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Identity NorthView

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

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Distribution

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

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

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Submissions

We welcome articles and letters from community individuals and organizations. Ideal length is 750 words or less. Please submit on 3.5 (IBM compatible or MAC HD). All contributions must be signed, but upon request names will be withheld or pseudonyms used. NorthView reserves the right to edit as necessary and to refuse any article submitted.

Deadlines

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

Advertising

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

Mail

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

Phone

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

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

Next week I will be 66 years old. That started me thinking about my life and “coming out”.

The first coming out was, of course, being born. A serious proposition for my mother who almost died. Plus I was born on the longest day of the year. I’m sure it must have seemed like it to her.

My life was pretty routine during the war years, until 1946. At that point I could say I came out of the war relatively unscathed, especially since my parents were killed in an air raid in the very house in which we lived.

Moving to America was another coming out step. In doing so, I left behind all of my childhood, good and bad, and the culture into which I had been born. My first marriage removed me from an especially cruel and frightening living situation. My first husband and I lived in Japan for 4.5 years, which was another step toward my growing up. After 8 years coming out of that self-destructive relationship helped me on my way to more independence.

Settling in California and getting my first job added more growing pains.

Then I married for a second time. Thirty-five years later, I came out of that relationship. During those thirty-five years I learned a lot about myself and about the process of “coming out”.

I actually came out as a lesbian several years ago. I can’t really remember when, because I feel so comfortable with myself that the date doesn’t really matter. My friend Fred was one of the first to know. It was on National Coming Out Day in October at the speakout story time we used to have at the Anchorage Unitarian Fellowship. I think there were 7 people there that Sunday. I had made up my mind before I got there that I was going to come out.

How did this act change my life? I am less confused about who I am. I know that my happiness or unhappiness is my responsibility. I now have a sense of calm and acceptance of myself without condemnation or criticism.

Everyone knew before that I was a lesbian. Early in our friendship, my friend Ken told me he thought I was a lesbian. My two wonderful daughters knew before I did and were tickled when I made such a big deal out of telling them. Their response was “We’ve been waiting for you to say something.”

What does all this mean to you, the reader of this rag? Perhaps it will help you to reflect on your own lives and not beat yourselves because you’re “different”. Perhaps it will make someone else’s coming out a little easier.

You see, “Coming Out” to me is another step in my life process. It took all of my life’s experiences to show me who I am — an out lesbian aged 66 years.

A click away to buying books

One of America’s largest bookstores and PFLAG have crafted a new kind of partnership which will allow members and others to buy books more easily and at considerably lower prices. Under this program, Barnes and Noble is making available a huge array of book selections at discount prices. And at the same time, PFLAG receives a commission on every book sold.

The key to this arrangement is PFLAG’s already popular website, which provides the entry to the new online “bookstore.” Barnes and Noble’s ability both to offer a wide range of categories (not just gay and lesbian titles) and at discounts of up to 40 percent make the partnership one of the most favorable available.

By logging on to PFLAG’s website (http://www.pflag.org), those who are thinking about buying a book – of practically any category – simply have to “click” once. They then find themselves immediately in the “bookstore.”

Once there, one can choose from various selections, including: Gay and Lesbian Books; Bestsellers; and Books in the News. In the near future, PFLAG intends to highlight those books which will likely be of interest to members and supporters.

Of course, the prospect of trying to cover all topics for all people with the online service will be impossible. So, PFLAG has recently made available a search engine that will provide unlimited access to Barnes and Noble’s entire universe of books. Through this link, there will be more than a million books available to any individual that shops via the PFLAG website.

“While this is a partnership, we see it as PFLAG creating its own bookstore with Barnes and Noble’s help,” said PFLAG Marketing Manager Jenny Allen who is involved in launching the new program.

“It’s your one-click solution to all of your reading and book-buying needs,” Allen noted. “But at the same time, you can help an organization that helps so many people.”

PFLAGpole is published quarterly by Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.
Transgender Special Outreach Network

The PFLAG Transgender Special Outreach Network (T-SON) is pleased to report that the PFLAG National Board of Directors has accepted T-SON's request and its own Bylaws Committee's recommendation to add transgendered to PFLAG's mission statement by a unanimous vote. The vote now goes to the membership at the PFLAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco on September 12, 1998.

T-SON was initiated 2 1/2 years ago at the Indianapolis national PFLAG convention with the help of Sharon Stuart and many others and since then has worked steadily for trans inclusion. It created an on-line support service (tgs-pflag) and an organizational communication link (PFLAG-T-SON) and operates a telephone HelpLine. With Jessica Xavier as chief author, it has published a readable, inexpensive and succinct introduction to transgender issues, called Our Trans Children. Over 8000 copies have been sold to date. T-SON now has a Core Steering Committee and Regional Transgender Coordinators (Tcords) across the country.

Over 160 PFLAG chapters now have local Tcords seeking to educate their members on trans issues, especially with the help of local trans persons. Many chapters already have transgendered members and some have speakers ready and willing to meet with other groups. T-SON is planning an informal educational gathering in San Francisco September 11-12, in conjunction with the Annual meeting; all PFLAG and members and friends and all members of the transgendered spectrum are cordially invited. T-SON is inclusive and still learning!

While T-SON members are excited about the steady progress towards trans education and inclusion within PFLAG, we wish to be especially respectful of our colleagues who are not yet with us on this issue. We look forward to further sharing and dialog with them; we know there is much work yet to be done, internally and in the larger community on behalf of our trans children and friends.

For further information please contact T-SON's Co-Chairs, Nancy Sharp at <StressGone@aol.com> or Mary Boenke at <maryboenke@aol.com> or telephone 540-890-3957.

Gender Advocacy Internet News (GAIN), a free internet news service, brought to you courtesy of American Educational Gender Information Service and It's Time, Americal GAIN provides the latest news, press releases, conference announcements, editorials, and other items of interest to the transgender and transsexual community. In addition, GAIN will post news items that may foster improved relations between the transgender community and other (non-transgender) minority groups, following the belief that if we want "them" to care about "us," then "we" need to care about "them."

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Out of My Mind

by F. Kenneth Freedman

Some people do well with the “I” word. Others get scared when it happens to them. It can be interrupted almost as soon as it appears, weighed down with lots of emotional baggage. I’m talking about “intimacy.” Intimacy, in this article, refers less to sexual intimacy and more to what we might call close acquaintance or familiarity; our deepest nature, as in intimate prayers; or what we feel is essential and innermost.

There are many reasons people have difficulty with intimacy. I’m going to address a very specific area, however, which is what I call post-traumatic closet disorder (PTCD). You have probably heard of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), in which people in present time experience flashbacks to horrible events from the past. It was first described after W.W.I when soldiers were unable to readjust to “normal life.” The film Mrs. Dalloway provided a good example of PTSD. I use PTCD to refer to events in the lives of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people, and intersexuals which were traumatic and never processed. These experiences include everything from sexual abuse to fag jokes to school yard taunts to religious sanctions against what they call our “lifestyle.” We all have our horror — or war — stories that left deep psychological scars.

As children we can build up those psychological scars even when, for example, someone “just” calls us “fag” or “lez.” When it’s true — when we are gay or lesbian — it’s a lot worse than when it’s not. Hetero kids have an easier time shrugging off the slur while the rest of us are stricken with this shame. Quite often, there is no way to process the hurt because to do so would be to admit we are “that way.” We can’t easily run to our childhood friends and talk about it — we’d get a ribbing or worse. So, we learned to hide our hurt and, tragically, our truth. Many of us still hide the hurt — and the truth, too.

As adults, of course, we’re able to assimilate the hurts in a more functional way and most of us go on to lead relatively normal lives, whatever that means. Some, however, have such deep scars and such loss of self-esteem that we cannot allow intimacy as adults. Part of the fear is that such intimacy would reveal the deep secrets that we think caused our childhood mates to abuse us (we figured there must be something “wrong” with us and that’s why other kids were abusive). We fear that revelation will prove our childhood fears right and that no one will want to be intimate with us as adults once “I” has been discovered. The tragedy is that we’re unable, as children, to process the hurts enough to realize that the other kids were screaming their own fears and prejudices at us in hoping to keep their own demons at bay. In addition, as adults, we’re afraid, sometimes, to process around those deep feelings because they seem too deep, frightening, and insurmountable.

So what do we do now with the lack of or difficulty with intimacy? In this vastly over-simplified scenario, we seek ways to process those hurts and relive some of the experiences but in a healthy way, a way that puts the experiences in a new frame and gives us some perspective so we can move beyond the anger and hurt and feelings of no self-worth; so that we can rebalance ourselves, be intimate with ourselves, trust in our spirituality, and believe that we are physically desirable. We reinvent our sense of intimacy so that we can give authentic love from our hearts, and, as importantly, receive love authentically into our hearts: giving without receiving is only half a reality, as I see it.

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, a former co-editor of the NorthView, and a gay activist. © 1998 F. Kenneth Freedman.

Scottish church head denounces church homophobia

Speaking at the recent conference of the United Kingdom’s Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement in London, Bishop Richard Holloway of Edinburgh, primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, apologized “for the way many religious institutions, including the Christian church, have persecuted you.”

“We have recently abandoned the [Bible’s] tyranny over women, as we abandoned its justification for slavery, and soon we’ll abandon its ignorant misunderstanding of homosexuality,” Holloway said.

“The real moral issue here ought to be not the meaning of the texts themselves, but the appalling way they have been used as a justification for the persecution and abandonment of God’s children.”

Gays should “refuse any longer to ... be treated as a theological problem to be debated by others, without reference to them and their experience,” he urged.
“Greek love” is a time-honored by-word for homosexuality. Those old Athenians were gay to a man, and lesbian to a woman, or so we’re sometimes led to believe. But if so, how did they give expression to that love? What about “Greek sex,” in other words?

Greek literature isn’t a great deal of help in answering this question. There is next to nothing about sex between women. And the only writer who had a lot to say about sex between men was the comic playwright Aristophanes. He constantly poked fun at grown men who allowed themselves to be anally penetrated. The tragic playwright Agathon, who was the younger partner in a long-lasting gay relationship (and who introduced the practice of facial shaving), was the most frequent “butt” of these jokes, as in the following passage, translated by Kenneth McLeish:

Mnesiloscho: Agathon, eh? What’s he look like?
Euripides: How to describe dear Agathon.
Mnesiloscho: Suntanned? Ever so strong?
Euripides: That’s someone else. Have you never seen him?
Mnesiloscho: Big, bushy beard?
Euripides: You have never seen him.
Mnesiloscho: Not face to face.
Euripides: Ah, you’ve fudged him!

Aristophanes, though, was the author of the play *Lysistrata*, in which the warring Athenian men are brought to their senses when their womenfolk go on a sex strike — a heterosexual plot if there ever was one. It seems likely that he and most of his audience were straight. Plato, in his *Sympoium*, put a thoroughly pro-homo speech into Aristophanes’ mouth, but that may well have been pay-back for a satirical comedy that Aristophanes wrote about Plato’s teacher, Socrates.

If literature is not very informative, the data from the science of archeology are all too explicit. Vases and bowls, broken into hundreds of fragments and left buried in trash-heaps for two thousand years, have been painstakingly unearthed and reassembled — only to reveal scenes of erotic abandon, scenes so scandalous that museum staff locked them away for years in basements. But the Oxford University classicist, K. J. Dover, studied hundreds of these vases and published many photos of them in his 1978 book, *Greek Homosexuality*.

