seemed possible and nothing stood in your way? Why, I changed my future occupation on a daily basis. One morning I wanted to be a fireman, that afternoon a doctor, and later that evening an explorer. I went through a whole week of looking forward to life as a cowboy, only to pitch it in an instant to be a Barnum & Bailey circus clown. When anyone asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I had an answer, and usually several. “But,” I always pointed out afterwards, “I haven’t exactly decided yet.”

But all of that ended sometime around my twelfth birthday. (Interesting how discovering the joys of masturbation is followed so quickly by an avalanche of unpleasant awakenings, isn’t it?) While wanting to be a pro baseball player is fine when you’re five, when you hit your teens people generally start expecting more from you. I still vividly remember taking a career test in school, where we were instructed to answer questions designed to gauge our interests.

Using some odd sort of numbering system taken directly from a “Cosmopolitan” test on relationships, we then added up our results and plotted two points on a graph. Scattered about the graph’s field were various careers — exciting things like architecture, biological sciences, nursing, and farming. Wherever our points met on the graph, that’s the field we were destined for. I feverishly found my two plot points and moved my fingers together to find which of the many thrilling futures would be mine.

Imagine my dismay when, instead of coming together on economics, veterinarian medicine, or even the arts, my fingers met over — empty space. There was one small corner of the graph which remained totally blank, and I was smack in the middle of it. All around, marvelous careers circled like glorious, shining prizes, but they were just out of my reach. Somehow, the answers I’d given to the questions resulted in absolutely no career prospects at all.

When I presented my empty, futureless graph to my guidance counselor, he chuckled wryly. “Don’t you worry,” he said. “It just means you have a lot of interests. You can be anything you want to.” I didn’t tell him that I had no idea what I wanted, and had been hoping the chart would give me some hints.

That was sixteen years ago now. In that time I seem to have become, by default, a writer. This is fine with me. But it seems to upset a lot of other people, to whom writing is clearly not so much a profession as it is something to do when you aren’t really working. No matter that I’ve published twenty books, won a handful of awards, and make more money than my friends with real jobs. I’m still suspect. It’s as though I’m still hanging around in that empty space on the career graph and no one is very happy about it.
This is most evident when I am introduced to people for the first time. “What do you do?” they ask politely.

“I’m a writer,” I say flatly, knowing what will come next.

I then get one of two responses. The first, “Have you written anything I might have read?”, is the least unpleasant of the two, as it at least displays some sort of acceptance on the part of my new acquaintance of the fact that I really do this for a living. Things inevitably go downhill, however, when it is revealed that I have not written anything that has either reached the number one spot on the “New York Times” best-seller list or been turned into a television movie featuring Tori Spelling.

The second response, “Oh, a writer. I hope you publish something someday,” is more typical, implying as it does that I could not possibly have published anything yet because the speaker has never heard of anyone foolish enough to admit that he actually writes for a living. It is almost always accompanied by an indulgent little smile of the sort reserved for children who have just announced that they fully intend to become Supreme Court justices or rock stars.

Even my family doesn’t quite get it. “How’s it going?” my father says cheerfully when he calls. “Are you still doing that thing you do?”

“You mean write?” I say.

“Yes, that’s it. Is it working out yet?”

“Well, I just published another novel.”

“Really? Did they pay you for it?”

“Not enough, Dad.”

“Well, that’s okay. You have to start somewhere. One of these days you’ll figure out what it is you want to do.”

I’m curious to know what the cutoff limit is for when certain ambitions and careers become unacceptable. For example, it seems absolutely thrilling for a 6-year-old to say she wants to be an Oscar-winning actress. “That’s right,” we say, “you keep practicing that acceptance speech.” But when those same words are mouthed by a 34-year-old waitress whose biggest part to date was as a silent extra in a community theater production of “Our Town,” we tend to disbelieve them. An 8-year-old boy whose greatest ambition is to be the captain of the Bruins is encouraged to bash his way around the hockey rink. His 27-year-old counterpart is told to start thinking of trade school as a viable option.

I used to attempt to explain my work to people, spouting lists of my books and pointing out my various magazine and newspaper columns as proof of my claim of being a real, full-time writer. But that was simply too much effort. Besides, if you have to work that hard to get people to take you seriously, you’re too defensive. Now I don’t bother. Whenever anyone asks me what I do, I remember my 5-year-old self and respond happily, “I’m thinking of being a clown, but I haven’t decided yet.”

“At Day’s End

Is anybody happier because you passed this way?

Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?

The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through:

Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?

Can you say tonight in parting with the day that’s slipping fast,

That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;

Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste a day, or lose it?

Was it well or sorely spent?

Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,

“You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?”

by John Hall

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“To those heterosexual TV fans who nervously complain that we’re everywhere — on ‘Mad About You,’ on ‘Roseanne,’ even on the cover of TIME — I say great. There need to be more of us on TV before there can be less. TV was 100 percent heterosexual for so long, we need years of remedial gaiety.”

— Playwright Claudia Allen in the June 3 Chicago Tribune.
LONDON (Reuters) — When London’s annual Gay Pride Parade filled the streets, drag queens and muscle-bound, leather-clad men were not the only ones vying for the attention of the parade’s expected 300,000 participants. Marching in step with the outrageously costumed transvestites and exotic floats were a host of corporate sponsors which are increasingly recognizing the value of the so-called “pink pound.”

“The main sponsor of Pride ’97 was United Airlines, and we have also got support from Beefeater Gin, Finlander Vodka and Holsten Pils, among others,” a spokeswoman for the Pride Trust, the parade organizer, said in an interview. The Pride sponsors are leading a pack of companies that are beginning to specifically target the gay community as they recognize its huge spending power.

The “pink pound” is worth 6 billion pounds ($10 billion) a year in Britain alone, according to the Henley Center for Forecasting, a market research firm. “In the past, few companies wanted to be openly associated with the gay market,” said Liz Mackenzie, of Centaur Conferences, which recently organized a conference entitled “Marketing to the Pink Economy.” “But it’s becoming much more usual for big companies to target gay consumers. Not only do they have large disposable incomes, but they also set trends,” she said.

A spokesman for United Airlines said the company had decided to sponsor Pride ’97 because, “We are a global business and the gay community has a propensity to travel quite extensively. It therefore seemed appropriate.” In the United States and Australia, marketing to gay people is well established.

A survey published earlier this year in the United States by Simmons Market Research Bureau found that 28 percent of gays reported a household income above $50,000 a year and that 89 percent of those surveyed would go out of their way to buy products that advertised to gay consumers.

In Britain, Virgin Group is running “gay shopping nights” at its Virgin Megastore on London’s Oxford Street, British Airways is organizing gay package holidays, and insurance company Frizzell is running ads for its products in the gay press.

Europe’s first gay department store, featuring branded clothing such as Levi and Diesel, a travel agency department and coffee shop, is due to open shortly in London’s trendy Soho district.

The Pride Trust estimates that about one-fifth of the participants in Pride are not gay but are there to enjoy the spectacle. The Parade passed through some of London’s premier tourist areas, including Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square, before ending up at Clapham Common for a night of dancing and entertainment.

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Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)

With the June 10 reintroduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in Congress, now is the time to build support among our lawmakers. ENDA would protect Americans from job discrimination based on sexual orientation, which remains legal in most states. ENDA would prohibit preferential treatment and quotas, and it would not apply to religious organizations, small businesses or the military.

"ENDA is based on a fundamental principle most of us share: Americans should be judged at work based on their performance at work," said Rep. Chris Shays, R-Conn., speaking at a Capitol Hill press conference announcing its reintroduction. "[ENDA's opponents] do us the enormous favor of lying about the bill," said ENDA's other House lead sponsor, Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. "Correctly described, there is nothing that can be said against it."

Noting that last year, ENDA came within one vote of passing in the Senate, lead sponsor Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., said at the June 10 news conference "It is my hope that in the 105th Congress, we can bridge that narrow gap and pass this legislation." In April, President Clinton and Vice President Gore reaffirmed their strong support for the bill, and the Human Rights Campaign released the results of a new bipartisan poll showing that 68 percent of voters favor passage of ENDA.

