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Identity *North*View

Identity *North*View is a monthly publication of Identity, Inc., a non-profit [501(c)(3)], Alaskan corporation concerned with issues of sexual identity. The *North*View 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 *North*View is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons or organizations unless so specified.

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**Contributors:**


**Distribution**

The *North*View 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 *North*View 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 *North*View 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 *North*View 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. *North*View 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 *North*View.

**Advertising**

Rates are displayed on the bottom of the table of contents. Contact *North*View 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. *North*View does not accept personals, nor does it accept advertising that is sexist, racist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

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**Phone**

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

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

Following Judge Peter Michalski’s ground breaking decision on the issue of same-sex marriage, plaintiffs Jay Brause and Gene Dugan have turned down interview requests from a number of journalists both in Alaska and Outside. According to Gene, they see their marriage goal as ultimately a private matter. While they were unwilling to file suit as Mr. X and Mr. Y— “too fifties-ish,” Jay quips— they were not interested in becoming same-sex marriage “poster children” for the same-sex marriage movement. “Personal privacy is important in the case,” explains Jay. They knew that they would receive media attention, however, they are making a concerted effort to keep that attention to a minimum as they focus their day to day efforts on the management of Out North.

They agreed, however, to be interviewed by NorthView. Initially, we had discussed doing an interview prior to the decision with the hope that it would raise the issue of same-sex marriage in the Alaska gay and lesbian community. After Judge Michalski issued his front page decision, the interview became even more imperative in an attempt to set the record straight (so to speak).

On a different note, you may have noticed that the front cover of the NorthView has changed. Thanks to the initiative of a wonderful behind-the-scenes NorthView volunteer (okay, I admit more than a little bias here), we’ve had some great shots by professional and amateur photographers on the cover. Based on the feedback we’ve received, they’ve been a hit. We’ll continue to use photographs to convey relevant themes about our lives here in Alaska, but we want your help — or more specifically your photos. If you have a photograph to submit as a possible cover, send Karen an e-mail at <karenk@alaska.net> or call her at 278-5179 before the 5th of the month.

And remember, the NorthView isn’t just for the Alaska gay, lesbian, bi, trans and ally community; it’s a product of that community as well. It represents who we are, connects us to one another, educates all of us about relevant issues. And it becomes a better publication with your input.

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

Letter to the Editor:

Dear NorthView,

On behalf of The Family I want to thank Identity, Inc. for giving us money to place an ad in the UAA newspaper, Northern Lights.

Our flyers continue to be torn down, so your sponsorship directly gives gay lesbian bisexual and trans gendered students a voice on campus — a voice that was being silenced.

Thanks again.
Victoria Shaver
The Family <http://cwolf.alaska.edu/~abfam/>
National Day of Silence <http://www.youth-guard.org/ndos>

“If I am typecast [from playing gay roles recently], then I am. I don’t have any illusions about it. My feeling is that if I only get to play gay characters from now on, then that’s really fine by me. Gay characters, contrary to popular opinion, are not all the same.”

— My Best Friend’s Wedding gay star Rupert Everett to the New York Post, July 7.

Helpline Training

Sunday, March 29
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Identity Office
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3201 Turnagain Street, Anchorage
Telephone Candy at 337-2011.
PFLAG Anchorage

Marriage
Congratulations to Gene and Jay! Current and past presidents of PFLAG Anchorage have been attending the teleconferences about the proposed constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage. They anticipate that allies such as parents and friends will have a significant role in the inevitable public debates for the simple and obvious reason that parents and friends, since they are not self-serving, have a credibility with the general public that gays and lesbians may not always have.

Healing racism
A new group concerned about intolerance recently put on a symposium at the University of Alaska Anchorage. While primarily concerned about racism, its steering committee has voted also to include gay and lesbian issues in its curricula. Another conference is planned for the fall. The experience of many LGBT people has been that homophobia is as rampant among racial minorities as it is in the white population, is as destructive, is as difficult to ameliorate, and is as deserving of attention. All minorities experience intolerance and oppression.

Leadership conference
Ron Schlichter, Western Field Representative in PFLAG’s national office and son of the PFLAG Anchorage co-chair conducted a leadership conference in Anchorage Feb. 21. It proved to be interesting and valuable, covering topics such as the ideal chapter, goals and objectives, and a call for action.

Project Open Mind
In November 1995 national PFLAG launched a multi-year, multi-media campaign, Project Open Mind. Its basic message is: Hate speech against lesbian, gay and bisexual people has devastating, often violent consequences for families. Its unique power is that it teaches target audiences how dangerous homophobic bigotry actually is. This understanding is necessary to open the minds of people and actually begin to change their attitudes. Ron brought details about this project to the leadership conference. It will be a future focus for action in PFLAG chapters here.

Extra! Extra! Extra!
Identity’s NorthView is now being sold at Metro Music & Books and Borders Books & Music.
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Tell your friends!

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✓ Audio wiring
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Fax: 562-3219
1207 West 36th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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

My friend Trevelyan and I were at the gym the other night. She was showing me this new set of exercises designed to help me build up strength without using my left arm (or my right for that matter, as I can’t use my left to exercise at all, and am not supposed to overuse my right.) A neat trick, but Trevelyan is brilliant at her craft and clever to boot. So, we’re sitting there and I go to move a 3-pound weight out of the way, and decide to try a curl. To my dismay, I couldn’t lift it more than a few inches off my knee. I said to Trevelyan, “look, I’m straining to curl this piddling little weight and I can’t even start!”

Whine. Whine.

I got despondent and told Trevelyan that being disabled, even if it was a “hidden disability” was no day at the beach and I’m having a hard time adjusting to a body that doesn’t respond any more the way it used to. She nodded. She’s in the same situation.

“I know exactly where you’re coming from,” she said. “But neither you nor I are the type of person to let it make us depressed. Right?”

Spoken like a fighter. But then who but a fighter would be the Women’s Body Building and Weight Lifting Champion of the World?

“I know,” I said, “but when my body fails me where I was able to use it effortlessly for 47 years, I get pretty down in the dumps. I’m not used to having to literally watch each step I take to make sure I don’t fall down.”

She was truly kind and gentle. And a little tough, too. “We both know how frustrating this kind of disability is,” she said, “but you can’t allow it to rule your life or your moods. You do and it’s all but over.”

I knew that. Just testing?

I guess I felt safe telling her how it really felt, because we really got into it. We probably talked for half an hour sitting there on the weight benches at the Dimond Athletic Club. People came and went, pressed and curled, squatted and pumped, but seemed to pick up on our energy and left us be.

Add to that being gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgender or intersexual.

Add homophobia.

Add to that being a person of color or Jewish.

This isn’t a gripe column, but I notice, in a whole new way, how people who are “other” are so easily discarded, dismissed, disrespected, and dishonored. It’s enough to cope with, say, being gay or lesbian or transgender or bisexual or intersexual. Does it seem likely that “The Grand Plan” meant for there to be some folks who got all the gravy and everyone who wasn’t in “The Grand Plan” got orts? I mean if the world is comprised of lots of different kinds of folks with many different attributes, aren’t those very attributes, by definition, part of “The Grand Plan” and not “abnormalities” or “moral deformities”?

All of which is to wonder what it is about ourselves that we let other people label as “bad” or “deviant” and in some, even tiny way, accept it and think there’s something about ourselves that’s “broken” and needs to be fixed. It ain’t so. What is so, the way I sense it, is that our very “otherness,” whether we are disabled, Jewish, of color, transgender, intersexual, bisexual, gay, or lesbian, gives us that particular (and peculiar) view of the world that is not a liability, but rather a valuable gift. In a world that works for everyone, we share those gifts without regard to labels, for in the sharing is the richness of life; in judgment and withholding is the dearth.

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.”

F. Ken Freedman is a counselor with a private practice in Anchorage; is a former co-editor of the Northview; and a gay activist. © 1998 F. Kenneth Freedman.

Danish Queen invites gay couple to royal ball

In a history-making gesture, Danish Queen Margrethe invited a gay couple to her Feb. 5 royal ball at Christiansborg Castle.

Margrethe and Prince Henrik stage the annual fete for members of parliament and government officials. Former health minister Torben Lund, 47, and his lover, Claus Lautrup, 30, were the lucky couple.

“We didn’t want to be indifferent to the society in which we live,” Royal Master of Ceremonies Christian Eugen-Olsen told the Extra Bladet newspaper.

“By welcoming a homosexual couple on the same footing as others, inviting them to dine at the finest table in the kingdom, the court has shown its respect.”

In 1989, Denmark became the first nation to allow gays to marry, under a registered-partnership law that grants all rights of matrimony except access to adoption, artificial insemination and church weddings. Greenland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden followed in Denmark’s footsteps.
“CAUTION: MAY CAUSE FETAL HOMOSEXUALITY!” This is the warning label that should accompany all stress-inducing products, violent TV programs, rollercoaster rides, and so forth, if we’re to take seriously the work of Guenther Doerner, M.D. The German endocrinologist has been arguing for decades that pregnant women who are exposed to stress are more likely to have gay sons. At one point, twenty years ago, he even proposed a program to eliminate male homosexuality by reducing pregnant women’s exposure to stress, or by giving them hormones to counteract the effect of stress on their endocrine systems.

Now wait a minute! We like homosexuality, don’t we? And we’d like to see more of it in the next generation, right? So shouldn’t we be encouraging women to get into more stressful situations? Shouldn’t we be telling our pregnant sisters to provoke road-rage incidents on the freeways, or to shag it out on the Jerry Springer Show?

Actually, according to Doerner, homosexuality is caused not so much by everyday-type stresses as by truly disastrous events: rape, death of a spouse, war, losing one’s home. Not things we would wish on anyone. So this doesn’t seem like a practical way of promoting queerness.

Doerner’s theory is based on three kinds of evidence. First, there’s an “animal model,” developed originally by Ingeborg Ward of Villanova University. If pregnant rats are exposed to severe stress during the last few days of pregnancy, the level of testosterone in the male fetuses drops, and this leads to atypical development of the rats’ brains. Thus, when they are adult, they are more than usually willing to be mounted by other males. The animal research is pretty good, but its relevance to human brain development is very uncertain.

Another kind of evidence is based on epidemiological research. Doerner claims to have evidence that the prevalence of homosexuality is much greater among German men born during the Second World War than among men born before or after the war. Two German psychologists attempted to replicate this observation, however, and failed to find any such correlation. “Homosexual men can go on loving peace and getting involved in the peace movement,” they concluded ironically.

Doerner’s third line of evidence is based on case histories. He claims to have interviewed a large number of gay and straight men about their mother’s experiences during pregnancy. He says that many of the gay men, but almost none of the straight men, told him that their mother experienced severe stress. The difference was so striking that, if Doerner’s data are correct, he could fairly claim to have found the factor influencing men’s sexual orientation.

But they’re not correct. A second German study tested Doerner’s theory by checking the medical records of a large number of women who were pregnant in the 1960s, and then locating and interviewing the male offspring of those pregnancies. The men whose mothers experienced severe stress during pregnancy were no more likely to be gay than the others. Then Michael Bailey (of Northwestern University) and two colleagues carried out another test of Doerner’s theory. They interviewed a sample of women who had adult sons, both homosexual and heterosexual. They found that pregnancies that gave rise to gay sons were no more likely to be accompanied by stressful events than pregnancies that gave rise to straight sons.

Bailey and his colleagues did make one unexpected observation. They carried out a companion study of women: in this study, they found that mothers reported more stressful events during pregnancies that gave rise to lesbian daughters than during pregnancies that gave rise to heterosexual daughters. The difference was small but it was statistically significant. This finding, however, runs counter to what one would have expected on the basis of Doerner’s theory. Lower testosterone levels in female fetuses should if anything make them heterosexual, not lesbian. According to Bailey, the finding may not be a real one: it may simply reflect a tendency for mothers to remember more stressful events during the “lesbian” pregnancies, because they have been searching for a reason why their daughters became lesbian.

So Doerner’s theory is just plain wrong. It seems inspired by the belief that homosexuality is really bad, and therefore that something really bad should cause it. Although Doerner hasn’t abandoned the theory, he doesn’t place much emphasis on it now as he did a decade ago. It should be a decision by gay people themselves, he says. That’s all well and good, but how are we going to ask fetuses what they want to become? Kick if you want to be straight, wiggle if you want to be gay? Maybe we’d do better to just let Nature take its course.

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

Passage to Utah

This firm specializes in Eco tours with groups limited to 10 and the flexibility that affords. They are offering a variety of eco-adventures this year: March 28-April 3 from Las Vegas to Sedona. The hike explores the Mogollon Rim and the wonders of Oak Creek Canyon. Price is $690 per person. May 16-22: it’s “Canyonlands” departing from Salt Lake and including SE Utah, Arches National Park, and a Colorado River day float: $880 per person. July 25-31: Yellowstone & Jackson Hole. From Salt Lake this trip includes lots of hot springs and hiking in these great parks. $840 per person. August 22-28: A repeat of the Yellowstone & Jackson Hole trip. September 12-18: Zion, Bryce & Grand Canyon from Salt Lake. Enjoy 2 billion years of history. $690 per person. October 31-November 6: Zion, Bryce & Capitol Reef National Parks are your playgrounds. $710 per person.

