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

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

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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 ___.

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

NorthView: typing, editing, reporting, graphics, goffering

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
FALL!

SUMMER ENDS!

Time to head south!

I ain't leavin'...
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Upon request, you may receive the NorthView in a First Class large envelope. Cost is $60 per year (includes membership in Identity and private mailing).

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Submissions
We welcome articles and letters from community individuals and organizations. Ideal length is 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 Personal, 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.
An acquaintance of mine, not gay but given to working for fairness in our heterosexist country, had written a letter to President Bill Clinton. She wrote to express her support for same-sex marriages, a fairly hot topic at the time. The federal Defense of Marriage Act, as you probably remember, did pass and was signed into law. This particular piece of legislation was crafted as a response to those civil rights-minded folks in Hawaii. Apparently the other 49 states need federal protection from the renegades.

A Clinton staffer sent a letter of response, dated August 15, stamped with Bill's signature. Somebody's best work had gone into this letter and many of the familiar phrases are used. "I have strongly opposed discrimination," "the rich fabric of American society," and "heighten public awareness of discrimination" sort of assure the reader that Clinton supports the simple notion of basic civil rights for all Americans.

"I strongly believe that raising this issue last year," the letter reads, "was divisive and unnecessary, especially in view of the timing. It was yet another attempt to divert the American people from the urgent need to confront our challenges together."

Hmm. I get hung up on the mention of timing. One might infer that better timing would have prevented the passage of DOMA, revealing it to be mean-spirited. Unlike Clinton, I cannot view it as a diversion from our need.

Although partisan DC often seems to feed on divisiveness, DOMA itself was not divisive. Jarring the status quo reveals points of division which separate those in from those out. DOMA served to expose the breadth of the crevasse but certainly did not create it.

Stop right there. The crevasse itself is a powerful political illusion. A majority of Americans cannot get whipped into a lather over the question of same-sex marriages. They perpetuate the status quo almost unthinkingly, as a matter of habit. Admittedly, this group makes up the bulk of the spectrum.

The smoke and mirrors folks enjoy tremendous influence at all legislative levels. Without question, the most vociferous are those associated with the religious right. Their well-funded opinion machine is not only quick to react but very effective. Well-coordinated and utilizing modern technology to its fullest, the seeds of support or disapproval quickly bear fruit. Switchboards are overwhelmed, letters and faxes pour in, e-mail flies fatten as the legislative branch grinds onward. Such an onslaught of communiques, in a representative democracy, is taken as the opinion of the constituency. The entire effort supports the perception of a major division, but in no way reflects the reality.

No effort on the part of gays and lesbians will staunch the right's discriminatory flow. As a minority group, we must enlist the support of those occupying the vast middle ground. We are slowly moving progress in this area and subsequent equalization. Our greatest strength is our diversity and humanness. Our greatest tool is an ability to foster awareness. Our greatest ally, I firmly believe, will prove to be those currently camped - politically speaking - in that wide middle ground.

As we slide into fall, October's arrival is fairly certain, as is October 11, National Coming Out Day. The past few years, being unwaveringly Amy means freedom from self-censoring and closeted hiding. I can rarely find anybody to actually come out to. This year, however, there's a greater aim. Sure, I'm out to those whose lives touch mine. The greater challenge is to engage them in dialogue. We are all familiar with "putting a face on gay rights issues," but perhaps a face is not enough. I invite you to join me, not in just being out, but in a commitment to talk about queer issues. No need to be overbearing or in-your-face, no need to holler, flaunt, berate. It can start, like many dialogues do, with a simple question: What is your position on civil rights for gays and lesbians?

Timing, as suggested by Clinton's letter, is everything. The important element is ours for the utilizing: a glacier also has a pace and a natural timing. A continued broadening of our support base will have its own implications. Already making inroads, we can deepen them with effort.

Oily, oily, oxen free and come out, come out wherever you are. Mark the day on your calendar, the commitment on your heart.

---

Editorial

by Amy O'Mara

---

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October is Lesbian & Gay History Month

"Charting The Future, Reclaiming The Past"

NEW YORK, August 7 — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is proud to announce that October is “ Lesbian & Gay History Month: A Celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History.” The theme of this fourth annual event is “Charting the Future, Reclaiming the Past,” which will highlight the often ignored contributions of gay figures and the community in history.

During Lesbian & Gay History Month, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community examines its political struggle, cultural achievements and collective creativity. “Lesbian & Gay History Month creates a more honest and complete understanding of history by telling untold stories,” said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD’s Executive Director. “It provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the distance we have traveled as a community and to honor the stewards of that journey.”

GLAAD is pleased to be co-sponsoring Lesbian & Gay History Month with a number of other national organizations, including the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, Dignity USA, the Bisexual Network of the US (BiNet USA), National Latino/a Lesbian & Gay Organization (LLEGO), GenderPAC, the Human Rights Campaign, Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), LEAGUE at AT&T, Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International, It’s Time America and the National Youth Advocacy Coalition.

In addition, GLAAD is proud to welcome American Express Financial Advisors as Lesbian & Gay History Month’s primary corporate sponsor. “Lesbian & Gay History Month is a unique approach to celebrate the many accomplishments of the gay and lesbian community,” said Marie Tobin, American Express Financial Advisors’ Community Relations Program Manager. “American Express Financial Advisors applauds this effort to educate the public and its goal of nurturing an inclusive society.”

In January 1994, a high school teacher in Missouri, appalled by the exclusion of lesbian and gay history from textbooks, set out to make a change. Rodney Wilson organized teachers and community leaders to educate the public about lesbians and gay men past and present. They formed a national grassroots network to create a celebration and education campaign that continues today. The month of October was selected to commemorate the anniversaries of the first two lesbian and gay marches on Washington in October 1979 and 1987.

GLAAD’s official History Month World Wide Web site can be accessed through GLAAD’s Homepage at <www.glaad.org>. The site will be continuously updated with a listing of new co-sponsors, community endorsers, a calendar listing of History Month events and information on how everyone can participate in this celebration.

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact: Liz Tracey (212) 807-1700; pager (800) 946-4646, pin #1423527; e-mail <tracey@glaad.org>.

“Compared to ten or even five years ago, the visibility of lesbians and gay men in terms of the country is unrecognizable. We are so much more visible, not as freaks but as regular people living our lives in accordance to mainstream values. It spreads from the military members to Ellen, to couples in Hawaii, to PFLAG, to the teachers’ group. It’s just astonishing where we have come and I think that is how we win ... by being present and refusing to be pushed into some kind of stereotype or label and just being part of the life of the country.”

— Author/journalist/activist Andrew Sullivan to Virginia’s Own Community Press, July issue.

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline

1(888) THE GLNH (843-4564) Toll-Free
Free peer-counseling, information and referrals
http://www.glhn.org/
Open Mon-Fri 6-11p.m. EST (2-7p.m. AST)

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Anchorage, Alaska 99503
All Politics Is Local

New Study Charts Impact of Gay Rights Laws at Local Level

Washington, D.C. — June 26, 1997 — Gay rights legislation at the city and county level has advanced at a dramatic pace in the 1990's and makes a major difference in the lives of many gay people, say independent researchers at the University of Florida (UF) in a new report summarizing their book-length study of gay rights laws in the United States.

The report, titled “All Politics Is Local: An Analysis of Local Gay Rights Legislation,” was released this month by the Policy Institute, the national think tank and policy center on gay rights issues of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and authored by University of Florida professors Dr. Kenneth Wald, Dr. James Button, and Dr. Barbara Rienzo.

The University of Florida researchers studied intensively 126 American communities which had passed gay rights laws or policies as of 1993, and compared them to 125 randomly selected U.S. jurisdictions without such legislation. In addition, the authors did intensive field research in five representative communities to further examine the factors which led to the passage of these laws and to study their impact; the communities were Cincinnati, OH; Iowa City, IA; Philadelphia, PA; Raleigh, NC; and Santa Cruz, CA.

The book-length study on which the NGLTF Report is based is titled “Private Lives, Public Conflicts: Battles Over Gay Rights Legislation in American Communities.” It was published by Congressional Quarterly Press in February of 1997, and it provides one of the first scholarly examinations ever done of the politics, scope and impact of gay rights laws.

As one of the co-author’s of the study, UF political scientist Dr. Kenneth Wald observed, “Although the headlines have been grabbed by national efforts to overturn anti-gay policies or pass gay rights laws, to a large degree the battle for legal protection of gays and lesbians has taken place in the local communities of America. Gay rights laws at the local level now cover one out of every five persons living in the United States.”

Factors helpful to the passage of local gay rights laws included: the level of political activation and mobilization of the local gay community, support for gay rights from straight allies, and a population in the city that was racially diverse, younger, and religiously liberal. Another co-author of the NGLTF report, Dr. James Button comments, “These local ordinances signal a new stage in the political emergence of gays and lesbians. In a sense they mark the passage of the gay rights movement from the pursuit of cultural visibility to the enactment of legislative legitimization.”

Despite progress in passing local gay rights laws, the report’s authors note that backlash and hostility to gay people persists. They detail the arena of school-based non-discrimination policies as one in which opposition to gay rights remains volatile and charged. A carefully researched chapter in the book, and summarized in the NGLTF Report, evaluates school-based programs addressing sexual orientation. Observes co-author Dr. Barbara Rienzo, “The forces that affect passage of local gay rights laws also help secure programs addressing sexual orientation in schools. A politically active gay community is the key to securing educational reform and support services for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students.”

Other findings of the NGLTF Report and the book on which it is based include:

* The mobilization of the gay community in a locality is the single most important political determinant of the passage of a gay rights law.
* Seventy-nine of the 157 cities and counties that had gay rights ordinances by 1997 passed them in the 1990’s.
* Gay rights ordinances almost always cover public employment but vary widely in their coverage of private sector employment, housing, public accommodations, hotel and retail centers, and private business contracts with the city or counties.
* The vast majority of gay rights ordinances do not cover residential homes, religious organizations, credit agencies or banks, and often do not include public schools, universities or small businesses, thereby granting them de facto exemptions.
* A majority of the public officials surveyed by the authors noted that ordinances were important because they sent a clear message that discrimination was unlawful.
* The quality of life for gay and lesbian Americans varies significantly between jurisdictions with gay rights laws and those without, most notably regarding access to government programs and services and the responsiveness of public schools to the needs of gay and lesbian students, parents and children.

“This study significantly broadens our understanding of the importance of local gay rights laws. It confirms what gay activists have argued for years: we need a more active and politically organized gay rights movement at the local and state level,” concluded Urvashi Vaid, Director of NGLTF’s Policy Institute.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is the oldest national gay and lesbian group and is a progressive organization that has supported grassroots organizing and pioneered in national advocacy since 1973. Since its inception, NGLTF has been at the forefront of virtually every major initiative for lesbian and gay rights. In all its efforts, NGLTF helps to strengthen the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement at the state level while connecting these activities to a national vision for change.
Queer Science

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Why have sex? That’s a question that can be answered at many different levels. At the simplest level, we have sex because we enjoy it. And that’s fine.

But there must be some reason why Nature has arranged things so that we find sex enjoyable. One reason jumps to mind: sex, when performed between a man and a woman, can give rise to babies, and without babies the human race would die out. In addition, sex, whether of the gay or straight variety, is a kind of social glue that helps ensure cooperation and altruism — traits that are of obvious survival value.

At a more profound level, though, sex is a bit of a puzzle. Why do most creatures, including humans, have babies by means of sex, rather than through virgin birth? Why doesn’t a woman simply manufacture a little clone of herself? Why have men at all? Why should a woman (or any other female animal) expose herself to male aggression and to venereal disease? And above all, why should she help reproduce someone else’s genes? All the laws of evolution say that she’d do best to reproduce her own genes and only her own genes.

Virgin birth? It can’t be done, you’ll say. But it can. A lizard by the name of Chremidophorus uniparens, that lives in the American Southwest, does it all the time. At some unknown time in the past these lizards had a lesbian-feminist-separatist revolution, and now only females are left. They have sex with each other, for sure, but they don’t inseminate each other. Instead, each female produces her very own parthenogenetic offspring.

So why do most animals choose the apparently second-best route of sexual reproduction? In a general way, we know it has something to do with evolution. Potentially harmful and potentially beneficial mutations crop up at random. For evolution to occur, the beneficial mutations must be collected together to create unusually “fit” individuals, while the harmful mutations must be gotten rid of. Sex is a way to do that.

But just because sexual reproduction is good for the long-term survival of the species, that doesn’t mean it’s necessarily a good choice for the individual female. On the contrary, if a female had the ability to reproduce asexually, her offspring would rapidly expand in number over the ensuing generations and would soon replace all the individuals who were produced by sexual reproduction. Genes promoting asexual reproduction should therefore be selected for, even though they might hinder the long-term evolution of the species. That’s what happened, presumably, in the case of the lesbian lizards — so why hasn’t it happened to us and all the other animals?

The closest thing to an answer to this conundrum has been provided by the Russian biologist and mathematician Alexei Kondrashev. In a difficult-to-read paper published in 1988, Kondrashev made two crucial assumptions: first, that the rate of occurrence of harmful mutations is far higher than previously imagined, and second, that the damage caused by harmful mutations is highly “co-operative”: that is, two mutations cause more than twice as much damage as one (just as losing sight in two eyes is more than twice as bad as losing sight in one eye). With these assumptions, Kondrashev showed the distribution of harmful mutations in the offspring of sexually reproducing animals is more favorable than in the offspring of asexually reproducing animals. In particular, the sexually generated offspring include more “lemons” — individuals who are riddled with harmful mutations and who therefore rapidly die, taking their mutations with them.

Sex has traditionally been thought of as a means to produce exceptionally high-quality individuals, so it’s ironic that Kondrashev sees it the other way, as a means to produce exceptionally poorly-made creatures — runs, in essence. And Kondrashev is not shy of drawing the apparent lesson from his mathematics: because society now fosters the survival and reproduction of genetically disfavored children, he warns, the benefits of sexual reproduction have been lost and our species’ genetic stock must be deteriorating.

Perhaps there’s a more positive way to look at it. First, to judge from the lesbian lizards, any deterioration that may be occurring must be very slow — it will take thousands of years to have a significant impact, and the technology to screen for and eliminate harmful mutations will be available long before then. Second, if there’s no longer any advantage to sexual reproduction, then there’s no longer any disadvantage to asexual reproduction. And thanks to Dolly the sheep, asexual reproduction may soon become a reality.

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the “gay brain.” He is the author of The Sexual Brain, City of Friends (with Elisabeth Nonas), and Queer Science (MIT Press, 1996) and the novel Albrick’s Gold (Richard Kasak books). He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached at: <SLeVay@aol.com>
Where in the World

PFDs in October

Once again it’s almost that time when Alaskans’ pockets are about to be re-lined. The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend program will soon release the amount of this year’s check. With this comes the rush to get you to spend your windfall on everything from travel to toilet paper. The travel suppliers and airlines are gathering to stake their claim for your business. Among the past players are Alaska Airlines, Reno Air, Northwest Airlines, America West and Delta.