Last November, a poll conducted for HRC by Greenberg Research Inc. also found that an impressive 63 percent of Christians favor such legislation, when informed of the current lack of legal protection from job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Act Now

Urg your U.S. senators and representative to protect Americans from job discrimination based on sexual orientation by supporting and cosponsoring the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Call your senators and representative through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. If you aren't sure who your members of Congress are, just ask the switchboard operator and you will be informed and then connected.

You can also send electronic messages to Congress through the Human Rights Campaign's on-line action center at <http://www.hrc.org>

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community. Call (800) 777-4723.

Join Identity, Inc. at its celebrated Fourth Friday Potluck & Social. Bring soup, salad, entree, deviled eggs, hors d'oeuvres, fruit, bread, dessert, chips, dip, pizza, etc. Identity provides the drinks: tea, coffee, punch. Admission is free, but we cheerfully accept donations. Donations for the 4A's food bank are cheerfully accepted by The Food Fairie; why not bring a couple of cans or boxes of food with you.

Date: Friday, July 25
Time: 6:30 p.m. doors open/socialize; 7:00 p.m. dinner; 7:30 p.m. announcements & program
Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Tunagain Street
Program: Update on 4A's Issues by Andrea Nenzel, Executive Director.
Speaking Correct English

From Ruth Mathes

A teacher had taught kindergarten her whole life, and she was very strict and uncompromising. She was determined that her little charges would begin speaking correct English as soon as they walked in her classroom door. So, she gave the little children their orders as soon as the first day of school began.

"Now children. There is to be no baby talk in this class. You are starting school now and it's time to grow up. That means you talk like little grown-ups, not like babies which you no longer are. No poo poo. No pee pee. No tushie. Does everyone understand?"

Twenty small heads nodded solemnly. "Good," the teacher said. "Now I want everyone to tell me each in turn what you did this summer."

A little boy right in front raised his hand high and could hardly keep himself on his little bottom. "Me. Me. I want to tell." The teacher was pleased with the boy's enthusiasm. "Very well. You go first."

The little boy began: "I rode on a choo choo train at Disneyland, and I saw three little pigs and the cutest little doggie and Toro was being a boffy boy and..."

"Stop. I said no baby talk; start again and tell it right."

The little boy strained, but everytime he opened his mouth, he'd shut it again. Finally after much squirming and straining, he popped out, "I rode a train."

Very good the teacher said. Next?
And so it went through the whole kindergarten class with each child struggling with losing half of his/her vocabulary. Finally, there was one little girl left.

"And what did you do this summer, Addy?" the teacher asked.
Addy replied proudly. "I went to the library with my mother every day and I read and read and read."

"How delightful," said the teacher. "And what was your favorite book?"

Addy looked up to the left in that place we all look when we've lost a word; that place where all the lost words are hiding just beyond the bend.

Finally, the word peeked out, for Addy smiled. She said, "My favorite book was 'Winnie the Shit.'"
Fairbanksan

Further North in the Heart of Alaska

Summer is here hot and heavy. Parties and functions abound. So hard to find the time to squeeze in all that one would like to do, and the state fair is just around the corner. Good thing the days are long.

Into The Woods Bookstore /Coffeehouse

The Mars dome has landed. July Fourth brought KSUA-FM to Into The Woods for a Mars landing party and left in its wake was the new Mars dome. Now there are three screened in areas for evening enjoyment under the late night sun.

Wednesday nights bring Dillon Chernov and his acoustic guitar at 7:00 p.m., along with the regular Thursday night French Club. Amnesty International is hosting twice a month gatherings.

Hours for summer are Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and 8:00 a.m. 'til midnight the rest of the week. Call Connie at 479-7701 for details or information on setting up a function. Also the quirks in the e-mail system have been worked out.

PFLAG Notes

This year's pride rally, march and picnic were well attended. Nearly a hundred showed for the rally downtown, and many proudly marched to Alaskaland where others showed up for the picnic. Food, friends and conversation followed making the picnic a much-needed night out. Afterwards, the festivities continued with a gathering at the Palace for the Bush Show and continued into the morning hours with dancing at the Palace.

This month's PFLAG meeting will be held on July 15 at the Universalist Fellowship Hall on Pike’s Landing Road across from the Princess Hotel at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Interior Aids Association Has Moved

The IAA has relocated to new quarters at 710 Third Avenue just off of Barnette, providing an easily accessible location and a well organized floor-plan including a reception area.

IAA-sponsored events include: Tuesday and Thursday night men’s bicycle rides, men’s volleyball on Sundays at Mary Siah Recreation Center, and free anonymous HIV testing at the Palace on Saturday July 19 at midnight. Call Andy at 452-4222 for details on these and other functions or to receive the newsletter Iglak.

Queer Beans

Lisa’s still spinning those tunes on Wednesday nights from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on KSUA-FM 91.5 radio. Take some time out and listen for music, announcements and topics of interest to our community.

Audrey Quest’s Review

Friday July 11 brought Audrey Quest back to the stage in Fairbanks at a fund-raiser for the IAA at the Palace. Featured performers slated were Besty Cross, Rochelle Deelite, Michell Diamond and Miss Much More. Cover of $7 included late night dancing at the Palace.

Q NET AK

Visiting Fairbanks, or need to know what’s happening in town? Surf over to <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> to view the Calendar of Events or links to statewide resources. Links to businesses and personal homepages can also be found here. Send e-mail to <qnetak@mosquitonet.com> if you would like to include your corner of the net, or need some more information.

The Palace

At press time the Palace Saloon in Alaskaland is slated to be open Saturday nights only for the remainder of the summer. Late night socializing and dancing begin at midnight.

This information was gathered and submitted by Terry Fauth. You may reach him at: <akbear@mosquitonet.com>

Andy welcomes you to the new IAA offices.
HAMPTON, Va. — May 29 — Suicidal, a young man worried about telling his mother that he is gay.

Because he told his worries to Ann Landers, his family has not only learned that he is gay and despondent but is contending with national attention. The 15-year-old's letter was published in Landers' syndicated Sunday column, which runs in more than 1,200 newspapers nationwide. Landers' syndicate believes the column reaches 90 million people.

By Monday, a support group was quoted on WAVY-TV 10 about the teen — still unknown. Tuesday, his family doctor called the support group to say the young man had been discovered; his family knows he wrote the letter and is caring for him. His name remains a secret.

"The family is totally in shock over all of this publicity," said Ginger Vela, who took the call. She is co-coordinator of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Tidewater, or PFLAG.

In his letter the teen wrote, "I am 15 and feel so alone. I am scared. I feel worthless. The problem is I am absolutely certain that I am gay. At 15, a guy should be thinking about what he wants to do in life, not how to kill himself."

Vela and others say the anonymous young man probably helped many teens by expressing his loneliness and isolation as a homosexual person.

Gay teens may be targets for taunts and beatings at school; at home, parents who don't know a child is gay may denigrate homosexuality, making the teen feel there is no escape from hostility, said Jorge Sague, adviser to Youth Out United, a Norfolk-based group for gays and lesbians under age 26. "They commit suicide because they want the pain to stop, but also they want to do their parents a favor: I'm doing something bad to my parents. So, if I go away, I won't have to deal with it," Sague said.

Agencies that deal with young gay men and women believe suicide is a much more common problem among them than among other teens. A 1989 federal report on youth suicide said about one-third of youth suicides are committed by gay youths, and called for research on the subject. Six years later, however, the Official Journal of the American Association of Suicidology, said it was still impossible to link suicide with the isolation and fear forced upon homosexual people because no one knows how many attempts are made by gays and lesbians. Suicide attempts in general are poorly documented, the article said.

A spokesman for Landers said the famous advice columnist has gotten other letters from suicidal gay teens and wanted the Hampton writer to know that he is not alone.

Norfolk meetings of Youth Out United usually draw about 15 people, with total membership in the hundreds, Sague said. Hampton Roads also has two branches of PFLAG for families of gays and lesbians, and numerous suicide hot lines, which periodically get calls from teens worried about being gay.