Remote possibilities for women

July 5-11 will see this group in Alaska using small 100 passenger ships to tour southeast Alaska. Includes all meals, naturalist, and daily kayaking and hiking in this beautiful setting. One day in Juneau. Full price is $2081 to $2546 per person depending on the cabin. Maui Women’s Week runs June 21-28 and October 4-11. Seven nights accommodations at the 4 diamond Maui Prince resort. Hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, first class entertainment and seminars on legal / social / financial issues. $1379 per person double.

April highlights

April 4-11: Belize cruise for women from Mariah
Kauai Dive Vacation from Undersea Expedition
April 12-19: Caribbean cruise for women from Olivia
London & Paris from Family Abroad
April 18-25: Club Atlantis in Mexico
Costa Rica Adventure by Venture OUT
April 25-May 2: Queens Day in Amsterdam
Utah Adventure by Out West Adventures
April 26-May 3: Madrid & Barcelona from Family Abroad

RSVP

One of gay travel’s oldest and best known outfits has announced their events for 1998 & 1999! For 1998, the place to be is Club RSVP from October 24 to 31. This all-inclusive deluxe resort starts at $699 per person and is a real winner. RSVP cruises to Alaska from July 28-August 4; and then offers a 5-day Caribbean cruise for $395 and a 9-day Caribbean, Costa Rica, and canal cruise, starting at $845 per person. March 13-20, 1999 take a tall ship cruise to the Far East and Thailand starting at $1395 per person. August 30-September 6 1999 sail the beautiful Greek Islands to Crete & Mykonos from $1395 per person. Special add-on fares on American Airlines are available for these RSVP tours.

Bob DeLoach, 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.

“Queer theory is about resisting normalization. I guess that would be the nutshell. An awful lot of people have some stake in resisting normalization. However, there are also a lot of gay people who would like nothing better than to be normalized.”
— Michael Warner, co-founder of Sex Panic and a prominent figure in the field of queer studies, to North Carolina’s The Front Page, Jan. 30.

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

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Call the Anchorage Daily News Newsl ine
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3201 Turnagain Street: 248-3737
Informative message: 248-0715
Volunteer Spotlight

Jen Kohout

Jen Kohout has received Identity’s Special Recognition Certificate for February. Jen’s been in Alaska for the past seven years, arriving in ’91 from Michigan, where she attended the University of Michigan and received her law degree.

Her first job in Anchorage was clerking for a judge; lasted one year. She later joined the Attorney General’s Office as a full-fledged attorney where she remained for three years.

In 1995 Jen left Alaska and went to Ann Arbor, Michigan; however, she returned the following year and was able to find employment with the State of Alaska.

Being a “military brat,” her Air Force father took the family (there’s a brother and sister) around the world. Her sister now resides in California and her brother is getting ready to be transferred in his civilian job...for the Navy in Hawaii. Jen’s parents now live in the Washington, DC area.

In her free time, you’ll find Jen playing the author, or attacking the outdoors, either running, hiking or backpacking. In 1993 Ken Freedman, then editor of the Northview, started Jen writing articles for our magazine. She’s been writing ever since, and if the truth be known, she’d rather take pen to hand...than face a courtroom! But whether in the woods, typing at the computer, researching a brief, or spending quality time with her partner, Karen, Jen is a woman that we are proud to call...friend!

Russian TV celebrity comes out

Well-known Russian journalist and ex-Culture Minister Andrei Cherkizov has outed himself on the TV show Man In A Mask.

Cherkizov, himself anchor of the popular TV show Hour Of A Bull, appeared on the other program wearing the customary mask and answering questions about homosexuality. At the end, he removed the mask, revealing himself to the shocked audience.

“These people [viewers], I hate them,” Cherkizov, 43, told London’s The Pink Paper. “They are so ignorant. It was very interesting to sit wearing the mask and tell them about being gay.”

Cherkizov said he was out to coworkers when he served in President Boris Yeltsin’s government. “When I was a minister, my lover used to work with me and everybody knew who he was,” he said. “Nobody could blackmail me. I was always free.”
GLSEN chapter forms in Fairbanks

by Jeff Walters

Over the past several months, a small group has begun forming a Fairbanks chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

GLSEN is a national, grassroots organization working to create schools in which all people are valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation. Over seventy chapters now exist, including one in Anchorage. During 1996-97, GLSEN sponsored programming in thirty-five states. GLSEN's goal is to create grassroots organizations committed to creating change in our schools. As a result, local members govern chapters. The role of national staff members is to provide chapters with resources, training, and technical support.

As stated in the mission statement, developed by the national GLSEN Board of Directors in 1994, "The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation. We believe that such an atmosphere engenders a positive sense of self, which is the basis of educational achievement and personal growth. Since homophobia and heterosexism undermine a healthy school climate, we work to educate teachers, students, and the public at large about the damaging effects these forces have on youth and adults alike. We recognize that forces such as racism and sexism have similarly adverse impacts on communities, and we support schools in seeking to redress all such inequities. GLSEN seeks to develop school climates where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes in creating a more vibrant and diverse community. We welcome as members any individual, regardless of sexual orientation or occupation, who is committed to seeing this philosophy realized in K-12 schools."

As I stated, there is a small, energetic, and motivated group in Fairbanks that has begun the process of forming our own official GLSEN chapter. Part of the preliminary work involves surveying the community, both the gay community and the larger community, about the perceived needs of our youth and our schools. We will be conducting various surveys and gathering information this spring.

Our Fairbanks group is currently meeting on the third Monday of every month at 5:00 p.m. (although in March, because of spring break, we will be meeting on March 23). Meetings are held at the FEA on South Cushman. If you have any questions or would like to become involved in any way, please contact Jeff Walters at 457-3876.

"I'm not unhappy now because I live in America where happiness rains down from the sky and everybody is your friend. The pursuit of happiness is written into the Constitution here. But to pursue happiness in England would be considered a frivolous objective."

— Gay writer-actor Quentin Crisp to Sydney, Australia's Capital Q. Feb. 13.

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Marriage decision shows strength of Alaska's gay community
by Michael A. Haase

You gotta love Alaska. Many in the gay community, myself included, had grown cynical from a string of defeats: the repeal of Anchorage’s non-discrimination amendment to the city charter; the ban on same-sex marriage passed by the legislature; the Anchorage Assembly’s vote to pull funding from Out North Theatre Company. Now comes a shocker that brings renewed hope...

On February 27, Superior Court Judge Peter Michalski ruled that the state must show a “compelling interest” in enacting and enforcing our state’s same-sex marriage ban. One state lawyer called the requirement of proving a compelling state interest a “kiss of death” in most cases. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld one such case; that of Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. Judge Michalski went so far as to say that simply upholding the popular views of what is acceptable would have maintained things like school segregation. To deny same-sex couples the right to marry violates their right to privacy and constitutes gender discrimination.

Something I hear frequently is that Alaska has no gay culture. Some folks point out that there are no gay rights parades and no marches on city hall or the legislature. Others feel that there are simply no tangible efforts to ensure our equal rights.

I couldn’t disagree more. It’s easy to point to what’s wrong with the community and what’s not being done rather than what’s right and good. I see a state with a vibrant gay community. We have organizations like Identity and EQUAL, among others, that bring the community together for growth. We have both gay and gay-allied churches that inspire spiritual well being. We have pride picnics, potlucks and countless groups spanning the entire spectrum from young people just coming out to bear and leather enthusiasts. We have gay cinema and plays, gay newsletters and literature, and a pride speaker series. We also have inspirational folks like Dan Carter and Fred Hillman, to name just two, who bravely confront bigotry and intolerance by speaking at public meetings where the future of gay rights are being debated and decided. We should also remember all the support we get from our allies in the straight community. And of course we have our very own Jay Brause and Gene Dugan, whose lawsuit has reshaped the gay rights movement in Alaska. Way to go guys!!

Let’s all stop shaking our finger at what’s wrong with our community and turn the spotlight on what’s right, healthy and good. Sure, there will be new challenges and hurdles to clear, but I believe a strong, united Alaskan gay community with everyone involved will ultimately prevail.

Michael Haase is a freelance writer interested in all aspects of the gay rights movement. He and his partner Michael R. Kligel live in Anchorage.

GLSEN Anchorage

Imperial Court donates to GLSEN for libraries
At the March monthly meeting of GLSEN, Jerry Balthazar, Emperor of the 24th Reign Imperial Court of Alaska, presented a check for $1000 to the Anchorage chapter. The Court is a well-known volunteer social organization which presents a variety of social events for GLBT communities across the state, most notably the huge Coronation Ball in Anchorage on Labor Day weekend. At the same time it raises money to be donated to worthy causes. GLSEN Alaska is the recipient this year of this generous grant, and the money will be used for enhancing the holdings of libraries, which sometimes have been a bit shy of gay and lesbian books and journals. GLSEN maintains that adequate library materials are an essential resource, especially for young people who are just coming to terms with their identities and sexual orientations, and plans to put the grant to good use.

NEA conference
A board member of the state National Education Association attended a western states conference recently in San Francisco on “Building Respect & Equity in Our Diverse Society: Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Education.” As a nongay, liberal, and accepting teacher, he gave a poignant account of his own further enlightenment and deeper understanding of the issues. He also confirmed the continuing support of the NEA for GLSEN’s mission to foster safe schools for all students, and he brought back a wealth of resource materials.

Anchorage Gay & Lesbian Helpline

258-4777 or 1(888) 901-9876 AK only
A community service of Identity, Inc.
PO Box 200070, Anchorage AK 99520
On Saturday, February 28, 1998, lesbians and gay men across the state flipped open their newspapers to discover that once again we had become front page news. "Judge backs gay marriage" announced the Anchorage Daily News headline. The day before, Superior Court Judge Peter Michalski had ruled that gay men and lesbians have a constitutional right to marry and that, unless the state could prove a compelling state interest to violate that right, the 1996 statute banning same-sex marriage in Alaska must be removed from the books as unconstitutional. The article went on to explain that while the judge's decision was promising for the gay and lesbian community, State Senator Loren Leman had proposed an amendment to the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage on a more permanent level. By then our Cheerios had grown soggy as we pondered what it would mean to have our relationships recognized by the state and what it would cost to get there.

Of all the Alaskans reading the story Saturday morning, none have considered those two questions more intently than Jay Brause and Gene Dugan, the gay couple who filed the suit three years ago.

Jay, Gene and I are sitting around a small plastic table at a local coffee shop. It's Sunday afternoon. With the sunshine pouring in the windows, you'd think it was springtime in Hawaii. It's not. It's midwinter Anchorage, Alaska. There is snow on the ground outside and a few tables away, a half dozen men and women discuss that morning's church service.

With his shoulder length auburn hair and close-shaven beard, Jay looks every bit the fervent civil rights activist. Gene's demeanor is quieter, matches his Oxford shirt, but equally committed. We start with the easy stuff. I ask if they were surprised by Judge Michalski's decision. Their smiles express the answer.

Gene: We were delighted with the decision... (so delighted that they gave out copies of the opinion as party favors after a gathering at their home).

Jay: and surprised, yes.

Gene: We were told that this was a very conservative judge and not to expect a favorable ruling.

Judge Michalski is so traditional, according to Jay, that other attorneys who were familiar with the case thought that Bob Wgamma, Jay and Gene's lead counsel, had made a serious error by failing to pre-empt the judge once they learned that their case had been assigned to him. Jay explained that that was one of the points when they had to simply trust their attorney.

~~~Passion for the Cause~~~

Trusting their attorney must not have been an easy thing for Jay and Gene to do. After spending several hours with Jay and Gene, it's obvious that their passion for the cause of freedom and equality for gays and lesbians burns like a well-fueled Coleman. It's a passion that even Jay admits has caused some tensions between him and other long-standing members of the Anchorage gay and lesbian community.

To Jay and to Gene, however, the mechanism that many of us employ to get by in the world just doesn't work when it comes to social change. They've seen it happen time and time again: well-meaning people who don't want to rock the boat, hoping not to jeopardize the limited rights they do have the limited rights they do have.

Gene adds "by rocking the boat, what rights will we lose anyway?" As far as the law goes, the answer is next to none. That, coupled with the fact that gays and lesbians do not have a voting block in Alaska, motivated them to go to court.

We "don't breath free," declares Jay. "So we must use the courts because it is the only place where minorities can be heard and treated equally." Both concede, however, that there are risks involved — for themselves personally and for the gay civil rights movement. The personal risks range from physical threats to the repeated efforts by conservative politicians to eliminate funding for the nonprofit arts organization they both work for, Out North.

As for the risks to the movement, Jay tells a story about walking through a cemetery in New Orleans on a visit and discovering the gravestone of Plessy, the unsuccessful plaintiff in the seminal civil rights case — Plessy v. Ferguson — which established the discriminatory practice of "separate but equal." The case entrenched racial discrimination in the US for 85 years until the US Supreme Court overruled the case in 1954. Like Plessy, Jay realizes he and Gene may lose big. That we may lose big. But with the long-term vision of a historian and activist, he asserts that the risk is worth it. "We may lose the battle but ultimately, we will win and history will look back and see anti-gay discrimination as a travesty of justice. In the meantime, the passage of laws specifically discriminating against gays and lesbians will make it painfully obvious to all of us that we are not treated equally and, thus, are not free."

~~~Why Marriage?~~~

The inequality that gays and lesbians face extends far beyond the altar. I was curious what motivated Jay and Gene to focus their energies on the institution of marriage. They offered many answers — some philosophical, some intimately connected to their own personal journey.

Our right to love.

