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## Discounts

- Three months: 10%
- Six months: 15%
- Twelve months: 20%
Identity NorthView

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

Identity Board of Directors
Chair: Shirley Randal and Kurt Parish; Treasurer: Mikel R. Haase; Secretary: Joyce Bauer; Members: Candy Bonham, Greg Kramer, Ruth Mathes, Amy O'Mara.


Contributors:
Fairbanks News: Terry Fauth.
Cover: Photo by Caroline Kohout, produced by Karen Konopacki.

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

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

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

Submissions
We welcome articles and letters from community individuals and organizations. Ideal length is 750 words or less. Please submit on 3.5 (IBM compatible or MAC HD). All 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 any article submitted.

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

Advertising
Rates are displayed 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, 6am-11pm. Messages left during off hours will be returned as soon as possible.
Editorial

The political is personal (or vice versa)
The things we do

Once in awhile I find myself sitting around a table with a group of friends, usually eating pizza, and lamenting the fact that the out gay community in Anchorage seems so small. According to the latest estimates, there are 15,000 of us in Anchorage. According to those of us sitting in the room, there are 12. At least, 12 who consistently donate their time and energy towards gay organizations and events in Anchorage. It's not true, of course. But we enjoy wallowing in a little self-pity every now and then.

Why we do them

Most of the time, the activists I know are an optimistic and enthusiastic lot. The people who choose to get involved, do it because it is important to them. To organize an event; publish a resource; promote an organization that will support, enlighten, entertain gays, lesbians and anyone else who cares. To create a tangible sign of gay and lesbian community in a setting which offers vocal opposition and only limited tolerance to our existence. Thanks in no small part to the homophobes, there is a sense of common mission that makes our efforts feel even more rewarding.

And why we don't

But we are human. And the factors that motivate us, also wear us down. Drained by the fears and misinformation held by the broader Anchorage community, and discouraged by the lack of support and misunderstandings in our own, it's tempting to retire to one's couch in frustration. An alternative made even more attractive by the fact that we are all busy people leading busy lives. I may not have succumbed to the cell phone phenomena, but I am sensitive to pressures of life in the late 1990's. Pressures that make me less generous with my time, and less patient.

What we learn in the process

Given this environment, it's no surprise that we sometimes lose perspective on what is important in all of this. I remember late one summer afternoon, a half dozen of us were discussing logistics for an upcoming Pride Conference. I was frustrated at our disjointed efforts to get through the agenda and glanced at my watch wondering if I'd make it to REI before it closed. We had randomly jumped to a discussion of the Conference theme — community building. Someone in the room asked what the theme meant. I vividly remember Doug looking around the room at the 8 of us saying, "What are we doing here. This is building community." The light bulb went off in my goal-oriented mind as I realized that it wasn't just the event that mattered, it was the process of organizing the event where the richness of building community really happened. And the most important part of that was my relationships with the people sitting in that room. It is one of those simple truths so obvious in retrospect.

And the corollary of that is respect

I don't always remember to be kind. I am too busy trying to get things done. I get an idea in my head about how or why something should be done and I miss the point. That I need to respect the people around me who have different ideas about how to do the same thing. I need to remember to listen, to be open and understanding, to give the benefit of the doubt. Starting first with my friends and then maybe one day with my enemies. And if I ever get to that point, then maybe I will truly exemplify the kind of tolerance I keep demanding.

NOTICE OF IDENTITY, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Identity, Inc., will be held in conjunction with the Fourth Friday Potluck Dinner, 7:00 p.m., April 24, 1998, at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to fill seats on the Board of Directors. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in serving in this capacity, please telephone Kurt at 696-3990 or Ruth at 563-1324. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. Only current Identity, Inc., members may vote. If you're not a member, you may join and vote that evening.

Joyce Bauer, Secretary
Board of Directors

Helpline Training
Saturday, March 28
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Identity Office
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3201 Turnagain Street, Anchorage
Telephone Candy at 337-2011.
Does the NorthView need a make-over??

Do you rush home from the post office when the new issue of NorthView arrives, draw blood during the mad scramble to remove the staples, and immerse yourself in the articles for hours — forgetting about dinner or getting that much needed sleep? Or do you toss the new issue into that ever growing pile of unread catalogs, magazines, and junk mail — including the last three issues of NorthView — that's gathering dust in some dark corner of your living room?

Does the NorthView contribute something meaningful to your life? Or do you get it simply because you want to support the other activities sponsored by Identity — the HelpLine, Pride on the Parkstrip, the Fourth Friday Potlucks, etc., etc. — and it comes as part of your membership?

The members of the board of Identity and the editorial staff of the NorthView believe it is time to step back and re-evaluate where the NorthView is and where we are taking it. Some of the comments received during the last readership survey indicated that maybe the NorthView has become bland, boring, non-controversial. Do you agree?

If you want to see changes made to the NorthView — in its format, content, or style — you need to tell us. Write the board a letter, give any of the board or editorial staff a call. Or better yet, tell us in person. On Saturday, March 21, we will host an open forum to discuss the NorthView and the role it should play in our community. The forum will be held in the fellowship hall of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 3201 Turnagain Street from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Unless you tell us what you don't like about the NorthView — or what you do like, we can't fix it. And if we can't fix it, is it worth saving? A lot of dollars are raised to support Identity activities from advertising in the NorthView. But a lot of dollars and volunteer time goes into producing each issue of the NorthView. Should we be putting those dollars and that effort into other things? Or does the NorthView fulfill a need in our community?

The minute you say you don't like the way something is done, you have a responsibility to do something about it.
— Starr Parish
Out of my mind

The second time I did drag was Halloween when I was 13. (I hope these admissions won't disqualify me from being Ms. Gay Alaska or the Crown Princess of the Imperial Court of All Alaska — except Bird. Someone told me you can't have done drag before getting involved with The Court. I don't suppose there's a lesbigay statute of limitations?)

The Big Night arrived, and I was whining to Mom that I had a big night ahead of me and nothing to wear! Mom brightly announced that she had the perfect dress for me to try on, and off we went to raid her wardrobe. What fun! I tried on a smart red corduroy number and, of course, it fit my still androgynous body perfectly. I put on one of Mom's smaller bras and we stuffed them with tissue; I got into a pair of her sensible shoes; we applied just the right touch of lipstick and rouge and other appropriate make-up. I had flaming red hair at the time and a bit of teasing completed the effect.

And off I went.

House after house greeted me with warm smiles and politely asked if I was a new girl in the neighborhood.

"Yes," I replied in my not-yet-a-girl-not-yet-a-boy voice, "I'm Franchesca. My parents and I moved into the big gray house up at the top of Buckingham Drive." Most just nodded and handed me candy and such. Some others wondered why I wasn't in a costume and I said I was — this was my Mom's grown-up dress! And I was delighted with my new persona. Having this freedom to be someone I could invent from scratch was about to be a highlight of my young life.

Alas, it was short-lived: at the Halloween dance later that night my girlfriend, Ann, and I started to dance, she pushed me away saying I had to go home and change, that she didn't like dancing with me when I had breasts bigger than hers. I went home to change, grieving for the girl I once and briefly was. I can't say this was a watershed moment for me, because, though I knew I was gay, I wasn't aware of drag as anything more than getting to create a person that I wasn't. I had no idea there was a drag community, or for that matter that there were anyone else like me in the world. I only knew, on some level, that I had touched a part of me that was very dear and wanted nurturing. It was a further realization of that part of myself that I knew to be "other," different from everyone else, yet unrealized as an identity.

It would be another eleven years before I came out officially (though I scurried back into the closet a year after that, getting married [to a woman], and coming out seven years later still — but that's the subject of another column).

My parents were quite shocked when I came out.

Mom's a psychiatrist, and Dad, also a medical doctor, was in public health and their medical training spoke to the pathology of avowed "homosexuals." So, of course coming out even in 1966 (three years before The Stonewall rebellion) was tantamount to an admission of sickness and bespoke the need for immediate psychiatric care. So, we all went to the family shrink who declared me a bona fide homosexual (a term which I don't much care, for that's the subject of another column). So I was the official family queer and felt better for the "diagnosis" (remember, this was seven years before the American Psychiatric Association decided that being gay or lesbian wasn't a mental disorder) though I still had misgivings about what exactly that meant, mental health — wise.

Maybe that's why I went into theater. I had so many opportunities over the years to put on the clothes and makeup, and don the characters of all the people whom I felt were more "normal" than I; people whose lives were open, whose emotions were encouraged, and whose deepest secrets could be revealed in front a multitude of people (all the stage was my world). And I got applause for it, too!

And it took years for me to get over much of my internalized homophobia and to celebrate the diverse characters that are in me. Including Franchesca.

And a nod to Harry Hay (considered by many to be the dean of the Gay Rights movement in America and a founder of the Radical Faerie movement) who said that "the only thing we have in common with straight people is what we do in bed; it's everything else that's different."

Copyright 1997 F. Kenneth Freedman. F. Ken Freedman is a counselor with a private practice in Anchorage; is a former co-editor of the NorthView; and a gay activist.

Belgium welcomes gays' foreign lovers

Foreign domestic partners of Belgian citizens now receive automatic provisional residency permits, Internal Affairs Minister Johan Vande Lanotte announced.

The only provisos: The relationship must be permanent, the couple must live together, and they must sign a domestic-partnership contract.

Give me a dozen such heartbreaks if that would help me lose a couple of pounds.
— Colette

by F. Kenneth Freedman
Queer Science

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

How do I love thee? Let me cut the bull
About how you’re so wonderful,
And give it to you straight: what fuels
My passion is just molecules.
For what you like to call romance
Is just a little hormone’s dance,
And love is nothing but a vortex
Of chemicals within the cortex.

Before you scream “Reductionist!”
Recall that many an ancient mystic,
Poet, and scribe have shared my notion.
For didn’t a fast-concocted potion
Make lovers of Isolde and Tristan?
And fairy queen Titania kissed an
Ass-headed Bottom with amorous sighs,
When Oberon instilled her eyes
With juice of pansy-flowers. The poet
Imagined it, and scientists know it.

Since we’re agreed on love’s obedience
To chemistry, what’s the ingredients?
The answer comes from work on voles
(They’re tiny rodents that live in holes)
Done by Tom Insel, an M.D.
At Emory University.

The prairie vole (perhaps Microtus
Ochrogaster, but please don’t quote us)
Is passion’s slave: so keen to mate
It brings a U-Haul to its first date,
And moves right in, never to be parted.
Their love is such, that if one blundered
Into a trap, the other prefers to mingle
Its soul in death than to survive single.

How different is its mountain cousin
(Called M. montanus, if you’re fussin’
About names). He scoffs at marriage bands
And wastes his life on one-night stands.
He’s called the “circuit vole”—he’s glamorous
And sexy, but not amorous.

“One vole’s a saint, and one’s a slut,”
Thought Insel, “So, suppose I cut
Their brains up, see what’s not the same,
Maybe I’ll find what feeds love’s flame.”
And sure enough, he soon was focussin’
On a tiny hormone called oxytocin
Found in the hypothalamus and nearby,
At the brain’s base, behind the eye.

The hormone surges during sex;
It fills the beast’s brain as he necks
And smooches; it finds the neurons’ nooks
And crannies; it freezes his lover’s looks
Into synaptic concrete, leaving him forever
Fixated on his mate — how clever!

That’s saintly ochrogaster. But
The brain of M. montanus (slut)
Is wired quite differently, says Insel:
There’s less “receptors” found within cell
Groups in regions of the brain
Where conjugality has its domain,
Which means they’re deaf to the hormone’s call.
So when sex is done the vole says “Y’all
Take care!” and off he trots to find
Another vole with sex in mind.

From voles to humans is a country mile,
I grant you. Still, in a short while
They’ll find the stuff that works for us,
And then I’ll snare you with no fuss.
I’ll send it as a Scratch’n’Sniff,
But since the stuff works in a jiff
I’ll make a point of being present,
Or else you’ll fall for the first peasant
Your eyes may fall on as you scratch,
And that will leave me without a match,
For the love-smitten can’t be unsnotted
Until they find an antidote.

So that’s the truth about love’s biology;
If you don’t like it, here’s my apology.
You still say love’s a magic art,
The breath of Venus, Cupid’s dart,
Or some such stuff? Say what you like,
I only know I love thee, Mike.

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 biomedical thriller Albrick’s Gold
(Richard Kasak books, 1997). He can
be reached at <SLLeVay@aol.com>. For
more Queer Science, visit
<http://www.gay.net>.
Where in the World

Wintertime in Alaska

When many men's and women's fancies turn to thoughts of warmer places and sun! Yes it is the same every year and this strange Alaskan winter is not much different. Even though El Niño has spared us some of the really cold weather, its still nice to think about catching some rays in a warmer place. Seats are in short supply and hotel rooms at the best rates are harder to find so if you plan to get away for a spring break better get a move on. Hawaii and Mexico are always great favorites for getaways as are the desert communities of Las Vegas and Palm Springs.

Overseas specials

Most of the carriers who service Europe and Asia are offering really low off season fares. Some examples are round trip from Anchorage to: Amsterdam ($598), London ($562), Paris ($493), Frankfurt ($618), Bangkok ($575) and Beijing ($575). Northwest is offering travel from west coast to the east coast for as low as $298 RT and from the west coast to London/Paris as low as $429 RT. Tickets must be purchased by Mar 31,1998 and includes up to 3 persons traveling on the same flights. A Saturday night stay is required.

Venture Out

This San Francisco based firm offers adventure and cultural tours for gay and lesbian travelers. Among their offerings are a Costa Rican Adventure with 10 days of river rafting, wildlife and more (Mar, Apr, Nov and Dec departures); an Indonesian Explorer to Bali, Java, Sulawesi and Lombok for 15 days (departures in Jun and Oct); The Siamese World of Thailand, from the far north to the tropical south, for 15 days (departures in Feb, Mar and Dec); Hilltowns of Tuscany, walking through the Italian countryside and history, for 9 days (May and Sep departures); hiking in Languedoc for 9 days through medieval French castles in the Pyrenees foothills (Jun and Sep departures); and Discovering South Africa, wildlife safari and coastal hiking to Cape Town, for 11 days (departures in Mar and Oct).