"We go from the premise here of not judging and trying to let them talk through it," said Patty Martin, executive director of Contact Peninsula, a 24-hour hot line. Groups for gay youth have become more common in recent years, said Rea Carey, director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, based in Washington D.C. The coalition focuses on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues.

"I'm certainly pleased that the Ann Landers column came out," Carey said. "I think that will reach more young people than we could ever imagine, who may happen upon their Sunday paper and realize that they aren't alone, that they deserve the support, and that they can reach out."

[Editor's note: See Club Notes for listings of PFLAG in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau; and the IMRU youth group in Anchorage.]

May 29, 1997, Daily Press, Box 746, Newport News, VA, 23607; Fax 804-245-8618; e-mail <dailyexpress@tribune.com>

**Surveys? Yours Counts!**

Send us your pink NorthView survey sheet to let us know what you do or do not like about your magazine. (It was in the June issue!) We need to hear from you to count your ratings in with all the others. Results will be published in the August issue, so get yours in now. Lost yours? Call Ruth at 563-1324 or Tom at 333-7504 and we'll send you a new one!
Past Out

by David Bianco

When did the American gay and lesbian press begin?

Fifty years ago this summer, the first hand-typed copies of the first lesbian publication in America began to be circulated among lesbians in Los Angeles. “Vice Versa” was a far cry from today’s professional gay and lesbian publications, but it served much the same purpose — albeit on a smaller scale.

“Vice Versa” was created by Edyth Eyde, a 26-year old California woman who had only been part of the lesbian “scene” for about a year. (Eyde never used a byline in her publication, but later went under the pseudonym “Lisa Ben,” an anagram for lesbian). Somewhat lonely, and eager to expand her circle of friends beyond the “gay gals” who hung out at Los Angeles’ I.F Club, Eyde decided to start a magazine for lesbians. She called it “Vice Versa,” because its readers had been accused of “vice,” but she felt their lives were really just “versa” that of the rest of the population.

As an underworked secretary for an executive at RKO Studios, Eyde was given explicit instructions to “look busy” at all times, even when there was no work to be done. She therefore had both the time and the equipment to type issues of her new magazine. Eyde would use RKO’s heavy-duty typewriter to type an original copy of “Vice Versa” plus five carbons, and then she would repeat the process — meaning each issue had a circulation of exactly twelve. She would then distribute those copies through friends and at lesbian bars (she stopped mailing copies when a friend warned her she was risking jail time) and urged the women who read it to pass the copy along to other women. Many did, and Eyde once estimated that each copy was read by several dozen women.

A typical issue of the free publication — which at its thickest contained 20 pages — consisted of fiction, poetry, essays, book and film reviews, and letters to the editor. Most of the content was written by Eyde, but after the first few issues she had several other contributors — though none was ever given a byline.

Many of the issues addressed in “Vice Versa” (subtitled “America’s Gayest Magazine”) are still commonly discussed in the lesbian and gay press a half-century later. The magazine published a short story about a lesbian wedding, a poem by Eyde which frowned upon butch hair and clothing styles among her fellow lesbians, and a movie review objecting that the movie version of the classic lesbian novel “The Well of Loneliness” was insulting to lesbians.

“Vice Versa” was unwaveringly upbeat and cheery — a conscious strategy on Eyde’s part to combat negative mainstream press accounts of gay and lesbian life. More than 20 years before the first gay pride parade, “Vice Versa” was unabashed in its enthusiasm for homosexual-

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood and the author of “Modern Jewish History for Everyone.” He can be reached through his e-mail address: ArikBianco@aol.com

ity. One essay stated: “How much more beautiful, in every way, are women than men! I am glad that I was not predestined to be oblivious to and unattracted by feminine charm. How thankful I am to have been born in womanly form and yet to possess the capacity of appreciating to the fullest extent feminine beauty!”

But “Vice Versa” contained no news, no political columns — and not a single advertisement. Eyde was afraid to publicize the locations of lesbian bars, for example, for fear that they would be raided or shut down. And several years would pass before American gays and lesbians would explicitly portray themselves as a social group with a political agenda.

Although “Vice Versa” was not expressly political, the very act of representing women-loving women’s lives in the late 1940s was bold and risky. By creating a conduit by which lesbians could communicate with one another — and perhaps more importantly, by helping lesbians think about themselves as part of a community — “Vice Versa” nurtured the seed which would grow in the next decade into America’s first lesbian social and political organizations.

The reader response was overwhelming. Without access to a printer, Eyde was forced to deny repeated requests from lesbians for more copies of the publication. The letters to the editor expressed a sense that “Vice Versa” served as an oasis in a desert of misinformation and silence about lesbian life. One woman wrote: “May your jaunt into journalebianism prove to have the angels’ support.”

Eyde produced a total of nine issues of “Vice Versa” over nine months, until her job assignment was changed in early 1948. She no longer had access to a typewriter or the time to devote to the magazine. Nonetheless, her personal life had been enriched by all the women she met while producing “Vice Versa,” and she predicted that the gay and lesbian press had a bright future even without her. In an editorial, she wrote: “Perhaps even ‘Vice Versa’ might be the forerunner of better magazines dedicated to the third sex, which in some future time might take their rightful place on the newsstands beside other publications, to be available openly and without restriction to those who wish to read them.”
Travel: Globe-Trotting in the Gay 90's

by Katia Hetter

ABC let Ellen declare she was a lesbian on national television but would not sell 15 seconds of airtime to Airline Cruises and Resorts to advertise lesbian-only cruises on the April 30 show. An ABC spokesman said that the ad — with two women embracing — might not be suitable for children and that depiction of same-sex lifestyles is more appropriate in programs than in commercials. The rejection stung Olivia... but not too badly. Its revenue has surged from $1.5 million in 1990 to nearly $6 million in 1996, and most of this year’s cruises have been filled to capacity.

The Olivia story sums up the state of gay travelers in 1997: They’re sought after and yet snubbed. The travel industry is pursuing gay dollars, marketing trips for gay men and lesbians and addressing their needs, like finding airlines that let gay partners share frequent-flier benefits. In the first survey of revenues from gay clients, the 1,200 gay and gay-friendly travel agents affiliated with the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association estimated billing $1 billion in tickets and $35 million in accommodations in 1995. But gay travelers on mainstream trips have a raft of complaints: nasty clerks, snide waiters, fellow passengers who stare at a gay couple holding hands.

Gay business owners who’d had unpleasant travel experiences began setting up package tours for gays in the 1980s. The trips resemble tours aimed at other demographic groups, from blacks to senior citizens, with an all-inclusive price and an itinerary catering to participants’ interests. Today, over 300 gay travel providers run such trips, from Above and Beyond’s June excursion to Paris for Europe’s gay pride fete to the Hanns Ebensten travel agency’s Amazon cruise for gay men. Most participants are gay or lesbian, although some customers for RSVP Travel Productions cruises and resorts have brought straight parents along.

Trip organizers work behind the scenes to decrease slights or stares from service people. “Traveling as a couple, you want to check into a room with one bed without getting strange looks,” says Billy Kolber-Stuart, editor of “Out and About,” a gay travel magazine.

Fees can be slightly higher than for the mainstream version of the trip. Gay cruise operators, for example, usually rent a ship and its staff, then bring in more staff for entertainment, like a gay comic. Gay consumers say the price is worth it.

The travel business is taking heed. “Gays are very loyal and travel more than the mainstream,” says Rick Cirillo of American Airlines, which last year expanded its gay marketing staff from one to five. American Express Travel Related Services is hiring staffers to plan gay-specific tours. This month, United Airlines began running ads in a national gay magazine.

Yet on their own, gay travelers often find themselves in a limbo reflecting their status in America, where only 11 states have laws protecting them from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and public accommodations. Many complaints arise because gays cannot legally marry and so are not eligible for some travel benefits afforded to married couples. A married person who rents a car can usually add his or her spouse to a policy free of charge as a second driver. The shared legal obligations of a marriage would make it easier for the company to recover costs from either driver if there was an accident. Gay couples, as well as unwed heterosexual couples, must pay $4 to $8 daily to cover the additional risk for a second driver.