Once the amount of the PFD is announced, you can expect jockeying for your business by many of the old players and perhaps by some new ones. It is tough sometimes to figure out which plan may be best for you, but a call to your favorite travel agent will likely be of help.

Hawaiian Island Fever

Starting just about this time of year many Alaskans come down with a strange malady called Hawaiian fever. The lower outside temperature seems to bring on the attacks, and the colder it is outside the more severe is the fever. Hawaiian Vacations, the company who keeps bringing us the cure with non-stop flights to the Islands is offering some specials as cure for the minor attacks which occur between October 4 and December 13th.

For only $515 pp you can enjoy the cure with 6 nights at the Marine Surf Waikiki as well as round trip air on Hawaiian Airlines Charter service.

For Maui (my favorite island) $715 pp will get you a 1 BR condo complete with 2 TVs, VCR, full kitchen, W/D, Spa, and whirlpool, round trip air and a car for 7 days!

That same $715 pp will buy you Kona with a car at the Royal Kona Resort or in Kauai at the beachfront Kauai Coconut Beach resort with a car.

Or if you have a pad or want to sleep on the beach, Hawaiian Vacations is offering a special for September of just $399 RT for any island!! Eat 2 Macadamia nuts and call your travel agent!!

Stupid (sorry) Super Bowl XXXII

If you are one of those people who just love football, and have a fair amount of spendable cash, boy do we have a deal for you! How about 3 nights at the Ramada Inn in San Diego January 23-26, 1998, end zone game tickets, full breakfast daily, tickets to the NFL player’s party, RT game transfers, professional tour conductor, all local and state taxes, and Superbowl theme party tickets. All this for only $2,195 pp dbl plus air to San Diego.

Viva Mexico

Mexico in general, and Puerto Vallarta specifically, are still high on gay travelers’ lists. RSVP is hosting their gay week in PV in November. PV is offering a new and expanded collection of gay bars, most of which are owned by the famous Paco Paco. My honey and I of 25 years last month will be taking a week off to visit PV this month on the 20th. When we get back we hope to have new and better info on Gay Vallarta. A late breaking note. It seems that even in Gay friendly PV there are some Prevo types. One hotel who welcomed gays has been formerly telling travel agents that they do not rent to gays anymore. Check with your favorite gay travel agent for the latest on this!

Australia Supports Gay Games 2002

The New South Wales government has donated money to support the effort to bring the 2002 Gay Games to Sydney. If held there, they estimate that over 40,000 persons would attend and spend about $77,000,000 while there. Talk about pink dollar!

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

Papers Drop Gay Cartoons

OTTAWA (AP) - Canadian cartoonist Lynn Johnston is again stirring up controversy with a discussion between a gay man and his friend in her comic strip "For Better or For Worse". At least 30 newspapers, most of them American, have asked for substitute material to run in the place of the strip over four days when a young gay man explains that his partner is moving to Paris.

"In the States the word ‘gun’ is far more acceptable (than the word gay) and no one is afraid of the word gun, but everybody seems to be terrified of the word ‘gay’," said Johnston, from her home outside North Bay, Ontario.

When the character of Lawrence revealed his homosexuality in the strip four years ago, 19 papers canceled the strip for good and 40 decided to carry alternate material. At that time, Johnston received 3,500 letters, most of them supportive.

Universal Press Syndicate, which distributes the strip, alerted the 1,700 papers that carry it about the series’ new gay plot line. Some of the papers that have asked for substitute material may run the four-day series on their editorial page.

by Bob De Loach
Business Spotlight

IMRU2 (Youth Group for LesBiGay and Questioning Youth)

Trang Duong, the main facilitator for IMRU2, suggested that we meet somewhere other than her office at 4 A's. The phone, she cautioned, would make an interview impossible. We settled for lunch at the Roosevelt in front of a sunny window.

**NV:** Has this youth group taken its formation from any other model group of its type?

**TD:** Not really...it’s a general support group with more emphasis on rap than on therapy.

**NV:** You have a brochure with you. Does that list your new phone number?

**TD:** So glad you asked about that! We’re really proud to have our own voice mail number: 566-IMRU. Kids can call for times and dates of our meetings, although we usually meet at the 4 A’s offices Wednesdays at 5:30 to 7:30.

**NV:** How about your reason for being...what’s your mission statement?

**TD:** To bring together in a safe and respectful environment adolescents who have concerns about their sexuality, who need to know that they are not alone, and who need to learn to accept themselves and others. The goal of the group is to encourage a healthy understanding and interaction within the group, within their own families, and within the community at large.

**NV:** Who is your official sponsor? I am sure that dealing with under-age youths requires strong safeguards.

**TD:** You better believe it! Our sponsoring organization is PFLAG. It is their responsibility to provide a safe space for meetings and to select and train gay and nongay adults who can be role models for youth. These facilitators should provide accurate information free of negative judgment to help affirm young people in their struggle toward self-acceptance and understanding.

**NV:** Sounds like a direct quote to me.

**TD:** It is lifted directly from our handout. PFLAG really came to the rescue of these young people in 1994. East High had a gay youth group which had asked permission to invite other high schools to join them. When their request was denied the group began plans for a safe meeting place outside the school. PFLAG voted unanimously to act as a sponsor for this group, and IMRU2 was born.

**NV:** How do young people find out about the group?

**TD:** Two ways. Word of mouth is usually the most effective and credible means of communication to this age groups. The Anchorage Press helps to advertise the existence of the group and is read by many Anchorage young people.

**NV:** What is the most screamingly pressing need of IMRU2?

**TD:** Without question we need adult facilitators to work regularly with these young people. They need a safe place to hang out together, to rap together, to laugh and have fun together in a safe, friendly place.

**NV:** So...what’s your message to our readers?

**TD:** Those readers who have any training as a teacher or counselor, responsible adults who would enjoy working as a group facilitator...these folks need to contact me at 4 A’s (ed: the 4-A’s phone is 263-2050). The school term has begun, and we acutely need at least two more facilitators immediately. This is most rewarding volunteer work, takes very little time, and helps keep our gay youth safe. Call me!

Women on the Chilkoot Trail

by Sandi Gerjevic

They went, they saw, they conquered Canyon City, Sheep Camp and even the Scales — that vertical boulderstrewn obstacle course that tops the Chilkoot Trail. The group of nine women from Anchorage, Wasilla and New York began their hike on the Chilkoot August 2. In seven days, six of them made it across the 33-mile trail that thousands trekked 100 years ago in the rush for Klondike (Klondyke?) gold.

“The trail is a magic trail,” said organizer Linda Imle, a computer technician for the University of Alaska Anchorage. “There’s just a feeling of walking with the spirits of stampeders.” Imle was forced to turn back because of the humidity and to help ailing friends, but she has hiked the Chilkoot three times previously. The group of friends and acquaintances she organized for this summer’s trip included a recreation director, an assistant college professor, a psychologist and a finance administrator. They trained physically for more than a year to make the hike.

Some who called themselves the Skagway Six continued their study of the Gold Rush by touring gold sites in Skagway, Whitehorse, Dawson, Eagle and Fairbanks. The women hope to combine their photographs and journal entries into a book contrasting their experiences with those of the 1,500 women known to have hiked the Chilkoot Trail a century ago.

Imle said she understands now more than ever that stampededers came north not for gold, but for the adventure. In the words of hiker Judy Goering, “The men of the Chilkoot opened the land, but the women settled, nurtured and developed it to what it is today. In our grandmothers’ footsteps, yes, and in our mothers’, our daughters’, our granddaughters’...”

From the Anchorage Daily News, September 8, 1997
Out North Theater a Victim of the Christian Coalition

A bitter cultural conflict over public financing of the arts is spreading to cities around the country and in many places is involving arts institutions that have no bearing on the debate. In the past, conflicts over public money and artistic freedom have largely centered on specific works of art, more recently on funding granted by the National Endowment for the Arts, and lately on cutting all public financing of the arts. The Supreme Court has ruled that the government cannot regulate the content of speech, (which includes art), but it has not ruled whether the state can use content when deciding funding.

Opponents of funding are often led by conservative local ministers or are closely associated with organizations of the religious right, such as the Christian Coalition, The American Family Association, and the Christian Action Network. Such groups have been successful at a national level: funding for the National Endowment for the Arts has been cut from $170 million in the early '90s to $99.5 million in a Senate proposal for 1997-98, effectively zero in a House version.

At local levels similar cuts have been made: some so-called supporters of the arts object to public funding regardless of content; others vote for cuts on moral and religious grounds. In Charlotte, N.C., the county commission voted to withhold the entire $2.5 million grant from the state’s Arts and Science Council. In 1993 in Cobb County, Georgia, the county stopped all public financing of art, including that in schools. In Greensboro, N.C., the Guilford County Commission eliminated all art funding for 1997-98 and gave the money to schools for art education. In another half dozen areas, such as Clearwater, Fla., San Antonio, Texas, and Santa Ana, Calif., similar actions have been strongly debated but have failed. In 1995, People for the American Way documented 137 attacks on artistic freedom in such areas as school reading lists, library censorship, and erotic art exhibitions.

The battle over artistic freedom and public financing has reached Alaska. Out North Theater was founded in 1985 and has broadened its scope beyond the performing arts into a general arts group, including film and visual arts programs. The executive director of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Timothy Wilson, called it “a model program.” Nevertheless, various religious organizations, some members of the Municipal Assembly, and a former mayor have tried to cut its funds. Out North lost some corporate funding after the Alaskan Christian Coalition allegedly threatened boycotts against corporations, a charge which a spokesman for the Coalition denies. Even when funding is not cut, the debate has a chilling effect on colleague organizations, fearful for their own funding.

Out North Theater has been widely praised. The Justice Department awarded it a grant for a summer school program aimed at preventing youth delinquency. When the grant expired and the theater applied to the Municipality of Anchorage, the Human Service Allocation Task Force recommended an award of over $27,000 to continue the program. An intense challenge to the proposal was defeated when the merits of the grant persuaded a conservative assemblyman to change his mind and support it.

One of the foremost leaders in the opposition to municipal funding of Out North Theater has been the Christian Coalition of Alaska. It argues that funding gives tacit approval of a homosexual lifestyle that they believe leads young people to suffer needlessly from communicable diseases and to die young.

Playwright Tony Kushner summarizes the conflict: “...this is not a fascist state. This is not a theocracy.”

This article was drawn from a New York Times article dated August 14, 1997, and “Religious Rights Watch,” the Christian Coalition of Alaska newsletter.

“The UK government operates a Draconian policy of investigating and then dismissing from the armed services anyone who is homosexual or lesbian, regardless of how distinguished their service record might be, and without any requirement for them to have engaged in any sexual activity whatsoever — either at work or in their private lives. The human consequences for the many individuals affected by this policy are simply terrible. This ban cannot be reconciled by the British government claiming that it discourages unfair discrimination in the workplace.”

— Attorney
Cherie Booth, wife of British Prime Minister
Tony Blair, arguing a gay-related discrimination case before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg last week.

How beautiful it is to do nothing, and then rest afterward.
— Spanish Proverb
Princess Di was Tireless Advocate for People with AIDS

Diana, Princess of Wales, who died suddenly August 30 in a Paris auto accident that shocked the world, led a life of humanitarianism of which anyone could be proud. Her efforts brought attention to issues such as homelessness, malnutrition, poverty, human rights abuses and the dangers of old land-mines. Diana was never satisfied to settle into the royal routine of gala balls and high society. Instead, it became her trademark to champion the many causes that inspired her. The world press was obsessed with her every move, and she was able to use that scrutiny to bring attention to many otherwise ignored or "less glamorous" issues.

Not least among her accomplishments were her efforts to help people with AIDS. It became an early mission for Diana and one she relentlessly pursued throughout her life. In 1987, the princess raised eyebrows in English high society by visiting the AIDS ward at England's Middlesex Hospital. During a trip to New York City in 1989, she visited Baby Monica, a young victim of the disease. In a now famous address to an AIDS charity two years later, she said these simple yet profound words, "HIV does not make people dangerous to know, so you can shake their hands and give them a hug. Heaven knows they need it." In 1995, she returned to New York's Harlem Hospital and again visited little Monica. The love and compassion shown by Princess Diana has widely been credited with helping to change the public perception of people living with the disease.

In 1991, the disease came even closer to home for Diana, when it claimed the life of her dear friend, art dealer Adrian Ward-Jackson. After losing her friend, the princess became even more involved with the AIDS crisis. She has worked diligently raising funds for the annual Concerts of Hope, held to mark World AIDS Day. Her British AIDS charity, National AIDS Trust, raises millions of dollars annually in Great Britain and throughout the world. Her AIDS clinic, to this day the largest in England, opened in 1994. In March of this year, she traveled to South Africa to meet with President Nelson Mandela and discuss the global threat of AIDS, which is particularly wide spread throughout Africa. Last June, Diana donated $80 of her most famous dresses to be auctioned for charity, with half of the proceeds going to AIDS causes and half to cancer research. The New York auction raised three million dollars.

In life, Princess Diana was a relentless advocate for the poor and neglected throughout the world. With her passing, we have lost a wonderful human being with a heart of gold. She will be greatly missed.

Survey Results

There were only twenty-three surveys returned out of four hundred — not quite six percent. The results from the survey indicated that most liked the NorthView format.

Jen Kohout's column was the most popular reading. Ken Lovering's column and the calendar scored just one vote less. Approval ratings of almost all the other articles and cartoons were close. Miss Paige Turner was the least liked.

A number of comments about NorthView were written in the margins and on the backs of the surveys turned in. Many things about NorthView were liked and appreciated. However, people thought that not enough controversial issues were being addressed by the publication. The only column on the list that generated controversy "Stargazer Commentary." People either loved it or hated it — there was no in between.

The NorthView editorial staff thanks the people who took the time to respond to the survey and include their comments. Please feel free to write us and let us know your opinion at any time.

BRITISH COLUMBIA REDEFINES 'SPOUSE'

By a vote of 59-9, the British Columbia legislature July 22 changed the definition of "spouse" in the Family Relations Act to include same-sex partners.

The legislation was aimed at recognizing same-sex unions in matters of child custody, access and support. But the effect may be more wide-ranging, giving gay couples many of the same rights as common-law heterosexual couples.

That sits well with provincial Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh. He's in the midst of reviewing every British Columbia law that mentions "spouse" in hopes of modifying the laws to include same-sex couples.

British Columbia's five Anglican bishops are supporting the changes. In a letter to B.C. Premier Glen Clark, they said: "It is a matter of fundamental equality and human rights that homosexual people should have the same obligations and protection under the civil law as other citizens of British Columbia."

"By ensuring the same benefits and the same responsibilities for homosexual families as for heterosexual families, it will strengthen all families in their diversity and encourage long-term, stable relationships to the benefit of children, spouses and society as a whole."
Princess Diana is dead at the age of thirty-seven. As September begins, Candy's dad is counting his time left in days, instead of weeks or months. It is a painful process to come to terms with one's mortality and equally hard for the living to deal with their loved ones who are dying and their own grieving process. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross is the pioneer in this century who started to educate both the dying and the people left living on what to expect in the dying and grieving process. Her books are still in print. Both the dying and the grieving go through the same stages: denial, bargaining, anger, depression and acceptance. They don't follow neatly one after the other and any two or all may exist in the space of a few minutes.