Club Atlantis

One of the oldest established gay and lesbian tour companies is still doing a fine job and offering a variety as well. From Apr 18-25 and Apr 25-May 2, they will be at Blue Bay Village in Mexico. All inclusive price starts at $799 per person double occupancy. The firm also offers weekend getaways like Miami White Party week, Nov 27-Dec 1, from $549 and Connecticut Berkshires, Sep 12-14, from $289.

Bob De Loach, President of Apollo Travel, BG Tax and Accounting, The Electric Doctor, Apollo Real Estate, and 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.

The Performance Formerly Known as Celebration

"The Performance Formerly Known as Celebration" will be presented Saturday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 150 of the Arts Building on the UAA Campus. Cost is $10 in advance or $12 at the door. Tickets are available at Metro Books. A dance will follow.

The women putting this program together have struggled to come up with a name for this event. They thought "Lupercalia" would be a good name. It was once a Roman festival. When the title was presented to local woman, they replied, "What the heck is Lupercalia?" Most women agreed the long title with the word "Celebration" in it would have meaning for more women in the community.

Victoria Shaver and Judy Goering are co-directors for this women's event. Donna Moody is in charge of scheduling performers. Any woman wishing to participate, as a performer or technical volunteer, should contact Donna at 243-0789 no later than March 11 in order to be included in the program.

The open mike at the Women's Coffeehouse, produced by Lisa Jamieson, has discovered another batch of women's energy generated talent. So, another generation of women has stepped forward in an attempt to give the women's community a place to come together, enjoy a women's program and to have each other's company.
Volunteer Spotlight

**Steven Drake**

by Al Kaneta

A shy, unassuming, humble, young man (age 32), Steven received Identity's Special Recognition Certificate for January. He's only been in Anchorage for nine months, but within that time, he's become a reliable worker on NorthView's staff, helping to put our magazine together.

Born in New Jersey, his family moved around, but he still calls that state his home. In Wyoming, he worked for the Forest Service marking trees for timber sales and also fire suppression.

In Anchorage, he is a civilian working for the military generating maps using a digital graphic computer to complete assignments.

His hobbies include sleeping on weekends and surfing the net on his computer. He's been so busy being a volunteer on our gay and lesbian HelpLine, working on the NorthView and assisting others in our community, that he hasn't had a chance to see much of our beautiful state. Steven is now in a quandary...his parents are planning a trip to Alaska...and he doesn't know where to take them! Any help would be much appreciated.

---

London wants more of us

**Reuters**

LONDON, January 15 — The London Tourist Board said it was launching a special “pink” telephone information hotline as part of a major campaign to attract more gay and lesbian tourists to the British capital.

The 60,000 pound ($98,000) campaign will begin in the United States, targeting gay urban professionals aged between 30 and 50 in cities such as New York. It will promote London — described by Newsweek as the coolest city on the planet — as a cosmopolitan destination with a wide range of cultural and entertainment activities of interest to gays.

“This is a huge market, particularly in the United States,” said LTB official Helen Jones. “We know that London is probably commercially the largest gay scene in Europe and the value of the gay tourism market to the city is estimated at nearly one billion pounds.” She said London wanted to build on its reputation as a gay-friendly city which already attracts huge numbers of gay and lesbian tourists.

The LTB would soon be launching a “pink” telephone information hotline to cover “bars and clubs, gay-friendly restaurants, theater and events of particular interest to the gay/lesbian traveler and information on how to find out more on London’s gay scene.”

The total value of tourism in London is expected to be nearly eight billion pounds this year, with more than 10 percent accounted for by the “pink pound.” ($ = 0.613 British Pounds)

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Hello, I wanted to introduce myself and let you know that The Family is alive and well.

The Family is UAA’s student club for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally students. It has existed in various forms since 1989. The current club membership consists of of all ages (16 to 60), physical abilities, races, creeds, religious and spiritual affiliations.

I am Victoria, a student at UAA. I have lived and worked all over our great state, but Anchorage is where I grew up and call home. I relocated back to Alaska in 1995 and to UAA this semester. I decided to put up a few hundred flyers and see if anyone would show up. And that they did...

This semester we have meetings on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. as well as weekend socials (mostly on Saturday). You are welcome to come and meet with us. We would like to know what other U of A students are doing and see if we can get some networking going on within the U of A system and our community at large.

The Family at UAA has historically fumbled due to the gap between political/social activist folks and the social/hang out and be-a-student types. Or so I have been told.

I think we have found a good way to meet most everyone’s needs by having a Thursday meeting with more of a political slant and Saturday socials to hang out and have fun.

We have two main “political” projects. One on April 8, which is the National Day of Silence. The other is an ongoing thing where we will order “safe zone” or “hate free zone” stickers and pass them out to University staff and students. A home page is on our visibility “to-do” list.

I am also working with campus housing and resident life to put together some diversity training sessions and/or activities with the RA’s and Res Life.

We are doing a few small-scale things like the National Freedom to Marry (“tie the knot”) Day sponsored by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, GLAAD, HRC, PFLAG and others, a voter registration drive (thanks Dan), and one bake sale just for the sake of having a bake sale. We are also going to do a noon-time learn to juggle and are talking with another club on campus to do a food drive for the 4As.

As for Saturday Socials — so far we have had two movie nights, a hot tub party, and hung out at Clarence’s Urban Coffee/Uncommon Grounds at 6th & Barrow and played pool at the Hollywood Canteen (at the Capri Cinema). This past Saturday we went to the Q Cafe for a vegan potluck at 1:00 p.m., the Capri for a movie and then to the gay and lesbian Valentines’ dance at the Pioneer School House, sponsored by the Alaska Native Health Board.

I will keep you posted on future happenings.

Victoria can be reached at <asvis@uaa.alaska.edu>

Telephone 245-2291 for more information.

PFLAG Southcentral receives award

A replica of the plaque awarded PFLAG International at the Metropolitan Community Church international conference at Sydney, Australia, in July 1997, was presented to PFLAG Southcentral by the Lamb of God MCC in Anchorage as its first annual Human Rights Award. The actions by the local chapter recited in presentation of the award include its role in creation of the Gay/Straight Alliance at Dimond High School, helping to establish a local chapter of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) and maintenance of its youth group, IMRU2.
Censorship

NOTE: In the January NorthView, a cartoon at the bottom of this page was considered "inappropriate" by the Editorial Board and was removed. I strongly disagree with their decision to remove the cartoon. At the time this article is being written, Identity, Inc. has decided to establish an Editorial Policy for all future columns. Their efforts to ensure a wide variety of voices are continually heard within/from our community should be applauded.

Censor: ...to examine literature, mail, etc. and remove or prohibit anything considered obscene, objectionable, etc.

Edit: ...to prepare a manuscript, etc. for publication by arranging, revising, etc.

As you can see by the above definitions, there is a very fine line between editing and censoring.

Personally, I think of editing as a means to "make an article fit" and to clean up errors in spelling or punctuation and to make an article more easily understandable for readers. In contrast, I see censoring in an entirely different light. To me, censorship is done solely to eliminate an issue/thought which prevents individuals from carrying on an open and important discussion. In the past, governments, companies and even individuals have censored everything from movies to political thought.

We have all heard of the censorship under Communism and we also know of the burning of books under the Nazi's in Germany in the 1930's-40's but there are other examples that are much closer to home. I am currently reading "The Gay Metropolis" by Charles Kaiser. This book is a review of gay/lesbian life in New York City from 1940 through 1996. The New York Times, thought of today as a bastion of liberalism, would not even use the word "homosexual" — they preferred "perverts"— until the early 1970's and only agreed to use the term "gay" during the past 10 years. Was this censorship? Not the type we usually think of, but to me this was an attempt by the media, the government and, yes, the entire society to "censor" the fact that gays/lesbians even existed.

Communicating with gays/lesbians in other countries over the past few years since I discovered "the internet" has made me realize more than ever that our (LesBiGayTrans) future depends on an open exchange of ideas. Some countries fear the independent thoughts of their citizens. Some organizations fear views contrary to their own. Some are very quick to determine what is offensive for everyone else rather than seeing, reading, listening, etc. to those items they find compatible with their views and allowing others to do the same. Our community should be the last place you would find censorship, particularly censorship involving political discussion.

The worst thing about censorship is that it seems to always be accomplished for all the correct reasons — at least that is the perspective seen by those who are doing the censoring. They are usually doing it to protect "US." Other people usually don't even know items have been censored or assume there is nothing they can do about it.

As a minority, the LesBiGayTrans community should never allow "might makes right" to control our decisions. After all, might makes right is very much at the core of censorship. Someone else decides what is good for you.

I have enjoyed writing this column during the past 4+ years. I appreciate your comments regarding my articles — both praise and criticism. I know from discussions with some members of the Board of Identity, there continues to be a need for a column about "local" politics and encourage anyone who would like to share views on politics with our community to contact any one on the Identity Board. And finally, please register and VOTE. Alaska is a small state where individuals can make a big difference in the political future. Alaska has long been known as a state of activism not the State of Apathy!
Outside a monastery, convent, ashram or other sheltered environment, it is a struggle to maintain a spiritual life. Compounded with health problems, and some days it feels impossible.

I am a menopausal woman. There, I’ve said it! It’s out in the open. I honestly don’t know if men go through a physical crisis although there seems to be a lot in the news about men’s prostate health lately. Candy’s dad died from cancer that had originally started out as prostate cancer and then spread into his bones. Menopause for me has been an ongoing hell for the better part of the past five years. The worst part is being too hot to sleep. I’m one of those people if I don’t get eight hours, I can’t cope. I don’t know how many times in the morning I’ve broken down into gut wrenching sobs because I didn’t think I could go on — get through another day. Other days I screamed and screamed into my pillow because I hated my life, was angry about everything and when angry felt like I want to kill somebody.

In the past, my body has always assisted me in what I want for myself or gotten me to where I wanted to go. Menopause began, that cooperation ended and the sleepless nights began and multiplied. Severe sleep deprivation produces Post Traumatic Distress Syndrome. PTSD is a mental disorder with a long list of symptoms. The most devastating is feeling as if God has abandoned you. This feeling of not being spiritually connected is not a new problem. Even Christian saints have experienced this psychic affliction. It is called “the dark night of the soul” and is a time when one’s faith is supposedly challenged. It’s a particularly gnarly dilemma when a person doesn’t believe in any of the traditional religious concepts.

Challenge may be too mild a description for “the dark night of the soul.” It seems more like the struggle between “the force” in Star Wars and spiritual annihilation. There were other problems, for a while I couldn’t meditate, which has been my saving grace in the past. There is a mind, body, spiritual connection. It turns out that I can’t meditate when my blood pressure is in the stroke range. Fortunately, my bouts of feeling disconnected or abandoned were very short, although immensely troubling while they lasted. Surely complicated and intensified by the fact I am not a patient person.

Impatient as I am, the nature of the menopausal beast forced me into a lengthy contemplation of my spiritual state. I have no faith in any religion known on the planet. Religion according to Soule probably claims a piece, precept or portion of every spiritual practice being presently practiced, formerly in practice or as “seen” in my psychic practice. This is supposed to be a free country that claims to cherish freedom of religion, although the mood of the land barely tolerates alternatives. I originally thought that I had no faith. It turns out that I do have a great deal of belief and faith in my spiritual hodgepodge.

Much of this article is written in the past tense. Recently, I found a naturopathic physician and the past four weeks I have slept at night because my body temperature is cooled with a drop of snake venom diluted three million times. There are no problems meditating and I feel quite comfortably connected to my spiritual resources.

If for some reason I ever end up in Australia, the Bushmaster is now one of my animal totems and my spiritual brother or sister and I haven’t even begun to think about what that may mean. I need a little more sleep in order to deal with that one. The alternative path through life and spirituality, or rather the “weird world of Soule spirituality,” still works for me.

Barbara J. Soule is a Reiki Master, a clairvoyant psychic, a lesbian artist, performer and writer.
Greetings moviegoers, welcome to another update of Film Gallery News.

We're looking for volunteers to organize film discussion groups. These groups of 10 to 15 people would see a film together then meet afterwards to discuss it.

What this means for the volunteer leader is free admission. Those participating in the group could receive a reduced price too. The Hollywood Canteen at the Capri and the Cafe at Cyrano's are both available for your get-togethers after the show. For more information please call Rand at 562-0737 or Kevin at 276-0064.

Here is the updated list of attractions now showing or coming soon to a Film Gallery near you:

**East Side Story** unrated, nothing objectionable, 77 minutes.
Opens February 13 at Cyrano's.
**Mrs. Brown** rated PG, 103 minutes opening February 13 at Cyrano's.
**Guantanamo** not rated, 104 minutes opening February 13 at the Capri Cinema.
**The Apostle** rated PG13, 148 minutes starting February 20 at the Capri Cinema.
**Vive L'Amour** no rating, mature subject matter, 118 minutes showing February 27 to March 5 at Cyrano's.

For program information, call 561-0064.


Hong Kong filmmaker Wong Kar-Wai, best known for *Chungking Express*, is the hippest name in Asian cinema right now, and in *Happy Together*, his newest and best film, he not only blows his competitors and imitators out of the water but also makes us reconsider how stories can be told on film.

Loose, buxom and bravely original, *Happy Together*, is the story of a gay couple who are miserable together and incapable of doing much about it. On vacation in Argentina, Lai and Ho, played by Chinese superstars Tony Leung and Leslie Cheung, are at the literal (and emotional) edge of their world.

There's not much dialogue in *Happy Together*, no back story explaining the characters' mutual history and none of the standard, linear film structure we're accustomed to. Wong breaks into scenes or cuts them off midpoint, improvises composition, color density and jagged editing, shifts from color to black and white and uses his camera in a spontaneous way that seems as if he's just dropped in on his characters and hadn't planned a thing. It's a cut-up, jazzy technique that would seem affected or gratuitous if it didn't capture perfectly the jumbled, cut-off lives of his characters. Lai is at the end of his rope with self-destructive Ho, but each time he resolves to break it off, he gives in — picking Ho out of the gutter, washing his wounds, nursing him back to health — and resists him all the more.

*Happy Together* may be set in Buenos Aires, but Lai and Ho rarely interact with the Argentines. That lack of interaction only reinforces the sense of isolation and displacement, giving the film the melancholic, failed-romantic mood of a Beat novel.

This is a story of people who don't belong and don't particularly want to belong, and yet are inevitably sad at not belonging. If Jack Kerouac had been born 40 years later, and had he worked in film, this is precisely the kind of story he would have told.