Two rental firms, however, have changed their stance to reflect the changing times. Since 1993, Avis has dropped charges for a “significant other” as defined by the first driver, and National/Inter-rent now drops charges for an unmarried second driver at the same address as the first driver. But in at least one case, a customer who called National’s toll-free number was told she would be charged $4 a day to ad her lesbian partner to the policy — despite a shared address. “You tested the system and it failed,” says National spokesman David Schoeneck, who noted that all agents will be reminded of company policy.

The same advice goes for gay couples seeking to book a bereavement fare. In literature targeting the gay community, American Airlines says, “We offer reduced bereavement fares for domestic partners, and not only for legal spouses.” By contrast, most other airlines strictly define “family.” But an American Airlines operator can still determine whether a caller’s case warrants a discount.

The Family Research Council and several other conservative groups have complained that American Airlines’ gay marketing effort “constitutes an open endorsement of promiscuous homosexuality.” “Inclusiveness is America’s mantra,” replies an American Airlines spokesman. And at a time when the travel industry is trolling for new revenue, inclusiveness is clearly good for the bottom line.

The straight line on gay travel

Travel giant Fodor’s introduced its Gay Guide to the USA last year, joining a long list of resources.

Referrals: The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Assn. can recommend travel agents who have booked trips with mainstream and gay-specific travel companies for gay clients (800-448-8500) or [http://www.rainbow-mail.com/gita>


Tour operators: Travelers can contact tour operators who run trips for gays. Gay travel publisher Marianne Ferrari lists over 300 contacts on her website at [http://www.q-net.com>


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National Groups Respond to Disney Boycott

NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 18, 1997 — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has compiled statements from some of the nation's leading civil rights and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups on the Southern Baptist Convention vote to boycott the Walt Disney Company and their subsidiaries, including ABC television and radio. The boycott targets Disney primarily for their support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

"All fair-minded Americans should commend Disney's continued respect for lesbian and gay Americans. Disney should also be commended for granting its employees equal pay for equal work, for letting its programming catch up with reality, and for keeping its doors open to every American. The ACLU stands behind Disney and their 'people-friendly' approach to business."

Matt Coles, Director of the Lesbian & Gay Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) (212) 549-2561 (Denny Lee) ...

Founded in 1920, the American Civil Liberties Union works in more lesbian and gay related litigation and legislation than any other organization in the country.

"My daughter's third grade teacher has the right idea when she tells kids there's only one rule: 'Treat others as you would have them treat you.' It serves as the most basic statement of what it really means to be a Christian. Disney should be recognized and applauded for its stance on domestic partnership, and for treating their employees with dignity and respect. The American public should not only continue to enjoy Disney's wealth of creativity and expressions of diversity, as they have for decades, but should turn its back on bigotry as prejudice masquerading as 'pro-family concern.'"

Joan M. Garry, Executive Director, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) (Liz Tracey, Associate Communications Director) at (212) 607-1700.

"In finally launching their long threatened boycott against Disney, the Southern Baptist leadership says they object to Disney's giving domestic partner health benefits to gay and lesbian employees; allowing gays and lesbians to organize group attendance at Disney theme parks, and entertainment produced by Disney subsidiaries that includes gay and lesbian characters. Blinded by their apparent hatred of gays and lesbians, this organization has chosen to ignore basic facts: that Disney is a business in an industry in which virtually every major company now extends domestic partner benefits to gay and lesbian employees, that it would be illegal for Disney to block use of public theme park facilities by any segment of the community, and that entertainment product such as 'Ellen' featuring gay and lesbian characters generates huge ratings with an audience of millions of Americans. Since this organization's attack on Disney is based on nothing but prejudice, it is a mockery of true religious and family values."

Richard Jennings, Executive Director, Hollywood Supports ...

Hollywood Supports is the clearinghouse for the entertainment industry on AIDS and sexual orientation workplace issues.

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

"This attack on Disney shows how obsessed the radical right is with punishing lesbian and gay families. Here, you have a company with a show like 'Ellen' — a realistic portrayal of a lesbian — and a policy that voluntarily grants family health insurance to gay employees, a benefit that non-gay workers already get. What could be wrong with that? What's wrong is that the radical right has a policy that, if you treat lesbians and gay men decently, it will retaliate. Apparently, the radical right's campaigns against marriage for gay couples are not enough. Now, far-right extremists are proving our point — without full legal protections, lesbians and gay men are vulnerable to losing even basic, employer-provided health coverage. We're not supposed to get married, and now I guess we're not supposed to even have health insurance."

Beatrice Dohrn, Legal Director, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (212) 809-8585 (Peg Byron, Director of Public Education) ...

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men and people with HIV/AIDS.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is at odds not just with gay people, but with the majority of people of faith who — despite their differences — are united in opposing discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans. Unlike the Southern Baptist Convention, most people of faith recognize that they can disagree over whether or not homosexuality is right and still agree that discrimination against gay people is wrong. What the Southern Baptist Convention delegates have said with their vote for this boycott is that they don't want even one openly gay person on TV, they don't want us to be treated fairly in the workplace, and — after advocating that gay people be discriminated against throughout society — they don't even want us going to Disneyland. Thankfully, I think most Americans would disagree."

David M. Smith, Senior Strategist, Human Rights Campaign (202) 216-1547 The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country.

"Disney is modeling good citizenship and good citizenship through its policies. Walt Disney and his characters taught us that it's a small world after all, where everyone is welcome. I had hoped they (Southern Baptist Convention members) would vote for America's children to have a safe-haven free from politics, fear and ignorance. They can keep their children from Disneyland and Disney World, but they can't keep Disney characters from the hearts and minds of children. Characters like Dumbo, Pinocchio and Tigger have taught us that there is a welcoming family for every child and the Disney company's policies have demonstrated that this is the case."

Kerry Lobel, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (202) 332-6483 ext 3314 (Mark F. Johnson, Media Director) ... NGLTF is the nation's oldest national gay and lesbian civil rights organization.
Only in L.A.

by Steve Harvey

LIST OF THE DAY:
The contretemps between the Rev. Robert Schuller and a flight attendant on an L.A. - New York flight brings to mind some other off-beat scenes on airliners:

- A youngster who had just settled into his seat casually asked a stewardess: “May I please have some water for my snake? He just ate and he needs water. The Burbank-bound plane’s takeoff was delayed so the ticket-less critter could be removed.
- Bob Dornan, then a Garden Grove Congressman, was booted off a plane at LAX for refusing to bring his seat into an upright position for the takeoff. Dornan righteousness insisted he had a sore hip.
- An L.A. lawyer was arrested and handcuffed for bringing aboard his own earphones to listen to a movie. Charges against the alleged audio thief were later dropped. The movie, by the way, was “Presumed Innocent.”
- A passenger, who couldn’t please control himself, was arrested at LAX for allegedly pounding and kicking an occupied restroom and threatening the person inside. The occupant turned out to be the wrong guy — the pilot.

BELIEVE IT OR FILE IT AWAY:
Then there was the yarn that made the rounds a few years ago about an airline employee with the last name of Gay. He supposedly boarded a flight at LAX as a nonpaying passenger, only to find that his assigned seat was occupied. So he moved. The plane, in fact, was overbooked and some nonpaying passengers had to surrender their seats.

An attendant stopped at the seat originally assigned to Gay and asked the occupant, “Are you Gay?” When the startled man nodded, the agent said, “Then you’ll have to get off the plane.”

Seeing what was happening, Gay arose and said, no, he was Gay and should therefore exit. At which point a young man seated nearby jumped to his feet and angrily declared, “I’m gay too! They can’t kick us all off!”

This article appeared in the July 8, 1997 Los Angeles Times.

“I used to fight with my daddy and my mama about the stuff I wore. I wasn’t doing it to be trashy. I was doing it ‘cause I didn’t feel right just being ordinary. It was almost like being gay. It’s a good thing I was born a woman, ‘cause I’da damn sure been a drag queen if I hadn’t. I can’t get flamboyant enough.”
— Singer Dolly Parton to Out magazine, July issue.