When asked about the importance of same-sex marriage, Jay focuses on our right to love, to be seen as fully human. To him, this is the heart of the gay and lesbian movement. And the fight to have our intimate relationships legally recognized is a logical imperative.

"Marriage creates an alternative for gays and lesbians; an option that facilitates commitment and continuity — namely family," Jay adds that, "Family allows us to create a circle of who we love. That's very important. As I have watched people die over the years, I've realized that's an incredibly important role. Our community is made stronger when we hold fast to each other."

Jay and Gene see the fight for same-sex marriage as a civil rights battle. Jay observes, "As an activist, I worked to pass
anti-discrimination laws and I found that time and time again not enough of us had felt the wounds of being fired or being evicted but here with our relationships, many of us have experienced those wounds that come from being different... I know that there's a lot of us who don't know what rights we are missing without marriage and we have some education to do. But I think that as we become aware we will say, 'no more, this is wrong.' And then, hopes Jay, 'we'll fight to change it.'

As the world turns (and institutions evolve)

According to Jay and Gene, it's important to consider what marriage is and what it isn't. First, the couple emphasize that their suit challenges the civil aspects of the institution of marriage, not the religious ones. "We are not trying to be religiously married, we're trying to be civil married." In fact, Jay and Gene held a religious ceremony to celebrate their relationship — back in 1979. The suit is about civil, or legal, recognition.

Commenting on the decision, Jay observes that [Judge Michalski] "was not ruling on the religious significance of this relationship, he was ruling on whether or not two similarly situated couples who qualified for marriage — one heterosexual, one homosexual — had the same civil rights under our constitution. It was a simple conclusion."

Even in the gay and lesbian community, however, Jay says that the dual nature of marriage is "confused a lot." He believes that most of us see church and state as inseparable in marriage. Jay responds that: "It is clearly separated. In the US, the marriage certificate is not conferred by a church. It is issued by the state. We're not talking about tying a religious ceremony to the state certificate. The church need not marry us; the State must."

In practice, the separation of church and state will protect churches that oppose gay and lesbian relationships, as it has protected churches that honor them. If the state legalizes same-sex marriage, no church would ever be required to marry a same-sex couple if that church is unwilling. In the alternative, same-sex couples will remain free to celebrate their unions in religious or spiritual ceremonies regardless of what the constitution says.

To conservatives who argue that marriage has always been between one man and one woman and is fixed as an institution, Gene points out emphatically that that isn't true. Historically, men had multiple wives. Today, we find that morally reprehensible. Traditionally, married women had few legal rights independent of their husbands. That has also changed. The institution of marriage has evolved. And in some cases, it's taken the courts to facilitate that evolution. Jay points out the 1967 case Loving v. Virginia as a good example. In that case, the US Supreme Court held that state laws banning interracial marriages were unconstitutional. Today, we consider the right to marry someone of a different race unquestionable.

Jay realizes that in a cultural practice, such as marriage, there is an underlying tension between those who are comfortable with the current practice and those who are not. The former want to hold on to the traditional practice, while the later want to fix what is broken. Conservatism boils down to a sense that what was done in the past is good enough but Jay questions that. "What happens when your right to hold on to 'tradition' holds me, as a gay person, back?"

Navigating between the Right...

The concept of an evolving institution is all well and good — actually making cultural changes, however, is something different. Seems a lot like hiking up a steep and rocky trail with fierce gusts of wind from both sides. First, from the right wing who want nothing to do with us and allege that same-sex marriage contributes to the breakdown of the family. And second from the left which balks at the institution of marriage because of its patriarchal roots. I ask Jay and Gene to address the right's concerns first.

Jay replies that he and Gene are not assaulting a family institution. They are not interested in bringing down the institution of marriage. The couple describe their efforts to secure same-sex marriage as "radically conservative." "We want to take a conservative institution and radically expand it." Both men believe that same-sex couples can change the institution for the better through their participation. "I think we have something to offer in reinventing the way the marriage works and the way that gender relationships work. If gay and non-gay people will listen to one another."

First, we are not tied to traditional roles in a relationship. Because same-sex couples participate as equals, roles in the relationship depend on who has the skill — rather than social stereotypes. Jay points out "For us as gay men, who says one has to be Ozzie and one has to be Harriet?" For example, "Gene does the cooking... I have an innate inability... I'm the one who made macaroni and cheese with eggnog."

Second, there is a presumption that it takes complimentary traits to have a successful relationship and that difference is based on gender. It's that "men are from Mars, women are from Venus" thing. But playing up that battle of the sexes makes the division even larger. What we often discover in same-sex relationships is that many of those differences exist independent of gender.

Gene raises another argument bound to appeal to fiscal conservatives, that is that same-sex marriage makes economic sense. Marriage isn't just about rights, Gene points out. It is also about responsibilities. Jay adds "Why does society have an interest in creating stable economic and emotional bonds between two people? Because we first take responsibility for one another rather than the state. As low-wage nonprofit administrators, Gene and I have created a stronger economic unit together... than by ourselves. Each one of us, by ourselves, would be in poverty classification, together, we're just above it...we don't qualify for public assistance; we have to pay our own way. That sounds good and Republican to me."

...and the Left.

Interestingly, conservatives aren't the only detractors from the cause of same-sex marriage — a fact that they know all too well. Jay concedes that there is opposition in the gay and lesbian community to marriage. For gay men, that opposition is often about sexual or relationship freedoms. For lesbians, it's often about not being forced to conform to a relationship pattern that isn't their choosing.

(continued on page 12)
"I do" (continued...)

Jay acknowledges that there are gay men for whom marriage is not appropriate. That’s fine. "The fundamental right to choose one’s life partner has a corollary, which is the fundamental right not to choose a partner." Both Gene and Jay, however, are adamant that the gay male community has a responsibility to gay men who want to settle down, to fight for the option of marriage.

For Jay and Gene, the gay bar scene was "a confusing, bad place." To get through, Jay says that he held on to his "internal moral compass" and a belief that "there must be someone out there who felt the same way as I did." "Gene and I know...that the emphasis on having partners was damaging to us... And when are we going to own up to our responsibility for having harmed young gay men who wanted stable relationships. I’m talking to gay men now. I’m talking about our responsibility to continuity and culture. How do we teach the value of family when we devalue it among those men who need it?"

As for lesbians wary of marriage with a capital M, Jay acknowledges that "there are so many ways in which women were subjugated through marriage that we profoundly appreciate lesbians who tell us ‘God no, we won’t participate in it.’ But we would ask those same couples to consider that they can change the institution by their own participation, by the very fact that they are women who will approach it as equals."

In response to the argument that domestic partnership legislation, not marriage, should be the goal, Jay argues that marriage is the only mechanism to get all the rights we need. According to a 1985 Identity survey of gays and lesbians in Alaska, 19% of the respondents indicated that they had children under 18 years old. Jay argues, "Hundreds or maybe thousands of households right now in this state are denied benefit of law for establishing their households. Anybody who’s a parent and feels vulnerable about the legal status of their relationship as parent will not risk helping us. Would any parent risk losing their child? I’m sorry, marriage addresses that. Domestic partnership does not."

To Jay, marriage is "The most wonderful way to advance in a single moment the benefit of so many laws that are now denied us... in Alaska there are more than 100 codified benefits to married couples, that if you went through domestic partnership legislative action would require any number of separate legislative actions to get equal status in the law."

Same-sex marriage has other indirect benefits for the gay and lesbian community. Jay argues that marriage assails our invisibility and neutralizes much of the negative propaganda used against gays and lesbians. He also feels that advancing marriage rights will humanize us in the eyes of our opponents. At least in theory. "We are normal. People can see us as people. We’ve got to show who we are — marriage is the last, best way to show our strength as family; to humanize our sexuality; to demonstrate that we take care of one another — that we pay for our partner’s education, take care of their kids, take out the garbage."

(Next month: the journey to the courthouse and an update on the case that’s garnering nationwide attention.)

Out North funding: an ongoing saga and a call to action

by Carolyn Lancaster

The arts challenge us and change us. No local organization embodies this principle better than Out North.

Mix Out North’s contemporary visual and performing arts fare with the Municipal Assembly’s conservatism, and watch the reaction.

In November, the Assembly, on a six to five vote cut ON’s funding and distributed the $22,000, which had been recommended for the company by the Municipal Arts Commission, among other, more “mainstream” arts groups.

Out North has worked for the past four months to get back this funding through any and all appropriate political channels.

There is far more than $22,000 in funding at stake. The company’s $40,000 National Endowment for the Arts federal grant to support ON’s youth theater and literacy program, ON STAGE, is at risk because of the loss of local funding match through the Assembly’s action.

The objections raised by Assembly members Ted Carlson, Kevin Meyer, Cheryl Clementson, Bob Bell, Dan Kendall and George Wuerch included the use of the word “breast” in the title of the performance piece “My Left Breast” (about surviving breast cancer).

Another objection was to the content of a photo of bare-chested dancers from the Chicago-based dance company XSYHT! This photo is reprinted in an Out North ad in this Northview.

Finally, after months of work by Out North staff and friends, there is a potential for a budget amendment to restore local funding to support our youth arts education program.

Friends of freedom of expression and Out North are urged to attend the Municipal Assembly meeting on Tuesday, April 14 at the Loussac Library (downstairs in the Assembly chamber) around 6:00pm to show support for Out North’s bid for a new grant.

Supporters are encouraged to see an Out North staff or board member in the lobby for a badge of support before entering the Assembly chamber. Those wishing to testify may do so, for three minutes per person or group. Call Out North at 279-8099 for information.

Mark your calendar for April 14 and join supporters in making a stand for freedom of expression. See you there.
A picture is worth $22,000

Last November, the Anchorage Assembly voted to eliminate a $22,000 arts grant to Out North. The reason? The majority said we offended constituents with our season brochure... that we presented artists you couldn't take the whole family to... artists that didn't reflect mainstream values of the community (like feminists)... and, what wasn't said, is that we present gay and lesbian artists, too. We had no chance to speak; then they killed our grant on a 6-5 vote.

...in a lost arts grant.

Kinda makes you want to scream, doesn't it? Well, this April 14th at 6pm, you can join hundreds of your friends and neighbors to speak up at an Assembly meeting for Out North and a new grant. If you want to help, call our office at 279-8099 to find out how. If you just want to show up, please come to the Loussac Library (downstairs) on April 14th at 6:00pm and pick up an Out North badge. Whatever you do, please do something.

photo by William Frederick
New publication for alternative families

Alternative Family Magazine, a new national bimonthly publication for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered parents and their children, has hit bookstores this spring. "At a time when our families are on the cutting edge of the battle for glbt rights, we'll be telling the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things," says publisher Kelly Taylor.

In addition to essays and photos depicting the lives of glbt parents and their children, the magazine will cover legal developments, reproductive issues, and social and behavioral matters. It will also feature household hints, favorite recipes, and book and video reviews.

In the Kids' Room, children can find coloring and games pages, a penpals page, and a section where they can publish their artwork and writing. Roundout the magazine will be a classified section and resource guide specific to the needs of glbt families, including a personals section for people seeking partners with a shared interest in children.

"We're looking forward to developing a very special interactive relationship with our readers, and together our families will grow," says Taylor. In addition to its regular contributing writers and columnists, she sees readers as providing a major portion of the magazine's content in the future. She envisions the magazine as one-stop shopping for resources on glbt parenting, and a website is in the works.

As a family magazine, Taylor has made a conscious decision not to accept alcohol, tobacco, or sexually explicit advertising — a mainstay of many glbt publications. While this presents an initial challenge, Taylor says it also offers an opportunity to pioneer ad sales with clients who haven't been traditionally attracted to other glbt advertising opportunities.

Initial response to the magazine has been overwhelmingly positive from parents to publishing industry executives to potential advertisers. "The National Center for Lesbian Rights reports that there are anywhere from 6 to 14 million children living in lesbian and gay families," Taylor notes. "These families deserve a voice of their own. I think we're filling an important niche by serving their families' needs at a time when efforts to gain societal and legal recognition for our families are at an important crossroads."

The first issue features a story about a remarkable 11-year-old girl and her lesbian moms. Sol Kelley-Jones of Madison, Wisconsin has spoken out at legislative hearings, conducted a school survey about homophobia that was entered into the Congressional record, spoken on a panel with Martina Navratilova, and been given awards for her activism by the ACLU and the National Organization for Women. She epitomizes the bravery of parents and children throughout the country, Taylor observes.

The March/April issue also features lengthy selections from the award-winning photo and text exhibit "Love Makes a Family," a story on openly lesbian evangelist and musician Marsha Stevens, and a feature on a kids' summer camp for glbt family members. It also marks the debut of columns by psychologist Greg Shears and Attorney Kate Schreurs.

The publication is available at glbt-friendly bookstores throughout the country, and by subscription for $24/year. For more information or to subscribe, send email to <alftfammag@aol.com>, write to AFM Publishing, P. O. Box 7179, Van Nuys, CA 91409, or call (818) 909-0314.

"Personal" means I know what I'm doing is wrong, but I have so little faith in myself, I'm going to keep it a secret and go right on doing it.
— Wendy Wasserstein

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Lesbian Notions

by Paula Martinac

The countdown to the new millennium is underway in the queer community, with two major events in the initial planning stages for the year 2000. A fourth march on Washington will take place in the spring of that year, while a three-day concert in Atlanta is scheduled for October. All this activity should be good news, but the “non-political” rhetoric of the organizers has me fuming.