Were Kerouac, William Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg alive today, and able to see what Wong has done here — stretching and shrinking camera speeds, using brief freeze frames in the middle of a scene, creating impressions and glimpses instead of aping the too-familiar standards of movie narratives — they'd be thrilled and invigorated.

Rather than being enslaved by the forms and formulas of the Hollywood movies he grew up on, Wong has twisted, eviscerated and redefined film technique. His film is a splash of cold, fresh water on the face of a tired, over-fed beast.

By Edward Guthmann

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**Murphy's Manor**

I'm Gerald Pruitt for Action News, with gay City Council Candidate Larry Emmett, campaigning at Cock Tales, a gay club.

Guy clubs are friendly places, Gerald. The stories about wanton orgies, just aren't true.

Your sonde is like any straight reception — but it's all gain. You must try the mushrooms. They're divine.

Cut the camera, Fred. That's all.

You're a real campaigner, Mr. Larry. Imagine broadcasting from a gay bar! You get gays and straights at the same time.

Oh, it's all a matter of targeting your audience.

By Kurt Erichsen

Copyright 1997 The San Francisco Chronicle
PETALUMA, CA — Twelve-year-old Boy Scout Steven Cozza is brave, friendly and kind — everything the Boy Scout Law says he should be. He loves scouting — the hiking, the camping, the adventures. But right now he can't quite bring himself to recite the law at meetings, because he doesn't get how saying gay boys can't be Boy Scouts is brave, friendly or kind.

"They discriminate. They say you're supposed to treat others the way you'd want to be treated — but they're treating (gays) like dirt and I don't think they'd want to be treated that way," Steven said. "I thought the Boy Scouts were supposed to teach kids good stuff."

So he's circulating petitions, writing to politicians and having his own press conference — all in hopes of igniting a grass-roots rebellion and forcing the Boy Scouts of America to abandon its exclusion of gay members and leaders.

In taking on the Texas-based BSA, Steven is one more small, clear voice in a 20-year clamor of protest that so far has failed to budge the conservative Boy Scouts of America one inch. BSA spokesman Gregg Shields reiterated the policy, saying, "The Boy Scouts of America has long taught the traditional family values held by scouting families, and a person who engages in homosexual conduct is not a role model for those values."

Pressure for change was most intense in the early 1990s, when the United Way of the Bay Area withdrew general funding, and the Bank of America, Wells Fargo Bank and Levi Strauss stopped giving to the immensely popular Scouts. The Bank of America backed down quickly.

Since then, San Francisco-based Forgotten Scouts, the only national group fighting for gay inclusion, has folded, though the issue is kept alive on dozens of Internet Web sites. Now, most of the pressure is legal, with a series of court challenges over Boy Scouts' exclusion of gays, atheists and girls now before the California Supreme Court.

Still, Steven's decision to speak up has struck a chord in Sonoma County, one he hopes will be amplified across the Bay Area and the nation. His determination is formidable, judging by his scouting record. At 12, he's a Life Scout, just one step away from the highest rank, Eagle Scout, usually attained at 17 or 18. He's already completed two "50-milers" — seven-day hikes in the Sierra. And while still a Cub Scout, he climbed the six peaks rimming the Bay Area for the special Rim Rovers badge. On one survival outing, he even fried and ate a banana slug.

Now he's willing to endure the taunts of some fellow Petaluma Junior High seventh-graders, who tell him "You must be gay," to stand up for what he sees as a simple matter of justice. "I say it doesn't really matter, but I'm not gay," he said. "I was brought up to treat everybody the same."

It's not an idea he came to alone. His parents, San Francisco natives Scott Cozza and Jeanette Ramacciotti-Cozza, take credit for raising Steven and his 15-year-old sister, Anne, to value people of all kinds. It was Steven's father, a counselor for HIV patients and the homeless at San Francisco General Hospital, and a family friend, Dave Rice, both longtime scout leaders, who came up with the idea of the grass-roots Scouting for All on a hike. But it never got off the ground until Steven got involved.

For a citizenship merit badge, he wrote to all his legislators — from the Petaluma City Council to U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Petaluma, to U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. They all wrote back, but didn't say they'd do anything.

Things really got rolling when Steven decided to go public — writing letters to the editor published in the Petaluma Argus-Courier and the Santa Rosa Press Democrat. The Scouting for All phone — (707) 778-0564 — started ringing off the hook, and the Cozzas said they've got about 100 petitions circulating for signatures.

Most of the calls have been supportive. Miss Petaluma 1997-98 even wrote a letter of praise and promised to show up at the press conference, along with three Petaluma council members, representatives from the offices of Woolsey and state Sen. John Burton, D-San Francisco, and a member of the gay advisory committee to San Francisco's Human Rights Commission.

To the naysayers, Steven has his answers lined up.

"One woman said gays should be able to join the Boy Scouts, but they should have separate troops," he said. "But that's like having blacks in one school and whites in another."

Callers who raise religious objections will hear Steven's view that "I don't think God would discriminate against anyone."

To the idea that gay scouts would influence other kids to become gay, he's almost mastered comedian George Carlin's famous response about going to Catholic school but never becoming a nun.

The one place he can't talk about it is in his Boy Scout troop. He can't even tell the press his troop number, and he and his dad can't wear their uniforms when speaking out. They don't want to get the troop in trouble with Texas — and most of all, they don't want Steven to get in trouble with his troop. After all, he's going to be an Eagle Scout one day. Soon.

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"Absolutely. If that's what society permits, who am I to be judgmental?"

— Bob Eubanks, host of The Newlywed Game, when asked December 12 by Entertainment Weekly, "If same-sex marriage is legalized, will you allow gay couples on The Newlywed Game?"
It's a pleasure to serve the Community!

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The remembering of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which we have just celebrated on January 19, and the awareness that Lincoln’s and Washington’s birthdays (President’s Day) are in February, has prompted me to think a lot about freedom and liberation.

The Dutch theologian Maria de Groot uses the story of the healing of the woman in Luke 13 to illustrate the breakthrough of the gospel in the life of women. But, I think it has a direct application for gays and lesbians.

This woman was “bent double and quite unable to stand up,” besides being possessed by a spirit that left her enfeebled. Jesus laid his hands on her and immediately she raised herself up and glorified God. And that, says Maria de Groot, can only happen after you have been raised up. “You can sing the prescribed songs. Oh, you may participate in the community, even be in a position of leadership. But you do it as someone who is bent and distorted. Only if you are lifted up by the power of Jesus and in the space of the kingdom of God, then your own song awaken.”

People often ask me why I am so concerned about some of the exclusionary practices of the Church. What’s wrong with calling God, “Father”, what’s so tragic about women and gay/lesbians not being allowed to be ordained? The good work of the church goes on anyway, and that is important, isn’t it? Why are you worried about other churches? You are a part of a denomination (Universal Fellowship Of Metropolitan Community Church) which is openly gay/lesbian. And maybe they are right and I should not poke my nose into the debate and confusion of which I have no direct part.

Maria De Groot has said exactly what I would like to say. As a gay man, I too have felt bent and distorted. As a matter of fact, I still often feel that way. And it is the power of Jesus which liberates me, in the space of the kingdom of God. So that I can stretch myself to my full length and stature and glorify God.

This is what it’s all about: liberation, acceptance, glorification. How good is the work which is being done if bent and distorted people within those structures leave them no room for “stretching to their full length”? Are we so fearful, have so little confidence in the power of Christ and the kingdom of God, that we don’t want all God’s people stretching to their full length?

Those who witnessed the curing of the woman couldn’t appreciate Jesus’ healing the woman at all, since it was the Sabbath. Can you see a direct analogy with the attitude of today’s church and our culture, who are not overly enthusiastic with gay/lesbian people taking the word and singing our own song?

Jesus calls these people hypocrites and throws the question right back at them: If you free on the Sabbath your ox and your donkey to let them drink, what then have you to say of my act? Is this person not a child of God?

The implication, I hope is clear. There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus would lift us up and proclaim, is not this person a child of God? They do not have to achieve it by one or another achievements. They do not have to prove their worth. They do not have to conform to other’s practices.

The hand of Christ is sufficient for complete liberation: There is no need for anything else. No approval of society, or a given denomination, or those in authority, no proof from our side. We are Children of God, we are free to be who we are.

The only freedom and liberation is the one that Jesus taught – to be yourself at all cost.

God Bless you with the truth that will set you free!

Pastor Al Horn, Acting Interim, Lamb of God
Metropolitan Community Church

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Lesbian Notions

Our own sexism

Sometimes I wonder where all the lesbians are who used to speak up about sexism and lesbian invisibility, and I figure they've just gotten tired. I know I have. What makes me even more tired than the fact that many gay men don't seem to understand or care about sexism is that many lesbians don't either.

At a recent meeting of a lesbian and gay group with which I'm active, I raised an objection to having a benefit in an art gallery famous for exhibiting large photographs of erect penises. It's not the penises I mind, it's the assumption that male space is universal space. Many lesbians, I commented, would be uncomfortable in such a place, and a more neutral spot would work out better for everyone. I wasn't shocked when some men seemed clueless about my point — I'm used to having to explain feminism to many gay and straight men — but what enraged me was that some women were equally in the dark. The general assumption was that even raising such an issue was somehow a betrayal of my gay male brothers' sexual expression.

For me, the issue wasn't my personal feelings about penises — it was simply that sexism was once again at work in our community. Gay men's interests and concerns are often assumed to incorporate all of us, and lesbians simply go along with it. I can think of dozens of examples that have nothing to do with erotic photographs. Lesbians talk about being thrilled that so many mainstream movies have been released about "gay life" — even though those movies have all been about men. We're proud that most of the national lesbian and gay organizations have women at their helms — even though those women rarely speak up on feminist issues. We're outraged that Sarah Pettit was fired as editor-in-chief of Out — even though under her leadership that magazine was very male-focused. (The same is true of The Advocate, which also has a lesbian editor.)

Where is our outrage about the sexism in our community? Do most lesbians even recognize it anymore? Many of us get annoyed with gay men when they're insensitive to lesbian needs and ideas, but what are we actually doing to combat our own internalized sexism and the sexism rife in our community? The following are a few modest proposals for my lesbian sisters.

1. Write a letter to the editor of either Out or The Advocate expressing your opinion on the male-centered content and images of those magazines. I'll even give you a factoid to use with The Advocate: In 1997, it featured an out lesbian only once and bisexual women twice on its cover in a total of 24 issues. That was fewer times than it featured straight men. There was a fourth cover depicting a naked female breast, but I don't count that as a person. What's the point of having a female head editor with lesbian coverage like this? These magazines may counter that a majority of their readership is male, but irate lesbian letter writers might suggest instituting a lower-income, lesbian-friendly subscription fee.

2. Many lesbian and gay community centers have social service programs for those with chemical dependency or gender identity issues, but they have virtually ignored the topic of childhood sexual abuse. Though sexual abuse has affected women and men, gay and straight, estimates suggest that one in three lesbians is a survivor — seems like a major issue to me. Write a letter to the director of the center nearest you, asking her or him to consider instituting social services for survivors of sexual abuse. Better yet, start a petition and get both women's and men's signatures.

3. Take a look at what kind of books are consistently reviewed in your local lesbian and gay newspaper. Gay men's books, at least in many cities, win out over lesbians'. Many community newspapers accept unsolicited manuscripts, so instead of complaining about how few reviews there are of lesbian books, write one yourself. If writing isn't your forte, find someone you know who would like to see her or his byline in print. A friend of mine actually launched her successful writing career this way, volunteering to become the book review editor for a local community paper.

The truth is, we can blame gay men all we want, but sexism is still lodged deep inside many lesbians. It shows itself every time we choose not to speak up on our own behalf. Lesbians need to take a pro-active approach to fighting sexism within themselves as well as within the lesbian and gay community.

"Our language is funny — a fat chance and a slim chance are the same thing."

— J. Gustav White

Anchorage Gay & Lesbian Helpline

258-4777 or 1(888) 901-9876

A community service of Identity, Inc.

PO Box 200070, Anchorage AK 99520

Paula Martinac is a long-time lesbian activist and writer. Her latest books are the novel Chicken and the non-fiction guide, The Queerest Places: A National Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites. She can be reached at <LNcolumn@aol.com>
Reflections of a gay dough boy

“Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust.” — Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”

Martin Luther King Day, Jr. Monday, January 19, 1998
We've had snow and rain, on and off, all weekend.
From my half-asleep daze, I can hear my husband Paul going through his morning routine: brewing coffee, showering. He comes into the bedroom to change, kisses me.
And I think, as I often do, “I like this life, this semi-quiet, semi-unremarkable life.”

Paul has to go to work today, but I do not. I will sip my own coffee and perhaps read a book. Perhaps I'll go to the museum, perhaps not.

He calls me from work once he has arrived. “Don't freak out,” he says. “Even though I'm kind of freaked out myself.”

“Okay,” I prepare myself for bad news. What in the hell could have happened during his forty-minute commute?

“Someone wrote something in the snow on the hood of our car,” he says.

I prepare myself. “What is it?”

“Dough boy sucks dick.”

I don't feel panic at hearing this. Our car is parked on the street, not in a driveway, so it is not necessarily recognizable as ours unless someone who has absolutely no life has somehow “marked” us, has made it his business to watch us, has decided that we are worth the adolescent efforts of what can only be a cowardice pea-brain.

No, I don't feel panic. Instead, I feel disgust and exasperation. I simply say, “Not this shit again.” After I hang up the phone, and amid my sudden anxiety, the oddest, silliest question occurs to me. I wonder: did the vandal spell “dough” correctly?

I think “dough boy” concerns me more than “sucks dick.” No question, it is a double-affront, assaulting first our whiteness, then our sexuality. We've lived on this street — as both racial and sexual minorities — for six months now, and I'll confess to some trepidation when we first decided to move here. But I quickly became comfortable — both of us did — largely because we have gay neighbors who we've spoken with and like. It's nice simply knowing that they're one door away.

There is incredible diversity here. Between our house and the subway stop, we hear African, Caribbean, Vietnamese, and Hispanic dialects. Here — as opposed to in the straight, white, middle-America where I was raised — I feel as if my thread is as crucial a part of the tapestry as any other. My thread — my gay, Anglo-Saxon, man-loving thread — has not been lost amidst the homogenous, dull fabric of suburban America.