HELP US TO HELP YOU
There are many ways in which our readers may assist in the publication of NorthView. It may be that you have a few hours of time to donate in some manner, or you may have skills which you could apply on a volunteer basis. If there are no extra hours in your schedule and you have no skills which could be applied, why not consider sponsoring the mailing of one issue of NorthView.

Each month it costs approximately $100 to mail this publication to our members. Our primary sources of revenue are membership fees and advertising income. As postal rates have escalated over the years, so have our mailing expenses. We’re using the lowest rate structure available to non-profit organizations, but the costs continue to increase. If you have the ability to donate the cost of mailing a complete issue of NorthView, we would like to speak with you about it.

Or, if this is more than your checking account permits, why not contact one or more friends to see if a sharing of the expense can be worked out. You’ll find we are more than willing to work with you in whatever configuration is best.

In return, we would encourage you to allow us to publicly acknowledge your donation by displaying the following statement at the bottom of the front cover (not the bulk mail page which is visible to the entire world): “Mailing of this issue of NorthView was generously donated by .........”. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we understand and would simply insert “an anonymous donor” in the space.

If this is something you (or someone you know) are interested in doing, please contact Ruth at 563-1324, Tom at 333-7504 or Shirley at 338-3708.
NEW YORK (Reuters) — A federal judge issued a scathing decision striking down the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, saying it caters to heterosexual prejudices by discriminating against gays. In finding the rules unconstitutional, U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson of Brooklyn became the first federal judge to strike down the entire policy against homosexuals that includes bans against both speech and conduct.

If the ruling is upheld by an appeals court, it could pave the way for U.S. Supreme Court review. Three other appeals courts have issued rulings supporting the policy. So far, the Supreme Court has refused to review any cases.

“A service called on to fight for the principles of equality and free speech embodied in the United States Constitution should embrace those principles in its own ranks,” Nickerson wrote. He said the government defended the policy by arguing it furthered the “vital military goal of unit cohesion” and by saying the known presence of homosexuals might disrupt a unit because heterosexuals might morally disapprove of gays. “This is an outright confession that ‘unit cohesion’ is a euphemism for catering to the prejudices of heterosexuals,” he said.

The decision is his second invalidating the policy. His previous ruling in March 1995 was based on speech restrictions and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals last year ordered him to reconsider his decision based on the entire policy including a ban on homosexual conduct. In the current decision, Nickerson found the policy unconstitutional because it denies gay service members, without “legitimate reason,” the right to participate openly as equals in the defense of the nation.

“For the United States government to require those self-identifying as homosexuals to hide their orientation and to pretend to be heterosexuals is to ask them to accept a judgment that their orientation is in itself disgraceful and they are unfit to serve,” he wrote. “To impose such a degrading and deplorable condition for remaining in the armed services cannot in fairness be justified on the ground that the truth might arouse the prejudice of some of their fellow members.”

Neither the Justice Department nor the Pentagon would comment on the ruling.

Lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which brought the case, said the ruling applied only to the six named plaintiffs and would extend to others in the Second Circuit — New York, Connecticut and Vermont — only if upheld by the appeals court.

“We have said from the time this policy was first proposed that it violates the most basic tenet of America and that tenet is equality. One set of rules for everybody. Today for first time a federal judge has applied that basic policy to the U.S. military,” Matt Coles, director of the ACLU’s National Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, said.

The policy, which went into effect on February 28, 1994, allows homosexuals to serve in the military but requires service members to keep their sexual orientation private. It also bars commanders from investigating homosexual activity unless they first receive compelling evidence that such activity has occurred.

The policy states that declaring homosexuality in a public forum is considered evidence of an intent to commit homosexual acts and is therefore grounds for discharge. While it allows homosexuals to serve in the military, the policy continued the longtime ban on homosexual acts including signs of affection.

“It is hard to imagine why the mere holding of hands off base and in private is dangerous to the mission of the armed forces if done by a homosexual but not if done by a heterosexual,” Nickerson wrote.

EXCITING!! INTERESTING!! FREE!!

PFLAG, GLSTN Alaska, and The Humanities Forum present Susan Johnson and “Talking With Your Heroes — Oral History Interviewing.” Susan will pay special attention to the proposed oral history project, Growing Up Gay in Alaska. This project, sponsored by PFLAG, plans to interview GLBT individuals and families about their school experiences. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please join us on Thursday, August 7, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church at 3201 Turnagain Street. For information about the oral history project, please call 258-6678.

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Auckland Opera has taken a step in the right direction, covering the cleavage in all show posters to provide a more wholesome, nonsexist Carmen. It is regrettable, however, that the recent Canterbury Opera "Carmen" continued to promote inappropriate role models and behavioral messages regarding gender relations, animal rights issues and tobacco consumption. Admittedly, some of these problems are not correctly dealt with in Prosper Merimee's original story. Yet a few minor changes would enable audiences to enjoy the beautiful music of the opera without being exposed to offensive and outdated stereotypes. Herewith, a Carmen for our time:

The first scene takes place in a square in Seville. Young factory workers spill into the street for their morning break of fresh fruit. One of them, the dark Gypsy Carmen, sings a lovely habanera, reminding us that love occurs between all genders, races and body types. Before returning to the factory, Carmen throws a rose to the Basque soldier, Don Jose. A fight breaks out between two of the young persons in the factory, and while trying to instruct them on the futility of violence, Carmen is arrested. Don Jose is ordered to guard her, but she convinces him to allow her to escape, explaining that they are all victims of patriarchal oppression.

The second act opens in the smoke-free environment of a vegetarian restaurant. Carmen and ethnically-diverse friends are enjoying whole-meal buns when they are interrupted by the wicked Escamillo, a rich and famous bullfighter. Escamillo sings an aria in praise of wine, cigars, thick steaks and women. This disgusts the young people, although Carmen is strangely attracted to the bullfighter. Don Jose arrives and, alone at last, he and Carmen vow to live together. They will respect the importance of protected sex and acknowledge each other's unique cultural identity. Don Jose will do the ironing.

The third act opens in a wild place in the mountains. Carmen, Don Jose and other members of the Animal Liberation Collective are plotting to end the exploitation of bulls. Don Jose is enraged when Carmen nobly volunteers to seduce Escamillo, so exhausting him that he will be unable effectively to fight the bullring. Carmen patiently explains that the lives of many bulls, and the contentedness of cows, is at stake. Escamillo enters and begins a duel with Don Jose, but the Collective intervenes, insisting that the two men find viable non-violent means to settle their dispute. The jealous Don Jose must seek anger management counseling.

The final scene returns to Seville. Escamillo's colorful procession enters the bullring. A disheveled Don Jose confronts Carmen. He is suffering from low self-esteem. Counseling has only made his anger worse, recovering repressed childhood memories of satanic rituals, where he was forced to drink blood, eat babies, and smoke cheap, unfiltered cigarettes. Acknowledging his trauma, Carmen insists he begin the healing process by getting a bath and a shave. The two lovers embrace and detail plans to offer workshops in cultural identity and empowerment. The bull wins.
Blair’s Wife Represents Lesbian
by Lorraine Smith

LUXEMBOURG, July 9 (Reuters) — Cherie Blair, the chic, high-flying barrister wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, argued before the European Court of Justice on July 9 that a gay couple should be treated the same as a heterosexual one.

In formal court wig, black skirt and gown, and making her first appearance before the Luxembourg-based court, a poised Blair — known professionally as Cherie Booth — told the 15 judges at a hearing that the case was based on the “fundamental right to equal pay between men and women.”

The case involves Lisa Grant, an employee of Britain’s South West Trains (SWT), who claims that the company’s refusal to grant a travel pass worth 1,000 pounds ($1,680) for her female partner Jill Percey, broke European rules on equal pay. Grant says the travel benefit amounted to part of her wages.

“But for the fact she was a woman, Lisa Grant would have been 1,000 pounds better off a year,” Booth told the court, adding that Grant’s predecessor, a man, had received the travel benefit while cohabiting with a woman.