I went to two of the three marches on Washington. The 1987 march was funereal, somber, and depressing. The memory of so many marchers wearing photos of lovers and friends who had died of AIDS is still with me. By contrast, the 1993 march — which took place in a more hopeful time — was upbeat, almost raucous. In fact, it sometimes felt more like a Pride celebration than a demonstration. But besides being fun, the march had an aggressive political platform, and the many grassroots groups that brought their agendas to the capital gave the event an in-your-face immediacy. The most unforgettable moment for me was seeing the Colorado delegation carrying its black and white “GROUND ZERO” banner, a testament to the historic battle then being waged in that state against the anti-gay Amendment 2.

So what’s on the agenda for the next march? The co-sponsors are the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), and the march will stress the themes of families and faith. Amazingly, though both families and faith are very political issues when talked about in a queer context, HRC has announced that there will be no political demands raised or platforms put forth. The name of the march won’t even include the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer. Its official title is simply “Millennium March on Washington for Equal Rights.”

HRC director Elizabeth Birch says the march will set a tone to lead us into the next century.

When I read this in an article in my local gay newspaper, I felt like I’d entered the Twilight Zone. If what has always been a political march is being touted as non-political, what are the organizers up to? I think part of the answer lies in the Fall 1997 issue of HRC’s membership magazine, Birch wrote an editorial about the need to learn organizing techniques from the Christian Right — a good idea, basically, but maybe she’s taken one too many notes. The spin on the march sounds like an eerily mimicking of that other “non-political” political entity, the Promise Keepers.

I’m concerned that the organizers have appropriated the language of the Right to make us look nice and palatable to mainstream America. This is a conservative political maneuver. The message is, “We can’t be that bad if we procreate and go to (Christian) church, right?” By using the themes of families and faith as selling points, the organizers exploit the vulnerabilities of queer people, who desperately want families but are often denied them, and who try to maintain their faith even when reviled by organized religion. And then there’s that meaningless march name — whose march? whose equal rights? Many people will probably never know.

The proposed march has a lot in common with the other 2000 gathering, the “Rainbow Celebration Concert.” According to a press release from Shelly Roberts, the concert’s organizer, the event will have “no political agendas.” The community will simply come together “to celebrate the successes of the Gay ’90s” and “to make a joyous noise.”

Funny, but I could have sworn that the lesbian and gay successes of the 1990s were all essentially political in nature. The Supreme Court’s pro-gay ruling in Romer v. Evans; the lesbian and gay high-level appointments of the Clinton administration; the growing roster of states enacting gay rights bills; the gay adoption triumph in New Jersey; even the Selleck-Kline on-screen kiss — I can’t think of one that wasn’t at heart political. Roberts is doing a sales job of her own, wanting us to believe that you can have lesbian and gay pride in a vacuum, that a lesbian or a gay man can have a personal life that isn’t touched by politics. But then, Roberts, a former advertising executive, probably worries that the word “political” will turn off investors and concert-goers, and hopes that “mainstream” and “non-political” will play better in Peoria. That, too, is a political stance.

All these “non-political” political tactics trouble me. But the bright spot is, our local queer communities are much more politically dynamic and visionary than our slick national leaders. Think of Hawaii, where local same-sex marriage activists received almost no support from national lesbian and gay organizations until it looked like they might actually win. I’d rather be led into the new century by grassroots activists from Hawaii or Maine or anywhere else, than by conservative queers who think their cagey language can make the lesbian and gay movement suddenly seem non-political.

Friends of the Klondyke Kontakt

The KK has a new e-mail address <klondykekontact@hotmail.com>
Keeping up with the Jones boys — or nearly escaping death

by Ken Lowering

My present is merging with my past in this cavernous, oily garage, where Boomer, the lesbian owner of this very hip establishment, is presenting Paul and me with a $400 repair bill. Only seconds ago, Boomer turned to the next customer waiting to pick up her car and said, “Be right with ya, Kelly,” and I turned too — just to see who this person was.

Boomer is going over our tab, talking about torques and rotations and I don’t know what else. But I’m distracted. Oddly, I’m feeling envy, jealousy, merged with sincere fondness. They are creeping up on me from the confines of a former self that was somehow connected to the waiting woman.

I look back and we smile lightly, as if we are polite strangers. But we’re not. We’re more.

“I know you,” I say, leaving the other conversation. Paul pauses, then continues assessing Boomer’s damage.

I confess: I’m a bit afraid of where this conversation might go with Kelly.

Because I’m also thinking of the Jones family now. Doug, a year older than me, and Bert, a year younger, and their folks. I haven’t seen them in years, since just after high school at a friend’s wedding. But during high school, they were my second family, of sorts, and I was their middle sibling. I say “of sorts” because I loved both of the Jones boys in ways that wavered between fraternal and romantic. I took week-long bicycle trips with Bert for which we trained every day after school. And Doug was an emotionally elusive rebel who could somehow be nasty and charming in the same breath. But they had in common a lust for speed and vibrancy that was impossible to resist, impossible to not want to tame.

Not a day went by then that I did not see one or both of them. I cherished that.

Kelly, this woman waiting to pick up her car in this city garage, far from the suburbia in which we last knew each other, had been Doug’s high school girlfriend. And the first thing I think of after I realize this is, my god, after all I went through with this girl, she has her car repaired by a lesbian? She, in fact, by deductive reasoning, might be a lesbian herself?

It’s not that I didn’t like her. She was smart, attractive, funny. But she was connected to Doug in a way that I would never be. She perhaps even envied me. I would seethe when he or she talked about their dates, and I always suspected, because of my paranoid jealousy, that Kelly knew the roots of my coldness toward her. She must’ve known that I loved him.

Doug saved my life once. He and Bert and I had their parents’ car, a little thing with a stick shift, and we were headed to the mall one night to play video games. Another car ran a stop sign from a side street on the right and skidded to a halt in our path and Doug instinctively downshifted, pumped the brake, and swerved around the guy’s front bumper. It was an incredible display of skill and quick thinking that I’ve often since associated with his record-high scores in the very video arcade to which we had been driving.

There was another occasion when death loomed. Bert and I were coasting — no, flying — a steep downhill grade during one of our mountain bike trips. He was way ahead of me, going for maximum speed in the breakdown lane, when a car passed by me and began drifting toward the shoulder. Perhaps the driver was reaching for something under the dash, perhaps he was dozing. But he was headed for a clean strike toward Bert. I could only look on, helpless to warn him because he was so far ahead, helpless to even scream because the only thing I knew Bert could hear was the air through which he was soaring.

Though our camaraderie was not always an easy one — my reticence masked an attraction which I had not yet learned to embrace — I shared their Christmases, joined them and their parents at their cabin in the woods, and stopped by for pictures before my senior prom (another story). No matter how self-defeating it was, my unrequited love for the Jones boys — and the ways in which I vented my frustrations — taught me about my own physical vibrancy and emotional limits.

Now, Kelly is saying that 25% of the people in our circle of friends are now gay. She saw a lot of them recently at a little reunion they had — that’s what she calls it, a “little reunion” — and she starts listing names. One had been in the drama club and I remember having a secret crush on him. Another had always gossiped like a queen, laughed like a queen, and craved attention like a queen. I raise my brow at Kelly, as if to say, “Come on, girl, who’s surprised?”
Others, she says, got married, divorced, had children, and many are still in touch with each other, after sixteen years. Then she mentions her husband briefly, clearing that matter up.

“Have you heard anything about the Jones boys?” I say. “You used to date Doug, right?”

“I heard a nasty rumor,” she says. “At the little reunion we had, Bob said he’d heard Doug had died.” She does not go sullen. The delight of grinding the gossip mill does not leave her face.

I pause.

I’m back in the car on my way to the video arcade. I’m thrown around in the passenger seat, clutching the dash. Tires screech. Headlights flash. We are all cursing with an intensity that has risen from our curled toes.

“How?” I say, trying not to miss a beat.

“He said it was cancer or something.”

“Jesus, does anyone know for certain?”

“No. I’d like to know for sure.”

We can’t do much else with that conversation. We try to talk about other people we knew, but the energy of this coincidence is winding down. We exchange business cards and e-mail addresses, each of us seeming certain that we’ll never use them. Returning with Paul to the dark of the city’s early winter evening, I catch a shiver in the cold.
Film Gallery

by Rand Thornsley

The Wind In The Willows rated PG, 80 minutes. March 13-22 (Spring Break) at Capri Cinema. Cheery live-action adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's classic children's book starring the Monty Python gang (John Cleese, Michael Palin, Steve Coogan, Eric Idle and Terry Jones). A literary staple since 1908 is part of the colorful British canon that includes Winnie the Pooh and The Tales of Beatrix Potter. Wind is actually two stories in one — an animal story for children and a satire of British class pretensions filled with alarm about Industrial Age threats to pastoral life. Wind in the Willows is the perfect choice for family entertainment during the school holiday.

The Sweet Hereafter [R], 112 minutes. Opens March 27 at the Capri Cinema, A cataclysmic event changes life forever in the small town of Sum Bent, British Columbia. A big city lawyer (Ian Holm), driven by his own demons, comes to the community with promises of retribution and compensation. Amidst the ensuing atmosphere of suspicion and doubt, disturbing truths emerge from the shadows of the town's placid facade, and its inhabitants are revealed in all their human complexity. Ultimately, one teenager manages to regain her dignity and re unite the community. Through her courage, the townspeople come to life in the "sweet hereafter," a realm reserved for those who are at peace with their fate. Winner of the Grand Prix at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival, based on Russell Bank's critically acclaimed novel. Directed by Atom Egoyan (Exotica) also starring Sarah Polley, Bruce Greenwood and Tom McCamus.

"The other day she said: 'I hate your shoes. Are they men's shoes?' And I said, 'Yes, they are and OK, so you hate them.' A few years ago, I would have been crushed. I'd never be caught dead in the stuff she wears, and it totally doesn't matter. I'm a butch dyke, I guess. I like men's clothing. And Mom says, 'But you're so pretty.' And I say: 'What about k.d. lang? She wears men's clothing.' And she says, 'I know, but you're so pretty.'"

Deep Inside Hollywood

The token

Did the Oscars pick the wrong gay role to recognize with its acting nominations? *In and Out*’s Kevin Kline and Rupert Everett of *My Best Friend’s Wedding* turned in stronger performances than Greg Kinnear, but purely comedic roles are almost always overlooked. Kinnear’s chances of winning Best Supporting Actor are slim, according to early Oscar forecasts, though Joan Cusack has a better shot of taking home a Best Supporting Actress statue for her turn as the jilted bride in *In and Out*.

**West Hollywood, 90069**

Jason Priestley, who turns thirty this year, is spoofing his TV persona, sort of, on the big screen in the just-opened *Love and Death on Long Island*, the feature debut of gay director and writer Richard Kwietniowski. Priestley plays a straight teen heartthrob being pursued by an older man (John Hurt) in this updated twist on *Death in Venice*. People have long questioned whether Priestley plays straight in real-life, despite a long-time relationship (which recently ended) with a former co-star. Rumors surfaced after he roomed with Luke Perry during their show’s early days, and, despite Priestley’s assertions he is hetero, they persist. Perhaps that’s due to his being sighted at a West Hollywood nightspot, Love Lounge, which caters to a predominantly gay crowd. George Michael and Dr. Quinn’s Chad Allen are among those who frequent the club.

Xerox’ gays are now in the pink

Employees of the Xerox Corporation of America have been issued colored magnets for their office doors and desks to denote their sexual orientation. Homosexuals are given pink magnets and heterosexuals white ones. Executives say the aim is to create a friendlier workplace and claim that the “coming out” badges have been welcomed by the workers.

“The program has been a tremendous success and there have been no complaints,” said Mr. Dan Phelan, a sales manager at the offices in Century City, California. “It is designed to communicate to gay and lesbian workers that ‘in my office you are safe; you don’t have to hide your sexuality.’” He said that homosexual and heterosexual workers were participating in the Project Safe Space voluntary program. “If you walk through these offices you will see the magnets all over the place,” he said. “It is really nice.”

Mr. Phelan, who has a photograph of his lover, Jim, by his desk, said: “It means there is no need for secrecy anymore...it has put an end to nasty gossip and hurtful remarks.”

From chanteuse to celluloid & vice-versa

k.d. lang is serious about this acting thing. After years of juggling her busy musical career with cameos in little-seen films, lang should get plenty of visibility in a new role alongside hot young actors Ewan McGregor and Ashley Judd. The lesbian torch singer plays co-worker and confidant to McGregor’s techie spy in *Eye of the Beholder*, which just began filming.

Harvey Fierstein, meanwhile, will sing a duet with Grammy-nominated folk singer Shawn Colvin on an upcoming episode of the syndicated television series *Fame L.A.* This odd coupling was orchestrated by Colvin’s manager, Ronald Fierstein, who happens to be Harvey’s brother. The famous Fierstein plays Colvin’s manager on the show and will also appear in an upcoming *Ellen* episode.

More tales

One of the signature events of gay television is returning as a sequel. *More Tales of the City* is scheduled to air sometime this summer on Showtime, following a contentious run on public television four years ago. This time, Armistead Maupin’s chronicle of San Francisco life in the late ’70s won’t be hamstrung by censors, so expect the many plot twists to be even more juicy.