If anyone was following the news of Princess Diana's death, some of these stages were evident. People were shocked and just couldn't believe a lovely, vital, spirited young woman could be dead — the denial phase. Other people were verbally angry at the newsmen, shouting them aside because the paparazzi were reported as having been involved with the crash of Diana's Mercedes Benz. The "man on the street," movie stars and politicians denounced the press for invasion of privacy and harassment, threatening to take legal action, i.e., "there ought to be a law against this..." It is part of the anger stage. So, it goes back and forth on grief's emotional roller coaster.

A number of years ago, a therapist asked me to help with a client who had been diagnosed as terminally ill. It was a woman not yet twenty-five years old. Only a nurse and a care provider came to see her. Her friends and family didn't come by anymore. They wouldn't even talk to her on the phone. These people said "I can't be there. I can't handle it." The client didn't understand what the problem was. She said "Hey, I'm the one who's dying."

A person who has been told he or she is dying may go through the whole process in a matter of hours. Someone helping or watching someone die goes through the process over and over as they watch another person dying. If they don't release the grief, eventually they can't stand the pain and leave or withdraw from the person who is dying. Her friends and family hadn't done any grief release, couldn't stand any more pain and didn't know they could grieve before the death occurred. One day the dying woman said to me "If my friends and family can't be here, how can you keep coming back?" I told her that when I walked out the door, I would be sobbing before I got to my car. I already knew that's what I had to do so I could keep coming back to help her.

Even after the person dies, the grieving process lasts one year to eighteen month, if actively and consciously worked on — longer if not. The pain and intensity of the grieving process waxes and wanes like the moon. The human body can only cry and rage so long and then it automatically shuts down. The griever's physical body and emotions go numb. The use of drugs or alcohol actually prolongs the process. Some people never work on this process and never get over their grief. Actually, if you do work on the process, there is residual or anniversary grieving and sadness, but it is a mere ghost of the crushing raw first grief of a new loss.

I discovered other things by consciously and willingly working with someone who is terminally ill. The dying woman said to me, "Why do you keep coming? I'm dying and totally helpless. I can't give you anything." I told her that around her the divine connection was so strong that the angels and light beings were visible to me. It was as wonderful to be with her as it was hard. She laughed and laughed. Finally, she said that she thought the things she saw were a dying brain's hallucination and that she was the only one who could see them. I asked her how the vision made her feel. She said "I feel warm, safe, comforted and totally at peace."

I hope when it's my time, I get to die like that. Hopefully, someone held Princess Diana's hand when she saw the angels coming. I couldn't help but shed a few tears listening to the news of her death and do what I can to support and comfort Candy at home. Grief, dying and death are facts of life. We get to learn how as we go along. I hope your life is going well.

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

Hermitage a Year Later

The naked ladies have gone by. So have the iris, the wisteria, the clematis and the hollyhocks, but Dear Love and I are still here. Would that the summer had gone too. I am longing for fall, and dare I say it? Snow!

I love the first snow, especially if it's deep, long and silent like a good kiss. I don't like it much after it's gotten dirty. Till then, I own it, but after some other human has put her prints on it, 'tis just mostly a nuisance that causes more work. And I hate having to walk carefully for months... many in Alaska, few in Missouri.

Last winter, it snowed once in Hermitage. I didn't know it was going to snow only once, or I would have skied to the top of the hilly abandoned county road nearby and skied down and walked up and skied down and walked up and skied down until my blood was running wild and my hips were loose.

My dear love tells me I remember bad weather like women remember the pain of childbirth, that is, not well at all. Otherwise why would they do it again? I have always been prone to optimism even in the face of mostly contradictory evidence. This has gotten me in trouble in the past because when terrible things are happening repeatedly, I make light of it, rationalize it, think it's an aberration.

Knowing this about me, you will believe me when I say I don't like summer in Missouri. Now I know focusing on the negative only makes it grow, so I really shouldn't say this out loud, especially when I have one of those university jobs that last 12 months. There is no way I can escape a Missouri summer and keep living here. And living here is being obstinately hard. Dear Love is now driving 4 hours round-trip to work; I drive 3 hours round-trip. She goes to work at noon; I go to work at 7:30 AM. She has Sunday/Monday off; I have Saturday/Sunday. Guess how much we see each other all week? Now we didn't see each other so much in Dillingham when we both traveled all over Bush Alaska in six-seaters either, but that was one of the reasons we left Alaska. After all, we were both in Dillingham because we couldn't find jobs in Anchorage. Or we were both in Dillingham because the goddess wanted us to be sure and not miss each other. Dear reader, you pick your favorite reason.

Dear Love has been here one year next week; I have been here 11 months. We still aren't unpacked totally, because we still don't have anywhere enough shelving. The low cost of living here gets wiped away fast by commuting. We think it should only take a year to get squared away, get jobs we can tolerate, make friends, get comfortable, but now the year is upon us and none of those things are true yet. What to do? Do you have any ideas? We have kicked around a zillion ideas for home businesses, but by the time we work 60 hours a week, we can hardly keep the litter box clean and the ants out of the house, much less do business and marketing plans.

Lord love a duck! I'm waiting for a burning bush.

The kitties? They are fine. We quit letting them outside for the summer because the deticking routine became a pain in the posterior, and because we kept forgetting to give them their flea medicine and because Bodhi killed a snake. Lucy is real impressed that we have a cat that kills snakes, but I'm not. The other evening, Dear Love and I locked the kittens up because Yaga and Bodhi were hunkered down staring intently underneath the treadmill that serves as a valet. When I bent down, I couldn't see anything underneath, but after locking up the girls, we tipped the treadmill and a clever little mouse had hidden between the belt and the machine. Have you ever tried to herd a mouse? We both herded it all over the house for 15 minutes before we escorted it out the back door. Yaga complained to me the rest of the night, but I explained to her she only got to torture and kill one mouse a day and she'd already had her daily quota. She cared not. I guess most country folk would be thrilled to have four Terminator cats working the mouse holes, but not me.

Some of you might remember Christy N. who moved out of her house in Anchorage because she didn't want to kill the mice. I'm that bad, too; I cry. But Dear Love won't let us move to protect the mice and that's that. Sometimes I need a bossy woman in my life to keep me nestled in reality.

Metamorphoses lie in wait for us. — Genet
Self-Care: Balance in the Everyday World

by Sally Schliesmann

Years ago, I heard a presentation by Joann Loulan, lecturer, sex therapist, comedian. Of the many things I have learned from her over the years, one thing has stayed with me strongly, regarding the issue of being your true self. The essence of her message: the world at large expects me to get up in the morning, brush my teeth, shower, eat breakfast, kiss my honey and the kids, good-bye, drive to work, interact, do good work, come home. One thing the world often doesn't know is that many gay people put their gay selves into the glove box in their cars before they set foot into the everyday world. Then on the way home from work, or school — whew! Finally, quietly, surreptitiously, we might unlock that glove box and slowly let our real selves out back at home. What toll does this take?

Life is not seamless. It is at those seams, those gray areas, where we find good challenges and many chances to choose. When you go to work, do you keep your true self hidden? I'm not speaking only about coming out. I'm including all parts of you in that inquiry. If you do hide yourself, what is it like at work? What is it like when you come home? Does it take a while to unwind, to really get yourself to a place where the real you can connect with your loved ones?

Each day, we face innumerable choices. Will I be out or not? Go to the gym or not? Let my child stay home from school or not? Take that job offer or stay with what's familiar? Eat that ice cream or pass? Mow my neighbor's lawn or watch TV? Decisions. Seams. The seam between outer and inner worlds, between the self the world sees and one's true inner self — that is a precious seam to attend to. If I feel I haven't been fully me eight hours of my day, what do I need to do to help that happen when I get home to loved ones? The challenge is to bring awareness to the transition zones. Between sleeping and waking, what are your first words to yourself? To others? How do you part from your self, home, family, to start your day? How do you greet others outside home? Leaving work and coming home is another important transition. Add to this list other transitions you are aware of.

Here are a few basic, vital steps that can help with any transition zone:

1) Stop, wherever you are, and notice your breath. In. Out. I am breathing in. I am breathing out. Stay aware for three inbreaths and three outbreaths.

2) Bring your attention to what you see around you. Open your eyes. Make note of three things you haven't ever noticed before (oh, I've never seen how bright orange that flower is; oh, I hadn't noticed how tightly my hand was gripping the steering wheel; oh, I just noticed the cat made me smile...).

3) Right this moment, appreciate three qualities about yourself. Right now. No censoring.

Practice these steps. See what happens. You may notice changes and new awarenesses, or not. There is no right or wrong way to begin these basics in self-care. The more you can quiet the breath, slow the mind, the closer you can come to glimpsing your true self. The more awareness you have of true self, the less looming everyday stresses, choices, and decisions can seem. And you may find more openness and enthusiasm for yourself and your loved ones.

Sally Schliesmann, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Anchorage.

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* Formerly LaFerriere
Teen Leader Takes Own Life

by Jeff Dupre and Eliza Byard

In early 1996, the nation learned of a battle being waged by a group of young people in Salt Lake City, Utah. Students at East High School wanted to start a Gay/Straight Alliance to provide a safe haven for teenagers dealing with issues of sexuality and homophobia.

The New York Times and the national news media followed the story as the Utah State Legislature attempted to block Alliance members' efforts by passing a law banning all extra-curricular clubs so as to prevent them from convening. The East High Gay/Straight Alliance persevered, and became a symbol of this generation's determination to make schools places where everyone is respected, regardless of sexual orientation.

This year a young man named Jacob Orozco was to be president of the Gay/Straight Alliance. Instead, Jacob took his own life.

We had the opportunity to meet Jacob last March in Salt Lake City while producing a film, Out of the Past, which documents the Gay/Straight Alliance's struggle and places it in the broader context of the history of gay men and lesbians in the United States.

Jacob stood out as a dynamic, funny and seemingly confident young man. Our camera was drawn to his energy and charm again and again. He was an accomplished athlete, a talented gymnast and an inspiration to the fellow members of the Alliance. His apparent self-assurance made us both reflect on how far the struggle for gay and lesbian liberation has come since our own high-school experiences a mere decade ago.

His death reminds us how much remains to be done. Despite the support of the Gay/Straight Alliance at East High, Jacob had to cope with hearing daily reminders of society's loathing and rejection of gays and lesbians. A recent study indicates that high school students hear anti-gay epithets like "faggot" and "dyke" an average of nearly thirty times a day (Massachusetts Department of Education, 1994). According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in six gay and lesbian teenagers is beaten up so badly during high school that they require medical attention.

When you're seventeen and this is the only reality you've ever known, it can be hard to imagine that things will ever get better. It's no wonder that for kids like Jacob, suicide seems an acceptable alternative. Nationwide, gay and lesbian youth are four times more likely than their straight peers to attempt suicide (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 1989). Every year, too many of them succeed.

As teenagers, both of us needed so desperately to hear that there was the possibility of a good life beyond the fearsome challenge of telling the world we were gay. We were each fortunate enough to have loving families who went through a difficult transition with us and emerged intact, supportive and accepting of who we are. We hope the surviving members of the East High Gay/Straight Alliance get the information, support and love they need to deal with the world as it is, and perhaps to continue fighting to make it a better place.

If only someone could have gotten through to Jacob to tell him that it's worth the struggle. We just wish he could have seen himself the way we saw him — as a vibrant and impressive young man who turned handsprings on a sunny lawn to the applause and admiration of his friends.

Jeff Dupre and Eliza Byard are independent filmmakers in New York. Teenagers who need information, referrals or a chance to talk about these issues can call 1-800-96YOUTH or 1-800-347-TEEN.

So far I've always kept my diet secret but now I might as well tell everyone what it is. Lots of grapefruit throughout the day and plenty of virile young men.

— Angie Dickinson

[Advertisement for Alaska Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program]

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Lesbian Notions

by Paula Martinac

"Lesbian or gay?" a friend of mine mused, hesitating before she checked off a box on a questionnaire. "I don't know anymore... what should I call myself?"

I couldn't answer for her, but for the last eighteen years, I have considered myself a lesbian. Both the identity and the word have felt right to me. "Gay" has always seemed male and a little foreign, the term my family members use for me because it's easier to get out of their mouths than the "L word."

I admit that I squirmed when Ellen DeGeneres told Diane Sawyer that she preferred to be called a "gay woman" because the word "lesbian" sounded like a cult. But even before Ellen publicly dissed "lesbian," a colleague of mine, researching a book project, told me that about ninety percent of the several dozen lesbians she'd interviewed of different ages and in various locations across the country said they preferred to be called gay. "Lesbian sounds like something you have to go to school for," one woman complained.

I know that labels of self-identification change with the times. "Gay woman" (or "gay girl") was the primary choice of the generation before mine. "When Ellen called herself a gay woman, it didn't bother me," Mary Ann Jones, a board member of Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), related at a recent panel. "I came out in the fifties, and I've always identified as a gay woman."

When I came out in the seventies, "lesbian" had eclipsed "gay" as the most commonly used label for a woman-loving woman. Since many women discovered their sexual identities within the feminist movement, they weren't just "lesbians," they were those curiously hyphenated creatures, "lesbian-feminists." The term clearly distinguished them from gay men, with whom they had significant political and social differences and because many of their "brothers" couldn't get past their own sexism.

With the coming of the AIDS crisis, lesbians and gay men worked together more actively to build a co-ed community. The hyphens began to disappear, as did much of lesbian-feminist culture. "Queer," reclaimed in the eighties and early nineties, waxed and waned in activist circles, though it remains current in academic ones.

For me, the recurrence of the "lesbian or gay" question points to the shift further and further right that the country has made over the last few decades. Almost thirty years after Stonewall, the lesbian and gay movement has reached a level of maturity, and with that has come a certain assimilation into the conservative mainstream. "I'm just like you," is the message Ellen is trying hard to put across. In Time magazine, she also distanced herself from the "fringe" elements of the community. I suspect that to Ellen and some other women, the idea of a "gay woman" is "nicer" than the idea of a "lesbian." It's not so in-your-face. It's something you can say to Aunt Pearl, who is more worldly wise than she used to be because she watches Oprah. It doesn't suggest that you're about to tack "feminist," a notoriously dirty word, onto the end of it. And most importantly, it doesn't remind anyone that you're basically a muff-diver at heart.

I don't believe it's in the interest of lesbians to be subsumed under the word "gay" in a society that still devalues women and has routinely made lesbians invisible. How often have you read magazine articles and books that talk about "gay people," but mostly include the experiences of men? How many times have you heard right-wing Christians foam at the mouth, equating "gay sex" with penises and where they're put? And how many "gay organizations," until very recently, have been run primarily by men?

The "lesbian or gay" question reminds me of the debates that occurred in mainstream publishing in the early seventies, when feminist editors like Casey Miller and Kate Swift pushed to change the sexist nature of written English. Centuries of writers had accepted as a given that "man" and "he" included women. Miller and Swift argued persuasively about the sexist assumptions that simple word choices (and omissions) could reveal. But still, a recurring complaint from authors was that "he or she" was too "clumsy" and "congressperson" was just plain "ugly." Sound familiar?