SWT’s rules stated that privilege tickets were granted for a member of staff’s spouse and also for a partner of the opposite sex. But the company refused to give the benefit to Grant because her partner was not male.

Booth — a mother of three who earns double her prime minister husband’s salary — picked up her career at the bar two months ago after Blair’s Labour Party swept into power.

She has sought to keep her two roles distinct and struggled to avoid press photographers at the Luxembourg court, an institution whose rulings were often vilified by the Euro-sceptic Conservative government ousted by her husband.

Blair told the court SWT’s policy was based on “sexual stereotyping” and was “a further example of making assumptions about the role of women.”

She argued that the Grant case should be decided on the basis of gender discrimination alone, though added the court could also declare in principle if discrimination due to sexual orientation was covered in the legal article in the Treaty of Rome dealing with equal pay for men and women.

“It can’t be right for employees to be paid less because of their sexual orientation,” she said.

Nicholas Underhill, representing SWT, urged the judges to “resist approaching the case in this broad manner.” He said the issue was not that Grant was a woman but that she and her partner were of the same sex.

A fundamental question for the courts was whether homosexual couples were comparable “like for like” with man and wife couples, Underhill said, adding that the concept of gender and sexual orientation were different, and that EU law on equal pay was only concerned with the basic man-woman relationship.

An Advocate General of the European court is due to give his opinion on the case on September 30, and a final ruling is not expected until early next year. The case will then go back to a British industrial tribunal, which referred to the European Court for an interpretation of law.

Premiere’s Friday July 25th

Eight male friends, all of them gay, leave the city behind for three simple weekends of rest and relaxation. But that’s the least of what they experience. Over the three weekends these friends will fall in love and fall from grace, they will hurt one another and forgive one another. They will form couples and break apart, celebrate strengths and give in to weaknesses, they will play jokes on each other and give a shoulder to each other. They will even don tutus, for a very good cause. No one will emerge from these three weekends in the country the same. The original New York stage cast of Terrance McNally’s Tony award winning play including Tony Award-winner John Glover, Stephen Bogardus, John Benjamin Hickey, Steepn Spinella, Justin Kirk and Randy Becker have been reunited for the film and joined by Jason Alexander.

Also in August

PARADISE ROAD
THE PILLOW BOOK
NOWHERE
LOVE AND OTHER CATASTROPHIES
The Directory

Advising...

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

Advertising:
(L) KT Creative, Katie, 278-9174
AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see 4A’s page)
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Assoc., (Fairbanks) 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Found. (WA), 206-383-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5655, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Koala, 278-5019
Apparel & Clothing:
(A) The Look, Karl, 278-5665
Architectural Design:
(G/L) Lipson/Brown Design, 274-0913
Automotive Repairs & Fuel:
(A) Courtney’s, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)
Bakery & Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828
Bed & Breakfasts, Accommodations:
(A) Alf’s (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-389-2582 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(L) Chaviney Lake B&B, Mary/Janetta, 327-4991
(G) Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(A) Fairbanks Hotel, Doris Lundin, 888-329-4685
(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567
(A) Island Watch, Bileen (Homer), 907-235-2262 (see ad)
(L) Northern Comfort, Reeda, 278-2106
(R) Regina’s, 276-4904
(L) Rose-Beth’s B&B, Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G/C) Sauerdough Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Sudie 907-586-2410.
Books:
(A) Alaska, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cyranos Books & Cafe, Sandy/Jerry, 274-2599
(A) Into The Woods Bookshop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-479-7701
Churches:
see Spiritual

Computer Services:

Bulletin Boards:
(G) The Wilde Side, 333-4039
(G) Wings!, 243-7318; 243-7371 (Internet access)
Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4275
(L) Angie, 337-0253
(A) Bink’s Den, 205 4th Ave., Seward, Sue or Terri, 224-PAWS
(L) Catworks, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDA Services, Wallaud, 276-6862
(G) Ekstric RAM, Robert Ives, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 258-4080
(G) gra/f/x, Lucian, 561-5856
(L) Helleck Assoc, Terry, 276-3869
(G) Mad Dog Graphx, Michael Arada, 276-7279
(G) Mark, 274-9472
(G) PC Possibilities, 246-6277
(G) ServCom Alaska, Mark Mathis, 274-9472
(L) TechLink, LeMiel, 276-6862

Supplies & Equipment:
(A) Frigid North, Tom, 561-4633 (see ad)
Train:
(G) Seven Treasures Ent., Don, 562-9496
(A) Find It! Business Services (Macintosh); Larry, 279-4862
Education Services:
College and Boarding School Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 277-7004
Social Research Design, Student, Consultation, Evaluation:
(L) Susan E. Johnson, PhD, 272-4113
Tutoring:
(A) James, Biology, 248-6412
(L) Carolyn Lancaster, M.Ed., School Survival Skills, 274-5059
(A) Kathleen L. McDonough, School Survival Skills, 274-5059
Entertainment:
(G) Art Services North, Daryl, 561-2115
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(A) Mascarella Music, Diane, 277-9751
(A) Szyggy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599
Bars & Restaurants:
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191
(G/L) O’Brady’s, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080 (see ad)
(G/L) Palace Saloon (Fairbanks), Alaskanland (Fri & Sat ONLY)
(G/L) The Raven, 276-9762
(L/G) The Wave, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad)

Coffee Houses:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 562-0737
(A) Quiver Bean Coffee Co., Scott & Becky, call or fax 278-BEAN
Disk Jockeys:
(A) Lake Webb, 273-2689(hm), 279-3300(wk)
Drag Shows:
(G/L) The Wave, Vicki, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad.)
Theatre:
(G) Breakeven Productions, Linda 277-5630
(A) Out North Theatre, Gene/Jay, 279-8099
Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-8040/338-3962 (see ad)
(G) Jon Howe, Bank of America, 263-3335
(A) Catherine Smith, C.P.A., 562-2438
Income Tax Preparation:
(A) Lynn (LaPerriere) Thomas, 263-0720 (see ad)
Independent Marketer:
(A) Mark, 279-5264
Insurance:
(L) Chris, 561-8040/338-3962 (see ad)
Mortgage Brokers:
(A) City Mortgage, Lynn (LaPerriere) Thomas, 277-0700 (see ad)
Retirement Plans:
(A) Lynn (LaPerriere) Thomas, 263-0720 (see ad)
Florists/Greenhouses/Nurseries:
(G) Every Bloomin’ Thing, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3158
(A) Mile 5.2 Greenhouse, Dale, 694-3978
(A) Trry Nursery, Doug, 345-2507
Furniture/Furnishings/Gifts:
(A) Design Craft, David, 279-0638 (see ad)

Housing:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) 36th Ave. Hair Design, Ledjha, 561-8697
Health:
(A) Alpine Indoor Air Purification Systems, Marjory, (907) 746-6381
(L) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(A) Nature’s Own Way, Roberto/Debby, 561-0181
Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330

...Health
Directory

Health...