Romeo San Vicente, who’s always up for some sperm donation, can be reached at <RSVicente@aol.com>. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit <www.gay.net>.

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Over 100 groups to participate in National Day of Silence

Press Release

Charlottesville, VA — The National Day of Silence, the largest national (US) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (lgbt) awareness event run by and for youth, will take place on April 8. Already more than 100 high schools, colleges and universities have signed on to participate.

The first Day of Silence was held at the University of Virginia in April 1996 and has since spread nationwide.

On the National Day of Silence, supporters of lgbt rights take a nine-hour vow of silence (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) to draw attention to the silence that homophobia causes.

Instead of speaking, participants hand out cards that read: “Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. People who are silent today believe that laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations. The 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?”

After the silence hours, organizers hold events to further educate people about homophobia and other lgbt issues.

The National Day of Silence is organized by a volunteer staff of full time students. Jessie Gilliam and Maria Pulzetti, co-chairs of the event, are featured in the “Profile in Courage” in the March issue of Oasis Magazine (www.oasismag.com). They have also been invited to appear as keynote speakers at Youth Pride Day in Washington, D.C. on April 18.

National Day of Silence Co-chair Maria Pulzetti comments, “I have watched this event grow from a first-time event at a conservative university to a national and even international movement of youth working to end homophobia. The strength of this event lies in the fact that it fills a real need for solidarity among youth concerned about lgbt rights. The National Day of Silence is the only national event created and organized by youth. The collective statement we make is staggering.”

The National Day of Silence has received organizational endorsements from the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), Advocates for Youth, IOutProud!, And Justice for All, and Youth Guardian Services.

Locally, Victoria Shaver, with The Family, is the NDOS regional coordinator for Alaska and several other Western states. Reach her at <http://www/youth-guard.org/ndos>.

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The Amazon Trail

Bad habits

Me and Mean Norma Jean were bullshittin', as she calls it, at the rehab center where she lives now, and she was wishing she could smoke and drink like she used to. The two of us, ex-smokers, ex-drinkers, sat there remembering the romance of our bad habits.

Norma said, “When I was twelve I used to go down the road picking up butts.”

“To smoke?” I asked stupidly.

“I was a country girl,” Norma replied, as if that explained everything.

It did. I immediately pictured a baby dyke during the Great Depression. Walking on a dirt road, barefoot, hair pushed back behind her ears, her big brother’s thin patched dungarees rolled up above her skinny little girl ankles, Norma would have had a keen eye for forbidden fruit.

“We had a cigarette machine in the lobby of my apartment building,” I told Norma. “A pack cost thirty cents. I bought Herbert Tareytons. Remember the ad? The bellboy yells, Hurriburr Tare-iron!”

“Fifteen cents.”

“When you were twelve? Did you ever buy a pack then?”

“All the time.”

She’d smoked for over sixty years, until her lungs made her quit. We weren’t bullshittin’ much that day. Breathing take’s most of Norma’s energy and she doesn’t feel so hot.

The Herbert Tareytons were unfiltered and stale. They made me nauseous, but when I came out, my girlfriend smoked. I took up Kools. Smoking was a part of our puppy love, of who we were, gay kids.

“I quit in December of 1977,” I volunteered. “I had the flu and it hurt too much to smoke.”

Bad habits were the way some of us got through life. I remember learning to have conversations after I gave up smoking. It seems like when I still smoked all I had to do was make gestures. First came that little strip I pulled off the pack. Then the foil, torn back to reveal two cigarettes exactly. I ditched the crinkly cellophane.

There was a special way to get at a cigarette. Did I tap on the bottom and then pull one out with my mouth? It was definitely not cool to stick fingers in the pack.

Fumble-fingers were bad advertising.

Then there was lighting the thing. I favored small Zippo’s, with their clicking covers. Flick it up, roll the ignition wheel, flick it down, all with the thumb. Matches were more romantic. Leaning toward another woman, hand cupped around the flame, meeting her eyes on the way back up — holding her gaze as long as I could before the smoke got in my eyes.

I didn’t say all this to Norma. Some things butch buddies just seem to know about each other.

I did tell her, “I had my first drink when I was seventeen. My parents were away. My girlfriend and another couple were coming over. Pete, the other butch, could get all the beer she wanted. Her dad ran a corner grocery store and Pete would steal beer out of the back. I went to a super market and stuck a six-pack in the shopping cart with the food. The cashier just rang it up. When the kids came over the beer lasted awful to me. But you couldn’t have a party without liquor and cigarettes.”

Norma was smiling. “My mom made beer.”

“Naw. Was this prohibition?”

She nodded. “Once two cops came by and asked her, are you making beer? They searched around and found it and came back saying you sure make good beer! They drank it all the way to town.”

We laughed. Then I asked, “Weren’t you scared?”

“Yes. I was a little scared, but I knew my mother could take care of herself.”

I was impressed.

There was a time I couldn’t imagine life without my bad habits. But quitting was easy for me. Those were the disco years. I went to bars to dance and drank mineral water because I was thirsty. Alcohol and tobacco interfered with my endurance on the dance floor. The next thing I knew I’d quit the bars and was doing yoga.

Norma gestured to the window, beyond which stretched a large patio with chairs and tables.

“The ladies go out there to smoke,” said Norma.

Staff, on smoke breaks, stood near the door. Patients smoked in wheelchairs. It wasn’t exactly a gay bar, but Norma wanted to be out there with them in the worst way.

Copyright 1998 by Lee Lynch
My Queer Life

Man's Best Friend
by Michael Thomas Ford

It's official — I will never have a boyfriend. No, I haven’t given up on men and decided that going straight is the answer. Nor have I fallen in with an obscure alien-loving cult that demands my celibacy as part of their plan to lure the Mother Ship back to Earth. It’s just that there’s no room in the bed.

The bed is big enough. Queen size, in fact. When I first got it, I looked at the vast expanse of space and imagined hours of sweaty fun rolling around on the freshly-washed sheets with whatever man I could lure into my bedroom. Then the dog wandered in, took one look at the new bed, and jumped up on it. He bounced a few times, testing the spring in the mattress, and then plopped himself down for a nap.

He hasn’t moved since. In fact, as time has gone on, he’s taken over more and more of the bed for his own, until now all I get is a thin strip along the right side. At night I lay on my side in this no-man’s land, trying to pull enough of the quilt over me to keep warm and wondering where I went wrong.

I admit that it’s probably all my fault. After all, when Roger first started getting on the bed, it crossed my mind that perhaps it wasn’t such a good idea. But he was a puppy at the time, and he looked so cute curled up in a little black Labrador ball with his nose on his paws. Besides, he didn’t take up that much space, and it was sort of cozy to feel him beside me at night.

But now Roger weighs 110 pounds. And while he still sometimes sleeps curled up in a ball, more often he stretches out as much as he can. His favorite position is on his back with his head on the pillows and all four legs straight up in the air. More than once I’ve been rudely awakened by a paw being forced into my back as Roger decides that he would be a lot more comfortable if I moved over just a little bit.

The sand makes everything even worse. You see, Labradors like nothing better than swimming, and Roger swims daily, even in winter. Somehow, along with the water in the pond, he manages to soak up vast quantities of sand, all of which he immediately deposits on the bed when he gets home. Last week I put on new sheets. When I went to bed, I slipped beneath them, thrilled at being surrounded by material that didn’t smell like wet dog.

My joy lasted for approximately twenty seconds. Then Roger came bounding in, leaped up onto the bed, and laid down. The next thing I knew, I felt sand trickling down through the blanket, past the sheet, and onto my legs. Then came the overwhelming smell of the great outdoors. Roger let out a happy groan, rolled onto his back, and started to snore as I thought about the average life span of Labradors and wept as I realized that I’ll be at least 40 before I get my bed back.

I know what you’re thinking: Why don’t you just kick him off? I have tried to make him sleep on the floor. He even has his very own cedar-filled bed from L. L. Bean. Every so often, when I’m particularly tired of the sand and the dog smell, I tell him to sleep on it. He dutifully gets down, goes to the bed, and spends twenty minutes pawing at it until he has it all fluffed up the way he wants it. Then he throws himself down on it, and I try to go to sleep.

About three minutes later, the sighing begins. No one is a bigger drama queen than Roger, and he has a way of pushing out air that makes him sound like the world’s most abused animal. I can feel him there on the floor, staring at me in the big warm bed while he sleeps on the
cold L. L. Bean doggie pillow, and I can't stand it. He
hears my resolve shatter and up he comes, settling down
with a contented sigh.

I'm not the only one suffering from this dog-in-the-bed
relationship syndrome. My friend Diane is, too. Her Dal-
matian, Rudy, also sleeps on the bed. And not just on
the bed. Rudy actually sleeps in the bed, right there under-
neath all the sheets and blankets. More than once, a
startled visiting girl has felt her toes being sucked, only to
discover that the guilty party isn't Diane but her spotted
other half. The relationship seldom proceeds any farther.

Every night, while other people are going out on dates
and thinking about all the fun they'll have later on in
their dog-free beds, Diane and I walk Roger and Rudy
around the pond. As our happy pets romp and play, we
wearily trudge along behind them, wondering if maybe
somewhere out there are people who might not mind
sleeping with big dogs between us and them. But we
doubt it.

Besides, we have enough trouble with the dogs in our
lives. Adding other people to it would simply be too ex-
hausting. As it is, I take Roger out five or six times a day.
That doesn't include the car rides, the midnight outings to
look for skunks, or the trips to the vet to find out why he's
throwing up again. I don't have time to date anyone.
What little free time I have I need to wash Roger's blan-
kets and plan his birthday parties.

Last night, after calculating the exact length of time it's
been since anyone but Roger and I have shared my bed, I
decided enough was enough. Marching into the bedroom,
I was determined to toss Roger off the bed once and for
all. But when I went in, he was curled up in a ball. His
head was on the pillow, and in his paws he was holding
his favorite stuffed toy, a polar bear named Bruce. I stood
there for a minute, looking down at my sleeping, stinking
monster. Then I got in next to him, pulled what little bit
of the blanket wasn't around him over me, and turned off
the light.

So maybe he's not the man of my dreams. At least I
don't have to worry about who else he's sleeping with.

Michael Thomas Ford is the winner of the 1997 Vice
Versa gay and lesbian journalism award for best humor writing.
AN EVENING
WITH FRIENDS

APRIL 18, 1998
BE A HOST!
THROW A PARTY YOUR WAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association's Largest Event of the Year

It's very simple! It's very fun! Sign-up today!

As a host, you decide your dinner, menu, theme, location, time,
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fun as you want. Have your dinner on April 18th or if you need to have
it on another day, no problem. Contact us to discuss the details.

Four A's will mail out personalized invitations to each guest inviting
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AFTER DINNER, COME AND CELEBRATE!
At 9:30pm hosts, guests and the general public are invited to a dessert
reception at Qupqugiaq Cafe on 36th, between Arctic and C Street.
Hosts and everyone who attended a dinner will be admitted FREE, all
other friends are invited to make a $10 donation at the door and join in.

Live music, scrumptious desserts and a great silent auction.

For more information, call Laurie Wolf at 263-2048 or visit out
website at www.alaskadesign.com/rsvp

ALSO: BE A GUEST!
Don't have time or a place to hold a dinner,
but you still want to be involved? Contact us to
find out about a dinner that you can attend.

Upcoming Events:
√ AIDS 101 Training: Thursday, April 23 5:30pm - 6:30pm @ 4 A's
√ Free HIV Testing Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00pm @ 4A's
√ Every Thursday “HIV Support Group” 7pm - 8pm @ Urban Coffee & Art
√ Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers Noon @ 4 A's
Stargazer Commentary

March is the impatient month for me. I'm very tired of winter. Having grown up well before the schools initiated "spring break," I'm getting envious, as I get older, of younger folks being released from the institutions of higher learning. I'd love to get out of work for a while to play. The nose to the grindstone gets boring in this "me, self indulgent age" I've experienced. The beach, warm weather, and Hawaii sounds like a wonderful interlude. I need to swim with the dolphins and experience the magic and wonder of a close encounter. Does this sound far-fetched to you? It is possible; it's already happened to me once.

One September I drove a RV down Highway 101 on the West Coast. The chain saw sculpture of the redwood trees was a big shock, but along a winding road among the ancient sequoias, early one morning with the mist rising off the ground so that we could not see the tops of the trees, was a religious experience. My daughter swore she saw fairy lights. I half expected a dinosaur to walk by. Eventually, we got to Santa Barbara, California and saw the signs pointing to a California State RV park on the beach. "Wonderful," Laura and I thought until we got there. The park was a huge concrete slab behind a sea wall. The late afternoon weather was already too cool for the thinner blooded Californians. They were on the beach wearing sweaters. My daughter and I put on our swim suits. Bracing herself, Laura dove in to the salt water. She came up sputtering, "It warm, it's warm, the water's warm, Mom."

A couple of minutes later, we heard some people squealing down the beach. A small seal had beached itself. Out in the deeper water killer whales patrolled. One lunged towards the seal on the beach and momentarily became stuck in the sand. After a few moments of great splashing and thrashing the killer whale backed out of the shallower water. Then the pack moved off very quickly.

Large shapes under the water were heading toward the beach, dorsal fins protruding from under the surface. Someone yelled, "Sharks!" I looked around for Laura only to see her in the water between me and the incoming fins. She was turned watching the beach. I yelled out for her to come in. Laura yelled back, "What did you say?" At that point I went in the water after her. Laura kept coming toward me as the fins advanced toward her back. Just as I reached Laura the dorsal fins were level with us and began to circle. Seeing the fins for the first time, Laura screamed, "Oh my god" and grabbed hold of me.