Few of these vases depict sex between women. There is one, however, in which a kneeling woman is masturbating a standing woman, who holds a chalice. The scene has a dominant/submissive flavor to it, but without any information as to who painted it, and for whom, it’s hard to interpret.

Anal sex is commonly shown on Greek vases, but not between men. It’s shown between men and women and between pairs of satyrs (lecherous demigods, who also engage in oral sex). Adult men are rarely shown having sex of any kind with each other. When two males have sex, it’s between an adult and a beardless youth, or between two youths. And rather than having anal sex, they are shown as having front-to-front sex, with the older man inserting his penis between the youth’s thighs, right under the scrotum.

There are passages in Greek literature that suggest that the younger partner in male-male sex was not sexually aroused by the encounter. “The boy does not share in the man’s pleasure in intercourse, as a woman does,” wrote Xenophon, another of Socrates’ disciples. “Cold sober, he looks upon the other [who is] drunk with sexual desire.” Indeed, many of the vase paintings show the younger partner with a tiny, flaccid penis. One vase, however, does show the youth with a hard-on, but Dover didn’t buy it. “His penis is perhaps pushed up by the man’s belly,” he wrote. That judgment generated some derisive comments from reviewers, and in the book’s second edition Dover admitted that the youth had a bona-fide erection. A lot hangs on that erection, for if Greek homosexuality was simply about men getting their rocks off with uninterested straight youths, it loses much of its relevance as a role model for our own culture.

Many writers have suggested that anal sex was indeed practiced between men and youths, and even between men, but was not depicted or talked about positively because of the shame or ridicule that it brought to the receptive partner, as Agathon found out. By that account, the depiction of between-the-thighs sex in vase paintings was just an artistic convention. Possibly so, but it’s just a matter of speculation. One thing that the vase paintings do make clear is how much the Greeks celebrated lustful sexuality in general. “What mad pursuit!” commented poet John Keats in his *Ode on a Grecian Urn*.

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the “gay brain.” He is the author of *The Sexual Brain, City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and the biomedical thriller *Albrick’s Gold* (Richard Kasak books, 1997). He can be reached at <SLeVay@aol.com>. For more Queer Science, visit <http://www.gay.net>.
Where in the World?

Olivia on the go!

Olivia's cruise and resort vacations for women have announced their schedule for the next season. Starting with the ladies visiting Alaska August 18-25, so you local ladies, how about making some of your sisters from the old country welcome during these times. October 10-17 you can join them in beautiful Sonora Bay, Mexico at the Club Med resort there. Until August they are offering a $50 per person discount at the grand all-inclusive resort. The fare includes air from Phoenix, transfers, all your meals, room and entertainment at the club. Garden view is just $1,245; ocean view is $1,345.

November 22-29 its the Thanksgiving Cruise to Montego Bay, Jamaica; Cartagena, Columbia; Panama Canal; San Blas Islands; Puerto Limon and Costa Rica. Fares start at just $895 pp for inside cabin on the SS Oceanbreeze.

New for 1999 is the Caribbean Club Med resort Eleuthera, Bahamas, May 15-22. From $1,295 pp it can all be yours; special charter flights from Miami to the island are just $275.

Also new for 1999 is a fabulous Greece and Turkey cruise. The ship calls on ports in Athens, Nauplia, Santorini, Lindos, Rhodes, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Lesbos, and Istanbul. The ship is a tall ship, 5-master rig with 3 decks of adventure. Prices range from $2,495 to $2,695 pp for this once in a lifetime cruise opportunity.

Connection Tours for men

Connection Tours offers a very wide variety of tours and events for men. Like Rio! Saturday, September 12, starts off the 7-day tour of this grand party in Rio with 12 million guests for $799. Air add on from Miami is $599.

They are offering a monthly gay tour of Cancun, Mexico, with 8 days of touring; July 17-24, August 21-28 and September 18-25.

How about Moscow & St. Petersburg for 9 days with air from NYC for $2,499 pp departing July 24.

Something a little closer to home? Why not the White Party November 26-30 from $279 for 4 nights hotel or Fantasy Fest in Key West October 24-31 or the Fort Lauderdale Winter Gala for 10 days February 5-14.

RSVP sells out cruise

RSVP has announced that their Feb. 18-27, 9-day cruise to Panama and Costa Rica has sold out. The are offering a replacement cruise from Feb. 4-13 with the same cruise. From Tampa to the Panama Canal to Costa Rica to Playa del Carmen/Cozumel and back to Tampa! Join 1,021 other gay brothers and some sisters (hee hee) for this fantastic cruise starting at a low $895 for inside cabin to a grand veranda suite at $2,495 pp. This is really one to watch.

Hey, look at us now!

What started just a few years ago with some-less-than remarkable hotels and tour companies serving the gay community has now become a multi-billion dollar industry with first class accommodations and a vast list of possibilities. The list is long and growing and the variety is wide. Some of the old players remain, because of their dedication to gay travel, and an ever increasing list of new players are joining into this fantastic market. There are far too many tours and events to list here. But, if you seek quality travel with members of your community, why not call your favorite travel agent who serves the gay community and explore some of the possibilities yourself?

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

Dr. Fred Hillman

Having been born in Maine, raised in Illinois, and schooled in Massachusetts, Missouri and Washington, makes Fred a well-rounded person, both physically and mentally. He spent most of his childhood in a small town called Ottawa, Illinois and upon graduation from high school in 1940, received a scholarship to attend Harvard College. After serving in World War II, he went on to Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, Missouri. Surgical residency was at the Veterans Hospital in Seattle, where he met his future bride (an internist practicing in Seattle) at the Mountaineering Club, and they were soon married.

The Hillmans moved to Anchorage in 1958 where Fred worked as a surgeon at the Alaska Native Service Hospital before entering private practice. After trying for ten years to start a family, they decided to adopt and three boys followed in two-year intervals. In 1977, cancer took his wife, and he was left to raise the boys, then aged 6, 8, and 10 years, as a single parent. But prior to her death, in 1975, Fred “came out” to his wife with the truth about his sexuality. Although he had lived a completely heterosexual lifestyle throughout their marriage, he regarded his sexuality not as a matter of “either/or” but rather one of “both/and”, and the “and” part had been completely missing from his life. He was 55 years old.

About this time, he felt the need to go public regarding his sexuality. He started writing Letters to the Editor expounding on the gay lifestyle, and generally admitted to one and all that he was gay! In 1980, he published in Coping (the quarterly journal of the Alaska Mental Health Association) an article entitled “Homosexuality and Potter's Box” which applied to homosexuality the idea that there are four distinct ways in which people deal with controversial issues. At the same time, he “came out” to his medical colleagues and friends.

Fred retired in 1990, but his leisure time has since been filled with various duties. He was one of a small group of friends who started 4As, the service provider that assists those with AIDS. He was the spearhead for the local chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and last year he assisted in the formation of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educational Network) which has the mission of making public schools safe for gay and lesbian students. He has been very active in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Fred is deeply interested in the truths of today's society. His untiring devotion to worthy causes makes for long days and little rest, but he is a credit to our cause and a true friend to all homosexuals. We all salute you, Fred Hillman.

Sylvia L. Short
Attorney and Counselor at Law

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Book Review

"In this world of complex and unique relationships, Paula Martincic provides a crucial and impressive guide to success in love and marriage. Gays and lesbians have an urgent need for her sophisticated and professional advice. Readers will find themselves marking pages and underlining passages and returning to them again and again."
— David Mixner, author of Stranger Among Friends.

A roadmap for America's new social revolution: same-sex marriage

Will same-sex couples win the right to marry in Hawaii? The impending case — and its potentially groundbreaking legislation — has fueled the fires of a nationwide debate. Will same-sex marriage change society? Will a law change the way gay couples live?

"The fact is, lesbian and gay couples have for generations been 'marrying'... creating and enjoying lasting relationships that don't usually get much space in the mainstream media or in popular culture," maintains award-winning author Paula Martincic.

Though there's no reliable way to determine the actual number of same-sex couples in the United States, a recent survey found that 56 percent of gay men and 71 percent of lesbian women were in steady relationships. Martincic explores the meaning of "love" and "marriage" from a gay perspective, with inspiring insights and practical advice, in The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage: Creating the Stories of Our Lives (Broadway Books; May 27, 1998; $18 Trade Paperback Original).

Capturing both the emotional and political heart of gay commitment, The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage weaves together interviews with more than a hundred gay and lesbian couples and singles from across the country, the observations of gay professionals, and the author's own candid reflections. With a foreword by Roberta Achtenberg, former Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the highest-ranking openly gay official in the Clinton administration while she was in office, this lively, informative resource features the voices of well-known activists, writers, psychologists, clergy, and artists — including Candace Gingrich, Craig Lucas, Gabriel Rotello, Janis Ian, and Cris Williamson.

Among the topics:

Meeting Mr. or Ms. Right: A look at how lesbian and gay couples have traditionally met and "courted" — and how that has changed — capturing the challenges and excitement of finding a lifelong partner.

Seriouser and Seriouser: Tracing the milestones that move same-sex relationships from casual to committed — from living together to coming out to friends and co-workers.

I Do! I Do!: Highlighting the many ways same-sex couples take their vows — from public ceremonies to private covenants — and celebrate the honeymoon. Also explored is the critical question: Do same-sex couples perceive the need to marry legally?

For Better or Worse, for Richer or Poorer: Confronting the complexity of married life for same-sex partners — domestic roles, money matters, divorce and widowhood, and sensitive issues such as coming out in the neighborhood and celebrating the holidays with "in-laws."

The Family Way: Exploring the myriad ways gay and lesbian couples create families — with biological children, adopted children, stepchildren, ex-spouses and lovers, and platonic friends — and solve problems without a blueprint.

Comprehensive and compassionate, The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage makes the same-sex marriage debate personal, real, and meaningful.

About the author, Paula Martincic is a writer, editor, and activist. She is the author of three novels — Out of Time, Chicken, and Home Movies — and several works of nonfiction such as "The Queerest Places". Martincic writes a syndicated column, Lesbian Notions, that appears in newspapers around the country including Northview.

Paula Martincic lives in New York City with her life partner, Katie Hogan.
WASHINGTON, DC — A growing majority of Americans support gay and lesbian equality, according to a report released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Policy Institute. From Wrongs to Rights: Public Opinion of Gay and Lesbian Americans Moves Toward Equality is the most comprehensive analysis of trends in public opinion about gay men and lesbians during the past twenty years. The report demonstrates overwhelming support for non-discrimination in housing and employment, as well as spousal benefits for same-sex couples. It also shows increasing support on issues such as same-sex marriage and adoption.

“In its opposition to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality, it is the right wing that is out of step with mainstream America,” stated Kerry Lobel, NGLTF Executive Director. “This report empirically and objectively proves that while the voice of the anti-gay right wing may be loud in its opposition to equal rights, its claim to majority public opinion is unjustified.”