(A) Gatekey, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 274-FLEX (3539)
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0582
(A) Thee Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

Body Work:
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(L) Leslie, 278-3346
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(L) Vicki, 277-5222

Counseling:
(A) Connie, 562-1826
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708
(A) Tom Gormley, ANP, 565-4014
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
(A) Barton Sloan, LCSW, 563-5765
(A) S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape), 276-7279
(L) Tess, Alternative Counseling, 562-8281

Electrolysis:
(L) Gentle Touch Electrolysis Clinic, Bronwyn, 258-6608

Dental Care:
(A) Ward Hulbert, DDS, 248-0022

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

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

Reiki/Counseling:
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916
(A) Karen Lasota, 566-6056
(L) Spiritus Services, Barbara, 274-4089

Helpline:
(G/L) Anchorage, Identity Helpline, 258-4777 (see ads)
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 907-458-8288
(G/L) Gay & Lesbian National Hotline, 1-888-843-4564
(G/L) Juneau, SEAGLA, 586-GAYS

Home Maintenance & Repair:
Carpet & Linoleum Installation:
(A) Big Bob’s, Mark, 561-2121
(A) Don, 349-1065

Floors & Tile:
(A) Quality Floors, Bob & Ruth, 248-3900
(G) The Electric Doctor, Bob, 561-2225

House Cleaning:
(L) Connie’s House Cleaning Svc., Connie, 276-3147
(A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4675
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning, Brent, 258-0626

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

Painting:
(L) L&L Painting, Lisa, 277-7549

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)

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

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

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

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(L) Klondyke Kontakt (Alaska Women’s Cultural Center), 277-9763

(GLA) North View (Identity), 258-4777
(GL) Perspective (SEAGLA in Juneau), 586-4297

Pet Care & Veterinarian:
(A) Alaska Pet Palace, Sharon, 276-0668
(A) Doggie Hat, Arild, 279-5861
(A) Dr. Ginny, 345-1515
(L) Dr. Vicki, 345-1515
(A) Dr. Jean Battig (Fairbanks) 452-6055

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

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

Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-0460
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
(A) TimeFrame, 562-3822 (see ad)

Recovery & Support:
(G/L) Pride Institute (Minnesota), 800-54 PRIDE (547-7433)
Also Los Angeles, CA, Coconut Grove, FL & New York City.

Support Groups:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(G) I.M.R.U.2 (Youth Group), 566-4678

(A) PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Anchorage), Sylvia 562-4992, Fred 562-7161
(A) PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fairbanks), Mary Jo, 907-459-8985
(A) PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Juneau), 907-463-4203

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

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

Recreation:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(A) Knik Glacier Tours; Palmer, Alaska; Tom Faussett, 745-1577

(L) McKinley Air Svc., Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 786-3707, 800-779-3701
(G) Roy’s Bikes, Roy, 333-8221
(A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb, 907-389-2725
(A) Flies by Ilene (Eagle River), 907-694-6946

(L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087

Real Estate:
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(A) Bela Bodnar, RE/MAX, 244-4415 (see ad)
(L) Bronwyn Real Estate, 907-277-4744
(L) Century 21 (Missouri), Lucille, 417-745-6798 (w); 417-993-4302 (h)
Directory

Real Estate...

(A) Coldwell Banker, Elaine, 562-2378
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(L) Waltraud Baron, 278-1981

Research:

(L) Cramm & Associates, 279-3982

Security Alarm Systems:

(G) Mark, 278-2029

Social/Educational:

(G) Anchorage Garden Buddies, 272-5608
(G) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Bob, 275-0046
(GL) Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA),
(Juneau) 907-586-4297

Spiritual:

(A) Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive
Living, Rev. Nancy 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) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, Anchorage,
welcomes all regardless of orientation, 333-5253
(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

Student Organizations:

(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks)
(Pete, 907-479-7348 (see Club Notes)
(G/L) The Family (formerly Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student
Association), UAA, (see Club Notes)

Tattoos:

(A) Birchin’ Tats, Kathy, 561-3653

Travel:

(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Chersesse, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) World Express Travel, Greg, 786-3701

Writing & Editing Assistance:

(L) Kathy, 278-2840

Club Notes

AA
Gay Joyous & Free, 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 luncheon for People With HIV and AIDS. We are always
looking for groups willing to donate and provide these
meals. If you are interested in helping with the luncheons,
volunteering with the 4As, or need information, please call
the 4As at 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
information about meeting time and place, contact Matthew
at 907-474-6666, ext. 3535.

Anchorage Garden Buddies (AGB)
as 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 272-5608

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)
1441 E. 12th, #2, 99501 Contact Dan at 258-2629 or
276-6947. Meets the third Saturday 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
information, call 274-9226.

EQUAL, Inc. Fairbanks
The purpose is to keep the community informed about political
and legal events which have an effect on the lesbigay com-
unity, to educate about community issues, to organize let-
ter writing campaigns and other forms of political action,
and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regard-
less of actual or perceived sexual orientation. For more
information about EQUAL, contact Laura Burleston at 907-
479-7348 or e-mail FSLEB@aurora.alaska.edu

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

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

Fairbanks Radio Station
KSUA 91.5 “Queer Beans” from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays

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

Feminist Sing-a-Long (women only), Anchorage
third Saturday of every month, 7741 Westview Circle; call
Carol and Fran at 333-0871. Non-singers are more than
Continued on page 40
Club Notes...continued

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, noon at 845 'K' St. 279-5001.  

Gay/Lesbian Book Club  
at Barnes and Noble on third Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Kim Meck, Community Relations Coordinator for B&N Hosts this discussion group.  

GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network)  
a national organization which has a local chapter in Anchorage. Meets the first Sunday each month, 1pm at AUUF. Membership is confidential. We welcome educators and non-educator allies who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public schools. For more information call Fred, 562-7161.  

Identity, Inc. Anchorage  
found to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communities. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of every month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Doors open at 6:30pm; 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 present wonderful entertainment, and donate money to needy organizations for them to carry out their important goals. See Calendar for this month's planned activities, or contact Empress Salmon Ella at 275-0046. Or write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.  

IMRU2  
Anchorage gay youth group meets Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 4As, 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 102. 566-IMRU  

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

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)  
Anchorage holds Sunday services at 7pm, and Wednesday at 7:00pm at 4th and Barrow. 258-5266 Church is open Monday through Thursday 10:30am-4:00pm.  

Last Frontier Men’s Club, Anchorage  
a members-only club for the Leather/Bear communities of Alaska. Meetings 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:00pm at the Raven; campsouts & 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 Club  
a lesbian book and support group. Meets second and fourth Mondays, 7-9 pm. Videos and books will be a part of this positive energy discussion group. For location, call Rose Beth (337-6779) or Lorraine (276-3337).  

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) of Fairbanks meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm at the Unitarian Fellowship Building at 4148 Pikes Landing Rd., fbks. Contact Nancy at 45P-FLAG for more information.  

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

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

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

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

Shanti of Juneau  
offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS prevention and educational information. Offices: 222 Seward, Suite 200; mail: P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437).  

SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous) Anchorage  
12-step meeting; Tues., Thurs., Sat. Check ongoing calendar for times and locations. 566-1133  

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

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

“...If I went to a doctor and tested positive, I'd feel so distraught by it. Then I'd have to keep calling up and get my T-cell count. I think that's a lot of bullshit. I don't think most places offer proper counseling, which is very troubling. I think the best thing we can do is promote safe sex and get that message out there.”  

— Andy Bell of the pop duo Erasure to Atlanta's Etcetera magazine, June 13.
Cyberlust