I used to believe that my whiteness gave me privilege; I grew up in a town where I took this for granted. My first awareness of race and difference as emotionally charged issues came about when a neighbor, Mr. Pierce, was selling his house. For many years, the Pierces had lived next to the Anderson's, an African-American family who seemed to never show their faces except when their kids went to school. I remember we didn't talk about race — or the Anderson's — in my family. It — and they — simply didn't seem to be an issue in our lives.

Mr. Pierce was close to striking a deal on his house when the prospective buyer's wife rang his doorbell. When he answered, he was met with a blow. The woman had slapped him square in the face. "How dare you not tell us you live next to blacks!" she ranted.

I heard this story in a hushed tone, behind closed doors.

I've quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. at the beginning of this essay, and there are some who might take issue with that in the context of gay and lesbian equal rights. Of course, most of those dissenters would probably believe that sexual orientation is a choice and that we, therefore, bring discrimination on ourselves — unlike the black man, who can't simply change the color of his skin.

Others might suggest — as my brother once did to me — that we simply not advertise our sexuality so that no ill will might be thrown upon us. I would request that these well-meaners refrain from talking about their weekend in the workplace, displaying photos of their spouses in the workplace, or try to play the pronoun game when discussing their dating habits.

Of course it's ironic that I awaken to snow graffiti on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, birthday. I reread his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" to mark it and, perhaps, to calm myself.
And to remind myself, I suppose, that he tirelessly crusaded for equal rights for all Americans. We've picked up his torch because we must. His message echoes throughout the gay and lesbian community — in our hearts and in our souls — whenever either one of us stands tall against the fear and ignorance of others, whenever either one of us holds a friend or colleague accountable for homophobic remarks, whenever either one of us insists — demands — that we be granted equal treatment under the law.

We must never let go of his message, of his idealism, even of his dream.

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Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

Friends of Dorothy

These days, it seems everything's coming up Dorothy in Hollywood. First, concerning the most famous Dorothy comes word that openly gay Gypsy producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron have a four-hour ABC miniseries in the works based on Judy Garland’s daughter Lorna Luft’s memoir, Me and My Shadows: A Family Memoir.

Two other high-profile Garland projects are also in development, including Rainbow's End, a biopic about the late songstress from producers Oliver Stone and Dan Halsted and executive producer Sid Luft, Garland’s former manager husband (and Lorna’s dad). The film will chronicle Garland’s later years and will reportedly have an edgy, All that Jazz-type of feel. A director will be named shortly, but they better hurry, because Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg are planning to make their own Garland biopic that the former will direct for DreamWorks. A script is in the works from John Logan, who tackled the life of another showbiz giant, Orson Welles, in the acclaimed but as yet unproduced RKO 281.

I wonder how Garland might feel about Drew Barrymore stepping into her ruby slippers — the Scream vixen is set to co-produce and star in Warner Bros.’ Surrender Dorothy. It’s being tagged as a loose adaptation of The Wizard of Oz, with Barrymore playing a character who is based on the original Dorothy.

Barrymore and company better not get too used to their movie’s title, however. Another movie with the same name was named best film at the Slamdance Film Festival, Sundance’s underground rival. That Surrender Dorothy tells the story of a bisexual drug addict, not Judy Garland. And in one last bit of dyke news from Utah (bet you never thought you’d hear that phrase before), October Films has has booked the lesbian drama High Art, a ’98 Sundance Film Festival entry from director Lisa Chalodenko.

As gay as it gets

Ellen DeGeneres’ prediction that her show won’t be back next year appears prescient as ABC has placed the show on hiatus during the competitive February sweeps. The network’s entertainment president, Jamie Tarses, says the decision whether to renew the show will be made after close scrutiny of the ratings, which have been dropping. Tarses says she is pleased with the show’s quality, but behind-the-scenes network execs have been complaining that the show has become too gay. In response, an upcoming Ellen episode will guest-star Harvey Fierstein. The Twilight Zone homage features a dream by Ellen Morgan, narrated by Fierstein, in which the world turns gay.

More ABC controversy

The network is being called cowardly by the former co-executive producer of the drama Nothing Sacred, which deals with a Catholic priest who struggles with his faith.

Richard Kramer says ABC refused to air an episode of the show which dealt with a priest who contracts AIDS. The show was originally supposed to air after the pilot but was held by the network. It was held over twice more, Kramer says, until ABC finally shelved it for good, although execs won’t confirm, saying the show is simply not yet scheduled to air.

ABC was applauded late last year when it renewed the show for the rest of the ’98 season despite right-wing boycotts and advertiser flight. But, like Ellen, the show is being held for hiatus. When it returns, Nothing Sacred will again occupy the 9 p.m. Saturday time slot, one of TV’s least-watched hours. With the Disney empire growing wary of all this controversy, the prospects for a fall return of both shows is growing dimmer.

The queer honor roll

The nominees for the ninth-annual Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards include Golden Globe winner for best musical or comedy As Good as it Gets. Other outstanding wide-release nominees include My Best Friend’s Wedding, In and Out, and Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.

The awards, which honor balanced media representations of the gay and lesbian community, also honor limited-release films. This year’s nominees are All Over Me, Bent, Different for Girls, Lilies and Ma Vie en Rose, the latter of which was named best foreign film at the Globes.

As for television, ER, Fox’s canceled 413 Hope Street and NYPD Blue will vie in the drama category, while Spin City, Mad About You, Suddenly Susan and, oh yeah, Ellen will compete for best comedy series.

My personal picks for these honors (based on GLAAD’s criteria of the most positive portrayals — not necessarily the objectively best productions, are As Good as it Gets, Ma Vie en Rose, NYPD Blue and the still-pioneering Ellen.

Romeo San Vicente, who may be the only person in Hollywood not to claim he is bisexual, can be reached at <RSVicente@aol.com>.

Words are the matter and weight of the soul.
— Sartre

Sylvia L. Short
Attorney and Counselor at Law

705 West 47th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Telephone (907) 562-4992
PFLAG Anchorage

PFLAG Southcentral Alaska changes its name

The national of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays organization recently voted to standardize the names of its various chapters, in order to facilitate contact by people wanting its services. Accordingly, the chapter in Anchorage is changing its name to PFLAG Anchorage. Other chapters in the state include PFLAG Fairbanks, PFLAG Juneau, and PFLAG Mat-Su.

Leadership training

PFLAG Western representative Ron Schlitlter (son of our co-chair) and Rev. Howard Bess, Northwest Regional Director, have organized a leadership training conference to take place on Friday, Feb. 20, from noon to 9:00 p.m., at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke St. The conference is free and is open to the public, although the focus will be on PFLAG chapter development and leadership training. In addition to Schlitlter and Bess, speakers will include Nancy Kalling, graduate student in Social Psychology and long-time president of the Fairbanks chapter. A pot-luck dinner is planned for 5:30 p.m. "Homosexuality, Churches and Community" will be a day-long experience of sharing and conversation in order to bring together a range of informed opinions in dialogue about a topic that is tearing communities apart. The conference is sponsored by SeaCom Inc., PFLAG Mat-Su, and PFLAG Anchorage. SeaCom is an Indiana-based nonprofit organization that seeks to bridge the differences between the nongay and gay communities from a theological perspective. An impressive panel of participants includes six clergy, two lesbian and gay parents, a former Alaska State representative, and the Western Regional Director of PFLAG. Cost for the all-day conference is $50 and includes handouts, lunch and refreshments. Place: Lake Lucille Inn, Wasilla. Time: Saturday, Feb. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Change of meeting time

After surveying its membership, the board decided to change the time of the monthly meeting to the third Tuesday of the month, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The monthly meeting will continue to meet at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship social hall. The next meeting will be on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

"You know gays. Most of them they're very tasty people — they like beautiful stuff in life. If they like me it means they have taste. They don't follow me because of my butt shots. The like me for me."

by Fred Hillman

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The Amazon Trail

Waiting for Ed McMahon

While friends watch the Broncos play some other football team, all Lover and I care about is Ed McMahon jumping from the van that’ll be pulling up to our door any minute now to announce we’ve won ten (count ‘em), ten million dollars.

Can you imagine? We could both quit our jobs! I could write full time! We could travel or be lesbians of leisure right here at home!

We could pay off the house. I could pay my car insurance when I get the bill! I could buy my mother’s way into a luxurious, assisted living facility. I could dump a bunch of cash on the Victory Fund, for starters.

Ed-boy didn’t show. Not this year, not last year. Probably, he never will. Not to be stereotypical, but do any of those people in the winners’ photographs ever look queer?

No, don’t tell me you’ve never looked inside that sweeps envelope. Or deny that you’ve spent precious time trying to unravel the rules. I used to throw them out. I was above all that. But I’m not about to win any juicy literary prizes, and the likelihood of my femme/butch novel The Swashbuckler reaching the big screen is faint. I’d faint.

It’s kind of scary, living in a country where one whole political party is out to keep all the riches in the hands of the few and the rest of us struggle and paste gold stars on play certificates in hopes of entering that rarefied society. I have no Ghost of Senator McCarthy, I’ve never been a member of the Communist Party, or the Socialist Workers, or whatever, but I do think it’d be neat if the majority of us didn’t have to wish for Publishers Clearing House handouts.

Gambling is not my forte. I think I’ve used up all the adventurous bones in my body. If this were not the case I would have spent more than $1.50 in quarters on that one-armed bandit in Reno about ten years ago.

I can’t understand gambling. Unless all I’m risking is a thirty-two cent stamp. Why would anyone work forty hours a week and then hand over a bunch of their earning to a casino that makes a mint, so to speak? Because they want to win, just like me. Or because it’s a compulsion. I can understand compulsion real well. Fortunately, mine currently runs to a need to take too many books out of the library at a time so I’m never stuck without an engrossing read.

When I lived in Southern Oregon where the lines for Oregon lottery tickets could run longer than the holiday gift returns at K-Mart, I went through a period of buying a ticket a week from a machine. People from faraway states always seemed to win. I gave that up.

When I ran a grocery store in Connecticut, it was hard to resist those tickets I sold all day long. I won $10 once. That didn’t even reimburse me for the tickets I’d bought.

No, the only time I won anything impressive was at that church fair in Queens. I was a baby dyke with my eye on a basketball at the wheel of fortune booth. I plunked down my dime. The nun spun the wheel. (What’s wrong with this picture — nuns as gambling croupiers?) The wheel clicked like a crazy clock, slowed, crawled, and landed on my number. I’d won — and I wasn’t even Catholic! One of the nuns reached to the very top shelf and brought down a large yet delicate beauty of a doll. “I made her dress and petticoats myself,” she told me as she handed me this frilly foreign object, probably thinking to metamorphose the little tomboy into something more like the doll.

My father always said “You get what you pay for.” A dime brought me an unwanted doll. A dollar a week made me a dollar a week shorter. A buck-fifty won me the experience of playing the slots for five minutes. And all those thirty-two cent stamps I sent Ed-boy bought me very speculative hope.

Hey, maybe next time I’ll put money on the Broncos!

A woman’s guess is much more accurate than a man’s certainty. — Rudyard Kipling

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My Queer Life

My life in reviews

I have a new book out. It's called *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me & Other Trials From My Queer Life*, thank you very much for asking. And yes, it is very exciting. I can barely contain myself. See, I'm even writing a column about it. Shameless publicity, sure, but why have a column if you can't plug your own books in it?

The publication of a new book is indeed a thrilling time. After all, generally you've worked very hard writing the thing. You've spent just as much time nagging the publisher about what you think the cover should look like and about how really this time they should send you around the country on a reading tour, just like Anne Rice. As the pub date approaches, you spend every waking moment hovering near the front door, waiting for the UPS guy to pull up with the package of your author copies.

When he finally arrives, you can't open the box fast enough and get your hands on your new baby. After checking to make sure it has all of its fingers and toes, you call everyone you've ever met in your entire life, just to say hello of course, but maybe somewhere in the conversation you can slip it in that you happen to have a new book out and that if your friend really likes you, she'll go out and buy a copy immediately.

For a couple of weeks, everything is sweetness and light. Your friends all tell you how wonderful and fabulous the book is, and how the cover is absolutely breathtaking. You call your editor and tell him how much fun it was to work with him, even though three months ago you were calling him the dumbest son of a bitch to ever wield a red pencil. You put the book somewhere where you can see it every time you happen to walk by. Sometimes you pick it up and read a few pages, pretending that it's someone else's book and wishing that you could write so well. Then you remember that you did write it, and you sigh hopefully at your brilliance and wait for the phone to ring again.

But lurking on the horizon is a dark cloud that threatens to ruin the sunny joy of your publication experience — the reviews. See, your friends aren't the only ones who are allowed to comment on your book. Unfortunately, just about anyone is allowed to say whatever they want to about what you've written. This being America, there aren't laws to stop them, which is really something that needs to be addressed by Congress.

Okay, so usually it isn't that terrible. I've written twenty-something books now, and in general they've been very well reviewed. In fact, out of all of the reviews I've ever gotten, only two have been really awful. But while I can recall very little of the positive reviews, I remember nearly every word of the bad ones. No, I won't tell you what they said.

I suspect I am like most writers in how I approach reading my reviews. Instead of starting at the beginning, I scan the lines quickly. The purpose of this is to look for key words. If the review contains such phrases as "deightfully funny" and "Nobel Prize," then chances are that reading it slowly will make me happy. But should I come across something along the lines of "disappointing" or "don't bother because this book is about the dumbest piece of crap ever published," then I begin to suspect that reading the review in its entirety will bring me little joy.

Even with bad reviews, however, there are ways to turn them into something positive. No, I don't mean by looking at them objectively, taking them to heart, and seeing what you might do differently in your next book. I mean by rewriting them.

The first time a less-than-flattering review came in for a book I'd published, I called the editor to whine about how unfair it was. There was no way we could use the

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quotes in ads for the book. But then she showed me something magical — you don’t have to use entire sentences when quoting from reviews. You can just use the nice words. For example, say the review says, “This ambitious but insipid book will appeal only to everyone who thinks Melrose Place is high cinema and that everything by Jackie Collins is a masterpiece.” No need to weep. With just the tiniest bit of editing, you end up with, “This ambitious ... book will appeal to everyone ... and ... is a masterpiece.”