Personally, I think it's a political plus when your self-identification makes people stop and stumble a little. Think of our progress in nomenclature as a community. We've gone from "gay community," to "lesbian and gay," to "lesbian, gay, and bisexual," to my all-time favorite, "lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered." Like "he or she," it takes longer to say, and it's definitely not as convenient as the simple word "gay." But it does suggest difference of identity and experience, and that maybe those differences are okay.

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

by Ken Lovering

I can't remember when I stopped kissing my father.
Or perhaps it wasn't me who stopped kissing him. Perhaps we stopped kissing each other because of that unspoken rule about affection between men that pervades our society. We all know it; it torments me still even as I stare it in the face everyday and loathe it. Male expression of emotion is a sign of weakness and vulnerability. And because males must be strong, we must therefore be stolid.

Whatever the case, those kisses grounded me as a child. They assured me that, though I seldom saw my father, he was devoted and loving.

I can assume we stopped kissing sometime during my adolescence, when I gathered from my peers at school that affection between men was grounds for persecution. It seemed that the leather-clad, steel-toed bullies at McCarthy Junior High School knew I was gay before I did. They would dump my books, leaving me to scramble after them in a crowded corridor. They would accost me after class, calling me a faggot with such violence, enunciating each consonant to give their name-calling its power.

Surely, I probably thought at the time, my father must know that affection between men was just cause for such derision. He must know that men are — and ought to be — far more interested in ogling and conquering babes in the smoke-filled back seats of sedans on boulevards. Men kissing men was outside the realm of possibilities or options.

But the silences of my father and me would come between us. They would prove themselves not as a strength, but as a threat to a relationship that we were both starved for.

A few difficult years after I came out to my family, years in which he and I never spoke about my being gay, we broke through it. It was Christmas Day, and my visit felt obligatory because I was still stewing over a remark my father had made at Thanksgiving. As he had torn a drumstick from the turkey, he had turned to me with a silly look on his face and asked, “Are you a leg-man?” I knew he wasn’t referring to men’s legs.

So resentful was I of his misplaced jest that I never saw it as a fumbled attempt to connect with the son he’d felt so distant from. His joke was couched in heterosexuality; I had become so foreign to him, yet he could still only speak to me in his language.

On Christmas Day I insisted (to myself and to him) that we go for a walk. Throwing on our winter coats, we were out the door before either of us could think about it and, we walked through the neighborhood where I grew up, where I rode my bike to friends’ houses and played hide-and-seek behind trees or tool sheds in groomed backyards.

It wasn’t the cold winter air that was sending my body into quaking convulsions. It was the fact that I was about to confront my father for the first time in my life. And it wasn’t about taking out the trash or buying my first car or even moving out of state without his blessing (all of which we had dealt with in the past). It was about my very being, my essence. I knew that, no matter what the result of our conversation, our relationship would never be the same.

It seemed easy to talk about the “Turkey Incident” to start. I reminded him of it and told him how much it had hurt me. He said he had no idea. He wished I had said something sooner. But we knew the problem was larger than a drumstick. And we were both preparing ourselves for it as we walked at a brisk, nerve-driven pace.

“I have no idea how you feel about me,” I said, choking through my constricted throat. “About my being gay.”

There, I had set something in motion with those words, though I didn’t yet know what. There was no turning back. Though his silence had always suggested disfavor, I needed to hear it. I needed to know where he stood. I said these words too. Or something like them.

He did the best thing he could’ve — for me, for himself, and for our relationship. He told me the absolute truth. He said he would rather I wasn’t gay, but he’d deal with it. He knew he had a lot of learning to do, and we had a lot of learning to do as a family. But, yes, having a gay son is not something one plans for. He said his expectations and perceptions about who I was and who I would become had shifted dramatically when he came out. For him, it was as if he didn’t know who I was anymore — his own son! You’re supposed to know your own son! And he didn’t know what to do. Yes, he would rather I wasn’t gay. But I was. He just hoped I was careful.

A turning point. I finally knew where he stood. I felt gloriously elated.
It's been about six years since that discussion. I think of it now because I was recently out for dinner with my parents. We sat in a suburban Ground Round and talked about Ellen DeGeneres. My mother said, "I've just never liked her show and I really don't like her, so I couldn't see watching it just because she's a lesbian now."

"She was always a lesbian, Mom," I said.

"Oh I know," she said. "But I did watch her on Oprah with her girlfriend. I didn't like her girlfriend. She was too New Age for me." My father was listening intently. He'd heard all this before, no doubt, but he was happy to hear it again.

"We were out for dinner on the night of her coming-out episode," she said, "and your father looked at his watch and he said, 'Gotta go. Ellen's on!'"

And we laughed, the three of us. About Ellen and her supermarket dream, and about other silly trivial things that weaved their way into our flowing conversation. I felt that we were laughing for who we had become and for how we had all grown. And as I left my parents to return home to my husband, Paul, I embraced my father and — as I had come to do lately — I kissed him.

An Important New Book on Lesbian and Gay Young People

by Brian Callaghan

In mid-October, William Morrow & Co. will publish The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Young People. The book, and the traveling exhibit that inspired it, feature compelling photographs of lesbian, gay and bisexual youths and powerful first-person accounts about the challenges of growing up gay. The goal of The Shared Heart is to let gay young people know they are not alone, and to better educate teachers, parents and fellow students about the issues present for those growing up lesbian or gay.

The young people featured in The Shared Heart come from a diverse range of racial, economic and family backgrounds. They are class presidents, athletes, artists, students and siblings. The book will help other lesbian and gay youths navigate through adolescence, letting them know they are not alone, and that the future holds opportunities for love and understanding. The Shared Heart also will educate parents, teachers and fellow students about the need for tolerance and acceptance.

The Shared Heart will be officially launched at an event sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC in conjunction with National Coming Out Day, October 11.

Brian Callaghan, <BrianDPR@aol.com>
Climbing Lessons

by Jen Kohout

The fingers of my left hand are locked around a rough protrusion in the rock. Fingernails dig into the wet earth. My right hand is searching for a solid hold as the ledge beneath my feet starts to give way. I fall into the mountainside and start to slide downward. Chest and knees scrape against the rock. My heart is pounding. At the last second, my free hand grasps a rust colored spike of mountain off to the right. I swing my weight over and hang suspended momentarily. Suddenly, I hear a sickening crunch and feel the rock break off into my hand. "Darn Chugach crud," I swear as my feet hit the ground a half foot under the ledge I was once standing on.

My hiking companion, Mary, looks down from her vantage point 50 feet up the trail and laughs as I dust the dirt off my chest and knees. "Why don't you try the left side?" she offers.

Having now lost all momentum and a bit of face, I decide a water break is in order. Maybe even a stale chocolate Power Bar. It's a beautiful day, which in Southcentral Alaska means it isn't raining. The scenery almost always makes up for even the most threatening of gray skies. Today, however, the sky is blue. A deep royal blue. The color my three year old neighbor picks from his crayon box when illustrating the sky in every one of his elaborate nature scenes. The color of my ex-partner's eyes (or at least how I remember them now, two years later).

The few white clouds that float by add character to the view. They also inspire me to untie the long-sleeve polypro shirt from around my naked waist and pull it back over my head. I've gone from bra to full fleece regalia at least twice today and I expect more clothes changes jog before the day is finished. After seven years of practice, I may still be a klutz while scrambling up rocks but I've got the clothing down.

"Cotton kills," my hiking friend Mary would remind me only half jokingly. And I, normally irreverent to even the most basic fashion rules, paid attention. My Wilderness Skills instructor had succeeded in making the message home one class session when she brought in a stack of articles she'd collected from the Anchorage Daily News about local hikers who had worn the wrong clothes. They'd ended up wet and cold and eventually dead. Seeing as my comfort zone did not include life-threatening recreational activities, I took the advice rather seriously. Went to the Salvation Army Thrift Store the next day and bought myself some scratchy wool shirts.

Since that first summer in Alaska, I now possess a closet full of fancy synthetic outdoor clothing and a wider comfort zone. A credit to seven years of experience backpacking, paddling, and biking around the wilds of Alaska. And to Kathryn, more, accurately, to her departure.

In my prior life, I lived in Washington, DC. on a tree-lined street near Catholic University in a sturdy three bedroom house built in 1932. In the summer, I would sit outside on the porch next to Kathryn, nursing a Rolling Rock in the humid night air while I listened to the cicadas and to the gun shots two blocks away for Rhode Island Avenue. The summer I left, the elderly Asian proprietor of the neighborhood convenience store around the corner was shot and killed as he closed down for the evening. Like breathing urban smog day after day, after awhile you become oblivious. I never knew the depth of my fear.

Until I left. I arrived in Anchorage on August 30, 1991, having accepted a one-year position with a local judge. I hadn't met him or even seen the place but I was an Air Force brat who figured I could live anywhere for a year. One day soon after I arrived I was returning home after a long morning run when I suddenly realized that I had been outside for over an hour and hadn't once wondered if someone would jump out of the woods and attack me. A possibility that I had carried with me on every run I'd ever taken in the District. I felt as if a huge weight had lifted off my shoulders. A weight that had grown so insidiously that I hadn't really realized how much energy it had consumed until it was no longer there.

Not that I viewed Alaska as some kind of benevolent McDonald's Playland. The scenic beauty of Alaska could take my breath away but the natural environment was also harsh and unforgiving. Nature doesn't suffer fools — or even well intentioned beginners. So I stuck fairly close to home. Picked hikes suitable for "families with small children" according to the local guide books. And tried to laugh away my nervousness anytime Kathryn and I left the city limits.

Jen Kohout suspects that there will be more to this story but she has another month to work it out.

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Deep Inside Hollywood

“Ellen” Loses Gay Friends

As expected, there are going to be a few changes in Ellen Morgan’s life when Ellen returns to ABC this fall. The most significant change will be the loss of the show’s gay couple, Barrett and Peter (played by Jack Plotnick and Patrick Bristow, respectively). Bristow has been cast in his own series this fall on the UPN network entitled Head Over Heels. In the new series, Bristow is a gay man named Ian who runs a dating service in fashionable South Beach, Florida. Like Tony Randall’s character in the early-1980s series Love, Sidney, Ian has chosen to live a celibate life, a decision which should make life easier for UPN executives in the wake of the recent Disney boycotts. Plotnick, Bristow’s charming (and usually silent) boyfriend on “Ellen” was busy last season on MTV’s sketch-comedy showcase The Jenny McCarthy Show. With McCarthy moving to her own prime-time series this fall, Plotnick has been busy acting in the feature film Gods And Monsters (opposite stars Sir Ian McKellan and Brendan Fraser). He also has a big role in the Carrot Top movie due in theaters later this year. Bristow will be back for a few episodes of Ellen this season, and Plotnick told me that he may also be back for an episode or two. Whatever direction the show takes this season, the exposure for both Bristow and Plotnick has nonetheless been useful in developing even better lives beyond Ellen.

The NEA Battle Continues

Michelle Handelman is very unhappy about the recent exposure her documentary BloodSisters has received. In an effort to damage the reputation of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), the conservative American Family Association (AFA) sent clips of BloodSisters and Barbara Hammer’s Nitrate Kisses on videotape to every member of Congress. Both lesbian-themed films were NEA-funded and contain explicit material. The AFA presented scenes from the films out of context in an effort to get the NEA funding canceled during the recent budget battle. Women Make Movies and Canyon Cinema, the independent companies that distributed the two films lost their NEA funding earlier this year due to the controversial nature of the films they represent. The NEA has been under nearly constant attack for years, though this latest tactic has only increased the tension for government-funded artists. Handelman has called the unauthorized edits “cultural rape” and even likened it to the Nazis in Germany. In a statement following the tape distribution, Handelman said, “It’s important to keep fighting because there’s a lot more at stake than just freedom of cultural expression... the strength of a fighting minority is a much greater threat to the status quo than an image of a nude body.” Ironically, while the controversy has put the NEA in jeopardy in Congress, it has sparked interest in the films. Both of them have received new attention from the press and the public, which should help to get more theaters to show the films and more people to see them.

Still Life For Monette

Author Paul Monette’s death two years ago may have ended a great literary career, but his spirit lives on in the moving documentary Paul Monette: The Brink Of Summer’s End. The film is a terrific examination of the man and a wonderful introduction to his work — especially for those who are unfamiliar with his writings. His fans will also find great joy in seeing Monette full of life once again. Originally planning to make a documentary that profiled several gay people, director Monte Bramer and producer Lesli Klainberg changed their minds after meeting Monette. “It was a magical three hours,” Bramer told me of this initial meeting. “We knew then that here was a subject of a major documentary.” Bramer and Klainberg quickly drew up an outline for the film and sent it to Monette who responded: “I’ve read your proposal and I have decided to accept the part.” None of them realized in that moment just how much work they had committed themselves to, least of all Monette. After just two weeks of shooting, which included Bramer making an impromptu weekend trip to Paris for filming, Monette asked, “You have all you need, right?” Despite Bramer and Klainberg having full-time jobs, filming continued on and off for the next two and half years until Monette died of complications from AIDS. More than two years later, it was still being edited and refined. “We made this film one dollar at a time,” Klainberg told me, adding that Cinemax’s purchase of the film rights allowed them to finish it late last year. The documentary was a big hit at the Sundance Film Festival this past winter, picking up the coveted audience award for a documentary. Summer’s End will air on Cinemax this month, and will be released to selected theaters this November by First Look Pictures.

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

“What a commentary on our civilization, when being alone is considered suspect; when one has to apologize for it, make excuses, hide the fact that one practices it — like a secret vice.”

— Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Sylvia L. Short
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Anchorage, Alaska 99503
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HelpLine Training

by Candy Bonham

My parents are people of principle, unusual people for this time. What they taught me: a strong work ethic, practice what you preach, finish what you start, keep your word, follow through when you make a commitment. My parents taught by example and it's taken me a long time to realize and appreciate what they have given me. I went home to Montana in August to see my parents and meet my 5 year old great nephew. When I went, I didn't know my dad was dying of cancer and at the writing of this article, my mom informs me that the doctors don't give him more than a week or two at the most.

So, you say, what does this have to do with HelpLine training. A week after I came home, I held a HelpLine training. I had made announcements at potlucks and had written articles about the great need for volunteers to answer the HelpLine. Of all the people who signed up for the training, three people showed. Pitiful showing, but better than last time when only one person showed up. I didn't necessarily want to be there either, I had other things on my mind. Being the HelpLine coordinator, I have a commitment and I have a responsibility. I've been excited about the possibilities for the HelpLine, now that we have some money to do some things. This month we'll have an in-state 800 number and we're in the process of looking into advertising the HelpLine on theater screens in Anchorage and possibly around the state. The problem is having only 22 volunteers covering 30 to 31 days a month and they get tired and burned out, I get tired and burned out; I get tired and burned out.