Among other facts, From Wrongs to Rights shows that strong majorities of Americans now support equality in employment (84 percent); housing (81 percent); inheritance rights (62 percent) and social security benefits (57 percent) for same-sex couples; and gays in the military (66 percent). In addition, disapproval of same-sex relationships dropped a substantial 19 points from a peak of 75 percent in 1987 to 56 percent in 1996. The report also shows the percentage of people opposed to same-sex marriage (and those opposed to adoption by gay and lesbian couples) to be declining.

“These findings confirm that three decades of struggle for gay and lesbian equality has succeeded in winning greater understanding and significant change in public attitudes,” said Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF Policy Institute director. “This report proves that over time and in dramatic fashion, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement is winning the battle of public opinion on civil rights issues. Our effort to reach the hearts and minds of the American people by being open and honest about our lives holds the key to our success,” added Vaid.

From Wrongs to Rights also demonstrates the paradoxical nature of public support, showing that despite the significant gains in positive attitudes regarding legal equality, gay men and lesbians remain unpopular. Despite the persistence of anti-gay sentiment, however, the report shows that the public's censure of gay and lesbian relations is declining over time.

“In this report, the continuing paradox of the gay and lesbian experience is laid out before us. Our gains in some ways have been as great as the resistance we still face,” said Vaid. “The dislike and disapproval we continue to face should serve as a call to all supporters of gay equality to redouble our efforts to educate mainstream America about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people’s experiences and lives.”

From Wrongs to Rights is published by the Policy Institute of NGLTF and authored by Alan Yang, doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at Columbia University. An introduction is provided by Dr. Kenneth Sherrill, Chairman of the Political Science Department at Hunter College, City University of New York. The report examines public opinion polls over the last two decades that measured attitudes toward gay and lesbian people and equal rights issues. The author reviewed only the most credible polls: those that measured opinion among systematically selected and representative samples of the U.S. adult population as a whole.

For a copy of the report contact Betsy Gressler, Deputy Political Director, at (202) 332-6483 ext. 3306 or by pager at (800) 757-6476. An Executive Summary and the full report are available at NGLTF's web site at <http://www.ngltf.org>.

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

Gay history on web

Matthew Bamberg has created a web page with younger people in mind about “The Story of Harvey Milk” and “Stonewall.” Both are excellent and suitable for viewing by elementary age students.

The address is: <http://member.aol.com/MatthewBam/HMilk.htm>.

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
Here is more about Cassandra, the rainbow necklace and Gay Pride. When my youngest daughter and her family came to visit, the first thing to catch my granddaughter's eye was a rainbow beaded necklace. She instinctively knew the necklace was very important. As a result, it becomes an important connection between the two of us. I was going to let her keep the necklace, but before I could say anything, my adult daughter instructed Cassie to give back the necklace in a "don't-give-me-anything" tone of voice. Knowing the frustration myself from having raised my own family, I didn't think it was appropriate to countermand my daughter's instruction to her child.

Cassandra crawled into my lap before she left. I asked her to remember me the next time she saw a rainbow and told Cassie that I would remember her. A short time later, I was at the Alaska State Fair and bought a small rainbow woven drawstring purse for Cassie. She drew a rainbow thank you card and sent it to me. I look for the rainbows everywhere now because it might be something that I can share with Cassandra. When Cassie is older, I can share even more of who I am with her because the rainbow is a symbol of who I am and my journey to becoming a whole human being, and an alternative spiritual path.

All the colors of the rainbow describe the colors in my psychic experiences. Spiritual guides and angels are multidimensional beings surrounded by beautiful panoramas of sparkling changing rainbows of color. Recently, I saw the movie City of Angels starring Meg Ryan and Nicholas Cage. Cage is an angel who wears dark black and seems more like the numb undeath than my experience of angels. One angel is so large it fills up the senses. In order to get a sense of what it is like to meet such a being, imagine you are the only person in a huge domed cathedral. The inside of the building begins to fill with brilliant light. The light becomes so bright you think that it is going to erase who you are, but the joy inside of you is so intense you don't know how you can stay alive and contain it.

The energy has a musical quality as well. At first, one senses just a harmonic vibration which becomes a musical sound. A sound that saturates and escalates to the profound joyful movement of the molecules of the air. The music surrounds the body and begins to penetrate the skin at the cellular level, first coming in through the sides of face and arms, then spreading into the torso. The orchestration becomes more glorious and wonderful, like a violin concerto of warm, liquid gold surrounding each cell of the body and finally, filling up the heart with such tender sweet unconditional love that tears of joy involuntarily slide from under the eye lids. The chest fills and the heart expands with joy, intense pleasure and love. You thought that you knew love before — the love of your mother, father, best friend and partner, but that love is nothing like you are feeling. Love was never so all encompassing, filling and huge.

Inside this space of music and the vibrant colors of light, a form begins to emerge, faintly, at first, and then taking a more human shape. The figure has brilliant hair streaming around its glorious face. A rainbow of colors are folding, bending and changing behind it — like the motion of wings. Everything is moving, vibrating, singing deliciously in incredible symphonic harmony. As the figure continues to define, over the being, on its flowing gown and about this person, beads and pearls cascade and ripple and glittering faceted gems kaleidoscope into a thousand colored starbursts.

The mere raising of an angel's elegant hand sends out ripples of sparkle and glitter of every color, hue and shade of the rainbow between you and it. When an answer comes through an angel, never has a sound been so musical, totally loving and complete. The answer itself sings inside the mind, fills the heart and enfolds all your being with profound harmony, internal peace and Love. Should an angel speak to you, even one word in your mind, all grace, blessings and rapture come with that word, even if the word is "no."

The natural rainbow in the sky after a rain, the multicolor of objects, including my rainbow beaded necklace, sharing the rainbow with my adorable granddaughter, Cassandra, the radiance of angels and the rainbow adopted by the gay community are all reminders of the wonders of the universe. We, as gay people, are part of creation and are wonders in the diversity of our humanity. If an angel can come to me in my prayers and meditations, me — who is as queer as can be, who has no claims to holiness, who is just a seeker on an alternative path, then all of us are blessed, loved and cherished by God. Who we are is something to celebrate unashamedly. Bring yourselves, bring the rainbows and meet me at the Pride on the Parkstrip picnic, by the flag — the red, white and blue flag of liberty, justice and equality for all — and let us celebrate how marvelous we are. ...And I'm not out of rainbow stories, yet.

Barbara J. Soule is a Reiki Master, a clairvoyant psychic, a lesbian artist, performer and writer.
The power is in the vote

by Michael Grantham

This year, people across the nation will decide what kind of leadership they'll be sending to Washington, DC. As you read this article, an extremist faction of the religious right is busy mobilizing thousands of voters to take advantage of a predicted low voter turn out.

One at a time, their votes will continue building a hostile political landscape set on dividing and deconstructing the power bases and rights of religious, ethnic, and sexual minority groups well into the next century.

Not one supporter of this agenda thinks their vote doesn't matter, and that simple resolve has the collective gravity to pull America into a black hole of ill politics. Unfortunately, all we have to do to let this happen is nothing at all, and that's exactly what they're counting on.

Having real-life experiences with issues such as employment discrimination, hate crimes, and the inaccessibility of civil marriage, gays and lesbians are asking how they can help make their lives better. Every year at Pride events across the country, organizations are joined by a handful of the millions of participants to do just that.

Membership organizations offer several activities that take both time and money to help navigate these civil rights issues through state and national houses of congress. Some organizations, however, fail to engage otherwise active gays and lesbians because of complicated or politically heavy messages that simply do not resonate over the day's festive atmosphere.

By simply encouraging gays and lesbians to vote, a majority of our agenda can be accomplished in as little as two to three days out of an election cycle. The free and simple act of voting makes any political group's demand for time and money less of a need when leaders are elected that stand for fairness and equality.

Voting is the most elegant defense against the mobilization of right-wing fanaticism in this country. In fact, such groups only come to power during times of apathy. History tells a grim story of what happens when the general goodwill of people is not an offense against self-serving divisive politics.

Attempts by religious political extremists to hijack inalienable rights for a privileged few undermine dignified relations among diverse peoples. The condemnation of difference is a poignant foreshadow for what has historically led to egregious abridgments of freedoms.

Ironically, the spirit of conservatism would dictate the protection of these freedoms for all. Moreover, as true conservatives vote for fairness and equality, they will ally themselves with a coalition of civil rights partners in standing against what amounts to nothing more than political terrorism.

For non-political gays and lesbians, the act of voting is the easiest, most proactive step into community involvement. Invested support of fair-minded agendas in any form makes the agenda one's own. When gays and lesbi-
Gay father, gay son reunion

After 28-year separation

Ever wonder what it would be like to not know your son, the child you helped bring into this world? If just after his third birthday, he disappeared from your life. You knew why, of course, but you always wondered what kind of person he may have grown up to be. Where is he now? Is he happy? Is he married? Are you a grandfather? These were just some of the questions which Dan Cook asked himself for many years. The one furthest from his mind was, could he possibly be gay?

On the other hand, what would it be like to not know your father, the man who helped bring you into the world? If just when you were old enough to have vague remembrances of him, he disappeared from your life. Why? What made him have to leave? When your mother spoke of him it was always in a kindly manner, especially expressing his charm and sense of humor, but she hadn't contacted him in over 28 years. Where is he now? What is he like? Did he remarry and does he have other children? These were just some of the questions which Patrick Cook asked himself for many years.

While the story I am going to tell sounds like a script from a Hollywood movie, be assured the facts are real. Patrick and Dan have verified them, as I wouldn't dare trust the accuracy of my hurried notes.

Remember, to be a homosexual in the 1950s bears no resemblance to being gay in the 1990s. While we still face many forms of discrimination in our lives today, it was dangerous to be gay 40 years ago. There were virtually no gay/lesbian organizations, few magazines and absolutely no support groups for homosexuals. Yet, Dan knew at an early age he was born gay and had not chosen to be so. He became active in gay groups. By 1961 the FBI had created a file on him as a gay activist; by 1964 things were getting out of hand with the men in blue. It was clear that to make something of himself, he needed to conceal his homosexuality.

Patrick's mother, Ingrid, was born in Germany just prior to the outbreak of World War II. Growing up during the war, her childhood was not average. As she grew older, she wanted a way out of Germany, away from the environment in which she grew up. Eventually she found herself in America on a work visa (green card), employed by Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus as a trapeze artist. Of course, the work visa would soon expire; she wanted, and needed, a way to remain in America.

Such it was that Dan and Ingrid joined forces to each solve their dilemma by choosing to get married. Dan would have the concealment of his homosexuality and Ingrid would become an American citizen by virtue of her marriage to an American. Now, don't jump to conclusions! It was not a "marriage of convenience." Dan and Ingrid did love one another in their own special way. Yes, she knew he was gay but, just like anyone in love, she thought she could change him. And yes, Dan wished he was heterosexual, and maybe he would be if he just tried hard enough. But, as all gays know, that isn't in the cards!

Mentally and emotionally, they enjoyed each others' company for six years – just not sexually! They laughed together, they cried together and they did create a child together. While living in Dallas in 1966, the greatest joy of all occurred – the birth of their son, Patrick. Ingrid left the circus to become a secretary. In the early years of his life, Patrick had two loving parents who spoiled him terribly. Dan admits he was a failure as a disciplinarian, but knows he was a good father.