Okay, so maybe it looks a little weird. But when it’s set in type it looks fine, and with a little luck everyone will think that you cut some stuff out because it was so laudatory that even you were embarrassed by it. The point is: if you read it enough, even you will come to believe that it’s what the reviewer actually meant to say. And that’s what’s really important, isn’t it? Happiness is all about perception.

And this doesn’t work just for book reviews. It has many practical applications. Feel free to use it any time someone gives you news you don’t want to hear. Say the object of your six-month obsession turns down your offer of a date, saying, “I can’t go out with you because I’m much better looking and because you’re a pathetic loser and really don’t deserve great sex with someone like me.” Don’t feel bad. Just turn it into, “I can’t go out with you because I’m ... a pathetic loser and ... don’t deserve great sex.” See, it’s easy. And fun. With a little practice, your life will be nothing but rave reviews.

So here I sit. The book is out. I’m still giddy about it all. In the next couple of weeks, I’ll start my reading tour. If I come to a city near you, please come out and say hello. If you’re a reviewer, take a look at the book. If you like it, that’s great. You’re a fabulous person whose mother brought you up right. If you don’t, just remember — I’m sitting here with scissors in hand.

Britain demands territories legalize gay sex

The government of British Prime Minister Tony Blair has demanded that Britain’s five Caribbean Dependent Territories legalize gay sex, reported BBC Radio 5 Live’s Out This Week.

A Foreign Office spokesman told the program that the anti-gay laws in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks & Caicos Islands place the United Kingdom at risk of being found in violation of its international human-rights agreements.

Anti-gay sentiment in the Cayman Islands was highlighted recently when the local government denied docking privileges to a cruise ship carrying 900 gay men. The tourism ministry said homosexuals could not be counted on “to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands.”

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The disparity between HIV haves and have-nots has become sharper and sharper with the growing list of new treatments. Only 10% of people infected with HIV live in countries where an adequate supply of HIV drugs is available, while limited resources make sophisticated HIV therapy beyond the reach of the other 90%. In response to this situation, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) launched the pilot phase of its HIV Drug Access Initiative on November 5.

Four developing countries — Chile, Ivory Coast, Uganda and Vietnam — will be participating. Under the Initiative, the pilot countries will develop their medical infrastructures to improve care for HIV-infected individuals and ensure the effective distribution and use of HIV-related drugs. Participating pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies, such as Glaxo Wellcome and Hoffmann-La Roche, will subsidize purchases of drugs and virological services and tests. Drugs will include antivirals, as well as antimicrobials to treat opportunistic infections and antibiotics to treat sexually transmitted diseases.

Special oversight committees in each country composed of local medical, public health and community representatives will coordinate the effort, devise policy and institute entry criteria for the selection of patients. In addition, specially created nonprofit organizations will place and receive drug orders and channel subsidies from participating donors. Each country will also receive training and education funded by UNAIDS. Problems can occur, as they already have in the Ivory Coast, when patients are asked to contribute towards the cost of their treatment. Even if pharmaceutical companies subsidize a large portion of the cost, prices for drugs will still be beyond the reach of the majority of the Ivory Coast's one million HIV-positive people. The average per capita income in this nation is only about $500.

The pilot program also is quite small, and can only serve the needs of several thousand AIDS patients per country. If successful, the Initiative will be extended to other countries in three years. The ultimate goal is to provide a base for the developing nationwide health care systems to treat and educate those infected and affected by HIV. Local health ministries will be encouraged to create new sources of funding and to build on existing programs in an effort to achieve financial stability. According to Dr. Joseph Saba, coordinator of the Initiative, "We are hopeful that this new collaborative approach will bring us a little closer to making treatment for HIV and AIDS a reality for many people in the developing world, who have little or no access to care today."

taken from the Gay Men's Health Crisis Treatment Issues Newsletter, Volume 12 Number 1

Upcoming Events:
- AIDS 101 Training: Thursday, Feb. 12 5:30pm - 6:30pm @ 4 A's
- AIDS 101 Training: Wednesday, March 4 5:30pm - 6:30pm @ 4 A's
- Free HIV Testing Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00pm @ 4A's
- Every Thursday "HIV Support Group" 7pm - 8pm @ 4 A's
- Every Friday "Friday Lunch" for clients, friends and volunteers Noon @ 4 A's
River crossings and other reality checks

by Jen Kohout

Looking down at the ocean crashing against the cliff, I'm awed at the power of the towering waves. I lean over the edge to see a wall of black lava worn by the relentless surges of water. Thousands of years ago this island rose from the ocean floor in a violent explosion of molten red stuff (not the technical term). And ever since then the water has been working to reclaim this particular pile of rock. An inevitability I hope won't happen any time soon — at least until my vacation is over.

For the moment, though, this cliff-side trail appears relatively solid. Even if it is rather narrow. I look up and notice that Karen has scurried ahead to a wider section of trail slightly inland. She's had enough of tempting fate. Not me. Mesmerized by the colossal forces below, I linger.

This view is precisely why I'm standing on this trail with 42 pounds of nylon-encased camping gear strapped onto my back. Because every so often I need a reality check. And if one is going to have a reality check, it might as well be a scenic one. Like the waves pounding against this rock, the constant barrage of daily stress tends to wear me down. I lose my perspective — and my sense of humor. It's times like these that I most need to head outside.

As I march along trying to ignore the soreness in my shoulders and hips, I realize that there are plenty of people who are able to regain their sense of perspective without the aid of a steep trail, mosquitoes and five days of instant oatmeal. I don't seem to be one of them. Luckily, I'm involved with someone who can appreciate that.

Once we round the corner, the trail begins to descend into the rainforest. Palm leaves the size of kayaks form a canopy over our heads. I'm grateful for the shade. Karen registers mild annoyance at having the tropical vegetation interfere with her tanning efforts, as if the large pack towering over her head isn't already. The rocky trail is caked with red mud from yesterday's rain. At our current downward pitch, one wrong step could easily result in an ugly fall. Not that I'm all that concerned about falling down; it's the getting up that would be the problem. I imagine landing backwards in the rust colored slime and realize that wallowing in the mud doesn't seem to intrigue me as much as it did when I was seven. Needless to say, I am so focused on each step that I don't notice we have reached the bottom of the valley then I hear the roar of water rolling over rocks and register that we are approaching our second river crossing.

Suddenly, I feel as if I'm about to give a speech to an auditorium full of bored attorneys. My stomach begins to churn. It's a mystery to me why I can curl my toes over the edge of a 400 foot cliff and calmly enjoy the sea breeze, yet hopping across a shallow river causes my knees to quiver. But fear is a funny thing. At least in retrospect. In any event, my attention has leapt from the slippery trail beneath my feet to the raging torrent of water I expect to see around the next bend.

Karen, oblivious to the fact that we are about to be washed out to sea, has picked up speed anticipating a river-side lunch break. Meanwhile, my pace has slowed to that of a snail slithering towards a French restaurant. I see her pause briefly, then she is gone. By the time I catch up, she is already across the river, fishing in the back of her pack for a Cliff Bar. Appetiteless, I ponder my route for far longer than this oversized brook warrants. I finally take a deep breath and tentatively head out across the rocks. I'm about two-thirds of the way across, when I take a particularly pitiful stride towards a slimy looking boulder without the momentum to bring my trailing leg forward. I'm straddling a broad stretch of rushing water when Karen grabs my arm and yanks me energetically towards the bank... where I am soon standing, relieved to be back on the soggy trail. While I happily gaw at the other half of her Cliff Bar, I ponder mortality, wet socks, and the topo map. I do not think about the stock market, my transmission, or work. A good day.

“Tom is so big and so manly, he could, you know, just grab me. I was like Vivien Leigh to his Clark Gable.”

— Actor Kevin Kline to Entertainment Weekly on his kissing scene with Tom Selleck in the film In and Out.
Dutch childhood sweethearts first lesbians to wed

AMSTERDAM, January 14 — Reuters — Childhood sweethearts Irma van Praag andAnna Kreuger became the Netherlands’ first lesbian couple to wed when they tied the knot at the stroke of midnight on January 14. The women, both 38, married under new Dutch laws effective from January 1 which extend full marriage rights apart from joint adoption to same-sex couples.

Over 500 guests attended a glittering ceremony at Amsterdam’s Hilton Hotel. The couple spent their wedding night in the suite where John Lennon and Yoko Ono celebrated their honeymoon with a week of “bed peace” 30 years ago. “John and Yoko were making a statement to the world, and that’s also what we’re doing,” tram driver Anna Kreuger told a news conference. “We hope that in due course the (legal) exclusion with regard to child adoption will also be eliminated.”

Officially known as a “Registration of partnership,” the new legislation offers same-sex couples all the rights enjoyed by straight couples, barring joint adoption. Dutch MPs have already voted by a comfortable majority to remove this last barrier and gay rights campaigners are optimistic it could be on the statute books before long.

Irma van Praag said she and Anna had met 24 years ago and had long wanted to marry. “This is the happiest day of our lives,” she said. Three male couples have already married under the new act after gaining special dispensation to waive the required two-week period of notice for medical reasons. One of the partners involved in the first gay marriage has since died. At least 100 gay weddings are planned in the Netherlands this year, according to Dutch magazine Gay Krant.

Dressed in matching black, sequined velvet gowns and tulle provided by one of around 40 corporate sponsors, the two brides hosted a private party at an upmarket river-side club. A cream-colored stretch limousine decked with red arum lilies ferried them to the Hilton’s Diamond Room in time for the ceremony, after which they and their guests danced the night away at a reception in one of Amsterdam’s gay nightclubs.

Irma, who describes herself as “housewife,” said the couple had chosen the traditional form of words for the ceremony. In other ways, too, the partnership will bear the hallmarks of an old-fashioned marriage. Asked if things would change now they were married, Irma said: “I think that finally I’ll be able to nag her (Anna) to take her shoes off when she comes into the house and to clear up her mess.”

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This week, “Ride The Wave!”

Wednesday Nights at 9:PM it’s DRAG QUEEN BINGO. Stick around afterwards for LA CAGE AUX WAVE at 10:PM.

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

Date: Friday, February 27

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: Beth Vann: My Experiences in Bosnia
National Day of Silence

NDOS Press Release

In 1998, the National Day of Silence, to be held April 8, is expanding. We have been honored with endorsements from Advocates for Youth, GLBT-rights organization And Justice For All, and GLBT youth advocate OutProud!. We are now an all-volunteer, all-youth staff of eight, and we are eager to help schools plan a great National Day of Silence event. Please consider joining us in the 1998 National Day of Silence.

On April 8 students across the United States will remain silent from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. These students will be silent by choice. What is frightening is that every day gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are silenced involuntarily. On the National Day of Silence, participants will be silent to protest the silence that is forced upon lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders. Instead of talking, participants, who are GLBT or our allies, pass out cards that read:

Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am a friend of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders. People who are silent today believe that laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations. The National Day of Silence is to draw attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression, and prejudice. Think about the voices you are not hearing. What can you do to end the silence?

By creating this deliberate, visible silence in the form of cards and gatherings afterwards to reflect on the silence of the GLBT people and those who support them, the National Day of Silence has, and will again, create some serious noise. In 1997 the National Day of Silence worked for over 100 colleges, high schools, and universities. We invite campuses and youth organizations nationwide to participate in the 1998 National Day of Silence as a display of the solidarity of the youth within the GLBT movement.

For more information, visit the NDOS home page at <http://wsvr.clas.virginia.edu/~mkp6n> or contact the National Co-Chairs: Jessie Gilliam, University of Virginia, at <jmgl66@faraday.clas.virginia.edu> or Maria Pulzetti, University of Virginia, at <m kp6n@faraday.clas.virginia.edu>.

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Fairbanksan

Further North in the Heart of Alaska

Winter is getting into high gear: dog races, ice carving and winter festivals. The promise of mild weather and longer days really perks one up.

PFLAG FAIRBANKS

"Searching For Common Ground," a forum for clergy, educators, parish leaders and everyone who wishes to participate in a meaningful dialogue on "Lesbians/Gays & Religious Communities". Special guest speakers and leaders are Rev. Howard Bess of Palmer (author of the book Pastor, I Am Gay) Rev. Kenneth Prunty of Anderson, Indiana (President of SeaCom). Will be Saturday, February 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Fairbanks Curling Club, 1962 Second Avenue. Co-sponsored by PFLAG Fairbanks, Tanana Valley Conference of Churches and SeaCom Inc., a non-profit organization, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, that sponsors forums across the nation to build bridges of love and understanding between people with conflicting views about human sexuality and religious faith. Work on the forum is progressing. A panel will tell the "Gay Story" and some panel members address "Religious Perspectives". The more conservative religious view is not represented as yet. Cost is $20 per person, $35 per family, and $10 per university student (includes lunch). Extra registration materials can be picked up at Into the Woods Bookshop and Coffeehouse, Fairbanks Hotel, Fairbanks Lutheran Church and St. Nicholas Catholic Church in North Pole. For more information call 45P-FLAG.

"Love Makes A Family" photo exhibit is being co-sponsored by PFLAG, Interior AIDS Association (IAA), GLSEN, and probably other groups. This display has been around the nation and is very powerful. Fairbanks will receive the exhibit the last two weeks in May. Call Ilena or Pat at IAA (452-4222) for more details.

Gay Pride

Reserve Saturday, June 27, for the best event ever!

Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse

A new entrance is just one of the many changes, but one thing remains the same — an increasingly popular meeting spot for groups and friends. Call Connie at 479-7701 for details of current and upcoming events, or drop in at 3560 College Road.

QNetAK

Point your browser to <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> to get updated information on Anchorage and Fairbanks community events, statewide resources and homepages. E-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com> to add events, list your homepage or family friendly business.

Dolce Vita

January 31 saw the opening of "BITE: A Photo Smorgasbord". Come see it for yourself at 1433 Noble St, 2nd floor, Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 457-1590 for information.

Interior AIDS Association

Gay Men's Advisory Council members needed. Call Pat at 452-4222 to volunteer or to get on the mailing list for The Interior Inquirer, IAA's newsletter.

Historic San Francisco domestic partner law a success

Six months after the City of San Francisco began implementing a law requiring companies doing business with the city to comply with domestic partner benefits policy, the city's Human Rights Commission (HRC) has declared it a success.

To date, 1270 city contractors now offer the benefits to their employees. Since the ordinance requires that companies comply in all of their locations throughout the U.S., approximately 642,757 employees now receive equal benefits.