This is your HelpLine. I'm sure religious conservatives would love to see the HelpLine go down the tubes. The training is 2 hours and then, ideally, one night a month from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the comfort of your own home. I don't know what else to say to you. The next HelpLine training is Sunday, October 26 at 5:00 p.m. I know you're busy people, we're all busy people. I'm asking for your help. If you're interested in being a part of the HelpLine, call me at 337-2011 and sign up. After you sign up, show up for the training.
The Amazon Trail

Baggage

Life was so simple when I came into the world. It was
the only trip I ever took without baggage. I didn't own a
thing and, more important, I didn't give a hoot.

What's happened? How have I turned into a turtle
which needs the security of my patchwork shell of para-
phernalia to survive?

Packing to move was a revelation. Unpack-
ing is even more disturbing. I keep telling
Lover I want to keep it simple, but can I bear
to part with this shirt, that book? Just how
many blankets/towels/washcloths/table-
cloths/napkins/platters/mugs/rugs/jugs does
one materialistic American dyke need? All of
them, by golly.

How can I throw out a mug from my first
Living Sober conference in San Francisco? And
how can I get rid of the bird rug even if we
have no wall space to hang or lay it? No! I
can't part with that hideous peeling bookcase.
It's unique. Are you kidding? What would I do
without my old gray Sauconys. Sure, they
don't fit, but...

What, after all, are attics and basements
for? I can hear Lover at this very moment
heaving and hauling old furniture and boxes
of beach rocks around in the basement.

"Do we need five boxes of styrofoam peanuts?" she didn't ask last night as she built a
leaning tower of packing-material-we-might-need-some-
day-and-besides-it's-not-ecological-to-throw-it-out.

Not only am I weighed down by the enormous quantity
of unnecessary possessions I've gathered in the past 52
years, they add weight with worry. Back in the valley I
packed photographs and manuscripts every summer to
get ready for the lightning strike that would start the for-
est fire that would engulf our home within seconds.
Now it's the river across the street that bedevils me.

My family never had much in the way of heirlooms,
but when my mother gives me some trinket that belonged
to her mother or gadget that brings back the essence of

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Lee Lynch's newest
book, edited with Akila
Woods, is titled Off The
Rag, Lesbians Write
About Menopause from
New Victoria Publishers.

my father — what can I do? I can perch only so many on
bookshelves and the rest go into newspaper nests (gotta
save those peanuts for the right occasions) and boxes in
the attic.

These legacies are probably the worst offenders. As my
mother ages she's jettisoning what she's trea-
sured through her life. I feel a responsibility

See more of this story in the Sept
issue of NorthView.

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My Queer Life

Adult Education

I did something recently that proves just how far I’ve fallen: I became an adult education student.

Time was when I looked upon people who took adult education classes as a hopeless breed of, well, completely pathetic losers with nothing else to do but make feeble attempts at learning French or spend six weeks sculpting unidentifiable objects from clay. When the catalog came from the local Adult Education Center, I tossed it aside derisively, annoyed that anyone might think that I had the slightest interest in exploring my dreams through yoga.

A few weeks ago, however, I reached an impassable point in the novel I was working on. Taking a break, I sat down and began leafing through the catalog. I thought that just looking at the number of So-You-Want-To-Get-Published courses would put the fear of adult ed into me and get me back to work.

I got stuck in the cooking section. Perhaps the pressure of writing full-time finally got to me, but suddenly a cooking class seemed potentially amusing. I pictured myself whipping up fantastic dinners for all of my witty friends, where we would sit around saying very funny things that would have everyone rolling on the floor.

I decided on Sushi. It seemed exotic, and not at all pathetic. Besides, it met only once. How bad could it be?

The night of the class, I dutifully arrived at the Center, found the correct room, and went in. Sitting around a table were seven other people sporting nametags with their names on them — Trevor/Sushi, Mitzi/Sushi, Shaniqua/Sushi, and so on. I took a seat next to Sasha/Sushi because I liked the sound of her name. Sasha/Sushi was at least sixty-seven years old. She had an enormous quantity of white hair, which she wore in two long braids.

“Hi,” I said, trying to be friendly. “I like your necklace.”

“Thanks,” she said brightly. “I made it in my last class — Body as Art. It’s a replica of my vagina in bronze.”

I stared at her, not knowing what one was supposed to say when forced to comment on a new acquaintance’s privates. “Well,” I said finally. “It’s certainly shiny.”

I was saved from further conversation by the arrival of the instructor. I was a little surprised to see that he was about as Japanese as I am — which is not at all. “Good evening,” he said. “My name is Morty Rosenblum.”

Morty began by introducing us to the various pieces of equipment we would need to make flawless sushi, the names of which I wrote on the back of an envelope I found in my backpack. The other students diligently wrote everything down in little notebooks.

We then were instructed in the centuries-old art of making sushi rice. Lucky for those of us without several decades to spend stirring and paddling, Morty suggested that Uncle Ben’s with a splash of vinegar would do just fine, thus saving us years of toil and resulting in perfect rice in ten minutes every time.

We then moved on to the real star of the class — raw fish. Morty produced a nice length of fresh tuna and proceeded to show us how to slice it up into tender morsels. He then presented us each with a small piece of our own and told us to go to it. I watched as Sasha/Sushi picked up her knife and quickly turned her tuna into five glistening pieces of equal thickness and length.

Spurred on by her success, I tackled my piece of tuna. Ten minutes later, I had one ragged-looking rectangle of fish and a pile of scraps. Undaunted, I reached into the rice bowl and pulled out a fistful. This I turned into a

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blob reminiscent of my first encounters with Play-Doh in kindergarten. I dumped my fish pieces on top and stared at it hopefully.

“Maybe it will look better with some pickled ginger on it,” Sasha/Sushi said, her vagina tinkling against her chest.

I had even worse luck with rolled sushi. Try as I might, my pieces of seaweed refused to cooperate, and my rolls ended up looking like amputated limbs from a leprous sea creature. Sasha/Sushi peered over her pyramid of perfectly-rolled pieces and gave me a sympathetic smile.

My adventure into adult ed was beginning to wear on me. Everyone else seemed to be having a good time, slicing up Yellowtail and rolling bits of eel into fantastical shapes. Their knives flew, their bamboo mats whispered, and out came sushi fit for even the most discriminating gourmand. Mine just sat there, waiting to die.

My last chance came with hand rolls. Essentially, this is a sushi ice cream cone. You simply roll up a piece of seaweed, drop some rice and fish into it, and there you are. Foolproof. I was determined to make one. Looking out of the corner of my eye to see what Sasha/Sushi was doing, I snatched up my seaweed, formed a cone, and filled it slowly with its fish contents. When I was done, I laid it on the plate and gazed upon it with pride.

Approximately three seconds later, it fell apart. The rice spilled out in an avalanche, the fish slipping down it like some fleshy sled gone out of control. It coated to a stop at the side of the plate next to the lumpy blob of horseradish paste I’d stuck there. I wanted to cry.

Morty walked around the classroom, observing our accomplishments. He gave each student little pieces of advice to think about the next time she or he delighted in the art of sushi. When he came to me, he looked at the pile of rice and fish on my plate and patted me on the back. “I hear two stepping is fun,” he said consolingly.

Sasha/Sushi offered me a ride home on the back of her moped, but I declined. I was an adult education failure. All I had to show for my efforts was an envelope with lists of arcane Japanese sushi terms and a fish stain on it. I went home, turned on my computer, and looked at my novel. I was on page 173, and still hadn’t broken through the barrier that had caused my initial foray into the realm of ongoing learning.

I typed for a while, but with no success. The story just wouldn’t come. Glancing over at the desk, I saw the course catalog lying there. I’d left it next to the phone. I picked it up and turned to the writing classes.

### Miami Herald Says “Yes” to Gay Adoptions

Coming on the heels of balanced and fair Cunanan coverage, the *Miami Herald* continued to display a depth and appreciation for issues of sexual orientation in an August 15 editorial advocating the rights of gay people seeking to adopt. “Denying gay people the right to be considered as adoptive parents is silly and just plain wrong,” the editors say, “All that is on the table is the right to be considered as individuals, not as part of an arbitrary human category. That’s all courts should extend to gay people seeking to adopt children. That’s all the law gives anyone else,” they continue. “Every Floridian now has the right to petition for an adoption except for homosexual people who truthfully answer the intrusive question about their sexual orientation. Only Florida and New Hampshire have statutory bans; Florida’s was passed in 1977 at the height of an emotional campaign against gay people.” Finally the editorial states, “No one would expect the courts to grant adoptions to people, homosexual or heterosexual, who flaunt their sexual practices in front of children. What [reform] is being sought is simply the right to be considered on one’s merits as a parent.”

Please let the *Miami Herald* know how much such an intelligent and clear-headed editorial is appreciated. Contact: Saudra Keyes, Managing Editor, Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132, fax: 305.527.8955, e-mail <heraldedit@aol.com>.
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
NEW YORK, NY — The only national organization specifically dedicated to addressing lesbian and gay issues in K-12 schools has adopted a new name to more accurately reflect the organization’s mission and membership. In a unanimous vote, the Executive Committee of the former GLSTN (the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network) has voted to adopt the new name GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network), culminating a six-month process involving market research, staff and board meetings, and input from the organization's members and chapter leaders.

“The goal of our name change is to encourage all members of the community to join teachers and school administrators to work together to make our schools open and affirming communities that nurture gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth,” said Charley Todd, GLSEN’s Board President and a school principal from Hartford, Connecticut. “Our former name suggested that only teachers should be members, which was not only inaccurate but counterproductive since — if we galvanize only teachers — we can never fulfill our mission.”

[Adopted in 1994, the organization's mission is “to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation.”] Todd concluded, “The new name maintains some continuity with our past (it is still pronounced “glisten”) while allowing us to more fully embrace those whose support we need to achieve our long-term goals.

GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings added, “From the start, our mission has been clear, and our name has confused people. I am glad that they are better aligned, emphasizing that — while teachers are GLSEN’s core — we must involve others if we are to change what happens in the nation’s education system.” Numerous chapter leaders and members have applauded the name change as welcoming more allies to join in their work. Edda Gimino, co-chair of GLSEN/Miami, said, “I predict a huge expansion for our organization both locally and nationally from this.”

With over sixty chapters, and a membership of over five thousand teachers, parents, and concerned citizens, GLSEN is the only national organization working to ensure that schools are places where all people are valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation.

The local affiliated chapter, GLSTN Alaska, will continue to use the old name until it goes through the complex process of making a change.

For more information, visit our web site at <http://www.glsen.org> or call Kevin Jennings, GLSEN Executive Director, 212-727-0135 ext. 113.

The right diet directs sexual energy into the parts that matter. — Barbara Cartland
NGLTF Brings Waves of Change to San Diego

NGLTF Press Release

Washington, DC – The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is sponsoring the 10th annual Creating Changes, a national conference for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement. This year's event will be held November 12-16 in San Diego and will feature over 120 workshops and small group networking sessions designed to enhance the confidence and skills of activists and organizers who work at the local and state level. The Conference is funded in part by a grant from the Gill Foundation.

Conference keynote speakers are Sheila James Kuehl, the first woman and the first lesbian to be named Speaker Pro Tem of the California Assembly; Martin Ornelas-Quintero, Executive Director of the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO); Roland Siobans Coloma, a former NGLTF Youth Institute graduate and a Filipino bisexual public school teacher; and Dorothy Allison, author of Bastard Out of Carolina and the forthcoming Gavedweller. She will deliver the Second Annual Vito Russo Lecture on Art and Politics. A special guest at this year's conference is Carole Migden, Appropriations Chair of the California State Assembly. Pre-conference Institutes to be held include People of Color Organizing, Race is the Issue, Youth Organizing, Media Skills and Leaders are Made, Not Born.

Workshop topics for 1997 include sodomy laws, marriage, fundraising, people of faith, gender identity, youth organizing, anti-violence, public speaking, workplace organizing, campus organizing and media advocacy. There will also be roundtable discussions with movement leaders on hot topics and trends.

"Creating Change has been the political hothouse of our movement for the past ten years," said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director. "It has been the incubator of countless projects, campaigns, strategies and initiatives that help to bring our movement into the 21st century."

For more information about Creating Change visit the NGLTF website at <http://www.ngltf.org/cc97> or call 202-332-6483 ext. 3329.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

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 Fairy; why not bring a couple of cans or boxes of food with you.

Date: Friday, September 26

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 Turnagain Street

Program: Gay Games in Amsterdam with Darl Schaaff.
British Minister Comes Out

LONDON (Reuters) — A government minister has become the first British member of parliament to come out publicly as a lesbian.

Junior environment minister Angela Eagle, 36, said she felt the time was right to be open about her sexuality. "I have a long-term and very happy relationship," Eagle said in an interview with The Independent newspaper. "I happen to be with a woman." An admission of lesbianism might have been expected to be politically damaging in Britain, where politicians' sex lives are expected to be beyond reproach. But Eagle said she had received huge support from her family and from the leadership of the ruling Labor Party.

"To be honest I didn't expect anything else," Eagle said. "Attitudes have changed... I think people are a lot more sensible than we give them credit for. "I think I've only been able to cope with that because I have a very understanding family. My sister, my brother and my father, all of whom are heterosexual, have always supported me."

Eagle's twin sister Maria is also a member of parliament.

Eagle, elected to parliament in 1992, said she had decided to come out openly as a lesbian to deal with it herself and "to get a handle on this job and to make sure I can do it properly." "Now I am at the stage where I just need to get things sorted so I can just concentrate on my work."

Eagle does not intend to bring her girlfriend, whom she did not identify in the interview, to official functions. "My partner is actually very busy with her own life," Eagle said.

Prime Minister Tony Blair was seen as being anxious to remove the public stigma of homosexuality when he appointed Chris Smith, who is openly gay, to the cabinet post of Culture Secretary.
Fairbanksan

Further North in the Heart of Alaska

So hard to believe that it's time to put away the warm weather outdoor playthings and get ready for the Pride Conference; at least the northern lights are back now to keep us company through the upcoming winter.

Q NET AK

The Fairbanks Community Website has now been on-line for better than a year, offering a calendar of events and various links. Join the mailing list if you wish to be updated via e-mail of events and happenings. Q Net Local is for events and happenings only, while Q Net World also includes articles of interest to the community. E-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com> to sign up, and visit the site <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> where there is an on-line registration form for the Pride Conference. Just print it, fill it out and send it in.

PFLAG FAIRBANKS

August Meeting. Nine people enjoyed a great cup of coffee and the cozy meeting room at Into the Woods Bookshop/Coffeehouse. We will continue meeting there the 3rd Sunday of the month from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Look for PFLAG literature, books, and videos for checkout, rental, or purchase at the bookshop located at the University end of College Road.

Labor Day in Fairbanks

Too few people were in town for the Labor Day Parade although it was agreed that it would be appropriate for PFLAG Fairbanks to march in the parade. President Nancy Kalling passed out PFLAG National's summary and perspective on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1997. Job discrimination protection is needed! In all but 11 states, a person can be fired from a job simply on the basis of sexual orientation or supporting gay friends and family. (CA, CT, HI, MA, ME, MN, NH, NJ, RI, VT, WI, & DC have laws which prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.)

“Love in Action” Video

We had a look at PFLAG's 15-year journey in this inspiring 20 minute video showing how far we've come in such a short period of time: from a few angry mothers to 70,000 members and a national staff of 16 doing PFLAG work of support, education, and advocacy in both person to person ways and testifying in national committee hearings.