A head broke the surface. It was a dolphin. With a cry it leaped out of the water, splashing down in a mode of joy and play. One by one the dolphins leapt out of the water drenching us as if they were having the most fun. After a while they settled down, coming closer to us. We reached out toward them, but the dolphins kept just out of reach. Then one brushed against me, came back around and did not shy away from my touch. It was an awesome magic moment. When I turned to Laura, she was stroking another dolphin. Later the same dolphin came up under her and began to carry her, after a short way Laura slid off and held on to its dorsal fin for a swim together. It was a rare privilege and wonderful experience.

On Sunday, April 19, Nancy Lee Evans is hosting a Dolphin Essence Experience from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The afternoon includes meditation, movement, music and joyous song. Both men and women are welcome. I definitely need the break. If you can't take a real "spring break," just have time to spare out of your busy life for a mini-experience or get bored on Sunday afternoons, give Nancy a call at 345-6760. The cost is $50. Join us.

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

"I accept this on behalf of all the people — and the teenagers out there especially ... who think there's something wrong with them because they're gay. There's nothing wrong with you, and don't ever let anybody make you feel ashamed of who you are."

— Ellen DeGeneres September 14 accepting the Emmy award for outstanding writing in a comedy series.
where do you want to go tonight?

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Cypherclue

Copyright 1998 Mikki Finn

In this game, every letter in the coded message consistently stands for a different letter of the alphabet. If the letter X stands for M, for example, it will stand for M in the entire message.

Today's hint: The O you see stands for the letter U.

EBZDM TRIAL BDRA: "XCLML RB ESIF ESL XCRSQ RS XCL TEMIA TEMBL XCDX HLRSQ XDINLA DHEOX, DSA XCDX RB SEX HLRSQ XDINLA DHEOX."

Cypherclue solution can be found on page 31.

"On issue after issue involving gays and lesbians, survey after survey shows that the most important determinant of people's attitude is whether they are aware, whether they knowingly have had a family [situation] or a friendship or a work relation with a gay person. ... So I think one of the greatest things we have to do still is just to increase the ability of Americans who do not yet know that gays and lesbians are their fellow Americans in every sense of the word, to feel that way. I think it's very important."

— President Bill Clinton in a November 8 address to the gay Human Rights Campaign's national dinner.

such is LIFE!

BERT

DISCOVERING THAT HIS BOYFRIEND IS GAY

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNIE!

INTERNET: HTTP://WWW.GAYWIRE.COM/QUIPS/SUCHLIFE.HTM E-MAIL: GDACKANTEER@AOL.COM
Further North in the Heart of Alaska

The ice park is in full swing; daylight is coming back rapidly to the Interior (49 more minutes a week); and the temperatures are inching higher. Summer is getting closer; at times like this, it’s hard to wait.

PFLAG Fairbanks

PFLAG Fairbanks, the Tanana Valley Conference of Churches, and SeaCom hosted the farthest north Searching For Common Ground Forum. On Saturday, February 28, 85 people gathered at the local curling club. Ken Prunty, the President of SeaCom and PFLAG Anderson, Indiana; six local parents and gays; author of the book, *Pastor, I Am Gay*, Howard Bess; PFLAG Fairbanks President, Nancy Kailing, and ten local pastors. Members of the Tanana Valley Conference of Churches donated snacks and lunch. Local newspaper, CBS and FOX TV news affiliates, and public radio all did an excellent job of covering the event. Several parents “came out” for the first time. Their stories were extremely moving. The dialogue between all 85 people was respectful although the local Bible Baptist Church did pass out anti-gay-literature to those entering the forum and had a message to PFLAG on their big billboard on a major highway stating that “Parents and Friends should care about their loved ones to tell them the truth.” Our next meeting will be on March 15 at 4:00 p.m. at Into The Woods Bookstore.

Sixth Annual Spring Fling

Jeanie and Deb are again hosting the party to usher out winter in a big way. The Sixth Annual Spring Fling Outdoor Potluck will promise to be even better this year. Activities include ice Croquet (if you like to cheat, this is the event for you — except this year the course will be filled with traps!), barbecue and a bonfire to toast your body. Sunday, March 29, from noon on. Call 479-8242 for details and directions. Please no pets (unless tastefully en casserole).

Klondykes Queens & Company

KDQ&Co is Alaska’s only Rainbow Community Theatre. We are now in our second season. We have continued to gain support in the lesbian/gay/bisexual community and have become a popular entertainment venue for the heterosexual audience in Fairbanks. KDQ&Co. makes use of the many varied talents of the lesbian/gay/bisexual community in Fairbanks. This includes artists, actors, musicians, writers, designers, drag performers (of both sexes), costumers and just about anyone else who wants to help. *Blossoms, Bostiers and Bonnets: Springtime in Byzantium* is our fifth production. The production is a variety show format with Baron and Baroness Brachnel as the hosts for the evening. We will also be presenting the short play, *Theodora: She-Bitch of Byzantium*, by noted drag performer Charles Bush. The production runs March 27, 28 and April 3, 4 at the Palace Saloon in AlaskaLand. The doors open at 9:00 p.m. and the show starts at 10:00 p.m. There will be dancing after the show until the early morning hours.

Profits from the previous shows have allowed KDQ&Co. to underwrite *In the Life* on the local PBS station. The Interior AIDS Association does free and anonymous HIV testing after each Saturday performance. We have recently sent a KDQ&Co. member to the San Francisco Coronation to represent Fairbanks.

Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse

Located at 3560 College Road, Into The Woods Bookstore and Coffeehouse is ever changing and expanding. Call Connie at 479-7701 for a listing of special events, ongoing meetings and functions, or to schedule an event.

QNetAK

Located at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> and updated when possible, QNetAK is the place to find the Anchorage and Fairbanks calendar of events. It also offers a link to business and community services, even to your Alaska homepage - if you want. E-mail to <qnetak@mosquitonet.com> to add an event or link.

“The Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals and three hundred sixty two admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love heterosexuals. It’s just that they need more supervision.”

—Lynne Lavner
Dear Love

My cochlea is poorly

by Karen Carlisle

I am sure glad scientists, social and biological, have finally discovered the reason I'm a lesbian. My cochlea is poorly developed.

All lesbians tested in this particular study could not hear very quiet sounds with their inner ear. So there you have it, dear readers. The next time you wonder if that new woman who tingles your feet is straight, bi, transgendered, lesbian or any other gender that may have been discovered when I wasn't looking, give her a hearing test.

Now Dear Love takes exception to this finding. She says she can hear the quietest sound in a dark room, but I think she has an overdeveloped sixth sense like all people who lived their childhood under siege, and besides, she's a descendant of O'Bannons and Kincaids and I swear she has the second sight.

The second part of the finding is that those same women have more of a male hormone, androgen, which is released during fetal development and that the brain center that controls inner ear development is near the same center that determines sexual preference (presumably the "excess" androgen release is part of this process). Excuse me? If all people have a little brain center that determines sexual preference, then what's all the argument, condemnation and reprisals about? People don't get persecuted because they have blue eyes.

"Why are you a lesbian?"

"Because my cochlea is underdeveloped." Perhaps that bon mot will help me get a job.

Well, maybe it will prove to be true to my satisfaction, but will I be satisfied? That androgen business supports the old stereotype of "manlike" women who are too ugly to get a man. I've had lovers who looked mannish and lovers who looked femmish, but every one was all woman, and I know, because I lived the first half of my sexual life practicing heterosexuality for which I went through stringent boot camp, and I never did get it right. I know well the difference between man and woman. Viva la difference!

Forgive my naiveté, dear readers, but what about love? I fell for my darling the first time I saw her! Okay, so maybe that was hormones (although the ladies' magazines said I shouldn't be having them). What about my lover reaching for and clinging to me every night, unconsciously, because her mother died and she's desolate? Is that hormonal? What about my sweet pea putting her name and mine on the inheritance account and trusting me to help invest it wisely, and wanting half of everything to be mine? Just like what we now own is half hers, half mine? Hormones? What about Dear Love's continued empathy, comfort and acceptance about the years of unresolved grief about the loss of my child? Hormones? I don't think so, dear readers.

I love a woman, I love women. That's why I'm a lesbian.

Copyright 1998 Karen Carlisle

"Many of us may ... get a glimmer every now and then that in some profound way we are different than heteros. That maybe the consciousness, politics, ethos, and socialization of homosexuality—which we can call, if we wish, 'gay culture'—may be different from the mainstream glop we see everyday on TV, that is sold to us at every K-mart and shopping mall, and that tries to parade itself in front of us as 'normal.' In short, that there is some overriding 'gay consciousness' which we do use to connect with each other."

— Writer Perry Brass in an essay published at the badpuppy.com website, December 15.
Past Out

Was Susan B. Anthony a lesbian?

Susan B. Anthony, the most famous American feminist, never married, dedicated her life to women's causes, surrounded herself with female friends, and had an intense romantic friendship with Anna Dickinson, one of her colleagues. Ninety-two years ago, Anthony died holding the hand of Anna Howard Shaw, another unmarried feminist, who lived for many years with Anthony's niece. Whether Anthony was a sexless career woman or as queer as a one-dollar coin is a question that has confused lesbian and gay historians.

Anthony began her activist career in the 1840s, when she started volunteering her time for the Daughters of Temperance, trying to bring public attention to the effects of male drunkenness on women and children. In the 1950s, Anthony turned to the suffrage movement. Without the vote, she realized, women would never be able to influence public policy on other important issues, such as temperance and abolition.

For the next 50 years, Anthony worked tirelessly for the women's rights movement, crisscrossing the country on speaking engagements and appearing before Congress every year from 1869 to 1906 to lobby for a woman suffrage amendment.

Perhaps Anthony's finest hour came in 1872, in a protest that queer activists a century later might call a "zap." Attempting to test the Fourteenth Amendment, which gave suffrage to black men but not to women, Anthony, three of her sisters, and several supporters marched to the polls in Rochester, New York, and demanded ballots. They were successful (Anthony cast her vote for a straight Republican ticket), but two weeks later, Anthony was arrested and forced to stand trial. The court found her guilty and imposed a $100 fine — a huge sum in those days, when a woman's annual teaching salary was not much higher than that.

Anthony died 14 years before women achieved the vote. Ridiculed in her own time, she is today recognized as an important historical figure. But while mainstream historians have extolled her political contributions, they have generally ignored her personal life, assuming that she had none because she never married. Queer historians, however, have uncovered the romantic friendships of Anthony and other feminists and speculated on these women as proto-lesbians.

Gay historian Jonathan Ned Katz studied Anthony's unpublished letters to Anna Dickinson, a feminist orator. "My dear Chicky Dicky Darling," Anthony wrote to Dickinson in 1868. "Now when are you coming to New York... I have plain quarters — at 44 Bond Street — double bed — and big enough to take you in...." In another letter, Anthony encouraged Dickinson "not to marry a man" and spoke of wanting to hold her in her arms again. Were Anthony's intimate words merely the way women addressed each other at the time, or are they clues to her sexuality? Some queer historians warn against reading letters like these with twentieth-century eyes, while others maintain that any woman who makes a life with other women was a lesbian. There are lively arguments on both sides.

We'll never know what Susan and "Dicky" did in their big double bed. What is clear is that Anthony's ties with her many female friends and companions were central to her emotional life — much as they would be for a lesbian today. She was an independent woman who eschewed marriage and children, sought out and treasured the company of women, and devoted herself to pursuing a feminist social revolution. And that's about as "queer" as a nineteenth-century woman could get.

David Bianco is the author of Modern Jewish History for Everyone. He can be reached at <AriBianco@aol.com>. For more Past Out, visit <www.gay.net>.

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Out of Town

Gay Spring Break: Eureka Springs, AR

Just how Eureka Springs, Arkansas, site of the one of the largest free-standing statues of Christ and one of the world’s most famous productions of the Passion Play, came to be a haven of gays and lesbians is difficult to pinpoint. Still today, as the town’s percentage of the population of gays continues to grow, hundreds of bible-thumping tourists show up here without the slightest knowledge that this is the Heartland’s main queer resort mecca.

After natural springs - believed to have curative powers - were discovered in the 1870s, the town developed into a health spa and resort. Businesses prospered, but the popular use of the automobile — which the town’s steep narrow streets originally could not accommodate — ultimately threw Eureka Springs into a recession. In the 1960s, construction of the Christ of the Ozarks statue and the opening of the first six-month-long Passion Play season put Eureka Springs back on the map, this time as a mecca for Christian families.

Since the ‘60s, countless hippies and countercultural types have settled here. Free spirits are also lured by the town’s natural springs, which make it a center of New Age and holistic healing. And the presence of the nationally acclaimed Opera of the Ozarks, a two-month long school of opera (performances run from late June through late July), has brought a number of gay performers thru town.

Today Eureka Springs is a live-and-let-live town, where a household of Evangelical Christians gets along perfectly well with the lesbian couple next door. People don’t always embrace their neighbors’ beliefs and lifestyles, but they respect their rights and privacy.

Considerable appeal lies in the region’s remarkable natural beauty, which you can explore simply by hopping into your car and driving 15 miles in virtually any direction. Of special note, 33-acre Eureka Springs Gardens bursts with flora, beginning in late March.