While Patrick was grew from infant to child, Dan realized no matter how hard he tried to be a heterosexual, he just wasn't cutting it. He still loved Ingrid and Patrick greatly but was unable to be what he was not; he couldn't keep pretending. As Ingrid had begun to see another man, it seemed an appropriate time for Dan to stand aside and let Ingrid continue with her romance. In 1970 a divorce was arranged, and Ingrid entered into a new marriage which has lasted 27 years.

For the next year or two things went well for all involved. Dan was able to visit with Patrick and he telephoned often. He always remembered Patrick's birthday and other special occasions with gifts. Patrick said he knew his dad loved him because of all the toys he always sent in those large boxes at Christmas! Ingrid and her new husband were quite happy together, especially with
two new additions to the family – Patrick's half-sisters, Natalie and Nicole. However, Patrick was having trouble adjusting to a new father figure.

Because of the stress on Patrick things changed. Soon Dan was not allowed to speak with him. The next large box of Christmas toys and children's clothing Dan sent was returned “Not Accepted By Addressee.” (Dan’s mother swears that same box is still stored somewhere in her house; she only needs to find it) Patrick says his mother and stepfather moved about every two years, even to this day. As people move from town to town, telephone numbers change and forwarding addresses became invalid. Father and son were soon out of touch with each other.

Patrick became a teenager and quickly developed into a young man who realized he was gay. This conclusion wasn’t particularly traumatic for Patrick; he dealt with the issue quickly and continued on with his life. Telling his mother, however, was something else entirely. Patrick always spent Christmas with his family in Chicago. After two years of being out of the closet, he decided to share who he really was with his mother. Like so many of us, he kept putting off the announcement. Secrets have a way of surfacing in strange but funny ways. On the very last day of his visit, while shopping with his mother, Patrick accompanied her to the woman’s lingerie department to pick something out for herself. Two figurative steps ahead of him, she kept nagging for his opinion on certain outfits in which she knew he had no interest. As Patrick relates, this went on for about thirty minutes until he finally had enough and asked her to hurry up – he was ready to go. His mother decided to step up to the plate and just flat out asked him “Do you not have an interest in this?”

Patrick’s first thought was “Oh my god she thinks I’m a drag queen!” So he responded with “No, I have no interest in that at all,” which coincidentally, was the right answer. He was shocked by his mother’s next question: “Would you rather be looking at the men’s jockwear?” This was his cue. Embarrassed and somewhat flustered, he said with a little grin “Yes, as a matter of fact, I would.” His mother then pointed her finger at him and, of all things, said “Gotcha! You’re just like your father!” How’s that for being outed by your mom? Patrick’s homosexuality has never been a problem for his family; in fact, they totally support his sexual orientation.

Dan continued with his own life. He was free to find the world he’d lost so many years before. For a long time he remained in Oregon with his mom and many other relatives. He soon became involved with the Imperial Court of Portland where he developed his drag queen persona, Cherrisse. In 1972 he became Empress I of Eugene, Oregon. After several visits to Anchorage for our own Coronation ceremony, Dan kept promising himself he’d one day move to Alaska. In 1980 Dan packed up his worldly possessions and came to “The Last Frontier.”

In 1988, at 21 years old, Patrick began the process of finding his father. After gleaning all the information he could from birth certificates, divorce records, tax records, organizations who specialize in searching for parents and even the Internet, the whereabouts of his father remained elusive. What was needed was a Social Security number but none was recorded anywhere. He then resorted to telephone directories; any surname of Cook and given name of Dan, Daniel or just plain “D” was a possibility. Unfortunately, Cook is a rather common name in America. Patrick spent hundreds of hours and dollars on the telephone trying to find his father, only to fail time and time again.

In September of 1996 Patrick decided to just get on a plane to Seattle where his father’s family roots were established. He went to the address his mother had found on a post card which had been written in the 1960s. The name on the mailbox was Cook; he knew he was closer. Patrick went up to the house and said “I’m Patrick Cook. Do you know my dad, Dan Cook?” Dan’s stepmother who

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Gay father, gay son reunion continued...

still lived there after all those years said "Yes," Patrick asked "Do you know where he lives?" She said "No but I'll do my best to find out and will let you know." She was able to furnish Patrick with a list of his cousins phone numbers.

With this information, Patrick went back to Dallas; then subsequently moved to Atlanta. Almost a year later he contacted a cousin in Colorado to leave his latest phone number. As she was in labor at the time, she had more important things on her mind. It would be three months before she called Dan's mother in Eugene.

Meanwhile, in December 1997 Dan visited his mother in Eugene for her birthday. He mentioned that after the Holidays he was going to hire a search company to look for his son. It was only a few days later when Dan's mother received a phone call from another granddaughter. Patrick's telephone number had been passed from one relative to another and was now in the right hands. On December 23, 1997 Dan's mother telephoned him and asked "Are you sitting down?" He replied "Yes. What's up mom?" She said "I've got Patrick's phone number!"

With a phone number for Patrick, now living in Atlanta with two gay roommates, it was on Christmas Eve of last year Dan made the first call. Patrick was visiting his mom in Chicago for the Christmas holidays. However, one of Patrick's roommates said he would provide Dan's phone number to Patrick in Chicago, which he immediately did. After 28 years of separation, father and son were once again in touch with each other.

What followed very quickly was a barrage of phone calls and letters. Long letters, as in 15, 25, and even 40 pages!

There was so much to say and so much to learn about each other. The race was on to compress those 28 years into several months.

On February 28 of this year, Dan flew to Atlanta for a 10-day reunion. As Patrick had recently changed employers, he had accrued virtually no leave time but did manage to take a few days off while his dad was visiting. While together for those few days, they learned a great deal about each other. Coincidentally, they also learned they share the same taste in clothing and furniture.

The reuniting process gained momentum when Dan brought Patrick to Anchorage last month for his first Alaska visit. While here, Patrick indicated an interest in seeing his father perform as the drag queen Cherrosse. Having been Empress XVIII of the Imperial Court of All Alaska, Dan's persona in recent years is seen only at Coronation time - but nothing would be denied Patrick. So it was Cherrosse appeared at The Wave on May 27 as part of their weekly revue, La Cage aux Wave. As her third and last number of the evening, and in tribute to Patrick's presence, Cherrosse performed Patti Labelle's "You're The Best Thing That's Ever Happened To Me." My eyes weren't the only ones which needed wiping when the last note was sung!

It has been my privilege to tell you this story, especially with Father's Day just a few days away. I've seen the love between this gay father and his gay son, it is real in every sense of the word. I hope it may encourage one of you who is separated from his/her child or parent to make the effort to re-establish contact.

Finally, the next time you hear a homophobic person tell you gay people don't share in their family values, just show them this article.
Lesbian Notions

by Paula Martinac

In a recent feature on bisexuality for ABC's 20/20, reporter Lynn Sher trotted out sex therapist Joann Loulan as that oddest of all oddities, a lesbian involved with a man. Loulan's situation isn't news; she's been out about her male lover for a while, and the mainstream media are simply a step behind the queer media. But the story made me revisit the question of why so many of us continue to get upset when a lesbian changes either her sexual behavior or identity.

It's ironic that Loulan, the author of three books including Lesbian Sex, has herself veered away from lesbian sex. Since the early 1980s, she has counseled lesbians in a down-to-earth style on finding relationships and holding onto them through the inevitable sexual ups and downs. Though she's sometimes a little white-bread, Loulan's take on sex has been important — she's encouraged lesbians to discard the "bed death" determinism that snags so many relationships and to reject the "tyranny" of orgasm, a heterosexual construct.

Then Loulan got this boyfriend. What does it mean for ordinary lesbians if the expert changes her stripes? I think it's the scary, potential loss of identity that makes many of us cringe when any lesbian, let alone a well-known one, dates a man, or when someone we thought was a lesbian announces she might be bisexual. I call it "heterosexual panic," a counterpart of "homosexual panic," which many people experience when they first suspect that they're gay.

Heterosexual panic works like this: You find yourself fantasizing about a man, and it "rocks your world," to quote one acquaintance of mine. You start to wonder, what if I'm not a lesbian? What if I'm really straight, and yet I've built my whole identity around being a lesbian (activist, artist, athlete, whatever — you fill in the blank)? Will my lesbian friends reject me? Should I tell my family, and if I do, how can I possibly stand to hear my mother say, "I told you it was a phase"?

It sounds funny when you look at it in black and white, but questioning one's loss of identity is actually an extremely unpleasant experience to go through, whether you're doubting your straightness or your gayness. Labels like "lesbian" and "gay" may be rigid, but they have helped many of us to make sense out of our lives. It's no wonder that Loulan, though she's been involved with a man for two years, still resolutely claims the identity of lesbian. She's built not only her personal identity but her career around that label. (My first thought about her having a boyfriend was, what will she write books about now?)

Loulan isn't an anomaly. Sociologist Paula Rust has found that 90 percent of lesbians have had sex with men at some point in their lives and that almost two-thirds of lesbians say they are still occasionally attracted to men. We can easily chalk the first figure up to societal pressure, but not the second. In fact, many self-identified lesbians are probably technically bisexual, though they choose or prefer to be involved with women. Is that sexual "orientation" or sexual "preference"? The lesbian and gay movement has rejected "sexual preference" as a term, focusing in on the more biologically-deterministic-sounding "orientation." But in doing so, the movement has rendered itself more rigid and unyielding to the sexual difference within our ranks, making it almost a betrayal of the community for lesbians and gay men to act on opposite-sex desires or to discover they're actually bisexual.

It's true that the lesbian and gay movement has formed coalitions with other queer-identified people in recent years, and that many groups and organizations have added "bisexual" and "transgender" to their names or mission statements. But I suspect a lot of these changes are just lip service, that bisexuality is still closely associated with heterosexuality and seen in an "us versus them" way. Even in New York City, I know progressive lesbian and gay activists who in private make disparaging remarks about bisexuals. In communities without a visible bisexual presence, out bisexuals find it hard to stand outside the straight-gay dichotomy. "I lost straight friends when I had a girlfriend," one bisexual woman from the suburbs told me, "and now that I have a boyfriend, I'm losing lesbian friends." A bisexual friend of mine bemoans the pressure she feels from lesbians in her small city to claim a monosexual identity that really isn't her.

Such complaints are ironic, since the right of sexual difference is what the lesbian and gay movement has always fought for. It seems to me that we could all learn something politically and personally valuable from a world view that says love is about a person's soul, not her or his gender.

Friends of the Klondyke Kontakt

The KK has a new e-mail address
<klondykekontact@hotmail.com>
Our guest house is only one canal away from the Homomonument, one of the world’s only memorials to gay and lesbian oppression. We walk past it every day. Three small pink granite triangles are built into the ground about thirty yards apart. Three thin lines of pink granite connect them; together, they form a larger triangle. One angle points to the Anne Frank house, just a few hundred yards away, to remind us of past persecutions. Another points to the city’s COC, a nationally-funded gay rights organization two blocks down the canal with an eye toward a brighter future. The third angle is more dynamic; it steps down from street level into the Keizersgracht, one of Amsterdam’s major canals, to form a pink triangular boatless pier. It is always laden with flowers, reminding us of the still-present AIDS crisis and still-present persecutions.