Dates to Remember

September: Open Door YouthLine begins!!

Saturday, September 10, 6:00 p.m., Gay & Lesbian Chorus begins at Into the Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse

Sunday, September 21, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., PFLAG meeting at Into the Woods Bookshop/Coffeehouse

September 29, Seminar, Searching for Common Ground, with religious groups postponed until late February or early March.

October 15 to 17, Beth Reis, head of the Safe Schools Program in the Seattle area and a dynamic speaker will be in Fairbanks encouraging safe schools for all youth in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

October 19, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., annual PFLAG meeting with election of officers and potluck.

Into the Woods Bookshop and Coffeehouse

This book shop at 3560 College Road is the site of many a happening. This month’s highlights are: Jeff Benowitz’ Alpine Slideshow on the 11th focusing on climbing the south-east spur of Mt. Hunter this year; Wednesday the 11th starts the Alaska Boreal Forest Council's Brown Bag Luncheons to be held every Wednesday between noon and 1:00 p.m. The 19th features Carolyn Winters' intro to Reiki Healing at 7:00 p.m. and PFLAG Fairbanks holds monthly meeting on Sunday the 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Other activities are on-going, such as Thursday night French Club. Call 479-7701 for details or to plan an event. The bookshop remains open until midnight every night; 3:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Interior Aids Association

IAA is pleased to announce that the Open Door Youthline is now up and functional. Friday and Saturday 9:00 p.m. until midnight at 456-GLBY, providing anonymous support and referrals for youth of all walks of life.

Free anonymous HIV testing at the Palace on Saturday, September 27 after the show.

Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association

AGLA and KSUA are planning a dance party September 19 at 10:00 p.m. across from the armory on First Avenue. For more information, call 907-455-7352, or E-mail <hagla@aurora.alaska.edu>. Call also about meeting times this semester.

Fairbanks Gay and Lesbian Chorus

The Fairbanks Gay and Lesbian Chorus is meeting at Into the Woods Bookstore and Coffeehouse. Connie and the folks there are happy to have us, so... this will be our regular meeting place. We hope to discuss a name for the chorus, music we would like to perform and plan for our first performance February 14, a benefit for IAA. We might even do some singing just for the fun of it. This is a friendly group of non-judgmental people. There will be no auditions, so not to worry. If you like to sing, even if you have never performed before, come join us. For information on meeting times contact <Liz Fairchild_l_fairchild@hotmail.com> or 458-8176.
Dan Woog in Anchorage
by Fred Hillman

As a soccer coach, teacher and author, Dan Woog was in his own closet for many years, hiding his homosexuality from students, athletes, colleagues and readers. That dishonesty made him, he says, “a poor role model, a dishonest writer, and a not very happy human being.” Now he is an activist who speaks nationally on gay issues, and his books and articles celebrate the power of openness and the many positive aspects of gay and lesbian life.

Dan Woog has a message for everyone, not only for educators and athletes, but also for all people, gay or nongay, parents or not. He will be in Anchorage the weekend of October 11-13, giving a workshop on Saturday, Oct. 11, and a public lecture on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the Wilda Marston Theater. For details, see the flyer insert in this issue of NorthView. The public lecture is free. Registration is required for the workshop and is limited, so register early!

Woog is the author of five books, including Woog’s World: The Book, a collection of his most popular newspaper columns. His book, School’s Out: The Impact of Gay and Lesbian Issues on America’s Schools (Alyson Publications), examines that complex and highly charged issue through the eyes of teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, librarians, parents and students. His next book, Jocks: True Stories of America’s Gay Male Athletes (Alyson), set for release this fall, shines a light on one of society’s last remaining closets: the sports locker room.

Woog’s articles and essays have appeared in the New York Times, Sports Illustrated and USA Today. He has addressed audiences as diverse as the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (where he was Youth Coach of the Year in 1991), the Brown University Commencement Forum (his alma mater, during his 20th reunion) and the Northeast Bar Association.

Pharr Talks at GLSEN Meeting
by Fred Hillman

The first Western Regional conference of GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (formerly GLSTN) was held in Seattle recently. A keynote speaker was Suzanne Pharr, noted feminist and author of Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism, a classic in the history of gay liberation. She has recently published another book, In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation, in which she expands her argument.

Pharr looks at America and sees many wrongs: cities being destroyed; children with basic needs unmet; young people unable to own homes and raise families; dramatic disparity between the rich and working poor; rampant consumerism; violence against women and children; divisions based on race, gender, religion, and sexual identity; and people searching for answers, usually simplistic ones, in the realms of religion and morality.

Pharr’s message is a call for solidarity among all the many segments of society in America which theocratic right-wing forces are attempting to marginalize: women, non-whites, the poor, labor, the aged, the young, and especially gays and lesbians. Simply put, her charge is that heterosexual, white, capitalist men, mostly, are exploiting issues of race, class, family, welfare, education, crime, and violence in order to gain control and wealth. A matter of crucial importance to queer people, they are using homosexuality to move the agenda of control, by promoting the myths that sexual orientation is a choice and the children are vulnerable to homosexual predators. Gays and lesbians, along with non-whites, are demonized, dehumanized, and are prevented from having contact with children. As a result, schools are “boot camps for bigotry.” Pharr sees youth as being the cutting edge for change in social issues; schools as the battleground for democracy versus fascism; and teachers as the first line of defense. Her ideals are social justice, racial justice, and nonviolence—a society where everyone is treated with dignity and where everyone has full civil rights.

Identity has a Toll-Free Phone Number!

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Let us hear from you!! Your calls are important!! Identity can help!!
Past Out

What was the Wolfenden Report?

Before the modern gay-rights movement, the three traditional ways of understanding homosexuality were as sin, sickness, or crime. This fall marks the 40th anniversary of a key step in undermining the “crime” approach, with the release of the Wolfenden Report in Great Britain.

In the early 1950s, British headlines were filled with scandals relating to homosexuality. Several noted public figures, including a prominent politician, a famous actor, and a respected journalist, were arrested and tried for homosexual offenses. These scandals led to increasing public discussion, and for the first time in British history legal issues relating to homosexuality were openly debated in the House of Lords. The British government decided to appoint a commission to explore legal issues relating to homosexuality and prostitution. To chair the commission, the government tapped Sir John Wolfenden, the vice-chancellor of Reading University. One of Wolfenden’s qualifications was his admission that he knew nothing of the subject at hand — and therefore could be an impartial leader of the inquiry.

Although the Wolfenden Committee also addressed prostitution (and ultimately advocated harsher penalties for street prostitutes), from the start the focus of the Committee and the public debate surrounding their report was on male homosexuality. The committee (which included politicians, ministers, aristocrats and a judge) met more than 60 times, taking testimony from 200 witnesses before issuing its report on September 4, 1957.

The report's conclusions depended on its assumption that the law exists to preserve public order and decency and to protect the weak (and especially children) from exploitation. The Wolfenden Committee said it did not feel that the law should “concern itself with what a man does in private unless it can be shown to be so contrary to the public good that the law ought to intervene in its function as the guardian of the public good.”

The report then examined the three common objections to reforming laws that would criminalize any male-male sexual act: that such an act “menaces the health of society”; that “it has damaging effects on family life”; and that “a man who indulges in these practices with another man may turn his attention to boys.”

One by one the report debunked these objections. It asserted that there was no evidence to support the view that homosexuality causes the decay of civilizations. It pointed out that “adultery, fornication, and lesbian behavior” are equally threatening to family life and yet were not criminalized. Finally, it suggested that law reform would actually serve to protect minors, as some men who would prefer adult partners may instead have been turning to boys because they felt safer from the threat of blackmail or prosecution.

The Wolfenden Report explicitly outlined a program for the reform of laws that criminalized male homosexual acts. It advocated legalizing consensual sex between adult males (defined as those older than 21), loosening penalties for sex with those under 21, and shortening the statute of limitations for homosexual acts between adults and those under 21 to one year.

Many British gays and lesbians were disappointed at the focus on 21 as the legal age, since lesbian and heterosexual acts were legal at age 16. Nonetheless, they welcomed the report and the promise of greater sexual freedom.

Most of Britain's newspapers also treated the release of the Wolfenden Report favorably, but a public opinion poll showed 47 percent of the public opposed to the report's conclusions, with only 38 percent supporting law reform. Nonetheless, the Wolfenden Report sparked a debate both within legal circles and the wider society about homosexuality and crime in general that ultimately brought about sweeping change.

Some of these changes showed up quite soon after the report's release. For example, in the late 1950s, the British government lifted its ban on theatrical and cinematic portrayals of homosexuality. The plays and films that followed furthered the dissemination of liberal ideas about gays and lesbians.

The Wolfenden report had repercussions in North America as well, as it was frequently cited by homophile and later gay liberation organizations as evidence that a civilized society doesn't criminalize gay sex.

In Britain itself, though, the Wolfenden Report carried no force of law, and the ultimate reform of the anti-gay laws it addressed would take a full decade. In the 10 years between the release of the report and the Sexual Offences Act of 1967, gay and lesbian activists and their heterosexual allies campaigned in all sectors of society for more acceptance of homosexuality. Indeed, public opinion had shifted markedly by 1967 when Parliament voted to decriminalize private adult homosexual acts in England and Wales (Scottish and Northern Irish gay men still faced criminal sanctions into the 1980s).

The age of consent for gay male sex remained 21 until 1984, when it was lowered to 18. Currently, Britain is under pressure from the European Commission to lower the age to 16, and Labor Prime Minister Tony Blair recently signaled his intention to allow a free vote on the matter in the House of Commons.
Imperial Court of All Alaska

The People's Court of Horns and Thorns

In keeping with the last reign, we wish to continue with the monthly court letters in NorthView.

Coronation '97 was a great success, with many Courts attending, from as far away as Connecticut, Texas and Hawaii. The events surrounding Coronation were very well received and all visitors had a good dose of Alaskan hospitality. Congratulations Jerry and Salmon Ella!

The first planning meeting of the Court of Horns and Thorns took place on Monday, September 8. We have many events planned throughout the coming year, some regular events and many new events we hope you will attend and enjoy. All events will be promoted early and be listed both in the NorthView and on the Court calendar available at the usual stores around town, plus in Fairbanks and Juneau. A web page is currently being set up on the Internet and should be operational in the coming weeks.

Our first official event will be Investitures for the People's Court Of All Alaska, The Court of Horns and Thorns, to be held at The Wave, Saturday, November 1. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., investitures will start promptly at 7:00. The theme is "A Night at the Round Table". Costumes are encouraged, with a medieval flavor.

We are both proud to be elected as the Twenty Fifth Emperor and Empress of All Alaska, and we thank everyone who took the time and effort to vote in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks. We look forward to working with you, for you and for the lesbian and gay community in state and as ambassadors for our community when travelling. Our next column will be more lengthy and informative as this is our first and we have only just stepped up. We are still recovering from Coronation '97 and getting used to being the reigning Emperor and Empress.

Once again, we both thank you for your support and look forward to a busy, fun and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

Mikey LaChoy
Denali Sterling Silver Ram Emperor XXV

Rosie Rotten
Aurora Sterling Silver Rose Empress XXV

“A woman told me that her boyfriend refused to wear a condom because he claimed that he couldn't find one big enough. So I took one out of its wrapper and unrolled it over my fist, all the way down to my elbow. 'Honey,' I said, 'if that's really the case, then HIV is the least of your problems.'”

—White House AIDS czar Sandy Thurman as quoted in Hamptons magazine, July 25 issue.
Kent, Washington School District Sued

by Fred Hillman

Mark Iversen, a recent graduate of the Kentwood High School in Kent, WA, south of Seattle, is suing the Kent School District for failure to enforce its anti-harassment policies. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington has filed the suit on his behalf in U. S. District court. Iversen said that he endured verbal abuse from fellow students over a six year period, and that school authorities did nothing to stop it. Rather, he was told that he brought it upon himself, and school authorities told his parents that their son should expect such treatment if he was perceived to be gay. Iversen changed high schools twice, but the harassment continued and culminated in his being beaten up last October by eight students, some of them women.

This case is believed to be the first of its kind in the State of Washington. It comes less than a year after a similar case in Wisconsin, in which a school district settled with James Nabozny for $900,000 after a federal jury found the schools liable for allowing his harassment to continue.

Iversen's mother told an audience at a recent conference of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN, formerly GLSTN) in Seattle that she had documented many of the incidents involving her son, including responses of the school authorities to their complaints.

Massachusetts, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut all have enacted some prohibitions against discrimination based on sexual-orientation, according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. In 1994 the Washington State legislature also enacted a law that directed school districts to develop sexual harassment policies. Nevertheless, in Iversen's case the ACLU alleges that enforcement of policies was selective, disciplinary measures being taken when female students were harassed but no meaningful measures taken to prevent female students from harassing Iversen.

Gay and lesbian issues are perhaps the gravest issues NOT being talked about in public schools today. In the meantime, gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender students either hide or are harassed, and non-gay students learn at school that prejudice is the cultural norm. School boards and school administrations should make sure that their policies are being enforced, but their actions should arise out of a sense of simple justice and their duty to ensure safe schools for all students, not because of the threat of financial damage. Both cases also illustrate the principle that, if a future legal proceeding seems possible, incidents of discrimination and harassment MUST be documented at the time.

Lesbian Mom Gets Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval

CLAAD Press Release

The September issue of Good Housekeeping features an article by the daughter of a lesbian mom. Claire Knight, 20, begins with her early childhood, when “in the small world my mother had crafted, the people we socialized with accepted my mother and me without question.” But in school, “I was discovering that the word ‘homo’ or ‘lesbo’ seemed not the smiling women I’d grown up picknicking with, but evil, vitchlike persons to be avoided at all costs.” Like many children of gay parents, she felt conflicted between her loving home and the discrimination society imposed on them. She acknowledges, “I didn’t direct my anger [about feeling different] at my friends. I directed it at my mom, demanding to know why she had to make me different. And then I’d quickly regret having asked, because I knew it hurt her when I did.” Still, “even on my angriest days, by nighttime I’d...tell Mom and Nora [her mom’s partner] I loved them, same as I did every night.”

By high school she began to be more open, even in her senior year doing a class project on donor insemination and bringing in two lesbian moms as guest speakers. “Now that I’m in college, I answer questions honestly,” she says, noting that with media coverage of Melissa Etheridge, Julie Cypher and their son, Bailey, “perhaps [our culture] is beginning to realize that when there is love and commitment, there is a family. Perhaps, rather than teaching fear and hate, parents will teach children to accept their classmates, even if Bobby has two daddies, or Jessie has two mommies.” She says her mother “taught me the courage to do what I feel is right, regardless of what society may say. From my mother I have learned honesty, morals, loyalty and persistence. Most importantly, I have always known that I was loved.”