"This historic piece of legislation has had a far-reaching impact on the number of businesses providing [these] benefits to their employees and the number of insurance providers across the country offering domestic partner coverage. We are thrilled with the success of this anti-discrimination law," said HRC Director Mariic Bamba.

For more information contact Cynthia G. Goldstein (HRC Program Manager) at (415) 252-2515.

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The love you leave behind when you're gone

by Karen Carlisle

That wonderful Fred Small song that the Flirtations sang, and Carol Annie and Deb and Lisa and others taught to us... the title is playing tag with my memory. Anything Possible? You know, the one about "being anybody you want to be, and loving whomever you will." The spiritual truths in that song helped me make an important decision a couple of weeks ago.

Dear Love's mama, who was her dearest and oldest friend, died. And, so, we set about sending Dear Love to Florida but I thought I better stay home and keep earning the money to pay the bills, right? That's what life is all about, isn't it? Paying the bills on time? So you can have good credit? So you can buy more things?

I didn't even recognize her voice when she called to tell me. Her voice was broken, shaky, little. "My Muzzie's gone."

"I'll be right there," I said, and left work immediately. I did not ask permission, or cancel appointments. On the long drive to her workplace, the pragmatist continued to rationalize. We can't afford to miss work. We are so in the hole now, we'll never climb out. I will not be given bereavement leave... I'm queer, and I don't count. We'll have to borrow money because, of course, it's the end of the month and the credit cards are maxed out. On and on with the recitation of my "I can'ts."

A good coworker... family... was standing with her in the parking lot. Dear Love works in a prison. I wouldn't be allowed in. I took her in my arms and held her tight, wanting to suck away the hurt with my body. In the car on the way home, she said, "I wish you'd go with me." I replied evasively: "I wish I could, too."

After arriving home, Dear Love made the interminable calls of notification. Throughout the next two hours, she said, frequently, "I wish you could go, too. I wish you would be with me." I remained silent, or repeated my former evasion; but finally, the moment of truth was upon me, for she asked me to deal with the airlines.

I proceeded with the reservations as if I was going, thinking I could back out later. In order to get bereavement leave, I lied, and said we were step-sisters. I was too sad and shaky to fight for my civil rights. We traveled US Air, and not American. If it had been American, maybe I could have told the truth.

As it turned out, the fares were low enough that I thought I could pay off a loan in this century. I confirmed both of us and, then, we went across the street to eat a hot fudge sundae, an excellent putting-off-feelings ploy. And, finally, to bed, exhausted, but determined to finish the work week. By then, Dear Love was so grateful I was going, I couldn't back out.

I didn't know what to expect when I told my director that I was leaving, but she was kind. She took it upon herself, though, to lie to our dean on my behalf, and I didn't respond beyond saying she didn't have to do that. We wouldn't want the poor dean to have to deal with the information that I loved a woman, and was going to be her helpmate in this passage, as I am in all others, and she in mine. This astonishing information might cause him to have a stroke.

Of course it was understood I wouldn't get bereavement leave, but I had plenty of leave time accumulated, so we left. Dear Love and her uncle couldn't have done all that work alone. I couldn't have, and neither could you. It took the two of us a week to sort, mail, repair, mend, and donate. It took Dear Love and her uncle days to do the legal things. And in the midst of it all, a celebration of Muzzie's life for her friends.

And during it, I remembered the words from the song: "And the only measure of your words and your deeds is the love you leave behind when you're gone." Yes, Muzzie left a legacy of love, and, now, I had my priorities straight. Would Dear Love or I remember that we paid VISA on time in February, 1998? No. Would either of us care that I advised students whose names I can't remember anymore? No. Would it be important anytime in our lives that I pleased my boss? No. But it was important that I walked through this with her, that I was by her side, that I shouldered some of the load. More important than anything. How many times in our lives do our mothers die? How often are we called upon to prove our love?

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Solutions often arise from a subtle reformulation of the question, not from the diligent collection of new information in an old framework.

— Stephen J. Gould
Past Out

Who was Norma McCorvey?

On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in Roe v. Wade, establishing a woman's constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy. Only a few people knew the true identity of “Jane Roe,” the plaintiff in this historic and controversial case. Roe was, in fact, Norma McCorvey, a lesbian from Dallas.

McCorvey ran away from home in 1957 when she was only 10 with a girlfriend. At a motel in Oklahoma City, Norma and her friend had their first lesbian sexual experience. When they were picked up by police several days later, Norma’s friend said Norma had forcibly sodomized her. Norma was sent to a girls' reform school for that offense and for robbing a gas station.

After her release, Norma met Woody McCorvey, whom she married after a brief courtship. When McCorvey told her husband she was pregnant, he beat her up and she left him to return home.

Though it may seem like an unlikely time to come out as a lesbian, it was during her pregnancy that the 16-year-old McCorvey discovered a local lesbian bar and began to frequent it. She found a home within the lesbian and gay subculture of Dallas. Though she had several relationships with women, she also continued to have occasional sex with men. After the birth of her first daughter, she came out to her mother and paid a price for her honesty — her mother was able to take her infant daughter away from her.

When McCorvey became pregnant again after a week-long affair, she carried the baby to term, but gave it up for adoption. But it was Norma’s third pregnancy, from another casual fling, that made history. That time, she sought out an abortion but was unable to find a doctor to perform one. She tried unsuccessfully to abort with a homemade potion that made her sick. Finally, an attorney she consulted about adoption referred her to two young feminist lawyers who would change her life. When McCorvey met with them, she was honest about her sexual orientation and saw the confusion on the women’s faces. Afraid they might not take on her case, McCorvey lied and told them she had been raped. Because she was concerned that her lie would be discovered later on,

McCorvey opted to use the pseudonym “Jane Roe” for the trial.

Roe v. Wade was appealed by the state of Texas and went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. By a vote of 7-2 in early 1973, the justices held that a woman’s right to an abortion was part of her constitutional right to privacy. It wasn’t until 1987 that McCorvey revealed herself as Jane Roe and admitted her lie about being raped. A made-for-TV movie starring Holly Hunter was made about her in 1989, but with her lesbian identity left out.

After several years in the public eye, speaking out for abortion rights and writing a pro-choice memoir, McCorvey became a born-again Christian in 1995 and abruptly recanted her position on abortion. Since that time, she has been an outspoken advocate for Operation Rescue, the militant anti-abortion group.

David Bianco is the author of Modern Jewish History for Everyone. He can be reached at <AriBianco@aol.com>.

Elizabeth Maria McNeill, Ph.D.
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Vice Versa Award winners announced

February 11 — David Bianco says this about the Vice Versa Awards received by *NorthView*: “You should feel very good about your accomplishment, given the fact that more than 450 entries were received — and each entry was already dubbed the ‘best’ by its individual publication or contributor.”

A Houston magazine’s in-depth report on ex-gay ministries won the top prize and publications in San Francisco and Baltimore won the most awards in their divisions in the first-ever Vice Versa Awards for excellence in the gay and lesbian press, which were announced today.

The Randy Shilts Award for Outstanding Achievement — which comes with a $250 cash prize and the opportunity for the piece to be reprinted in publications all over the country — was earned by Kyle Young of *Outsmart Magazine* in Houston, whose piece “The Ex Files: A former follower sheds light on ex-gay ministries” illustrated the struggles of Christian gays and lesbians who join the ex-gay movement.

The *San Francisco Bay Times* won the largest number of awards in Division A (weekly and biweekly publications) with 11 — including three first-place awards (best news article, best health article, and best review). In Division B (monthly and quarterly), the *Baltimore Alternative* won the most awards with seven — including a contest-leading four first places (best health article, best entertainment feature, best review, and best illustration or cartoon).

Other publications winning first-place awards in Division A were *Echo Magazine* (best comprehensive coverage or investigative report), *Metro Weekly* (best interview or personality profile), the *Washington Blade* (best op-ed piece or column), *Xtra West* (best humorous piece), *Frontiers* (best entertainment feature) the *Gay People’s Chronicle* (best editorial) and *IN Newsweekly* (best illustration or cartoon).

In Division B, other first-place winners were *Outsmart Magazine* (best comprehensive coverage or investigative report, best interview or personality profile, and best op-ed piece or column), *Our Own Community Press* (best op-ed piece or column and best news article), and *ACCESSline* (best editorial).

One theme that stood out among the top winners was religion. In addition to the Randy Shilts Award winner about ex-gay ministries, a two-part investigative report on the Mormon Church in *Echo Magazine* took top honors in Division A’s best comprehensive coverage or investigative report category and a *Metro Weekly* interview about homosexuality with a Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox rabbi won Division A’s best interview or personality profile.

Other notable winners include the humor pieces “Are Bert and Ernie Gay?” from *Xtra West* and “Singing a Different Tune” from *Our Own Community Press*. Of the latter, one judge credited author Michael Thomas Ford’s “superb writing, pacing, and emotional/political pull” — calling the piece “one of the best single pieces of gay writing I’ve ever seen.”

Several individual journalists won multiple awards for their work including Randy Shulman of *Metro Weekly* (six awards), Jeff Ostfeldt of *Echo Magazine* (four), Ann Rostow of the *San Francisco Bay Times* (four) and Bruce Mirken of the same publication (three).

The Vice Versa Awards contest was established in 1997 to honor the 50th anniversary of *Vice Versa*, North America’s first lesbian or gay publication (a mimeographed lesbian newsletter produced in Los Angeles by the pseudonymous Lisa Ben). The response to the first-ever contest was extraordinary, with 452 submissions from 52 publications in 25 states, two provinces, and the District of Columbia. Winning publications and contributors will receive certificates, and the Randy Shilts Award winner will receive a $250 cash award.

The Vice Versa Awards are coordinated by Q Syndicate, the nation’s largest content provider to the gay and lesbian press. Judges were drawn from the ranks of talented gay thinkers, mainstream journalists, and journalism professors. They included NLGJA founder Roy Arons, author and activist Torie Osborn, publisher Barbara Grier, community historians Martin Duberman and Joan Nestle, and journalism professors Larry Gross (Penn), Lisa Henderson (U Mass), and Bob Jensen (U Texas). For categories such as best humorous piece and best illustration, judges included specialists such as comics Robin Tyler and Jason Stuart and Disney animator Andreas Deja.

Next year’s contest will be expanded to include a division for publications with a national distribution and new categories will be added such as best layout, best special issue, and best photo. The deadline for submissions for the 97-98 Vice Versa Awards is tentatively set for July 10.

Here are the awards received by *NorthView*, including the judges’ comments:

Category 3: Best editorial. Honorable Mention, Division B: February 1997 Editorial by Fred Hillman, *Identity NorthView* (Alaska). “This is a quirky piece unlike most editorials, but one that addresses a pressing community need in a playful way. Nicely done.”


For more information, contact contest coordinator David Bianco at 1-888-383-7911 or <Vice Versas@aol.com>. 

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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
Dear loyal subjects of the gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual community and all of our friends.

Greetings from the Emperor and Empress. We hope this letter finds you all well.

The month of February is flashing by for us! We have had another busy month. Thanks to the efforts of Imperial Crown Prince John Erickson and his crew, the gay community float for Fur Rondy was completed. I hope you were impressed with this year's design (conception by Malcolm and Bruce). This year's theme was "Gold Fever." Thanks to all who turned out to cheer us on. A special thanks to all who made the progressive dinner fund-raiser a success for the float fund.

Valentine's Day weekend I attended coronation in Seattle. Rosie stayed in town to be on the float and attend the Miner's and Trapper's Ball (as the Empress). The weekend of the twenty-first Rosie, myself and many of our court members will be at coronation in San Francisco. Alaska will have quite a contingent and we plan on doing you all proud. The last weekend of February, Rosie will be in Connecticut for their coronation.

We will be having our Closet Ball '98 on March 8th at the Wave and March 15th will be the Emperors' and Empresses' comedy show. Feel free to give Rosie or myself a call at 563-2110 for more information about March events. We sincerely hope to see some of you there!

Thanks to you all for your continued support!

Yours in service and friendship,
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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.
The Blue

by Gretchen Legler

Gretchen Legler returned in January from a five month stay in Antarctica where she was part of the National Science Foundation's Artists and Writers Program. She spent time at McMurdo Station, the south pole and many remote field camps. She also spent three weeks roaming the Ross Sea aboard the Nathaniel B. Palmer, an icebreaker and research vessel. Among other things, Gretchen was interested in trying to write about human relationships with the vast, icy, windy wilderness of the Antarctic continent. Below is a short essay that she wrote in Antarctica as part of a series of Writing About Place exercises she put together on her webpage (http://cwolf.uaa.alaska.edu). Gretchen will be presenting readings and pictures from her trip at the University of Alaska Anchorage on March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in CAS 118, and also at the April 24 Women's Coffee House at the Qupqugiaq Cafe.

In her memoir Moments of Being, Virginia Woolf writes about special moments that a writer must court and be ready for, moments when what she calls the “cotton wool of daily existence” falls away and for a moment we are presented with an astonishing truth about something, anything. Writer Barry Lopez speaks of something similar in his book Arctic Dreams, moments when for some reason we have become aware of “openings” in the land, moments when, as he puts it, “something sacred reveals itself within the mundane, and you know that the land knows you are there.”

In Antarctica, I experienced one of these moments when I went to visit a set of ice caves. The caves were part of the Erebus Glacier tongue, a long spit of ancient ice, named after Mt. Erebus, an active volcano that hovers over Ross Island and McMurdo station. The caves were about an hours drive from McMurdo by tracked vehicle. I went with a group of nine others who had signed up for the trip on a sheet of paper in the gallery.

We went to two caves. One of them was very easy to get into. You climbed a hill of snow, squiggled through a rather large opening, and slid down a little slope into a large cavern—a cavern about as big as the average living room. The other cave you would miss if you didn’t know it was there. You kick-stepped your way up a steep incline then squeezed your body through an opening only big enough to fit your shoulders through. Then, you slid down a thin icy tube until you landed on a shelf (if you went too far you dumped into a depression you had to climb back out of), and then, with the aid of a rope, you climbed up and around and through a maze of tight ice walls until you reached two larger caverns. A claustrophobic person would not do well in the second cave.