The town’s historic district is itself a vivacious and colorful preserve of Victorian architecture, both commercial and residential. Hundreds of meticulously restored wood-frame, brick, and stone houses and buildings - some containing galleries and boutiques - cling to Eureka Spring’s precipitous slopes; several homes are open for touring.

It’s here where you’ll find the town’s most sophisticated and gay-friendly eateries. Chez Charles with sophisticated fare such as pecan pesto - coated salmon with lemon butter; Center Street South, a gay - popular night spot, is a funky Caribbean and Mexican restaurant in the early evening.

The romantic dinner-only Jim and Brent’s provides. Continental and fare such as beef stroganoff and spicy jambalaya. Ermitio’s specializes in homemade semolina wheat pastas, such as gnocchi, spinach-and-cheese ravioli, and linguine.

Eureka Springs has a handful of homo-friendly pubs and saloons. Center Street South has the strongest community following, among both women and men. The owners bring in great live music, from blues to rock to grunge, and most nights there’s dancing. Chelsea’s Corner Cafe is a rowdy neighborhood pub that welcomes gay patrons though mostly straight. Folks sometimes drop by the bar at the grand Crescent Hotel for drinks, as well.

Though no queer-exclusive accommodations are found, many small inns and B&Bs cater to a mixed crowd. Pond Mountain Lodge & Resort, a sprawling mountaintop compound with 30-mile views, offers rustic but warmly decorated rooms with fireplaces and decks with swimming and horseback riding available. Rock Cottage Gardens, built in the 1930s, has flower-filled gardens alive with hummingbirds and butterflies. The original stone bungalows have been refitted with vaulted ceilings, antiques, and whirlpool tubs.

The Woods Resort, four craftsman - style cottages have kitchens, wicker furnishings, whirlpool tubs, and shaded decks. The Arbour Glen Victorian, set amid tall shade trees beside a fish pond with a fountain, has period decorated rooms with lace, elaborate wallpapers, and plenty of frill.

Quirky Eureka Springs may not sound like a typical spring getaway, but late March through early June is an ideal time to visit. Same-sex couples seeking a romantic rustic escape will warm instantly to the sights of blooming azaleas and fragrant flower gardens, and after a dreary winter, visitors relish the opportunities for hiking, swimming, and soaking up the lush countryside.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor’s Gay Guide to the USA, as well as six gay guides covering the West Coast, New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached at <OutoOfTown9@aol.com>. For more Out of Town, visit <www.gay.net>.

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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
Gay people contribute equally to gay and straight causes

Survey also finds gays volunteer more time than heterosexuals

New York — Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (glbt) people divide their charitable contributions of money and time almost equally between gay and non-gay causes, according to a new three-city study. Surveying more than 2,300 people in Milwaukee, Philadelphia and San Francisco, the study also found that members of the glbt community volunteer sixty-one (61) percent more time (29 hours per month) to nonprofit organizations than do heterosexuals (18 hours per month).

The study — a joint project by the Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues (Working Group) and the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS) — is the first systematic research on giving and volunteering by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Participants were recruited through a wide range of diverse organizations in the three cities and completed extensive questionnaires about their motives for giving or not giving time and money.

Michael Seltzer, Ford Foundation, says “The Working Group and IGLSS have conducted a groundbreaking study that will draw needed attention to the heroic but untold story of gays and lesbians in American philanthropy.”

Reflecting their desire to advance a civil rights agenda and to combat anti-gay attacks, gay people report giving a significant amount (33% of their financial contributions and 25% of their volunteer time) to glbt political advocacy organizations, whereas the U.S. population as a whole gives only about 2% of their monetary contributions to political advocacy groups. Being “out and open” about their sexual orientation to families and coworkers was also a characteristic of those most likely to give.

Contrary to assumptions that those who give time don’t give money and vice versa, this study found that people who volunteer for glbt organizations actually give more money than those who don’t volunteer. Further, donors give more time to glbt organizations than non-donors.

“These findings are particularly significant for non-profit organizations and funders as they present the first quantifiable data on motivations and barriers to supporting our organizations in San Francisco,” states Loretta Redd, Executive Director of the Horizons Foundation.

Dr. Lee Badgett, Executive Director of IGLSS and assistant professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, was the principal investigator on the study; Nancy Cunningham, Executive Director of the Working Group, was the project director. The Executive Summary of the report is available at <http://www.iglss.org>.

This survey on giving and volunteering by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities was funded by a grant from the Aspen Institute’s Nonprofit Sector Research Fund, with additional support from the National Society of Fundraising Executives, American Airlines and Pacific Bell.

Contacts: Dr. Lee Badgett, Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies, P. O. Box 2603, Amherst, MA 01004, (413) 577-0145; Nancy Cunningham, Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues, 116 E 16th Street, New York, NY 10003, (212) 475-2930.

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The attitude of Christianity toward homosexuality is a complicated issue, bristling with a history of scriptural condemnation yet moving is many churches toward greater acceptance.

The Fairbanks Curling Club became a microcosm of that tangled relationship Saturday. Those arriving at the Lesbians/Gays and Religious Communities Forum were met by ten people from Bible Baptist Church who were passing out anti-homosexuality material.

Bible Baptist Church Pastor Doug Duffett didn’t think much of the event attended by several local religious leaders, most of whom spoke of the need for understanding and inclusion.

“We were just there to say that a person who proclaims to believe the Bible shouldn’t be meeting about tolerating sin,” he said. “We say accept the people and condemn the sin, and ask them to repent.”

The daylong event was sponsored by the Fairbanks chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the Tanana Valley Conference of Churches and SeaCom – a national group focusing on common ground between homosexuals and churches.

Meeting attendance, of which there were about 80, said those from Bible Baptist Church didn’t cause much of a disruption.

“From what I saw they were quite well-behaved, not open-minded, but very well-behaved,” said Terry Fauth.

Not all anti-PFLAG sentiment has been so civilized. PFLAG member Sherry Lewis said the organization received three obscene messages last Sunday.

“I’m a nurse and I’d heard most of the stuff I thought ... I listened for the first minute or so, then I put the phone down because it was pretty nasty,” she said.

PFLAG President Nancy Kaling said the organization’s voice mail system – which takes all PFLAG calls because of the problem – has even received death threats in the past.

“(They’ve said) that there’s a hit list being drawn up and we’re at the top of the list. So be prepared,” Kaling said.

The Bible Baptist Church pastor said he condemns the idea of threatening or obscene phone calls to PFLAG as ungodly and said no one in his church would be making them, if they are indeed being made.

The Saturday forum ended with Allen Corrick, pastor of the Door of Hope Church and an avowed conservative, apologizing for the existence of such acts.

“If someone says it is Jesus we serve and we’re going to kill you, beat you up or exclude you from the community ... they are not coming in the name of the true Jesus,” he said.

He said people are neighbors and need to be able to talk to each other with love and respect about the things about which they do not agree.

Father Jim Kolb of St. Raphael’s Catholic Church said the first premise people should operate from is at the beginning of the Bible – “the goodness of God’s Creation.

“He said the Catholic church, some elements aside, has grown in compassion.

“I don’t think it’s as simple as yes or no, good or bad, a couple Bible verses to condemn it. We have to look at people as people,” Kolb said.

Rev. Milo Thornberry of the First United Methodist Church said what he most fears is hypocrisy, judgmentalism and a failure to live inclusively.

Brad Snow, pastor of the Open Door Church, said at his church they stick to the Gospel, and read Bible verses describing homosexuality as a punishable sin.

He said that although he believes people can likely be born homosexual, it’s through passing down “generational sin.” It can be passed down through people who are predators, he said.

But he noted Jesus had compassion for sinners.

“I’m here because I have compassion, I have love, I want to build bridges,” he said.

Other speakers said the Bible should be taken in the context of the times in which it was written.

Rev. Richard Kraiger of Fairbanks Lutheran Church said that St. Paul, whose verses Snow quoted in condemning homosexuality, also said women must have their heads covered and be silent in church.

He said the national Lutheran Church issued a resolution accepting gays and lesbians.

“How could we ever envision Jesus somehow excluding anyone?” he said.

Howard Bess, an American Baptist Minister with a church in Wasilla, said when the oft-cited passages are studied and interpreted they reflect cultural phenomena of the time, not the reality he knows of consensual and loving homosexual relationships.

“We’re talking about ... friends who are active church people, people of faith,” Bess said. “None of these passages are speaking to that.”


This article was sent to us from Terry Fauth in Fairbanks. He had the following to say about the conference: “Even though the Bible Baptists did not attend our conference to hear another side, it was very heartening to have so many representatives of other congregations showing their willingness to end such hostilities and welcome all into worship. Out of fourteen panelists, there was only one dissenting view, and oddly enough it was from a congregation named ‘open door’.”

*If you limit your actions in life to things that nobody can possibly find fault with, you will not do much.*

— Lewis Carroll
Queer youth survey results

OutProud!, The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and Oasis Magazine have announced the publication of the results of the first-ever survey of queer and questioning youth on the Internet. A summary report of responses from the survey, which included more than 150 questions and ran from August 15 through October 31, 1997, is now available on the Web.

Early in 1997 OutProud! and Oasis embarked on this ambitious project with the goal of understanding more about the queer youth communities they serve. The result was a survey which explored a wide range of issues in the lives of queer youth: school, coming out, sexual activity and health, the role of the media in forming self-image, harassment and suicide, religion and spirituality, community, relationships, and the future.

More than 2,000 youth -- the youngest ten years old -- responded. The average respondent was 18 years old; 78% of all respondents were male, 21% female, and 1% transgendered or other. A few key findings include:

* The typical respondent first realized that they might be queer at 12 years of age, but it typically took them another three years before they accepted their orientation.

* Youth are coming out earlier than ever, telling their friends or family for the first time at 16 years old, on average; typically, they tell their best friend first and the response is overwhelmingly positive. 75% of all respondents have come out to at least one person.

* Youth are becoming sexually active at earlier ages, with the typical queer teen reporting their first sexual experience at 14 years of age. Although they believe that they are adequately informed on issues of safer sex, a significant number report that they have had, or would have, unprotected oral or anal sex.

* More than half of all boys and girls responding to the survey indicate that they want to marry someone of the same gender, and even more say that they want to have children of their own.

* 10% of the queer youth watching the “Coming Out” episode of Ellen gained the courage, from watching the show, to come out for the first time. This finding provided the basis for Oasis and OutProud! to launch their new Save Ellen campaign at <http://www.oasismag.com/save-ellen/> to help protect this valuable resource for queer youth.

"Due to the nature of the Internet, this is the first-ever survey to have glass closet access into the lives of youth who have not yet told anyone they are queer," said Jeff Walsh, founder of Oasis Magazine. "With the results of this survey, we have data that pinpoints exactly what it is that we must all do to better advocate for the needs of queer and questioning youth and to provide them with support."

The results can be viewed online or downloaded as a 60-page report at <www.oasismag.com/survey/>. 
GLAAD set to hand out special awards

LOS ANGELES, CA — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced its special honorees for the 9th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, which include Ellen DeGeneres, k.d. lang, Judith Light and Miramax executives Bob and Harvey Weinstein. The Media Awards will take place in 3 ceremonies to be held in New York City on March 30 at the New York Hilton Towers, in Washington, DC on April 4 at the JW Marriot and in Los Angeles on April 19 at the Century Plaza Hotel.

At the March 30 New York City ceremony, GLAAD will honor openly gay recording star k.d. lang with the Vito Russo Entertainer Award. The award is presented to an openly lesbian or gay individual who has achieved excellence in a specific area of media and has furthered the visibility and understanding of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community through his/her work. It was named in honor of one of GLAAD’s New York founders Vito Russo, author of The Celluloid Closet. Lang was one of the very first internationally recognized and top selling performers to come out.

Also being honored in New York are the Co-Chairmen of Miramax Films, Bob and Harvey Weinstein, who will receive the Excellence in Media Award. This award is given to individuals in the entertainment and media industries who have included lesbians and gay men in their work, furthering the visibility and greater understanding of the community. Miramax was first major Hollywood studio to distribute worldwide films that consistently included bold images of the community. In the recent past, Miramax has distributed such films as Chasing Amy, Unzipped, Priest, Lie Down With Dogs, Paris is Burning and Truth or Dare.

At the April 4 Washington, DC ceremony, GLAAD will honor Judith Light with its Vision Award, presented to an individual that has had a long-term vision and commitment to making a significant difference in society by promoting equal rights for lesbians and gay men. For over a decade, Light has been a supporter of lesbian and gay images in the media and of GLAAD. She currently sits on the board of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and in 1993 spoke at the historic March on Washington. Light is also highly involved in HIV/AIDS awareness programs, working with the Names Project and the Ryan White Foundation.

On April 19, in Los Angeles, Ellen DeGeneres will accept GLAAD’s Stephen F. Kolzak Award, which is presented to an openly lesbian or gay individual in the media for an outstanding contribution in combating homophobia. Last April, Ellen DeGeneres made television history when her sitcom lead character came out of the closet. Simultaneously, DeGeneres herself told the world that she was gay, creating a worldwide discussion of sexual orientation and diversity on television and in Hollywood.