Especially in the historically conservative Good Housekeeping, this honest and touching article serves to remind readers that love — and not the gender equation of the parents — makes a family. It also serves as a source of strength for the millions of children of lesbians and gay men who experience many of the same challenges and joys in their own lives.
Women’s Coffeehouse

The Women’s Coffeehouse is a long-standing tradition in the Anchorage women’s community. Generally held monthly, each Coffeehouse program features an informal evening of local performers, authors or adventurers sharing their talents and/or information with the women’s community. This year the Coffeehouse will be held at various locations, on an irregular monthly schedule. Admission is by donation. Performers are women, often (but not always) lesbians and/or feminists. All who support and enjoy women performers are welcome to attend.

The Coffeehouse schedule for the remainder of 1997 is as follows:

SEPTEMBER 19 (Friday): Quasi-Open Mic, 8:00 p.m., at the Roosevelt Café. This Coffeehouse will feature well known performers, including Mari Jamieson, Diane Hall, Tess Bensussen, Maureen Suttman, Lisa Parker, Kippy Lanz, and (we hope) many more. Musicians, performance artists, writers, etc. (especially closet musicians and singers) are encouraged to participate. Please call Lisa at 561-2198 for information and encouragement, or sign up at 7:30 p.m. the night of the Coffeehouse.

OCTOBER 25 (Saturday): Full Circle, 8:00 p.m., at the Roosevelt Café. Full Circle brings together an eclectic group of musicians who love making music. Donna’s bluesy guitar, Terri’s raw, gritty voice, Kippy’s wild Irish drumming and Meg’s hot bass join for one unforgettable musical experience. Their music spans the range of alternative to blues to rock and roll. Let’s just say they love variety. These women will leave you begging for more.

NOVEMBER 22 (Saturday): Marge Ford and Friends, 8:00 p.m., at Quququaq Café. An evening of musical old favorites featuring Marge Ford and friends on guitar, accordion and maybe other instruments as well. Expect the unexpected, a few singalong numbers and, if we are lucky, some polkas too. So bring your dancing shoes.

DECEMBER: Participatory Drumming Circle (date and location TBA — around Solstice, watch). Bring a drum or other rhythm instrument and make wild percussive sounds to celebrate the coming of the light. No experience necessary, experienced drummers will be on hand to lead.

For more information, or if you would like to perform or contribute in some other way, please call Lisa, 561-2198, or e-mail at <LISA@SERVCOM.COM>

“The only reason I would take up jogging is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.”
— Erna Bombeck

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.
Protesters Blast Disney

Associated Press

Demonstrators rallied outside Walt Disney Studios to attack the company’s alleged pro-homosexual policies, and studio workers gave them cookies and sodas.

The sculpted palms at the Walt Disney Studios’ Alameda Avenue entrance afforded no shade for the crowd — far smaller than organizers had hoped — that listened in 100-degree-plus heat to Christian radio personality Warren Duffy pray that God would counteract “influences from the pit of hell” in the Disney stronghold.

“We want Mickey to come home,” Mason Weaver of Oceanside said at a news conference during Friday’s rally. “We don’t want him to have a dress when he gets here.”

Several Christian groups, notably the Southern Baptist Convention, have called for boycotts of Disney products and theme parks. They object to Disney granting its employees health benefits for same-sex partners and to the TV series “Ellen,” which features a lesbian character and is broadcast on Disney-owned ABC.

Disney employees set out water, soft drinks and cookies for the demonstrators, who stood outside in muggy, 100-degree weather.

Disney issued a statement saying the entertainment giant is committed to “values that include tolerance and compassion and respect for everybody.”

Los Angeles Times, September 6, 1997. E-mail <letters@latimes.com>; Fax 213-237-7679.

Super Bowl Funny

A guy named Bob receives a free ticket to the Super Bowl from his company.

Unfortunately, when Bob arrives at the stadium he realizes the seat is in the last row in the corner of the stadium — he is closer to the Goodyear blimp than the field.

About halfway through the first quarter, Bob notices an empty seat 10 rows off the field right on the 50 yard line. He decides to take a chance and makes his way through the stadium and around the security guards to the empty seat. As he sits down, he asks the gentleman sitting next to him, “Excuse me, is anyone sitting here?” The man says no.

Now, very excited to be in such a great seat for the game, Bob again inquires of the man next to him, “This is incredible! Who in their right mind would have a seat like this at the Superbowl and not use it?”

The man replies, “Well, actually, the seat belongs to me, I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This is the first Superbowl we haven’t been together at since we got married in 1967.”

“Well, that’s really sad,” says Bob, “but still, couldn’t you find someone to take the seat? A relative or close friend?”

“No,” the man replies, “they’re all at the funeral.”

September Movie Preview

In & Out


When Tom Hanks, clutching his Best Actor Oscar for Philadelphia, tearfully saluted his high school drama teacher as one of the “finest gay Americans I have known,” one of the billion viewers listening was producer Scott Rudin (The Addams Family, The First Wives Club). “Scott felt this is a movie,” says screenwriter Paul Rudnick, a frequent Rudin collaborator. “But the teacher Tom Hanks paid tribute to was already retired and openly gay. Well, there’s no story in THAT.” So Rudin and Rudnick thickened the plot with farcical complications: Not only is the small Midwestern-town drama teacher (Kline) still conducting classes when his ex-student (a blond Dillon, evidently spoofing Brad Pitt) drops the bomb, he’s also one week away from marrying a fellow teacher (Cusack).

“A gay film with a major-studio budget is still a plenty dangerous thing to do,” says Oz (Dirty Rotten Scoundrels). “I mean, there’s a big kissing scene with Kevin and Tom (Selleck), who plays an openly gay tabloid-TV reporter. I don’t know how people in the South are going to take to that, or in the North or the West, either, for that matter.”

In fact, the outdoor smoosh had quite an impact on the policeman who held traffic while Kline and Selleck went at it. “The poor cop was a huge Magnum, PI, fan,” says Kline. “He grabbed me at lunch and asked, ‘Oh, this IS a comedy, isn’t it?’

UP SIDE: The crowd-pleasing trailer, scored by Macho Man, has audiences cheering.

DOWN SIDE: Will straight viewers find Rudnick’s acid sensibility borderline homophobic?


If you are planning to mail an insert with the NorthView, you MUST notify Shirley Randal at 338-3708 by the 5th of the month. Otherwise, including your insert with the current issue CANNOT be guaranteed.

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September 1997

Identity
TORONTO, August 15 (Reuters) — Canada's largest brewery has produced a television commercial with an overtly homosexual theme, but is not sure whether the 30-second spot featuring a passionate kiss between two women is ready for prime time.

The commercial by Molson Brewery features two women kissing in a bar. It has been approved by a provincial liquor licensing board in Ontario, but may not be put on the air until early next year.

Molson spokeswoman Diana Rose said the commercial was leaked to the media before the company, which exports beer worldwide, had decided whether or not to broadcast it. "We want to make sure we do the right research with the general public and make sure they're comfortable with it before we do air the ad," she said.

Although the spot is destined for Canadian television, at least one conservative American group, the American Family Association, who are promoting a boycott of the Walt Disney Company for its stance on homosexuals, would be uncomfortable with the commercial. "They're beginning with two women, which isn't quite as offensive as two men. Of course the next step would be two men. We would certainly join in with anybody who wanted to boycott the company," Allen Wildmon, a spokesman for the Mississippi based association told Reuters.

In the Molson commercial, a man buys a woman a beer just before she is joined by another woman with whom she shares a passionate kiss. The man then orders another beer for himself. The Ontario liquor board, which must approve all alcohol advertisements in Canada's most populous province, approved a re-edited version of the Molson Dry commercial in June.

But it did not cut the lesbian kiss.

"Originally the board did not approve the ad because beer cannot be viewed as a catalyst to a pickup," said Rose. Board spokesman Barry Tucker would not detail what changes were made but said that the ad met the board's guidelines.

Reaction from the Toronto gay community to the unaired commercial has been mostly positive. The president of FAB magazine, a gay periodical distributed in Canada and the United States, said he was not critical of the concept. "It's definitely a positive thing to have homosexual imagery in a mainstream ad. It's usually advertisers who are more conservative than TV shows so it's refreshing to see an advertiser pushing the boundaries a little," said Keir MacRae.

MacRae said that beer companies have been targeting the gay community for years with explicitly homosexual advertisements in gay periodicals, but this is possibly the first time a gay ad will target a mainstream audience. "My only concern is that Molson's is using lesbian imagery as a male fantasy rather than showing it as an acceptable lifestyle," he said.
'97 TV Lineup Includes Record Number of “Out” Characters

NEW YORK, August 13 — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced today that the 1997 fall television lineup will include a record setting 30 lesbian, gay and bisexual characters. This 23% increase compared to the historic 1996 fall lineup is the result of three characters introduced during the 1996/1997 year and four new characters this fall.

This year television welcomes four new primetime lesbian, gay and bisexual characters. Bill Broderick, who also played gay characters on Steven Bocho's NYPD Blue and Public Morals, will portray a receptionist on ABC's Total Security. On NBC, Veronica's Closet, staring Kirstie Allie, will introduce Joshua, played by Wallace Langham. While closeted during the season opener, sources tell GLAAD he will soon bust out. Head Over Heels, on UPN, will feature recurring Ellen actor Patrick Bristow as Ian, a celibate bisexual. And on FOX's 413 Hope Street, Karime Prince will portray Melvin, a flamboyantly fierce HIV-positive black gay youth.

"Television has been at the forefront of reflecting the lives of the community over the years," said Chastity Bono, GLAAD Entertainment Media Director. "This increase is simply a reflection of a growing trend of inclusive programming. This historic number of characters signals America's increasing appreciation of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community as part of their own lives."

413 Hope Street's Melvin is only the second gay character of color currently on primetime TV. He will share that distinction with Michael Boatman's Carter of the GLAAD Media Award-winning Spin City. "GLAAD is particularly pleased to see the introduction of Melvin, a black HIV-positive youth, to the fall line-up," said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD's Executive Director. "We hope that future programming looks at the true diversity within the lesbian, gay and bisexual community."

Throughout the 1997/1998 year, GLAAD will continue to monitor how television represents the lives of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people. Their award-winning web site <www.glaad.org> will feature an up-to-date scoreboard of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters on television. GLAAD will also continue to work behind the scenes of the television industry to encourage portrayals that are inclusive and diverse.

GLAAD is a national organization that promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation of individuals and events in the media as a means of combating homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact: Liz Tracey (212) 807-1700; pager (800) 946-4646, pin #142359; e-mail <tracey@glaad.org>.

'98 Gay Games, Amsterdam

As of August 1, travelers interested in obtaining information on Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 can call a new toll free number 1-888-GayGames (1-888-429-4263). Callers will receive the Holland & Gay Games Information Package, including information on official travel providers, web sites, and a Gay Games pre-registration form.

More than 4,500 participants have already pre-registered for Gay Games Amsterdam 1998, although official registration did not begin until August 1. Some 200,000 visitors and a record number of 15,000 competitors are expected in Amsterdam from August 1 through 8, 1998.

To contact the Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 directly, call the Gay Games International Call Center at 011-31-20-4271998. To access the Gay Games web site, the address is <http://www.dds.nl/~gaygames>.

For more general information on Holland, please contact the Netherlands Board of Tourism at: 1-888-GO-HOLLAND; E-mail <Go2Holland@aol.com>; Internet <http://www.nbt.nl/holland>.

(Note: Locally, Greg Kramer of Triangle Tours, is putting together a Gay Games package. Look for his ad in this issue.)

Court Rejects Military Gay Policy Challenge

by Greg Frost

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) -- A federal appeals court rejected challenges to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals in the military.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals split 2-1 in ruling the military was within its rights to discharge two officers who acknowledged they were gay.

The appeals court majority ruled that the government can discharge a service member based on an inference that gays who declare their sexual orientation will engage in homosexual conduct -- even if there is no evidence that such conduct occurred or would occur.

Under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which was introduced soon after President Clinton took office in 1993, service members who identify themselves as gay may remain in the military if they can overcome the presumption that they will engage in homosexual activity.

The ruling involved the cases of Lt. Andrew Holmes of the California Army National Guard and Lt. Richard Watson of the U.S. Navy, who were discharged from the military after acknowledging their sexual orientation.

Both men sued the government, claiming the policy infringed on their rights to free speech, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Holmes won his case in district court and the government appealed, but Watson lost his case in district court and he appealed. The appeals court decided to consolidate both cases.

"The issue posed by the appeals was whether the military may discharge a service member based on an inference of homosexual conduct from his admission of homosexual orientation, without corroborating evidence of conduct or intent," the court wrote.

The court ruled that Watson's and Holmes' discharges did not stem from their respective declarations of homosexuality. Instead, the court said the two men were discharged because they failed to prove that they did not engage in or did not intend to engage in homosexual acts.

"Because Watson and Holmes were discharged for their conduct and not for speech, the First Amendment is not implicated," the court wrote.

Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice and for Holmes were not immediately available to comment on the case.

U.S. Psychologists Pass Mild Resolution on Gays

CHICAGO, August 14 (Reuters) -- The leading U.S. society of psychologists stopped short of condemning the practice of converting gays to heterosexuality through therapy, drawing the ire of leading gay rights groups.

The resolution, passed overwhelmingly at the American Psychological Association meeting here, called for therapists to obtain informed consent from homosexual or sexually uncertain clients before embarking on so-called "conversion" or "reparative" therapy. It also reaffirmed the group's assertion that being gay did not constitute a mental illness, a position it first adopted in 1973.

Two years ago, the APA voted down a resolution declaring conversion therapy unethical.

It is not known how many people go through conversion therapy, but an organization of converted homosexuals and some religious groups strongly advocate the practice. Opponents of the practice argue that many could enjoy perfectly happy lives as homosexuals but are coerced into emotionally painful, expensive conversion therapy.

Douglas Haldeman, president of the APA's Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues, released a statement attempting to clarify the APA's carefully phrased position. "Our concern is that a person, especially a young person, who enters into therapy to deal with issues of sexual orientation should be able to have the expectation that such therapy would take place in a professionally neutral environment absent of any societal bias," he said. "Additionally, therapists should be providing clients with accurate information about same-sex sexual orientation."

The action by the APA, which represents 150,000 psychologists, researchers, educators, consultants and students, angered those on both sides of the contentious issue. "Attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation through conversion therapies are morally and ethically wrong," Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, wrote in a letter to the APA. "While some adults may give their consent to conversion therapy, many are coerced into doing so. The most vulnerable are young people at the mercy of confused parents or adult guardians seeking to erase their own shame or guilt about their child's sexual orientation," he wrote.

The Family Research Council, a Washington advocacy group, said the APA was ignoring a growing number of sexual converts. "Cowed by aggressive homosexual activists who say -- without credible evidence -- that people are 'born gay,' the APA is trying to snuff out genuine hope for those struggling with gender identity problems," the group's president, Gary Bauer, said in a statement.
The Directory

Advertising...