It was in the first cave that I had my moment. I had been lying on my back, taking notes, looking up into the crystals and into that blue that still amazes me—blue so blue it is as if your eyes have broken and don’t work. Blue so blue it is like gas that fades away into more and more intense blue-violet. The first time I’d been in the cave the person who took me there said that often people who go down into crevasses are so overcome by the blue that it makes them cry. I remembered that as I lay there on my back, taking notes, trying to draw the crystals that hung like blooms of flowers above me, trying to figure out where the blue began and where it ended.

Suddenly everyone else was gone, or I thought they were. So, after a while I packed up my notebook, reluctantly, and started to get up. Once I was out of my little grotto, I realized that there was one person left in the room. It was my friend Gary Teetzl. Gary is an engineer in the laboratory building at McMurdo, and he and I had spent time together weeks earlier in the observation tube—an 18-foot tube set into the cold sea, which you could climb down to and sit in to watch creatures in the dark ocean.

“Oh, it’s you,” I said to Gary, jokingly, as if, if there was anyone left in the ice cavern still it would be HIM, and me. We are kindred spirits—lovers of quiet and contemplation. So, we stood there, quietly, at opposite ends of this ice cavern for another ten minutes, until we heard a voice calling us to come away and board the vehicle. It was during that ten minutes that I had my moment. I cupped my hands around my eyes, so that all I saw was the blue, and as I stared, my heart began to beat faster and my breath started to come faster and tears started to come to my eyes.

It was that blue that made me cry. That blue. That blue/violet that seems like it is sucking you in, that makes you feel as if you are falling into it, that compels you somehow to look into it, even though it blurs your vision and confuses you. It was that blue, so enigmatic that for a moment you lose your balance in it. You don’t quite know if you are in the sky, or under water, or whether for an instant you might be in both places than once. The blue is like a frosty, vague and endlessly deep hole in your heart. It has no edges, just color and depth. It is a color that is like some kind of yearning, some unfulfilled desire, or some constant extreme joy. It just burns there, burns violet, burns blue.
Sundance honors

NewsPlanet Staff

There were honors for several gay-themed works as the Sundance Film Festival drew to a close January 25.

*Out of the Past*, director/producer Jeff Dupre's documentary on the 1996 struggle to organize the Gay/Straight Alliance at East High School in Salt Lake City, Utah, won the audience vote for best documentary. The young activist who played a key role in organizing the club, Jacob Oroco, committed suicide in September 1997. The audience prizes are among the most coveted at Sundance, where it's not always the judges' trophy winners that go on to wider distribution.

Another documentary, *Divine Trash*, Steve Yeager's documentary about openly gay filmmaker John Waters and his creation of *Pink Flamingos*, won one of the festival's Filmmaker Trophies (voted by the movie makers at the festival).

*High Art*, a lesbian-themed portrayal of New York City's fashion world, garnered the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award for Lisa Cholodenko, who also directed. *2by4*, Jimmy Smallhorn's drama of Irish immigrants and a violent gay underworld, won a cinematography prize.

The big winner in dollars among the gay-themed films so far is *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, whose world rights were purchased by Trimark Pictures for about $600,000. Its depiction of a gay photographer's crush on a musician who works as a waiter was written and directed by Tommy O'Haver (his first feature) and produced by David Moseley with Meredith Scott Lynn and Irene Turner.

A less tangible but no less important honor at Sundance is critical acclaim. Openly gay actor Sir Ian McKellan won high praise from *Variety* for his portrayal in *Gods & Monsters* of historic open gay James Whale, director of *Frankenstein*, *The Bride of Frankenstein* and *The Invisible Man*, based on open gay Christopher Bram's book *Father of Frankenstein*. *Gods & Monsters*, part of the American Spectrum sidebar, was directed and written by Bill Condon and produced by Paul Colichman, Gregg Feinberg and Mark Harris, and McKellan's co-stars include Lynn Redgrave and Brendan (George of the Jungle) Fraser.

*The Opposite of Sex*, Sony Classics' first feature from screenwriter Don Rios, billed as "a romantic comedy about homophobia," was applauded for its humor by the *New York Times*, with a special nod to Christina Ricci (Go Fish) for her work both here and in another Sundance entry, *Buffalo 66*.

At the neighboring Slamdance Film Festival, *Surrender Dorothy*, which depicts a bisexual drug addict, took the $2,000+ Grand Jury prize for writer/director/star Kevin DiNovis and producer Richard Goldman.

Those whose love has been sincere are always gentler, even though they have been most swindled.
— D. H. Lawrence
Navy cannot discharge sailor
by Mikel R. Haase

On Monday, January 26, federal judge Stanley Sporkin issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting discharge “or otherwise hindering” of Senior Petty Officer Timothy McVeigh’s service in the Navy.

The Navy had ordered the discharge of McVeigh — who is not related to the convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh — on the grounds that he breached the military’s “Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on homosexuality.

The planned honorable discharge was based entirely on information obtained by the Navy from America Online (AOL), the nation’s largest online computer service, said Christopher Wolf, the sailor’s Washington-based lawyer in a telephone interview with Reuters.

McVeigh filed suit charging the Navy violated the federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act by requesting and receiving confidential subscriber information from AOL. “We can’t let the government use the fruit of that poisonous tree to discharge a decorated sailor,” Wolf said.

McVeigh, 36, is a 17-year Navy veteran stationed in Hawaii. His AOL profile did not identify him by name or indicate he was in the Navy. The Electronic Privacy Information Center, which monitors civil liberties issues on the Internet, said McVeigh’s lawsuit was the first to challenge governmental access to sensitive subscriber information maintained by an online service.

In issuing the injunction, Judge Sporkin had to find that there was a likelihood McVeigh would win his case, that he would suffer harm from being discharged, and that the Navy would not suffer great harm in keeping McVeigh on duty.

Though of lesser legal impact than a decision based upon a full trial, Sporkin’s decision was both strongly worded and broad in scope. Further steps towards final resolution of the matter are underway, though it could be years before that process is completed.

This case addresses “an important test of federal privacy law,” Wolf said. “It will determine whether government agents can violate the law with impunity or whether they will be held accountable for illegal conduct in cyberspace.”

This article was drawn from a Reuters article, copyright January 15, 1998.

“As much as I want to blame the press, we all have blood on our hands. All of us, even myself, bought those magazines and I read them. Until we no longer feel that it is our right to read about people’s private lives, and until we lose our fascination with scandal and sensational journalism, we are never going to act. It is all our fault.”

— Madonna on the death of Princess Di, to London’s The Times, September 3.

UFMCC sponsors conference

LOS ANGELES — “In Our Own Language: A Conference for African Americans in UFMCC” will be held in suburban Washington, DC April 16-18, 1998. This historic national conference is the first organized entirely by and for African American friends and members of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world’s largest predominantly gay spirituality organization.

According to the Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, conference organizer, “This conference will provide an opportunity for African Americans in UFMCC to affirm who we are in UFMCC and to celebrate the diversity of gifts and experiences we bring to the growing gay spirituality movement, and to the greater g/l/b/t communities.”

Conference participants will include Dr. Kelly Brown- Douglas, professor of theology at Howard University School of Divinity; the Rev. Delyne Russell-Hinton, associate pastor of Belair United Methodist Church in Belair, MD; the Rev. Sandra Robinson, president of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies; and the Rev. Darlene Garner, a member of the International Board of Elders of UFMCC and senior pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia.

According to Garner, “The three-day conference will provide exercises to create awareness of ourselves and our community. Through leadership training, African American lay and clergy persons will be equipped with spiritual and practical tools for reclaiming, maintaining and sharing our unique gifts with the g/l/b/t communities.”

Conference brochures and registration information are available from UFMCC Headquarters by phone at (310) 360-8640 or by e-mail at <Info@ufmcchq.com>. For additional information, contact The Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, Conference Organizer Office Phone: (703) 691-0930 or e-mail at <RevDGarner@aol.com>.

UFMCC was founded in 1968 to provide positive Christian spirituality for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. UFMCC provides more than 300 congregations in 15 countries. With an annual combined budget of $15 million, the churches of UFMCC comprise the largest predominantly gay organization in the world.

“I think more people meet through the Internet than without it. You meet people in more different ways. It’s a physical interaction but you meet by expressing ideas. You can go to places on the Internet where people of the same interest hang out. You can make a connection with someone there and then meet them in real life later. You are not tied to geography. I guess there would be a problem if you found someone who was wonderful and they lived in Burkina Faso.” — Ron Buckmire, founder of the Internet’s Queer Resources Directory, to Virginia’s Our Own Community Press, September issue.
How to be a millionaire in forty years

by Kathleen Madden

If you’re like most people starting out in their careers, long-term goals such as retirement, starting your own business or becoming a millionaire probably are the last things on your mind. Paying the month’s bills often is hard enough.

Regardless, now is the ideal time to start planning for your financial future. That’s because your chances of instant wealth are slim.

The younger you are, the less you’ll have to invest.

Sure, there are lottery winners, but few become millionaires overnight. If you’re willing to postpone millionaire status for 20, 30 or 40 years, the odds of your achieving your goal are more in your favor and the ways to get there are more dependable.

Time and regular monthly investing strategies can make you a millionaire after all. The younger you are, the less you’ll probably need to invest to become a millionaire retiree. It’s simple arithmetic. Time and compounding help you leverage your dollars so that you can make more with less.

Set a goal

The first step in any financial plan is deciding what you want to achieve — how much money you want and when you want it. Then, work backward.

For example, if you are 25 and want to have a million dollars when you retire at age 65, you then can determine how much money you’ll need to invest, what average annual rate of return you’ll have to earn and how long and often you’ll need to make investments. If you invest $287 a month starting at age 25, for example, you may, assuming an average 8 percent* annual rate of return, reach millionaire status by age 65.

Of course in today’s world, earning 8 percent interest may not be easy. By selecting the right mix of investments, however, you may achieve your targeted rate of return.

Getting Started

It’s never too early.

Assuming the same average annual rate of return, a 40 year old will have to invest over 3 1/2 times as much each month to become a millionaire at age 65 as would a 25 year old. Furthermore, a younger investor can be more aggressive.

After all, a 25 year old has 40 years for his/her investments to grow, while a 40 year old has only 25 years. Although so-called “growth” investments are typically more volatile, historically they have generated a significantly higher rate of return. (Although past performance does not guarantee future results.) So, it generally pays to be more aggressive and to accept some risk.

Stick with your program

This step is the most important. No matter how much research you do, there will always be a higher paying in-

investment. Quite frankly, there’s no guaranteed way to become a wealthy retiree. The surest way, however, is to start and stick to a regular, well-planned investment program.

Follow this regimen, and you may find it easier than you ever imagined to, by age 65, put together a million-dollar nest egg.

Of course, with rising taxes and the long-term effect of inflation, you just might need it.

* Return figures used above are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent the actual performance of any particular investment, nor are they a prediction or guarantee of future results.

Kathleen Madden is a Financial Advisor for Waddell & Reed. The Anchorage Waddell & Reed office is one of 200 offices nationwide. Waddell & Reed can be found at <http://www.waddell.com>.

“There is... some evidence that homosexuality is something of a fad among young people. On a few college campuses, the term ‘gay until graduation’ is used derisively to describe those who experiment with gay sex. Gay equality has nonetheless become a ‘90s version of Birkenstock environmentalism for many youths. Even in certain parts of suburbia, gay is becoming more than O.K.; it’s cool.”
— From a December 8 Time report on gay youth.

Have you tried

**Chiropractic**

for:

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

Relief without drugs or surgery is possible!

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- Workers Comp.
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**272-1272**

Dr. Hill also utilizes Non-Force Techniques

The Hill Clinic
A Chiropractic Office

203 West 15th Ave., Suite 104 (corner of 15th & C)
The Directory

This directory is our "yellow pages" and reference guide. It's free! The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (A)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) Interior AIDS Association (Fairbanks) 452-4222
(A) Pierce County AIDS Foundation (WA), 206-383-2565
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gail Charles-Abbot, 278-5019

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

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

Bakery & Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

Bed & Breakfast, Accommodations:
(A) Ah, Rose Marie, 302 Cowles, Fairbanks, John, 456-2040
(G) Alta's (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-389-2582 (see ad)
(A) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(G) Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(A) Fairbanks Hotel, (Fairbanks) Doris Lundin, 888-329-4685
(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567
(A) Island Watch, Eileen ( Homer), 907-235-2265 (see ad)
(A) Regina's, 276-4904
(L) Rose-Beth's B&B, (Anchorage) Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G/A) Sauerdough Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946
(L) Skyline B&B ( Homer), Lisa, 907-235-3832
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Sudie, 907-586-2410

Books:
(A) Alaskan, 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
(A) Binky's Den, 205 4th Ave., Seward, Sue or Terri, 224-PAWS
(L) Communication Art, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDA Services, Wrangell, 276-6862
(G) Eksticam Ray, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 258-1339
(G) graf/ix, Lucian, 561-5856
(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(G) ServCom Alaska, Mark Mathis, 274-9472
(L) TeleLink, LeMiel, 276-6862.