The perimeter of St. Nicolas Church is laid with cobblestones, forming a small plaza. In one of the shop windows overlooking the plaza — and thus the church — a woman sits in lingerie looking rather bored and uninterested. She is waiting for clients; the shop window in which she sits belongs to a brothel and she is the merchandise. St. Nicolas Church, you see, borders Amsterdam’s Red Light District.

Hardly an image of persecution. But further down the road, Paul and I stumble upon another church: a Hidden Church — Our Lord in the Attic, as it is known — that was built in a private home in the seventeenth century. Dutch Roman Catholics worshipped here in secret, during the age of Protestant rule. It is a fully functional church with all the familiar elements: pulpit, organ, altar, confessional.

Well, they didn’t really worship in secret. The city council of the day knew that such clandestine churches existed. They simply required that the church not be recognizable as such from the outside and that its entrance be in a back alley rather than on a busy street corner. “You can practice Roman Catholicism,” the city council was saying, “we just don’t want to know about it.”

There’s Dutch tolerance for you.

Paul wants clogs. So we find a shlocky souvenir shop and are greeted by chickens at the door. They peck at a bowl of feed on the floor and strut aimlessly on the stained carpet. At first, I think perhaps this is not the best shop to venture into, but Paul, after our exchange of surprise about the misplaced fowl, finds the perfect clogs. As he checks his options, I poke around, feeling wary about my toes.

We’re surrounded by Dutch kitsch: magnets of windmills, clogs, and gabled houses; plates and other dinnerware that may or may not be from Delft, famous for its distinctive blue-on-white etchings on china; can-opener clogs, planter clogs, and cute little keepsake clogs of varying color and design. An older thin man in overalls, dirty T-shirt, and long bandanna-covered hair patters around behind the counter with such speed and quick movements that I wonder if he is perhaps, shall we say, medicated.

We are the only three in the store, besides the chickens of course, and I notice a short hall leading to a workshop in back. Clogs line wooden shelves and I feel immediately charmed.

After a while, we approach the counter with our selection — Paul with his clogs and I with some colorful little numbers perfect for gifts. The wumpy little man — looking so much now like a thin elf — asks where we’re from and if we’ll be back in August. “It’s the Gay Games,” he says. “Half a million gays and lesbians will be here. It’ll be wonderful.”

From that point on, his conversation is driven by a hyperkinetic energy of free-association, the likes of which I have never seen. At home, this would have been annoying. Abroad, it is an opportunity to listen.

He led us to Romania, where he was traveling next month to bring back his boyfriend. His boss — the owner of the clog store — was paying his way. “In Romania, if you hold your boyfriend’s hand in public, you are thrown in jail,” he said. “He’s got to get out of there. It’s getting too dangerous for him. I want to bring him back to Amsterdam and he can get his Dutch citizenship.” His smoky voice rises up and down as he speaks — punctuating his own pain and frustration. As Paul and I leave, we hope he has taken comfort in the ears of strangers.

We have lunch with the Academic Director of an American-based Gender Studies program. She tells us that
today's Dutch constitution puts Equal Treatment above all else, including Freedom of Speech.

She also tells us about a gay Zimbabwean scholar who is trying to get into her program, despite it being geared toward much younger students who did not yet hold degrees. She recognizes that he's more interested in getting out of his country than getting into her program. And with good reason, she said: he's been beaten and arrested several times. In fact, that country's president has declared homosexuality a punishable offense and encourages citizens of his country to turn in known offenders. She's doing what she can for him from afar. "He'd be a great teacher for our program," she says.

"Think of it," I say to Paul later, "it is against the Dutch constitution — against its custom, even — to speak words that suggest any one person or group of people be treated differently than everyone else."

Think of it.

Classics of world cinema

Film Gallery, Anchorage's Reel Alternative, presents "Classics of World Cinema: A Directors Showcase" a ten-week series showing daily at 5:30 p.m. at Cyrano's Film Gallery Cinema, 417 D Street, Anchorage. Telephone 562-0207. All presentations in 35mm. Special festival admission $5.

June 26 - July 2 The Films Of Jacques Tati (France And Italy) Mr. Hulot's Holiday 1956 (Unrated, suitable for all audiences) 86 minutes. Monsieur Hulot goes on a holiday to a seaside resort, but accidents and misunderstandings follow him wherever he goes. The peace and quiet of the hotel guests don't last very long with Hulot around, because although his intentions are good, they always turn out catastrophically.

July 3 - 9 Mon Oncle 1958 (Unrated, suitable for all audiences) 110 minutes. Tati's first color film is a masterpiece (Leonard Maltin) Hulot's simple, uncluttered life is sharply contrasted to that of his sister and brother-in-law, who live in an ultramodern, gadget laden home reminiscent of those in Buster Keaton's silent classics. Continuous flow of sight gags (including the funniest fountain you'll ever see) makes this an easy-going, nearly dialogue-less comedy of total delight. Oscar Winner for Best Foreign Film.

July 10 - 16 Playtime 1967 (Unrated, suitable for all audiences) 108 minutes. Monsieur Hulot has to contact an American official in Paris, but he gets lost in the maze of modern architecture which is filled with the latest technical gadgets. Caught in the tourist invasion, Hulot roams around Paris with a group of American tourists, causing chaos in his usual manner. Art Buchwald provided the dialogue for the English speaking scenes.

From Australia:

July 17 - 23 Walkabout: The Directors' Cut 1971. Directed by Nicholas Roeg "R" for mature themes and nudity. 100 minutes. Two young children are stranded in the Australian outback and are forced to cope on their own. They meet an Aborigine on "walkabout": a ritualistic banishment from his tribe. New 35mm print.
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Deep Inside Hollywood

Counter-programming

NBC's fall schedule includes a comedy with a gay character as a lead — and no, I'm not talking Nathan Lane's new sitcom.

Will and Grace stars Eric McCormack and Debra Messing as roommates; he's a gay lawyer and she's an interior designer. The show is scheduled for Monday's, sandwiched between "Must-See" Suddenly Susan and Caroline in the City.

Lane, meanwhile, gets a plum time slot for his first sitcom, Encore!, scheduled to air Tuesdays after Mad About You. The show features Lane as a retired opera singer who returns to California to help run the family vineyard.

The next big thing

Gay actor Rupert Everett is seemingly everywhere these days, with Madonna often by his side. The two friends are set to star in The Next Best Thing as, get this, two friends. Perhaps Carlos Leon can help Everett prepare for his role as a sperm donor who impregnates Madonna's character only to be left behind when she falls in love.

Shooting is scheduled to get underway later this year.

Everett has also signed to star opposite Matthew Broderick in a live-action big screen adaptation of the kiddie TV show Inspector Gadget, in which he will play the villain Claw. And he will appear alongside Minnie Driver in Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband, which is being produced by Mel Gibson's Icon Productions.

A spade's a spade

Just Shoot Me star David Spade has signed to play a gay man in an untitled comedy scheduled to begin filming in December.

The SNL alum's character is hit on by a disco ball in the film, causing him to lose his memory. His father takes the opportunity to convince his son that he's really straight. I'm laughing already.

Leo goes psycho

Leonardo DiCaprio is bringing one of the most controversial novels of the '90s to the big screen. The skinny stud is being paid $21 million to play the title role in American Psycho, which was penned by gay author Bret Easton Ellis (Less Than Zero).

The role will be quite a departure from the Titanic hero that has teenagers the world over swooning at the very mention of his name. Leo plays a young Wall Streeter with a misogynistic and murderous nightlife.

The movie, set to begin production this fall in New York, carries a $40 million price tag, reasonable by today's standards but much gaudier than the original $6 million budget producer Lions Gate intended.

That projection was made during the film's original incarnation, which was to star Christian Bale (Empire of the Sun) and be directed by Mary Harron (I Shot Andy Warhol). But Harron dropped out of the picture after Leo replaced Bale.

No word on whether Harron's script adaptation (which was co-written by Guinevere Turner, who penned the lesbian comedy Go Fish) will still be used.

DiCaprio must have a thing for murderers. He's also in discussions with Spike Lee to star in the writer/director's planned feature on the "Son of Sam" killings that terrorized New York City in the late '70s.

Psycho II

Anne Heche has signed on to play the doomed heroine (originally played by Janet Leigh) in Gus Van Sant's Psycho remake. She'll also appear in Shirley MacLaine's directing debut Bruno, which just began filming in New York. The story focuses on a boy who escapes his troubles at home by dreaming of becoming an angel.

Pornucopia

Hollywood's obsession with the porn industry continues in an upcoming feature about the multiple murder trial of the original Dirk Diggler, John Holmes.

Holmes, who died of AIDS, was a suspect in the 1981 murders of four people on Wonderland Avenue in Laurel Canyon. Michael Biehn (Terminator) will star as Holmes, though there's no word yet on whether he'll have to don a fake apparatus a la Mark Wahlberg in Boogie Nights.

She's back...

Ellen's not quite done with, despite the disappointing series finale that aired last month. Two previously unaired episodes will be shown this summer in Ellen's traditional Wednesday 9:30 p.m. slot.

One of the two shows is said to include a scene where DeGeneres kisses her TV girlfriend, Lisa Darr. No word yet on when the unseen episodes will be airing.

Romeo San Vicente, who can't believe he was overlooked again at the Daytime Emmy Awards, can be reached at <RSVicente@aol.com>.
Sondheim opens up on being gay

In a new authorized biography of Stephen Sondheim, the renowned composer and lyricist talks openly for the first time about being gay.

According to Sondheim's website <www.sondheim.com>, the multiple Tony winner agreed to talk with Meryl Secrest for the book because — although he finds such attention "flattering and embarrassing" — he would rather have someone intelligent around so he can steer her to the proper sources and, without interfering, to be sure everything is true rather than speculative."

"It was never easy being a homosexual," says the somewhat reclusive creator of such shows as West Side Story, Company, Sweeney Todd and Sunday in the Park with George in the bio due this summer from Knopf. He talks about his early years in the New York stage scene when "everybody knew the theater was full of homosexuals, but nobody admitted to being so."

In recent years, however, Broadway has been ahead of the trend in acknowledging and accepting sexual preferences. Way before the Ellen era many a Tony nominee came to the awards show with a longtime companion, and more than one winner has openly acknowledged a same sex lover in a thank-you speech.

It has long been known that Sondheim was gay, but he admits that for many years he tried to keep his close friends and family from learning about his sexuality. (Although the late actress Lee Remick reportedly knew, it didn’t prevent them considering marriage.)

Now 68, Sondheim says, "I was sexually very late-blooming. I think people tried to make passes at me, and I didn’t know what they were doing."

Sondheim grew up in Pennsylvania. His parents were divorced when he was young and in the new bio he discusses his destructive relationship with his mother Foxy. He says she badmouthed his father and ignored him, except when acting seductively towards him. Sondheim turned to a neighbor, legendary lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II (who with Richard Rodgers created such musicals as Carousel and South Pacific) as a father figure. Hammerstein inspired Sondheim’s career, which took off when he wrote the lyrics for 1957’s West Side Story.

That classic musical contains the song Somewhere — a very popular tune in gay bars of the era. But, in The Gay Metropolis by Charles Kaiser, a social history of gay New York, Sondheim reacted angrily when asked if there is anything gay about the lyrics. "If you think that is a gay song, then all songs about getting away from the realities of life are gay songs," Sondheim said.