This directory is our “yellow pages” and reference guide. It's free! The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (Al)ly indicate the business or service ownership. All people are welcome to call for further info. NOTE: in some instances you might encounter employees who are unaware of this Directory and its significance. Don't be offended: enlighten. All listings are in Anchorage unless indicated. 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) Interim AIDS Associates (Fairbanks), 452-2422
(A) Title VI (AIDS Foundation (WA), 206-383-2556
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Koola, 278-5019

Apparel & Clothing:
(A) The Look, Karl, 278-5665

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

Automotive Repairs & Fuel:
(A) Courtney’s, Lenny, 562-1227 (see ad)

Bakery & Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191

Bed & Breakfasts, Accommodations:
(G) Antler’s (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-389-2582 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(L) Glenelg Lake B&B, Mary/Janetta, 337-4991
(L) Grabrielle Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(A) Fairbanks Hotel, (Fairbanks) Doris Lundin, 888-329-4685
(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homel), 907-235-2285 (see ad)
(L) Northern Comfort, Reeda, 278-2106
(A) Regina’s, 276-4904
(L) Rose-Beth’s B&B, (Anchorage) Rose Berb, 337-6779
(G/A) Sauerburg Lodge (Haddington), Gordon, 907-224-8946
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Sidnie 907-586-2410

Books:
(A) Alaskana, Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cyrano’s Books & Cafe, Sandy/Jerry, 274-2599
(A) Into The Woods Bookshop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-479-7701

Churches:
see Spiritual

Computer Services:
Consultants, Graphic Design, Desktop Publishing:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4275
(L) Angie, 337-0253
(L) Binky’s Den, 205 4th Ave, Seward, Sue or Terri, 224-PAWS
(L) Carworkx, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDAC Services, Waltraud, 276-6662
(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 349-9269
(G) gra.f.x, Lucian, 561-5856
(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3697
(G) Mad Dog Graphx, Michael Ardia, 276-7279
(G) Mark, 274-9472
(G) PC Possibilities, 248-6277
(G) ServCom Alaska, Mark Mathis, 274-9472
(L) TechLink, L’Miel, 276-8662

Supplies & Equipment:
(A) Frigid North, Tom, 361-4633 (see ad)

Training:
(G) Seven Treasures Enterprises, 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) Syzygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599

Bars & Restaurants:
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191
(G/L) O’Brady’s, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080
(G/L) Palace Saloon (Fairbanks), Alaskaland (Sat ONLY)
(G/L) The Raven, 276-9672
(L/G) The Wave, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad)

Coffee Houses:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 562-9737
(A) Quiver Bean Coffee Co., Scott/Becky, call or fax 278-BEAN

Disk Jockeys:
(A) Lake Webb, 373-2689 (hm), 279-3300 (wk)

Drag Shows:
(G/L) The Wave, Vicki, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad.)

Theatre:
(G) Break-even Productions, Linda 277-5630
(A) Out North Theatre, Gene/Jay, 279-8999

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-9404/338-3962 (see ad)
(G) Jon Howe, Bank of America, 263-3335
(A) Catherine Smither P.A., 562-2438

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

Independent Market:
(L) Mark, 279-5264

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

Mortgage Brokers:
(A) Lynn Thomas, 263-0720 (see City Mortgage ad)

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

Florists/Greenhouses/Nursery:
(G) Every Bloomin’ Thing, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3158
(G) Mike 52 Greenhouse, Dale, 694-3978
(A) Truck Nursery, Doug, 345-2507 (see ad)

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

Hair Styling:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045

Health:
(A) 36th Avenue Hair Design, Ledjha, 561-8967

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
(L) Gatekey, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 274-FLEX (3539)
Directory

Health...

(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0582
(A) Thee Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996
(A) The Old Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

Body Work:
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 328-8826
(L) Leslie, 278-3346
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(L) Vicki, 277-5222

Counseling:
(A) Connie, 562-1826
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)
(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 Hubert, 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) Spirit 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) Open Door Youthline, 456-GLBY
(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

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

House Cleaning:
(L) Connie’s House Cleaning Service, Connie, 276-3147
(A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4657
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning, Brent, 258-0828

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

Painting:
(L) I.L. Painting, Lisa, 277-7549

Kites, Games, Banners, Puzzles:
(A) Northwind Kites, Pat, 279-4986
Legal:
(L) Mendel & Associates, Allison, 279-5001 (see ad)
(L) Rhodes, Phyllis; Mediator, 346-2217
(A) Short, Sylvia, 562-4992 (see ad)

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

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

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

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(I) Klondyke Kontact (Alaska Women’s Cultural Center), 277-5763
(GLA) NorthView (Identity), 258-4777
(GL) Perspective (SEAGLA in Juneau), 586-4297

Pet Care & Veterinarian:
(A) Alaska Pet Palace, Sharon, 276-0668
(A) Doggie Hut, Arlid, 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, contact Janet Mitson, 688-0116
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9225
(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)

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 (see ad)
(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 (see ad)
(L) McKinley Air Service, Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 786-3707, 800-779-3701 (see ad)
(G) Roy’s Bikes, Roy, 333-8221
(A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb, 907-389-2725
(A) Flies by Ileen (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)
(A) Coldwell Banker, Elaine, 562-2378
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(A) Personal Service Realty, Rhona, 242-8877 (cellular) or 279-8877. (see ad)
(L) Waltraud Barron, 278-1981 (see ad)

Research:
(L) Corutch & Associates, 279-3982
Directory

Security...

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. Nancee Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737
    (see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard
    Bess, 746-1089
(A) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembrooke, 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 Bi Student
       Association), UAA, (see Club Notes)

Tattoos:
(A) Bitchin' Tatts, Kathy, 561-3653

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Chereese, 561-0661 (see ad)

Writing & Editing Assistance:
(L) Kathy, 278-2840

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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)
a social group for gay men looking for an alternative to the
"bar scene." For next meeting time and place or to get on the
mailing list, call 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
purpose is to keep the community informed about political
and legal events which have an effect on the lesbigay com-
community, 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 in-
formation about EQUAL, contact Laura Burleson 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 "Homo-Phonic Radio", 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 766-7644.

Feminist Sing-a-Long (women only), Anchorage
third Saturday of every month, 1741 Westview Circle; call
Carol and Fran at 333-0871. Non-singers are more than
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 4th 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.

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education 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  
founded to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communities. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of each 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 program title.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA), Anchorage  
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.I.P.M.C., P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99520-2054.

Mt. McKinley (non-ascent) Club, Anchorage  
as 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).

OPAL is a lesbian social organization with an open membership. OPAL holds monthly potlucks with different themes on the third Sunday of the month. Please call Roby at 522-3953 for more information.

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 Sunday of every month from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at the Woods Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 3560 College Road, Fairbanks. Call 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 Mendenhall Mall Library. Phone 907-463-4203.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)  
of Southcentral 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. Office: 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 907-262-2569.

AUSSIE CHURCH LEADER COMES OUT  
The second highest ranking officer of Australia’s third-largest church came out of the closet at the church’s annual assembly last week.

National Director of Uniting Church Commission on Missions Rev. Dorothy McRae-McMahon, 63, told herself as the assembly wrestled with the question of ordaining openly gay clergy — a decision it eventually opted not to decide on.

McRae-McMahon will remain in her position for the time being despite loud opposition from some Aboriginal and Pacific Islander groups within the church.

“I’m Jewish. I don’t work out. If God wanted us to bend over he’d put diamonds on the floor.”

— Joan Rivers
Cyberlust

AGLA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc. <fsmph@aurora.alaska.edu>
Binkley, Andy: <abinkley@mosquitonet.com>
Burleson, Lauria: Gay Rights activist, Chair of Equal of Fairbanks: <fsleb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capri Cinema, Rand Thomaly: <geh91a@prodigy.com>
Carlisle, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist: <nkrc@getonne.net>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskadan@aol.com>
CheneY B&B: <cheneyb@alaska.net>
Childs, Lucian: graphic artist <lucian@alascina.com> <http://www.alascina.com/gfx> 
Crabtree, Phil, B&B, Fairbanks, <crabtreehome@geocities.com>, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4169> 
Cracun, Jean: market research, Pride Conference: <jcracun@cracun.alaska.net> 
Fairbanks Gay & Lesbian Community page: website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>
Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquitonet.com>
Freedman, F. Kenneth: Gay/Lesbian activist, <fken@servecom.com>
Gay & Lesbian National Hotline: <http://www.glhn.org> 
GLAAD: Gays and the media <http://www.glaad.org> 
Haase, Michael: <michaelh@servecom.com>
Hillman, Fred: <hillman@alaska.net> 
Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>
HRC: Send a message to your congressman <http://www.hrcusa.org> 
IATA - INTERIOR AIDS Assoc. Fairbanks <iata@polar.net.com> website: <http://www2.polar.net.com/~iata>
Identity: <http://www.ptalaska.net/~seagla/identity.htm> 
Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polar.net.com> website: <http://www2.polar.net.com/~woods> 
Kobout, Jen: <jenkout@aol.com> 
Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <FMC@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: FBs. website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~pflag> e-mail <pflag@mosquitonet.com>
Parsons, Greg: <partner@alaska.net>
Pinney, Peter: UAF instructor and owner of Alta's B & B; <ffppp@aurora.alaska.edu>
Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>
SEAGLA: <http://ptalaska.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.ptalaska.net/~shanti> 
Soule, Barbara & Bonham, Candy: <solcandy@alaska.net> 
Thorsnley, Rand: Capri Cinema <filmsgally@aol.com> 
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel <triangle@servecom.com>
Vann, Beth: <rebel@elf.bl.ac.yu>
Walton, Eric: Q*Klatch, Q*K Outdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.: <qseh@aurora.alaska.edu>
Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net> 
Wockner, Rex: San Diego-based Journalist, Lesbigay info (Internet): <rwockner@servecom.com>
Youth site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/B_Hartman3>

Calendar

September

Friday, 19:
A Women's Coffeeshop, 8pm, see article.

Saturday, 20:
J SEAGLA's Gay Bingo, 7pm, VFW Hall.

Thursday, 25:
A Identity board meeting, 7pm, Identity office (AUUF) visitors welcome.

Friday, 26:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF: “Darl Schaaff & The Gay Games in Amsterdam.”
F KDOQ Show: Taking the Fall opens, 10pm, Palace Saloon

Saturday, 27:
A Libby Roderick in concert: PAC, Discovery Theatre (Carrs Tix).

October

Friday, 3:
A Pride Conference, See insert.

Saturday, 4:
A Women's Two Step, 7:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.

Thursday, 9:
A XSIHIT! Performance group opens, 7pm., Out North.

Saturday, 11: NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
A Dan Woog workshop, see article.

Sunday, 12:
A GLSEN, Dan Woog lecture “Gay and Lesbian Issues in Education,” 2pm, Wilda Marston Theater.

Friday, 24:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF, topic: Gay Drama.

“What a commentary on our civilization, when being alone is considered suspect; when one has to apologize for it, make excuses, hide the fact that one practices it — like a secret vice.”

— Anne Morrow Lindbergh
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.
F PFLAG, 4:5-30pm, Into the Woods Bookstore
F Homophonic Radio, KSUA 91.5
F Men’s Volleyball, 2pm, Mary Slay 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 Women’s Forum, 7pm, 338-9184 for info.
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 MCC, 4th and Barrow Street, Praise & Prayer at 7 pm.
A PFLAG, 2nd Wednesday, 7-9 pm, AUUF, 32nd and Turnagain St.

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.
F French Club, at Into the Woods Bookstore.

FRIDAYS
A Lunch, 4A’s, noon-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, Lori 263-2050. Everyone invited - HIV, volunteers and friends.
A Midnight Sun Gay AA Meeting, 7:30pm-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Identity Potluck fourth Friday 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 Women’s Two Step, 7:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.
F Dancing in Fairbanks!, 12pm-3pm, 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

Gay Youth Survey Underway

!OutProud!, a national coalition for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth, and Oasis, an online magazine, have announced the first-ever formal survey of “queer and questioning youth on the Internet.” The 150-question online survey includes questions about how youth define themselves, the role their sexual orientation has played in both self-acceptance and acceptance from peers, and how they perceive community and spirituality, among other topics.

“The Internet and America Online have played a crucial role in helping this generation of queer youth to acknowledge and accept their sexual orientation,” said Christopher Kryzan, executive director of !OutProud!.

“With this survey, we hope to provide them with a powerful voice.” The survey can be found at the Oasis Magazine Web site at <http://www.oasismag.com/survey/>. With a monthly readership of over 35,000, Oasis Editor and Publisher Jeff Walsh said, the magazine is “in a unique position to reach queer youth as never before.”

Co-sponsors of the effort include the American Civil Liberties Union, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and XY Magazine. The results and a report will be published in January 1998.

For more information, contact !OutProud! at (415) 499-0993 or e-mail <info@outproud.org>.
Playing the AIDS Odds

Everyone worries about the degree of transmission-risk involved in various activities. Can you get infected from mutual masturbation? From fisting? From using poppers? From this and from that? The real question is, "Is it possible to provide answers with sufficient precision to allow an individual confidently to assess risk and modify behavior in specific situations?" The answer is "No." No one knows enough about either sexual or drug behaviors, and their relation to HIV seroconversion, to speak with assurance. But this doesn't mean that meaningful recommendations are out of the question.

When the possible sex or drug scenarios become as disparate as they are in real-life situations, and when the odds resemble your chances of winning a major lottery, then stating intervals or odds does not provide much more than a illusion of knowledge and resulting security.

I suggest a different approach to thinking about risk. First, do not worry about practices for which there is no documentation of transmission (as distinct from speculation about it). If there is any risk in kissing, masturbation, skinny-dipping or whatever, it is probably much less than the chance of being hit by lightning - and few people worry about that. Focus on those activities, like intercourse and/or injecting drugs, which common sense tells you are risky, if for no other reason than that they have a long history of transmitting other diseases (like syphilis or hepatitis). Such behaviors would clearly include injecting drug use within a group, condomless anal and/or vaginal intercourse, and less clearly oral sex, fisting, or any S&M practice that involved a possible blood exchange.

What I am suggesting is that some information plus common sense is a better guide than current statistical or quasi-statistical statements about relative risk. This will remain the case until a great deal more empiric data is amassed about some of our most private behaviors. If you are a person who does not feel comfortable without precise, reliable, quantified guidelines, then your only course is to abstain from activities wherein there is a possibility of transmission. There are many mood-altering substances that do not require injection, and a lot of sexual behavior that does not involve penetration and fluid exchange.

What must be kept in mind is that the risk of HIV transmission is totally unlike the risk of losing at the races. Because you cannot recoup the loss represented by infection, you ought not think of the "odds" in the same way. In fact, it is better not to focus on the so-called "odds" at all. People must now think of sex or injecting drug use as an all-or-nothing game. Each time you play, there are only two possible outcomes. If you win you have, perhaps, enjoyed a pleasant encounter; if you lose, you die. And each time you play without regard to common sense evaluation and personal protection, you enhance the possibility that you will lose. Its as simple as that.

edited and reprinted from 21 Oct 93 by Robert S. Walker, Ph.D. Trinity University San Antonio, TX 78212

Upcoming Events:
- Gay Pride Conference October 3-4 UAA Campus
- AIDS 101 Training: Monday, October 20, 5:30pm - 6:30pm @ 4 A's
- Every Thursday "Friends and Family Support Group" 7pm - 8pm @ 4 A's
- Every Friday "Friday Lunch" for clients, friends and volunteers Noon @ 4 A's