Supplies & Equipment:
(A) Brigid North, Tom, 561-4633 (see ad)

Training:
(G) Seven Treasures Computing, Don, 562-9496
(A) Find it! Business Services (Macintosh); Larry, 279-4862

Education Services:
College and Boarding School Selection:

(A) Tom Croke, 277-7004 or (717) 886-8652

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

Tutoring:
(G) Gabriel, Spanish, 272-9045
(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, Darl Schaaff, 561-2115
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(G) Cyrano's Film Gallery Cinema, 417 D Street, 561-0064.
(A) Syzygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599
(L) Women's Coffeehouse, Lisa, 561-2198

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

Coffee Houses:
(A) Alaskan Urban Coffee & Art, Clarence, 272-9518
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 562-0737
(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, Darcy, 274-0690 or 561-WAVE (see ad)

Theatre:
(A) Out North Contemporary Art House, Gene/Jay, 279-8099

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-8040/338-3962
(G) Jon Howe, Bank of America, 263-3335
(A) Kathleen Madden, Waddell & Reed, 349-3559 (see ad)
(A) Catherine Smith, C.P.A., 562-2438
(A) Solutions Consulting, Laura, 243-3324

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

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

Florists/Greenhouses/Nurseries:
(G) Every Bloomin' Thing, Gerry, Malcom, 274-3158
(A) Mile 5.2 Greenhouse, Dale, 694-9378
(A) Tryck Nursery, Doug, 345-2507S

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

Hair Styling:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) 36th Avenue Hair Design, Ledja, 561-8967

Health:
(A) Alpine Indoor Air Purification Systems, Marjory, (970) 746-6381
(L) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(A) Nature's Own Way, Roberto/Debbie, 561-0181

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Gatekey, Ketki/Jaiinini, 561-7327
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 274-FLEX (3539)
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0582
(A) Thee Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

Body Work:
(L) Donna (NCMT), 243-0789
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
**Health...**

(L) Leslie, 278-3346  
(L) Ariel, 277-5222  
**Counseling:**  
(A) Anchorage Center for Families, 276-4994 (handles all kinds of family issues.)  
(A) Barton Sloan, LCSW, 563-5765  
(A) Connie, 562-1826  
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)  
(A) Jann, 248-9408  
(A) Marion, 562-0012  
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795  
(A) S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape), 276-7279  
(L) Tess, Alternative Counseling, 562-8281  
(A) Tom Gormley, ANP, 565-4014  
**Electrolysis:**  
(L) Gentle Touch Electrolysis Clinic, Bronwyn, 258-6608  
**Dental Care:**  
(A) Ward Hubert, DDS, 248-0022  
**Family Medicine:**  
(A) Dr. Phyllis T. Dunckel, 257-4600  
**Naturopathic:**  
(A) Hope, 561-2330  
**Obstetrics & Gynecology:**  
(A) Jane, 563-5151  
(L) Mary Ross, Nurse Practitioner, 563-7228  
**ReliK/Counseling:**  
(G) Rick, 333-9640  
(G) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916  
(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:**  
(Carpent & Linoleum Installation):  
(A) Big Bob's, Mark, 561-2121  
**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  
(A) Sweeping Lady, Janet, 276-7608  
**Odd Jobs:**  
(L) Deb, 275-3018  
(A) Service with a Smile, Liz, 274-5290  
**Kites, Games, Banners, Puzzles:**  
(A) Northwind Kites, Pat, 279-4386  
**Legal:**  
(L) Mendel & Associates, Allison, 279-5001 (see ad)  
(L) Rhodes, Phyllis, Mediator, 346-2217  
(A) Short, Sylvia, 562-4992 (see ad)  
**Media:**  
(L) NLGJA (National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association), Kim, Alaska coordinator and board member, 277-2704  
**Music/Instruments:**  
(A) Oldtime Music Company, Marge, 561-6862 (see ad)  
**Native Arts/Culture:**  
(A) Moon Dancer Arts, Rosemary (Wasilla), 373-5535  
**Newsletters/Newspapers:**  
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924  
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)  
...Spiritual  
(L) Klondyke Kontakt (Alaska Women's Cultural Center), 277-9763  
(G/L) NorthView (Identity), 258-4777  
(GL) Perspective (SEAGLA in Juneau), 586-4297  
**Pet Care & Veterinarian:**  
(A) Dr. Ginny, 345-1515  
(L) Dr. Vicki, 345-1515  
(A) Dr. Jean Battig (Fairbanks) 452-6055  
**Photography:**  
(L) Alaska Photographic & Supply, Linda, 345-5434  
(G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 566-0600 (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., 274-9226  
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292  
**Printing, Electronic Graphics:**  
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-0460  
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678  
(A) TimeFrame, 562-3822 (see ad)  
**Recreation:**  
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226  
(L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087  
(A) Flies by Ike (Eagle River), 907-694-6946  
(A) Knik Glacier Tours, Palmer, Alaska; Tom Fausset, 745-1577 (see ad)  
(L) McKinley Air Service, Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765  
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 (see ad)  
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221  
(A) Stan Stevens Cruises, P. O. Box 1297, Valdez, AK 99686. (907) 835-4731, (800) 992-1297.  
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770, 888-899-2770  
(A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb, 907-339-2725  
**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), Luclie, 417-745-6798(w); 417-993-4503(h)  
(G) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663  
(A) Rona Mason, Realtor, 242-8877 (cell) or 279-8877. (see ad)  
(L) Waltraud Barron, 278-1981  
**Research:**  
(L) Cracium & Associates, 279-3982  
**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) Aquarian Foundation, Rev. Patricia Brown, 349-9955  
(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 Hess, 746-1089  
(A) Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, Anchorage, welcomes all regardless of orientation. 333-5253  
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266  
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276  
(A) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, 4148 Pikes Landing Road, Richard Kemnitz, 457-9009
Directory

**Spiritual...**

- (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 (Anchorage), Victoria, 245-2291

**Support Groups:**

- (G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
- (A) GLSEN, Fred, 562-7161
- (G) I.M.R.U.2 (Youth Group), 566-4678
- (A) PFLAG Anchorage, Sylvia 562-4992, Fred 562-7161
- (A) PFLAG Fairbanks, Mary Jo, 907-459-8985
- (A) PFLAG Juneau, 907-463-4203

**AA:**

- (G/L) Gay, Joyous and Free, see Calendar
- (G/L) Midnight Suns, see Calendar

**Deaf Support:**

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

**Tattoos:**

- (A) Bitchin' Tats, Kathy, 561-3653

**Travel:**

- (G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
- (G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770 or 888-899-2770

**Austrian gays sue newspaper**

Five Austrian gay groups have filed suit against a right-wing Catholic newspaper that said, “Homosexuals, like rats, are crawling out of their holes, only to be fed lovingly by church people and politicians.”

The newspaper, The 13th, also called for “the formation of militias to fight state-supported ... lechery” and said homosexuals should be punished “with whips and bull pizzles.”

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Club Notes

**AA**

Gay Joyous & Free, see on-going calendar.
Midnight Suns, 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.

**AGB Social Club**

(formerly Anchorage Garden Biddies) a social group for gay men looking for an alternative to the “bar scene.” For more information, call 272-5608.

**Anchorage Women's Political Caucus**

for lesbians and non-lesbians, meets 7:00pm at Elmer's Restaurant, New Seward & Fireweed, on the first Wednesday of every month.

**Aquarian Foundation**

services Wednesday 8:00pm and Sunday 11:00am, 8500 LaViento Drive, 349-9955.

**Bruin Brotherhood of Alaska (Levi/Leather/Bear)**

1441 F. 12th, #2, 99501 Contact Dan at 258-2629 or 276-6947. Meets the third Saturday at 7 pm.

**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 Dan Carter at 274-9226.

**EQUAL, Inc. Fairbanks**

purpose is to keep the community informed about political and legal events which have an effect on the lezbieg community, to educate about community issues, to organize letter writing campaigns and other forms of political action, and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation. For more information about EQUAL, contact Laura Burleson at 907-479-7348 or e-mail FSLEB@aurora.alaska.edu

**Fairbanks Gay Youth Group**

Leave message on voice mail for info: 457-3524.

**Fairbanks Radio Station**

KSUA 91.5 “Homophonic Radio”, 4-6 p.m. Sundays

**Family—Anchorage**

The Family is UAA's student club for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally students. It meets every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in Room 117 of the Business Education Building on the UAA campus. Weekend socials are scheduled (mostly on Saturday). Telephone 245-2391 for more information.

**Feminist Sing-a-Long (women only), Anchorage**

third Saturday of every month, 1741 Westview Circle; call Carol and Fran at 333-0871. Non-singers are more than welcome. 6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm singing (from the KK—Thanks!)

**Gay Bar, Anchorage**

free legal question and answer sessions on issues of interest to lesbians and gays. Second Monday of every month, noon at 845 'K' St. 279-5001.

Continued on page 41
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 psychological 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
is a social and support group that contributes to our community by being active in many causes: we plan and present wonderful entertainment, and donate money to needy organizations for them to carry out their important goals. See Calendar for this month’s planned activities, or contact Empress Rosie Rotton at 563-2110. Or write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.

IMRU
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 1:30pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, 258-5266.

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

Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club, Anchorage
is a social group open to anyone gay, lesbian, or ally. Look for upcoming events in the Calendar, or call Eric at 277-3236.

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

OPAL (Open Partnership Alliance for Lesbians)
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 Into the Woods Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 3560 College Road, Fairbanks. Call 45P-PFLAG 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 Anchorage 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) 274-4964 or (W) 564-5818

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

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

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

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

Women’s Coffeehouse
an Anchorage lesbian/feminist institution; music, readings and other events, held monthly at various venues; new performers are encouraged to participate; open mic every other month. Check calendar for more information, or call Lisa at 561-2198, or e-mail to <milo@servcom.com>.

Gay marriage case filed in Montreal
A Montreal gay man has filed suit charging that the province’s refusal to let him marry his Mexican lover violates Quebec’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

“For me and Manuel, marriage is important,” Martin Dube, a 26-year-old security guard, said at a press conference. “We want the same rights as heterosexual couples.”

Dube added that the governing Parti Quebecois courted gays during the 1994 campaign but hasn’t done much for them since even though there are many homosexuals in positions of power. “When it’s time to take a stand, everybody’s in the closet,” he said.

Dube’s lawyer said the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation, is in direct conflict with the Civil Code, which limits marriage to opposite-sex couples.
Cyberlust

Submit changes to <TomAndAI@alaska.net>

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): <http://www.alaskanaids.org>

AGLA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc. <femph@aurora.alaska.edu>

Burleson, Laura: Gay Rights activist, Chair of Equal of Fairbanks: <fseleb@aurora.alaska.edu>

Capri Cinema, Rand Thornley: <filmgallery@compuserve.com>

Carlisle, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist: <cmkite@getomebe.net>

Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskaday@aol.com>

Cheney B&B: <CheneyBB@alaska.net>

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE): <http://www.cologne.com>

Childs, Lucian: graphic artist <lucian@alaskana.com> <http://www.alaskana.com/gfx/ >

Crabbtree, Phil, B&B, Fairbanks <crabbtreehome@geocities.com>, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4169>

Craciun, Jean: market research, Pride Conference: <jcraciu@craciun.alaska.net>

Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquitonet.com>

Freedman, F. Kenneth: Gay/lesbian activist, <fken@servcom.com>

Gay & Lesbian National Hotline: <http://www.glnb.org/>

GLAAD: Gays and the media <http://www.glaad.org>

Haase, Michael: <michaelh@servcom.com>

Hillman, Fred: <hillman@alaska.net>

Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>

IAA - Interior AIDS Assoc. Fairbanks <iaa@polarnet.com> website: <http://www2.polarnet.com/~iaa>

Identity: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~seagl/identity.htm>

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA): see link at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak>

Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polarnet.com>

website <http://www2.polarnet.com/~woods>

Kauzlarih, Rick: alaskanick@geocities.com

Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@aol.com>

KT Creative: <ktcreative@alaska.net>

Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <FMC@Micronet.net>

Lovering, Ken: <kpaplove@uno.com>

Naff, Don: <donnaff@alaska.net>

Out North: <outnorth@artswire.org>

Parsons, Greg <gparsons@ptialaska.net>

PFLAG: Fbks. website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~pflag>

e-mail <pflag@mosquitonet.com>

Pinney, Pete: UAF instructor and owner of Alta's B & B; <ffppp@aurora.alaska.edu>

e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>

Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAI@alaska.net>

SEAGLA: <http://ptialaska.net/~geagle>

Severson, Kim: Entertainment editor Anchorage Daily News, board of Nacl Leash & Gay Journalists Assn: <keverson@pop.adn.com>

Shanti of Juneau: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~shanti>

Soule, Barbara & Bonham, Candy: <solcandy@alaska.net>

Thorsley, Rand: Capri Cinema: <filmgallery@compuserve.com>

Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel <triangle@servcom.com>

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks: <snapmizz@polarnet.com> <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~uuff>

Walton, Eric: Q*Klatch, Q*K Outdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.: <sebw@aurora.alaska.edu>

Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net>

Wockner, Rex: San Diego-based journalist: <rwockner@netcom.com>

Youth site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/B_Harriman3>

Calendar

February

Saturday, 21:

V Homosexuality, Churches and Community Forum, 8:30am-4:30pm, Lake Lucille Inn. $50 registration, Call 746-1089 for more info.

A Women's Coffeehouse, 8pm, Qupqugiaq Cafe, Open mic. Call Lisa at 561-2198 for more info.

Friday, 27:

A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF: Beth Vann: My Experiences in Bosnia.

Saturday, 28:

F “Searching for Common Ground,” 8:30am-4:30pm, Fairbanks Curling Club.

March

Saturday, 7:


Sunday, 8:


Saturday, 14:

J PFLAG: A Time to Talk, 10-11am, Douglas Community United Methodist Church.

Saturday, 21:

A NorthView work session, 10:30am-5:30pm, AUUF. 563-1324 for more information.

British police call off “pretty policemen”

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has confirmed to London's The Pink Paper that entrapment operations using so-called pretty policemen in public toilets and cruising areas are a thing of the past.

Said ACPO spokeswoman Assistant Chief Constable Ann Summers: “Unless there is an emergency situation, such as someone being physically attacked, officers will only police cottages [tea rooms] and cruising areas on the instructions of an operational commander. As for entrapment operations, they achieve nothing, they are counterproductive and they waste a lot of time and money, and get us absolutely nowhere. There is no place for such operations, and I don’t foresee them being used any more in this country.”
On-Going Calendar Items

SUNDAYS
A Metropolitan Community Church Services, 1:30pm Sunday at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke.
A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
F PFLAG, third Sunday, 4-5:30pm, Into the Woods Bookstore.
F Homophonic Radio, KSUA 91.5

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).
F GLSEN, 5pm, FEA on S. Cushman

TUESDAYS
A Righteous Babes Radio Show, 7pm, KRUA-FM 88.1.
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 8pm, 566-1133.
F Farthest North Gay & Lesbian Chorus, 6pm, Into the Woods.
A PFLAG, 3rd Tuesday, 7-9pm, AUUF.

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.

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, Russian Club, alternating weeks 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 Suns Gay AA Meeting, 7:30pm-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Identity Potluck fourth Friday at AUUF.
F Free anonymous HIV testing, 3:30-5:30pm, IAA offices, 710 3rd Avenue.
J Juneau Pride Chorus, 5:30-7pm, Floyd Dryden School, room 197.

SATURDAYS
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 12 noon, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
A The Family (UAAl), 6pm (excluding school holidays). UAA Arts Bldg. Rm 121, Harry O'Brien at 786-7644.
A Women's Two Step, 1st Saturday, 7:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.
J PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 to 12:30 in the Mendenhall Library conference room.

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

FOUR A'S FOOD BANK

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