Throughout the past year, DeGeneres’ show has tackled various issues and problems that the lesbian and gay community face with intelligence and wit. DeGeneres herself has spoken out tirelessly for equal rights for the lesbian and gay community. Stephen F. Kolzak was a highly successful Los Angeles casting director who devoted the last part of his life to fighting AIDS-phobia and homophobia within the entertainment industry.

“GLAAD’s 1998 Media Awards special honorees are some of the most interesting and powerful individuals in the entertainment world,” said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. “They each speak to the impact that an individual can have in promoting understanding and acceptance of the lesbian and gay community.”
Realistic expectations a part of investing

by Kathleen Madden

Recent market performance not the norm

If you're a long-time investor (pre-1990), your excitement about the market's performance in recent years might be combined with a little restraint — things have been awfully good for a long time now. If you're a relatively new investor, you may have some "feeling" about long-term market performance — feelings about which you should be fully informed.

What all investors likely need is some perspective about the market's unprecedented performance in the 90s. Maintaining realistic expectations can help maintain confidence about the long term.

How high is up?

While it's an historical fact that the stock market always has rebounded from "corrections" and "bear markets" to achieve new heights, the market's ability to recover and post gains in recent history is as unprecedented as it is astonishing. So unprecedented, in fact, that new investors may lack the context to fully understand just how astonishing the past few years have been:

According to the Ned Davis Research Inc. (February 1998), since 1960, equity investments have averaged returns of more than 10% a year; since 1982, almost 15%. But over the past three years, the average return is close to 31%.

The same source notes the last "bear market" (a decline of 20% or more) as occurring in 1990 ... or not once in the past eight years. What's "normal?" Over history, bear markets surface, on average, once every three years.

It's impossible to predict the future; there's no certain evidence that the "bull market" of the 1990s must end. But, historically, market performance is characterized by "cycles." Geopolitical, as well as economic, world events typically dictate that market segments — technology stocks and international stocks, for instance — perform cyclically, too.

The investment performance "bar" has been raised to an incredibly high level in the 90s. Investors who've entered the market during this time may lack context for market performance that, historically and realistically, experiences the ups and downs that characterize market behavior. How to succeed in such an environment?

Looking ahead

Investors can't anticipate markets, but they can control the process of financial planning that's unique to them. And they can control their response to shifting market conditions. These general themes can be considered for investing in almost any cycle of market performance:

Diversify — Spreading dollars over different types of investments, sometimes to include a money market fund, provides a measure of protection against downturns in particular market segments. Mutual funds — which by definition include several stocks, bonds and, often, some cash securities — offer diversification that's built in.

Think and act long term — Most common financial goals, retirement and college for the kids, are long term. Investments designed to perform over time typically perform just that way ... over the long term. Sometimes the best response to market downturn? Do nothing except stay patient and focused on your long term goals.

Invest regularly — Time, not timing, is an investor's greatest ally. If past history is any guide, there is a good chance you'll do better if you invest regularly, such as monthly, instead of trying to time the market or predict the future. The notion is that your chances of making steady progress are better than striking it rich in one shot. However, please remember that regular investing does not assure a profit and does not protect against loss in declining markets.

Get help — Today's investment climate can appear complicated. Many families have financial needs that are numerous and complex. A professional financial advisor can help with a comprehensive overview of where a family is financially, as well as an approach for getting it where it wants to go.

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>.

Have you tried

Chiropractic

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

Relief without drugs or surgery is possible!

Dr. Allison Hill
Dr. Hill has 13 years of experience. She is a graduate of the Texas Chiropractic College, and has done post graduate work in neurology and low back disorders.

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)
This directory is our “yellow pages” and reference guide. It’s free! The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay and (A)lly indicate the business's sexual orientation. 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:
(1) 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, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)

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

Bed & Breakfasts, Accommodations:
(A) Ah, Rose Marie, 302 Cowles, Fairbanks, John, 456-2040
(A) Alex's Fairbanks, Pete, 907-389-2582 (see ad)
(A) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(A) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(A) 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) Regini's, 274-4904
(L) Rose-Beth's B&B (Anchorage) Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G) Sauertough Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946.
(L) Skyline B&B, Homer, Lisa, 907-235-3822
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Suzie 907-586-2410

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

Churches:
see Spiritual

Computer Services:
Consultants, Graphic Design, & Desktop Publishing:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4275
(L) Angie, 337-0253
(L) Binky's Den, 205 4th Ave., Seward, Sue or Terri, 224-PAWS
(L) Communication Art, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 276-6862
(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 258-1339
(G) gra.l/x, Lucian, 561-5566
(L) Halley & Associates, Terry, 276-3869
(G) ServCom Alaska, Mark Mathis, 274-9472
(L) TechLink, LeMiel, 276-6862.

Supplies & Equipment:
(A) Fridg 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) 888-8652
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, 561-0664 (see ad)
(G) Cyranos Film Gallery Cinema, 417 D Street, 561-0064.
(A) Syrygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599
(L) Women's Coffeehouse, Lisa, 561-2198

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

Coffee Houses:
(A) Alaskan Urban Coffee & Art, Clarene, 272-9518
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 562-0737
(A) Quiver Bean Coffee Co., Scott & Becky, call or fax 276-BEAN

Disk Jockeys:
(A) Lake Webb, 273-2689(hm), 279-3300(wk)

Drag Shows:
(A) 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
(A) Catherine Smith, C.P.A., 562-2438
(A) Solutions Consulting, Laura, 243-3324

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

Florists/Greenhouses/Nurseries:
(G) Every Bloomin' Thing, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3158
(A) Mile 5.2 Greenhouse, Dale, 694-3978
(A) Tryck Nursery, Doug, 345-2507S

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

Hair Styling:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(A) 5th Avenue Hair Design, Ledjha, 561-8967

Health:
(A) Alpine Indoor Air Purification Systems, Marjory, (907) 746-5381
(L) Health Advocacy Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
(A) Nature's Own Way, Roberto/Debby, 561-0181

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

Body Work:
(L) Donna (NCMT), 243-0789
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(L) Leslie, 278-3346
(L) Ariel, 277-5222
### Directory

#### Health...

| 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, 566-2110 |
| (L) Gentle Touch Electrolysis Clinic, Bronwyn, 258-6608 |
| Dental Care: | (A) Ward Hubbert, 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 |
| Reiki/Counseling: | (G) Nick, 333-9640 |
| (A) 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: | (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 |
| House-sitting: | (L) Victoria, 245-2291 |
| 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), 373-5353 |
| 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 |
| (GLA) NorthView (Identity), 258-4777 |
| (GL) Perspective (SEAGLA in Juneau), 586-4297 |
| Pet Care & Veterinarian: | (L) Chena Ridge Veterinary Clinic (Fairbanks), 479-0001 |
| (A) Dr. Ginn, 345-1515 |
| (L) Dr. Vicki, 345-1515 |
| 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, 688-0111 |
| (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 Ilene (Eagle River), 907-694-6946 |
| (A) Knik Glacier Tours; Palmer, Alaska; Tom Faussett, 745-1577 |
| (L) McKinley Air Service, Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765 |
| (L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346 |
| (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, 907-389-2725 |
| Real Estate: | (G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-0661 |
| (A) Beka Bodnar, RE/MAX, 244-4415 (see ad) |
| (L) Bronwyn Real Estate, 907-277-4744 |
| (L) Century 21 (Missouri), Lucille, 417-745-6798(w); 417-993-4302(h) |
| (L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663 |
| (A) Rona Mason, Realtor, 242-8877 (cell) or 279-8877. (see ad) |
| (L) Walmhurst Barron, 278-1981 |
| Research: | (L) Cracun & Associates, 279-3982 |
| Social/Educational: | (G) AGB Social Club, formerly Anch 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) Aquarium 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 Bess, 746-1089 |
| (A) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, Anchorage, welcomes all regardless of orientation. 333-5253 |
| (A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266 |
| (A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276 |
| (A) 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:
(G) 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

"I miss him. And I feel bad that we kind of let our relationship drift a little in the past couple of years. A lot of it was over just different views on things. And now that he’s gone I realize that it wasn’t important enough not to have a relationship... I got frustrated with [my dad] and I have a really close relationship with my mom and I put a lot of my focus into that."

— Gay activist Chastity Bono, on her dad, Sonny Bono, who died recently in a skiing accident, to Boston’s Bay Windows, Feb. 12.

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 (2:00-4:00 pm) at their offices, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102. Friday at noon is a luncheon for People With HIV and AIDS. We are always looking for groups willing to donate and provide these meals. If you are interested in helping with the 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. 3555.

AGB Social Club
(formerly Anchorage Garden Buddies) 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 7:00 pm at Elmer’s Restaurant, New Seward & Fireweed, on the first Wednesday of every month.

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

Bruin Brotherhood of Alaska (Levi/Leather/Bear)
1441 E. 12th, #2, 99501 Contact Dan at 258-2629 or 276-6947. Meets the third Saturday at 7 pm.

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 lesbay 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 245-2291 for more information.
<asvl@uaa.alaska.edu>

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. 6:30 pm potluck, 7:30 pm singing (from the KK—Thanks!!)

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

Continued on page 41
Club Notes...continued

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

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

Identity, Inc. Anchorage
founded to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communities. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of each month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm; program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for program title.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA), Anchorage
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 562-2110. Or write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.

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

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

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)
Anchorage holds Sunday services at 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, 6:00pm at the Raven; campouts & weekend trips, too. Write T.L.F.M.C., P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99520-2054.

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

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

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

Over 50's Club
a lesbian book and support group. Meets second and fourth Mondays, 7-9 pm. Videos and books will be a part of this positive energy discussion group. For location, call Rose Beth (337-6779) or Lorraine (276-3377).

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 4SP-FLAG for more information.

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

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
of 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) 274-4984 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>.

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

Would you sell the colors of your sunset and the fragrance of your flowers, and the passionate wonder of your forest for a creed that will not let you dance?
— Helene Johnson
Cyberlust
Submit changes to <TomAndAl@alaska.net>
Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): <http://www.alaskaaid.org>
AGLA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc. <fpl@aurora.alaska.edu>
Burleson, Laura: Gay Rights activist, Chair of Equal of Fairbanks: <sable@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capri Cinema, Rand Kornse: <filmgallery@compuserv.com>
Carlisle, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist: <rmcarl@getontime.net>
Carter, David: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskaclan@aol.com>
Chenal B&B: <Chenalb@alaska.net>
Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE): <http://www.colage.com>
Childs, Lucian: Graphic artist <lucian@alaskan.com> <http://www.alaskan.com/gf/>
Crabbtree, Phil, B&B, Fairbanks, <crabbtree@home.geocities.com>, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4169>
Cracium, Jean: market research, Pride Conference: <jcracium@cracium.alaska.net>
Family, The: <avnie@uaa.alaska.edu> <http://cwolf.alaska.edu/~ahs>
Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquitonet.com>
Freedman, F. Kenneth: Gay/Lesbian activist, <fken@servcom.com>
Gay & Lesbian National Hotline: <http://www.glnh.org>
GLAAD: Gays and the media <http://www.glaad.org>
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>
Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA): see link at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qetuk>
Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polarnet.com> website <http://www2.polarnet.com/~woods>
Kauzlarich, Rick: alaskan@geocities.com
Klondyke Kontakt: <klondykekontakt@hotmail.com>
Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@aol.com>
KT Creative: <ktcreate@alaska.net>
Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <FMC@Micronet.com>
Lovering, Ken: <kaplove@juno.com>
Naff, Don: <donnaff@alaska.net>
Out North: <outrnorth@artswire.org>
Parsons, Greg: <gparsons@ptalaska.net>
PFLAG: Pbs. 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>
Q Net AK, Alaska's Gay & Lesbian Information Source: website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qetuk> e-mail <qetuk@mosquitonet.com>
Rachael, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>
SEAGLA: <http://ptalaska.net/~seagla>
Severson, Kim: Entertainment editor Anchorage Daily News, board of Nat'l Lesb & Gay Journalists Assoc: <keverson@pop.adn.com>
Shanti of Juneau: <http://www.ptalaska.net/~shanti>
Soule, Barbara & Bonham, Candy: <solcandy@alaska.net>
Thornbery, Rand: Capri Cinema: <filmgallery@compuserv.com>
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel <triangle@servcom.com>
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks: <rkmintz@polarnet.com> <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~uuff>
Walton, Eric: Q*K Klatch, Q*K Outdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.: <fseb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net>

Calendar

March

Saturday, 21:
A NorthView Forum, 10:30-5:30, AUUF, lunch provided.

Sunday, 22:
A Northern Exposure Bowling League, 4pm, Park Lanes.

Monday, 23:
A Darts at the Raven, 7pm.

Friday, 27:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF, Imperial Court: Their community contributions.
F The Palace, 9pm; Blossoms, Boustiers and Bonnets: Springtime in Byzantium. Also plays Sat. 28, 9pm.

Saturday, 28:
A Women's Coffeehouse: Women Writers Read, coordinated by Mel Green, Qupqugiaq Cafe. Lisa at 561-2198 for more info.

Sunday, 29:
F 6th Annual Spring Fling Potluck, noon, Jeanie & Deb's, 479-8242.

April

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

Wednesday, 8:
- National Day of Silence.

Saturday, 11:
A The Preformance Formerly Known as Celebration, 7:30pm, Arts 150 at UAA. $12 at door. 245-2291 for info. Dance to follow.
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.
A The Family (UAA), 4pm, Room 117, Bus. Ed. Bldg.

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 (UAA) hosts Sturday Social. 245-2291 for more info.
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.

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