The composer is reportedly working on Wise Guys, a vaudeville type musical about the gold-digging Mizner brothers whose ambitions took them from the Klondike to Florida and Hollywood.

This article first appeared on the E! Online website.
The Amazon Trail

Calm and collected

"So how does it feel to be collected?" asked a friend. It took me a moment to interpret the question. I've never been the most collected person in the world, or had something I'd written popped up in an anthology while I wasn't looking?

Then I got it. She was asking about the University of Oregon Library and its Special Collections. And about my work being archived there.

"Feel?" I pondered. I'm bad at recognizing my emotions. Sometimes I get so busy I forget to feel them. "Relieved," I told her.

"Grateful."

I probably should be wild with excitement, but really, I'm just honored and relieved and grateful.

I'd been carrying around old manuscripts, correspondence, lesbian literary research, incomplete journals and the like since junior high when I started writing. I never knew if I'd want to refer back to something, rewrite or just reminisce, but in recent years, as the movers grunt under the ever-increasing heft of file cabinets, it's become clear that this stuff is just molding away, one more burden and complication in my life.

Then came my shining knight in the guise of Linda J. Long, Manuscripts Librarian at the University of Oregon. I'd received word from Tee Corinne that Linda was interested in archiving Oregon lesbian history and materials. I've lived here for fourteen years and written most of my books here so I guess I have a part in that history. Timidly, I pecked out my query to her e-mail address.

The library already had Jean Mountaingrove and Ruth Mountaingrove's materials. Ruth and Jean founded Rootworks in Southern Oregon and published Women Spirit magazine for many years. Linda has ambitious plans to add to her Pacific Northwest collection. Later I would learn of other acquisitions — Calyx Magazine, Sally Gearhart, Joanna Russ — which confirmed my decision.

Besides moving what turned out to be eleven boxes of papers from abode to abode, I'd worried over the years. Worried that it was vain and presumptuous of me to even value my scribblings. Worried about the effects of flood, fire and of time on cheap paper. Worried that this stew of my mind would be just so much clutter Lover would have to dispose of at my demise. Worried that dykes would be silenced by an inability to value and preserve our own work.

Then came Linda J. Long's response to my post. "I can't tell you what a thrill it was to receive a message from you ... We would be honored to accept your papers...."

Oh, gosh. I'll bet she says that to all the girls. But I didn't care. She wanted my work! My years of effort, lost relationships, wobbly income — it would all be worth it! I wished I could tell the late Valerie Taylor the news — and that her papers are at Cornell.

Feel? I dampened down my excitement. There were some questions. One woman protested that Nike contributed to the U of O. Yes, well, I already hire out my life to earn a living and write for papers which run alcohol ads. Life's a compromise. My ethics are as clean as I can keep them and survive.

I liked that the repository would be accessible to me. I wouldn't have to fly to the east coast if I needed something. But would I always be in Oregon? Never say always, but I sensed a new strong root shoot deep into the earth of my adoptive state and that felt wonderful.

Feels wonderful. Rooted, relieved, grateful, honored.

Relieved — that I could lift this shell of past work from my back and lay it to rest where, whether or not any one ever looks at it, it will be relatively safe.

Grateful — to the vision of Linda J. Long who really was thrilled.

When she and Manuscripts Assistant Duffy Knaus arrived at our home to cart away the hoard, I could feel the excitement. I'd been worried about separation anxiety. It happened to be a sunny, breezy spring day, the first and last for a couple of weeks. Duffy identified wild flowers and trees, we all licked and dripped ice cream from cones like kids at a party and Linda, quickly, efficiently, painlessly, labeled and packed the boxes containing my heart and soul into a state vehicle.

I had not a moment's doubt. I trusted these women immediately. As Linda spoke of her hopes and plans for the Collection I realized that these scraps and notebooks would become part of her heart and soul.

"Even though I myself am not an artist nor a scholar," Linda wrote me later, "I can use my own talents and training to preserve the works of artists so that scholars can use these records to document a very rich history. It's a joy to implement my vision for creating a lesbian collection!"

Honored. Honored that my body of work will be preserved with other lesbian writing by capable and caring lesbian hands.

My Queer Life

Where have all the flowers gone?

by Michael Thomas Ford

It's official — romance is dead.

The tragic event occurred at 9:36 last Tuesday night. That was when a group of friends and I were sitting around in a bar after a reading that several of us had taken part in. Basking in the glow of post-performance relief, we were knocking back a few beers and talking about all of those important things that people talk about when they're slightly buzzed. We had already discussed which childhood comic book heroes we'd had crushes on, what our favorite songs of the 70's were, and the relative appeal of corduroy pants. Now it was my turn to choose a topic for debate.

"Here you go," I said after thinking for a minute. "I want to talk about flowers."

"Flowers?" said my friend Anna. "What about them?"

Truth be told, I wanted their advice. I was thinking about sending flowers to a man I had recently met and was considering asking out, but I wasn't entirely sure it was the right thing to do.

"Say you meet this guy," I theorized. "At a party or something. He seems really nice, and you have a great conversation. A couple of days later, you get flowers from him and a note saying he really enjoyed talking to you and would like to maybe have dinner or coffee or something."

"How did he get my address?" asked my friend Jackson suspiciously.

"What?" I said. "I don't know. What difference does it make? That's not the point."

"I just wouldn't want any of you giving out my address or phone number to some guy who wanted to stalk me," he said.

"Who said anything about stalking?" I said. "It's just flowers."

"I don't know," said Anna, taking a drag on her cigarette. "It sounds like too much commitment to me. I mean, I feel like I owe a guy sex if he buys me dinner. Starting with flowers would be like asking me to swallow on the first date. I'm not ready for that."

"He just wants to have dinner!" I said. "No one even mentioned sex."

"It's always about sex," said Jackson bitterly. "No one sends flowers just because he's a nice guy. He wants sex. And if he wants sex, why can't he just call me and ask to come over? Why send flowers? What's that supposed to mean, anyway?"

"It doesn't have to mean anything," I explained in exasperation. "He likes you. He wants to tell you that, and he wants to ask you to dinner. What's the big deal about flowers? They're romantic."

"It's just sort of creepy," said Anna. "You know, desperate and clutchy and all that."

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Granted, it's a well-established fact that I am the world's worst dater. But even I would be thrilled if someone sent me flowers. You know, as long as I liked him. But even if I didn't, I wouldn't turn him in to the local sex crimes unit. Apparently, my friends felt differently.

"I don't like all that flowers and cards crap," said Jackson. "Next thing you know, he'll be calling my dad asking for my hand in marriage. I prefer your standard gay date — go to dinner and then go home and have sex all night. Say goodbye in the morning. Maybe exchange numbers if you want to do it again. That's it."

"Amen," said Anna.

"But you're a straight girl," I protested. "You're supposed to love all that romantic stuff."

"No one I know does," she insisted. "That's all just a cover-up for getting you into bed. Any girl I know would..."
be really suspicious if some guy sent her flowers. He's trying too hard. It's like not waiting a day to call someone back."

"Well, I don't believe you," I said. "There have to be some men left — and women too — who want romance. There have to be some people left who like being courted."

Anna and Jackson looked at each other and laughed cruelly.

"This is why you never go out with anyone," said Jackson. "You haven't learned the rules yet. Just screw 'em and get out. That's how it's done. If you happen to find one you want to keep around, don't blow it by sending him flowers or singing beneath his window or whatever stupid thing you have in mind. It'll just backfire. You have to play hard to get."

"You are a bitter queen," I said. "And I'm going to prove you wrong. Both of you."

The next day, I called up the local florist and sent the man I was interested in a dozen roses with a card that read, "I've enjoyed getting to know you. How about dinner on Friday?"

Then I waited. I knew he'd call. After all, since we'd met we'd spoken several times on the phone and had great conversations. He was smart, and funny, and all of those things men generally aren't these days. Surely he would understand that flowers don't have to mean something sinister.

He did call, about an hour after the roses arrived. I was out walking the dog, and came home to find the message light blinking.

"Hi," said his voice on my machine. "Thanks so much for the flowers. They're really, um, nice. Look, about Friday. I guess I should have explained that I'm, um, not really ready to date anyone seriously."

It went on, but we needn't get into the grisly details. Suffice it to say, it was not a joyous moment and it involved the phrase "still be friends."

That Friday, instead of going out with my would-be beau, I went out with Anna and Jackson. "You win," I said as soon as we sat down. I told them what had happened.

"See," said Anna jadedly when I was finished. "It never works. You scared him."

"You should have just sent him e-mail saying you wanted to savage him if it was convenient," suggested Jackson. "That's more to the point."

Before I could argue, the waitress appeared at our table, interrupting our discussion. "Here you go," she said, setting down a votive candle. "For my favorite customers."

She smiled at us and left. As she walked away, I picked up the candle.

"And just what's this supposed to mean?" I said, blowing it out. "I bet she just wants a bigger tip."

"See," said Anna, patting me on the back. "Now you're catching on."
I read a bumper sticker the other day that said, “As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools.” I agree! Tests are horrible, judgmental experiences which I would challenge anyone to love. It is completely understandable to feel the need of some “higher power” assistance when confronted with them. However, this month of June is, among other things, the time we as a nation focus on HIV testing - one of the hardest tests anyone ever has to take.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are over 200,000 Americans living with HIV who do not know their HIV status. Without medical care and support these individuals are at increased risk for an early death and of passing the virus to others.

To combat this situation, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) will sponsor its 4th annual National HIV Testing Day on June 27, 1998. Participation in HIV antibody counseling and testing is a critical step in one’s decision to take control and responsibility over one’s health. Especially since the medical and social research advances of the past decade have enhanced our HIV prevention and treatment efforts. Certainly, the most significant advance has been the development of a highly potent antiretroviral regimen that when used in combination, has successfully contributed to the decreased number of AIDS deaths. The efficacy of the new drugs combined with the growing scientific opinion that the early diagnosis and treatment of HIV disease can significantly alter future progression of HIV disease has heightened the role of HIV testing programs.

But it’s still tough to do it. Does anyone want to know that they are sick? That they may have to deal with the power to infect, in fact, cause the death of, another person? Ignorance seems like a far easier road. However, ignorance = quicker mortality in the case of HIV/AIDS. This is not an easy issue that can be reduced to a 2 second sound byte for the daily news, “just do it.” But here are some resources for testing and counseling that might help. Good luck!

Home Access (makers of the Home Access HIV Test kits) will be offering free consultation of “Ask Yourself” - how to talk to a partner about getting HIV Tested: all day 6/27/98 call 800/HIV-TEST

Free or sliding scale HIV/AIDS Testing can be arranged through the following organizations. All are confidential, some are also anonymous. Make sure to ask so you get want you want!

Upcoming Events:
- Latino Men’s Health Conference - In Spanish, Sat. June 27th, call 263-2054
- Gay Pride on the Park Strip Sunday June 28th Noon to Five
- AIDS 101, 5:30-6:30pm, Wednesday July 8 and Tuesday August 11 @ 4 A’s
- Free HIV Testing Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00pm @ 4A’s
- Every Thursday “HIV Support Group” 7pm - 8pm, call 263-2050
- Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers Noon @ 4 A’s
Pride Conference

El Niño got you down? Just think of all those gray clouds as a perfect excuse to do all the things you'd normally postpone until fall. Learn to cook Thai food! Register to vote! Buy some finger paints! Help plan a conference!