AGLA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc.  <fsmph@aurora.alaska.edu>
Binkley, Andy: <abinkley@mosquitonet.com>
Burleson, Laura: Gay Rights activist, Chair of Equal of Fairbanks:
   <fsl@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capri Cinema, Rand Thornley: <geeh91a@prodigy.com>
Carlisle, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist:
   <mkite@getonth.net>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskadan@aol.com>
Cheney B&B: <cheneybb@alaska.net>
Childs, Lucian: graphic artist <lucian@alakana.com>  <http://www.
alakana.com/gfx>
Covone, Michael R., AIDS-activist and social worker: mrc@alaska.net
Crabtree, Phil, B&B, Fairbanks. <crabtreehome@geocities.com>,
   <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4169>
Cracio, Jean: market research, Pride Conference:
   <jcracio@cracio.alaska.net>
Fairbanks Gay & Lesbian Community page:
   website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~gnet>
   e-mail <gnet@mosquitonet.com>
Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquitonet.com>
Freedman, F. Kenneth: Gay/Lesbian activist, <fken@servcom.com>
Gay & Lesbian National Hotline:
   <http://www.glnh.org/>
GLAAD: Gays and the media  <http://www.glaad.org>
Hilman, Fred:  <f.hilman@alaska.net>
Hilman, Bronwyn: <brwnyn@alaska.net>
HRC: Send a message to your congressionalman  <http://www.hrcusa.org>
IAA - Interior AIDS Assoc. Fairbanks <iaa@polarnet.com> website:
   <http://www2.polarnet.com/iaa>
Identity: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~seagla/identity.html>
Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polarnet.com>
   website <http://www2.polarnet.com/woods>
Kohout, Jen: <jenkou@alaska.net>
Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <FMCl@micronet.net>
Lavender Youth Recreation and Info Center:
   <lyric.talkline.info@tig.net>
Naff, Don: <donnaff@alaska.net>
Olson, Chris: <CMOFrida@aol.com>
Out North: <outnorth@artswire.org>
PFLAG: Fbks. website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~pflag>
   e-mail <pflag@mosquitonet.com>
Parsons, Greg: <partner@alaska.net>
Pinney, Pete: UAF instructor and owner of Alta's B & B;
   <fpp@aurora.alaska.edu>
Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>
SEAGLA: <http://ptialaska.net/~seagla>
Severson, Kim: Entertainment editor Anchorage Daily News, board of
   Nat'L Lesb & Gay Journalists Assn. <kseverson@pop.adn.com>
Shanti of Juneau: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~shanti>
Soule, Barbara & Bonham, Candy: <soulcandy@alaska.net>
Thorne, Rand: Capri Cinema: <film@ryl.com>
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel services: triangle@servcom.com
Vann, Beth: <bcv@elf.bl.ac.yu>
Walton, Eric: Q*Klatch, Q*K Outdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.:
   <seaw@aurora.alaska.edu>
Waves, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net>
WebCastro "Hotlinks": Businesses in the Castro district
   <http://www.webcastro.com/hotlinks.html>
Wockner, Rex: San Diego-based journalist, LesBiGay info (Internet):
   r.wockner@netcom.com
Youth site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/

Calendar

July

Friday, 25:
A  Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF.
Saturday, 26:
A  Last Frontier Women's Club, 3pm - ?, The Raven: food, friends, music by GMR and Co.
J  Bonfire on the Beach, singles (meaning anyone alone tonight), call MG at 586-4938 for info.
Tuesday, 28:
A  Identity board meeting, 7pm, Identity office (AUUF) visitors welcome.

August

Sunday, 3:
A  Ed Knisley's farewell sermon, 7pm, MCC.
Wednesday, 13:
A  PFLAG Picnic Potluck, 6-9pm, Fish Creek Park on S. Turnagain St.
Friday, 22:
A  Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF: "The Identity Cookbook" w/Sheldon Meier and Kurt Parish.

Sunday, 24:
A  Helpline training, 5-7pm, Identity office at AUUF.
Monday, 25:
A  Voting for Emperor & Empress, 10am-10pm, John Thomas Bldg., 3rd & Cordova.
Tuesday, 26:
A  Identity board meeting, 7pm, Identity office (AUUF) visitors welcome.
Friday, 29:
A  ICOAA - Alaska Show at the Wave, 6:30pm, $5 admission.
Saturday, 30:
A  ICOAA - Protage Glacier and Brown Bear Saloon bus run, departing from the Raven at 10am, $10 includes lunch.
Sunday, 31:
A  ICOAA - Coronation, doors open 6pm, Egan Center (please see Emperor's letter on page 17 for more Court events today).
On-Going Calendar Items

SUNDAYS
A Metropolitan Community Church Services, 7pm, 4th and Barrow
A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
J Library and Coffee House, has been discontinued.
F Men’s Volleyball, 2pm, Mary Siah Recreation Center.

MONDAYS
A Gay Bar, Anchorage, noon, 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 pm (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 5:30-7:30 pm at 4A’s 1057 W Fireweed #102, 566-4678 (566-IMRU).
J Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
J “Women’s Prerogative,” KTOO-FM, Wednesdays, 9pm-10pm.
A La Cage aux Wave (drag show), 10pm, The Wave, $3 cover.
A Dyke Night at Sears Cærs 7pm to 9pm.
A MCC, 4th and Barrow Street, Praise & Prayer at 7 pm.
A PFLAG, 2nd Wednesday, 7-9 pm, AUUF, 32nd and Turnagain St.
F KSUA, 91.5 FM, 7pm-9pm, “Queer Beans” (Gay issues and music).

THURSDAYS
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, 2nd Thursday, 7-9 pm at The Wave. For info: 338-9184.

FRIDAYS
A Lunch, 4A’s, noon-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, Lori 263-2050. Everyone invited - HIV, volunteers and friends.
A Midnight Sons, Gay Men's AA Meeting, 7:30pm-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Identity Potluck fourth of the month at AUUF.

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 Dancing in Fairbanks!, 12pm-3am, Palace Saloon, Alaskaland.
J PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 to 12:30 in the Mendenhall Library conference room.

Legend
A Anchorage
F Fairbanks
J Juneau

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FAX 457-2034

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E-mail: alaskart@aol.com
Candidate for Emperor XXV
Mikey LaChoy Richardson

Candidate for Empress XXV
Rosie Rotton
Home Remedies for Taste and Appetite Problems

There’s nothing worse than trying to stuff food down when you don’t want to because you have no appetite. And then, when you do force yourself, everything tastes awful,” says San Antonio, Texas PWA Maria Gonzalez. Unfortunately, Gonzalez has lots of company. Appetite loss, and the taste and smell changes that can contribute to it, affect many people with HIV and can lead to inadequate food intake and, ultimately, wasting.

This problem should always be reported to a physician. A number of the possible causes - infections, drug side effects, depression and abnormal levels of hormones (such as testosterone, often too low) or cytokines (cell-produced chemicals such as tumor necrosis factor that are often too high) - must be medically addressed.

But a major, frequently ignored cause of appetite loss is a deficiency of specific nutrients. That’s something you should remedy to break the vicious circle in which the deficiencies cause appetite suppression, which then worsens the deficiencies because you don’t eat enough. If this occurs, you may have to go by the clock, forcing yourself to eat regular meals at set times, even if you’re not hungry.

Nutrient supplementation may also help. Eve Prang Plews, a nutritionist with a large HIV practice in Sarasota, Florida, says: “A zinc deficiency often causes appetite loss due to taste and smell distortions which make foods taste odd and unappealing. Many other nutrient deficiencies can worsen appetite problems.” Prang Plews suggests taking zinc (75 mg per day), along with a good multiple vitamin–mineral formula and three nutritional meals daily. She adds, “When replenishing nutrients makes food taste good again, appetite often comes rushing back.”

Meanwhile, make sure every bite is nutrient-rich. Skip the empty-calorie foods like candy, other sugar-loaded products, soft drinks, coffee and tea. They’ll make you feel full and prevent your eating the nutrient-rich foods you need. If the prospect of eating seems overwhelming, try to make it easier. Soups made with lots of vegetables (for the nutrients), plenty of chicken, turkey, fish, beans or tofu (for the protein) and plenty of rice, noodles, corn or beans (for the calories) can be valuable as quick, easy-to-prepare, easy-to-eat meals or snacks.

Until taste and smell normalize, try new seasonings or different foods as substitutes for those that taste strange. Play with herbs and seasonings that have a strong smell (oregano, garlic, onion, lemon or lime juice, or anything else that’s appealing). A hot Indian chutney or curry sauce can mask almost any other flavor. Or use Maria Gonzalez’s solution: “I drowned everything in salsa until my zinc and other supplements brought normal tastes back.”

Since taste distortions (particularly metallic or bitter tastes) most often affect red meats, another approach is switching to fish or poultry. Or get your protein from eggs, beans, grains, seeds, nuts and dairy products. You can also disguise an unpleasant-tasting food by submerging it in a seasoned soup or stew.

Don’t limit yourself to what others think is an appropriate meal or snack time. Eat whatever’s appealing to you (as long as it’s nutrient-rich) whenever the mood strikes. If you want pasta for breakfast and oatmeal for dinner, go for it. Just keep those calories and nutrients coming in as often as possible throughout the day.

-Lark Lands, Ph.D

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Upcoming Events:
- AIDS 101 Training: Tuesday, August 12, 5:30pm - 6:30pm @ Four A’s
- Every Thursday “Friends and Family Support Group” 7pm - 8pm @ Four A’s
- Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers - 12 noon @ Four A’s