Yes, creative forces are brewing and junk food is being consumed in preparation for the 1998 Alaska Pride Conference in Anchorage, Alaska on October 10 and 11.

We may be able to eat a lot of chips but we can't put together a community-wide event without your help. So join us for our next

Pride Conference Gathering
Monday, June 22, 6:00 p.m.
3108 West 29th (off Wisconsin)
Bring food — we’re hungry
Call Susan at 248-9887 or
Jen at 278-5179 for more info
Order protecting federal workers signed by Clinton

Today I have signed an Executive Order entitled Further Amendment to Executive Order 11478, Equal Employment Opportunity in the Federal Government. The Order provides a uniform policy for the Federal Government to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal civilian workforce and states that policy for the first time in an Executive Order of the President.

It has always been the practice of this Administration to prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation in the civilian workforce, and most federal agencies and departments have taken actions, such as the issuance of policy directives or memoranda from the agency heads, to memorialize that policy. The Executive Order I have signed today will ensure that there is a uniform policy throughout the Federal Government by adding sexual orientation to the list of categories for which discrimination is prohibited in Executive Order 11478 (i.e. race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or age).

The Executive Order states Administration policy but does not and cannot create any new enforcement rights (such as the ability to proceed before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission). Those rights can be granted only by legislation passed by the Congress, such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. I again call upon Congress to pass this important piece of civil rights legislation which would extend these basic employment discrimination protections to all gay and lesbian Americans. Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work.

William J. Clinton

Task Force applauds Clinton nondiscrimination order

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force praised President Clinton's signing of an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal civilian workforce.

"We applaud President Clinton for this act of leadership and fairness," stated Task Force political director Rebecca Isaacs. "Federal civilian workers will now be covered by a uniform policy.

"This is an important step in countering employment discrimination. All people should be able to work free from discrimination," said Isaacs.

Bauer calls on Congress to rescind order

WASHINGTON, DC - PRNewswire — "President Clinton's order mandating affirmative action on the basis of homosexuality should be rescinded by an act of Congress," said Family Research Council President Gary L. Bauer. "It discriminates against people with traditional views of sexual morality, and lends the prestige of the U.S. Government to promotion of homosexuality. This will affect not only all federal employees but possibly anyone who receives a federal grant or contract with the federal government. In other words, it will force a special preference for homosexuality into government and private workplaces."

The executive order signed by Bill Clinton on May 28 adds "sexual orientation" to an earlier executive order, No. 11478, which mandates affirmative action programs for federal employees. "By choosing to amend an affirmative action order, the President is tipping his hand to the real agenda, which is to use government power to force acceptance of homosexuality on everyone, regardless of their most deeply held beliefs," continued Bauer. "This creates a special advantage in employment for people who are defined solely by engaging in behavior that most people and all major religions declare to be immoral and destructive. This outrageous power grab should be swiftly dealt with by Congress. "Homosexuality is not a civil right. It's not like skin color, or ethnicity or place of birth. It is defined by conduct, which is subject to moral concerns," said Bauer.

"Perhaps we should not be surprised that this president is passionate about crippling the ability of employers — in this case, the taxpayers — to take character into account in personnel matters. This same president tore up President Reagan's executive order on the family. Now he is demanding that all federal employees pretend that personal conduct is meaningless, that character is irrelevant, and that homosexuality is a plus for getting a job," said Bauer.
Adults must teach gay teens to value life

by Deb Price

What's the life of one gay teenager worth? “Not much” says our dangerously backward society.

Listening even when adults think they’re not, gay teens get that crushing message. They get it every time their very existence is ignored or ridiculed or bemoaned. They get it when their dreams and fears and safety are assigned no value. It should come as no surprise, then, when large numbers of them react by treating their precious lives as junk and hurling headlong into self-destructive behavior.

Still, the results of a survey of Massachusetts high school students — reported in this month's Pediatrics medical journal — are both shocking and frightening. The confidential poll of 4,159 ninth- to 12th-graders goes far beyond just confirming prior research showing that gay youth are at extreme risk for suicide and HIV infection. It establishes that teenagers who identify as “gay, lesbian or bisexual” are far more likely than their classmates to be ensnared in an astounding array of high-risk behaviors: Smoking, drinking, carrying a gun, fighting at school, using smokeless tobacco, smoking marijuana, using crack, attempting suicide, shooting up illegal drugs, sharing needles, promiscuous sex. The disturbing list goes on and on. Researchers found the 2.5 percent of students who said they aren't heterosexual are more likely to engage in a given risky behavior, to do it earlier and more often, and to combine it with many other risks.

High school students whose sexual orientation puts them at odds with our heterosexual culture are, for example, five times more likely to carry a gun (24.7 percent vs. 4.9 percent), 14 times more likely to use cocaine before age 13 (17.3 percent vs. 1.2 percent), four times more likely to drink at school (25 percent vs. 6.2 percent) and five times more likely to report three or more sex partners in the previous three months (37.9 percent vs. 7.5 percent).

Quite clearly, something is desperately wrong. The Pat Robertsons of the world will undoubtedly try to twist these survey results to fit their conclusion that being gay is sick and sinful. But being gay, of course, isn’t the problem; Adult negligence is. Gay kids just aren't getting the attention, protection, reassurance and guidance they need. Teachers, principals and counselors bear much blame. Educators should take responsibility for nurturing gay students so they can grow into healthy adults.

Royal Oak psychotherapist Joe Kort, who works with gay youth, says the survey shows gay teens are using alcohol, drugs and sex to “numb out the hate. They don’t see how to get past it. ... These teens are walking around feeling like damaged goods.”

Those of us who are gay adults are far from blameless. We aren’t doing enough to mentor gay teenagers. We must show them relationships that last, conduct that’s responsible, and lives that don’t revolve around bars or sex. By our example — as openly gay stockbrokers or flight attendants or school teachers — we can give them hope.

As a society, we’re failing gay teenagers — just as every generation before them was failed. As individuals, we adults can turn away. Or, we can teach them to value their own lives.

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Elizabeth Maria McNeill, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
By Appointment

2600 Denali·Suite 701
Anchorage, Alaska (907) 278-6752
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Fairbanksan

Further North in the Heart of Alaska

by Terry A. Fauth

A whole summer of fun, a campaign, and a proposed constitutional amendment to strike down. How will we ever find the time to get everything in... Make the most of the daylight.

**PFLAG Fairbanks**

Fairbanksans can be proud of their actions to fight SJR 42!!! We had about 20 people testifying at our local Legislative Information Office for each of the legislative hearings, the Senate Finance and Judicial hearings as well as the House Judicial hearing. People were on alert and came with a brief warning but stayed for hours waiting to give very powerful and moving testimonies. (Many of these hearings and the Senate & Floor Sessions can be reviewed on audio or video tape at the Into The Woods lending library) Many e-mails, Public Opinion Messages, letters and postcards went out from Fairbanks. Over 240 people signed a petition to the Alaska State legislators to vote against placing this constitutional amendment on the ballot in November. I have a collection of excellent letters to the Editor about this issue. Even though we narrowly lost in both the Senate and the House, there was much public education about gay issues, and much community coalition building among gays and supporters.

For the record, the State hasn't given SJR 42 a ballot number yet. As soon as they do, we'll let you know so we can rally behind a "No on ___" campaign. Till then, donations can be sent to: Alaskans for Civil Rights, P O Box 240751, Anchorage, AK 99524.

**Gay Pride Activities.** We have helped empower PFLAG and many gay people in Fairbanks with our Fairbanks Gay Pride activities since 1993. The *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* featured our activities on the front page of the local section in 1993, and on the front and back page of Section A in 1994. Hoping to involve more of the Fairbanks community as we celebrate our diversity during this June "Pride", rather than "Gay Pride," weekend, involves encouraging as many individuals and groups as possible to participate. Marchers, signs, floats, etc. are welcome in the shortened parade in downtown Fairbanks on the 27th. We want the rally, parade and picnic to be the biggest and best ever! See you at 2:00 p.m. at Bicentennial Park to kick off these three events.

"Love Makes A Family: Living in Lesbian and Gay Families" a nationally acclaimed photo-text exhibit, will be in Bentley Mall as part of our Pride activities. "Love Makes A Family" combats homophobia by breaking silence and making the invisible visible. By educating people of all ages to celebrate diversity, this exhibit contributes to making the world a safer place for all families. Contact Pat at IAA (452-4222) for more information or to get involved with any of these events.

PFLAG Fairbanks meets the third Sunday of every month. Next meeting will be June 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse.

**Fairbanks Pride Festival**

The citizens of the Golden Heart City will be celebrating diversity during the weekend of June 26-28. Open to all that take Pride in themselves, their endeavors, their family, their culture and wants to help unite the Fairbanks Community through understanding.

On Friday there will be a dance for everyone 16 years and over at the State Fairgrounds in the Totem building from 8:00 p.m. until midnight; $3.00 cover charge.

Saturday events will start at 2:00 p.m. at Bicentennial Park (7th & Cushman) with a rally and parade, followed by a potluck BBQ at the Wilderness Pavilion in Alaskanland (enter off Peger Road). The day will end with “Summer Kamp” at midnight in the Palace Saloon, an impromptu show for the community and the fun of it; $5.00 cover charge. Voting will also take place for Mr. & Ms. Gay Fairbanks.

Sunday at 1:00 p.m. there is a potluck brunch at Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse winding down the weekend, with presentation of the Ms. Awards.

**Alaska Women's Music Festival**

Tenth Annual Alaska Women's Music & Arts Festival features music, camping, workshops and so much more. Ferron, Aili Dobkin, June Millington, Kelly Conway, Jamie Anderson, Roxanna Ward, Karen Pernick, Lisa Koch, & Alaska's own Full Circle Band. Starts Friday, July 3 at noon, music on Saturday, and softball on Sunday. Contact Louise at P O Box 156, Ester, AK 99725 or call (907) 479-0618 (Fairbanks), Marabeth at 278-8044 (Anchorage), or Darla & Karen at 790-2941 (Juneau) for more information or be a participant. Visit the website at <http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley8170/> to see more.

**Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse**

A songwriters workshop with Ferron will be held at Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse. The workshop will be all day on Thursday, July 2 and half day on Friday July 3. To sign up or for information on this or many other events and happenings, call (907) 479-7701.

**Other Upcoming events**

Be prepared, Fairbanks summer is just heating up... Follies of Dollies on July 18; Fairbanks Ducky Coronation mid-August; and other activities. Updates will be posted as timely as possible at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak>.
Dear Love

The guardian goddess

You've read about those old ladies who starve to death because they have rescued so many cats that all their small pittance of resources go to supporting the animals? Well, I'm afraid we are on the way to emulating this behavior.

Living in the country, we are blessed with wildlife contact frequently. Why, just last night, Lucy, Dear Love and I went for a drive after an early dinner, for dusk is good wildlife sighting time. We saw four Great Blue Heron, a big, fat groundhog, and seven deer in a field of prairie grass so tall that it almost concealed them. No doubt the fawns were hidden.

Alas, there are roaming dogs and cats, too. Now, we have no trouble running off dogs. Dear Love might be friend them, but I'm adamant. Once in a campground in British Columbia, a friendly little squirrel dog who made friends with my Himalayan kitten, Pico, and played with her all night, suddenly reverted to type and bit her hips in two. I won't trust dogs around my beloved Yaga, Bodhi, Verushka and Fancy Chickapea.

But cats, they are a different matter. Strays come around all the time, and you know once you feed one out of pity on a cold winter night, they keep coming back and bring their relatives and friends. Dear Love cannot resist a cat, nor they her, for they are of the same tribe. So it was that Gracie Small came into our lives and became a permanent outside cat.

She had hangers-on. A suitor? A brother? A pater familia? Actually, they could all be sperm donors, couldn't they? And one or more was, which we did not find out until we took her to be spayed and she was with child...

or six children to be exact. The less-than-clean, less-than smart local vet had told us she wasn't pregnant when we'd taken her for her shots a week or so earlier.

This new opportunity following so close on Dear Love's enduring a series of rabies shots after petting one of Gracie Small's hangers-on was just not fair. Dear Love kept saying, "Maybe Gracie has gas." Sure. But days went by, Gracie was suddenly thin, and no kittens appeared. Not for two weeks, and then they made their debut. Six wild little hellions who use my marigold box for a litter box, my calla lilies for a jungle gym, and my raincoat to practice their climbing skills. Drowning the little guys was just not an option. Really I didn't even want to, but if I'd been tempted, I'd refrain, because Dear Love would drown me.

Dear Love's daughter and son-in-law came to visit and the darling daughter fell in love with Fuzzy Britches and little Zena. She was going to take the two, but after several private conversations with her husband, they both kept repeating "one, one, one," no matter how many times Dear Love pressured them to take more. She even manipulated them shamelessly by saying how every animal must have one of its own kind as companion, or soul loneliness will all them. But no dice.

We have decided to keep Gracie Small as a motel cat, for she is a great mouser, and has killed rats bigger than she is. Using the same reasoning, we have decided to keep one of the kittens so she will not be lonely, and since Braveheart is a momma's boy, and very gentle, maybe we'll take him.

However, Dear Love really wants one of the two smallest females who are the most beautiful, but also the wildest. We have been feeding them solid food for two weeks, and they still won't let us touch them. I picked one up once and she fought me like a tiger, screaming like a banshee and running off the top of my head into space. Banshee. That's a good name for her. Why is it the female cats are the wildest and the most beautiful?

So here we are, two older women, who, in less than two years in Missouri, have collected a house, a motel and seven additional cats who only eat designer food and the cadillac of milk replacement? Both of us soon to be unemployed again? Dear Love, I'm convinced, has only recently taken human form and was not long ago the guardian goddess of lost and abandoned animals and didn't really give up the job when she assumed flesh.

What can I do? I love her. That is why I'm afraid we're going to end up with millions of cats, litter boxes we can't keep up with and we'll both be eating cat food in our old age.

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Past Out

What were Oscar Wilde’s trials about?

In 1854, by age 30, Oscar Wilde was already famous in Europe for the snappy, highly-quotable epigrams that filled his published essays and peppered his speech. But Wilde was equally well-known for his unorthodox clothing — velvet jackets with a green carnation in the buttonhole — and his effeminate mannerisms. To silence gossips, Wilde married in 1884 and quickly fathered two children.

Still, he couldn’t suppress his sexual impulses. At 32, he began having sex with men, and over the next few years became more openly homosexual, a risky business in England at that time. Though sodomy was no longer a capital offense, Parliament passed the Labouchere Amendment in 1885, widening the definition of illegal homosexual acts to include “gross indecency” — oral sex — a crime punishable with up to two years in prison.

Wilde at first seemed oblivious to the repressive political climate. His homoerotic novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray (1891), was attacked in the press for dealing with “matters only fitted for the Criminal Investigation Department.” Wilde created an epigram in his own defense: “There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all.” Still, he changed gears, writing a number of comedic plays for general audiences such as The Importance of Being Earnest, which brought him popularity and financial success. At the opening of Lady Windermere’s Fan in 1892, many young men appeared sporting green carnations — influenced by Wilde’s personal style.

When Wilde fell for the 21-year-old Lord Alfred Douglas (nicknamed “Bosie”) in 1892, their affair proved Wilde’s undoing. Bosie’s father was the powerful Marquess of Queensberry, who decided that Wilde had corrupted his son. When Bosie refused to stop seeing Wilde, Queensberry began harassing the playwright. Egged on by Bosie, Wilde unwisely sued Queensberry for libel in 1895.

During the trial, Queensberry’s lawyer produced a damning letter from Wilde to Bosie, in which Wilde rhymedized that Bosie’s lips were made for “the madness of kisses.” The jury decided in Queensberry’s favor, and within hours of the judgment, Wilde was arrested for sodomy and gross indecency. Bosie quickly escaped to France. The theaters where Wilde’s plays were running immediately deleted his name from their programs.

During Wilde’s first criminal trial, 10 male prostitutes whom Wilde had solicited for sex testified against him. But Wilde’s powerful speech on the noble, innocent nature of love between men met with applause from the spectators. Because the jury couldn’t reach a verdict, another trial was scheduled. On May 25, 1895, he was found guilty and received the maximum sentence of two years at hard labor.

In prison, Wilde composed a passionate letter to Bosie, later published as De Profundis, in which he blamed himself for what was in fact a social injustice. “Desire, at the end, was a malady, or a madness, or both,” he wrote. “I allowed pleasure to dominate me. I ended in horrible disgrace.”

After his release in 1897, Wilde went abroad. Drained and bankrupt, he spent three years genteely begging from friends until his death in Paris in 1900. Wilde’s much-publicized ordeal sent many British homosexuals into the closet; even Bosie married. But the injustice Wilde suffered also had some positive consequences for awareness of homosexuality.

David Bianco, M. A. 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>.
Film Gallery

Ma Vie En Rose

The first film by Belgian director Alain Berliner, Ma Vie En Rose is a scathingly funny, brutally critical commentary on gender roles and bourgeoisie. Having just moved to the suburbs, married couple Hanna (Michele Laroque) and Pierre (Jean-Philippe Ecoffey) have only one problem: their nine-year-old son Ludovic (Georges du Fresne) thinks he's a girl. First, he appears at a family barbecue wearing a dress. Then, on entering a new school, Ludovic instantly falls for one of his classmates (a boy) and hijacks the lead role in the class play (Snow White). Adding to their trials, Hanna and Pierre must contend with a new-age therapist who believes Ludovic should do as he pleases and with old-fashioned neighbors who think they're mad.

Berliner deftly renders his cinematic suburbia at once real and surreal, with a tone that manages to be both hilarious and affecting. Amid a color palette of extremes — cotton candy-pink dresses, an electric blue sky — Berliner's characters exist in a Magritte paradise. Clever camera techniques and bold cinematography underscore the unique tone. The heightened look of the film comedically undercuts the potentially serious nature of Ludovic's dilemma.

Yet Berliner also draws a moving portrait of a family in crisis with a well-played role reversal between the parents. Hanna, initially her son's fervent supporter, crumbles under the social pressure and loses her patience with him; Pierre, at first threatened by Ludovic's behavior, later softens into gentle understanding. Ma Vie En Rose is a rare gem: a comedy-drama with crossover potential, sure to appeal as much to gay audiences as straight ones.

Lael Loewenstein. Excerpted from Boxoffice Magazine

Never Met Picasso.

Those who think the current spate of gay or lesbian movies paints an inaccurate picture of two communities separated by an unbridgeable gulf will be heartened by Never Met Picasso, a film that's anchored by the close friendship of a gay man and a lesbian. Shot in the artists' enclave of Boston's South End, Stephen Kijak's debut feature introduces viewers to an idiosyncratic grouping of relatives, friends, lovers, and ex's best friend, who support, challenge, and confound one another. Andrew (Alexis Arquette), a painter who lacks artistic direction, is living with Genna (Margot Kidder), his avant-garde actress mother. Lucy (Georgia Ragsdale), Andrew's best friend, is a sculptor whose girlfriend channels the spirits of surrealist women artists. Andrew begins an affair with the attractive Jerry (Don McKellar), Lucy and Genna are drawn to each other, and the spirits of the departed find ways to spur the creativity of the living. Sharply written and directed, Never Met Picasso boasts a handsome production and smart performances by Arquette, Kidder, McKellar, and theater legend Alvin Epstein, as Andrew's gay artist uncle. Ragsdale, the comedian making her screen debut, is nothing less than a find. Never Met Picasso paints a vivid likeness of a gay and lesbian world where the action is in the mix.

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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
Identity has joined SEAGLA and Q-Net-AK in providing an online presence for gay, lesbian, and bisexual interests in Alaska. The web faerie, a recent transplant from Juneau, was the prime mover behind SEAGLA's activities on the WWW. So, if you notice a similar look and feel between SEAGLA and Identity's web pages, you'll know why.

When you look at Identity online, one of the first things you'll notice is a sponsorship banner. Our sponsors offset the cost of Internet access for Identity. Thanks to Ken Freedman Counseling for being first in line to support Identity on the WWW. If you wish to sponsor Identity's web pages, please email <identity@alaska.net> or contact Identity via telephone or mail (see page 1 for contact information).

There are many reasons to sponsor Identity's web page. You are supporting the gay and lesbian community and gaining exposure for your business or organization. Plus you gain long term exposure as we build our list of sponsoring businesses and organizations. Eventually, we hope to create an online Alaska Pink Pages highlighting our sponsors.

One of the most useful features of the Identity web page will be the calendar. Please advise us of your events as soon as you have a firm date. We can easily go a year in advance. And remember that calendars, whether in the newsletter or online, are only as good as the input from you! We've also connected to a WWW utility that allows you to easily set up automatic notification whenever the calendar is updated.

Following the example of SEAGLA, we are playing host to web pages for other g/l/b/t organizations in the Anchorage area. Information pages for PFLAG Anchorage and the Klondyke Kkontact were formerly hosted by SEAGLA, but have now been moved closer to home. Other information pages have been developed for GLSEN and Lamb of God MCC. If your Alaskan organization and wishes to have information about meetings and missions online, please contact us via e-mail, phone or mail. We'll make it as easy as possible for you. Also be sure to look at hotlinks for other organizations that are already online: 4A's, the Imperial Court, and The Family.

As you surf through the web page, keep in mind that it is aimed at a diverse audience. Some Alaskans might be surfing for gay and lesbian events in their hometown of Anchorage, while others might be planning an Alaskan vacation from some far away place. Some will be political aficionados while others will be searching for the nightlife. If you don't find what you want, please speak up! We'll either add it or let you know why we haven't already.

No matter what your interest, we hope Identity online can be your starting point. Please bookmark or make it your default page.

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Each month it costs approximately $100 to mail this publication to our members. Our primary sources of revenue are membership fees and advertising income. As postal rates have escalated over the years, so have our mailing expenses. We're using the lowest rate structure available to non-profit organizations, but the costs continue to increase. If you have the ability to donate the cost of mailing a complete issue of *NorthView*, we would like to speak with you about it. Or, if this is more than your checking account permits, why not contact one or more friends to see if a sharing of the expense can be worked out. You'll find we are more than willing to work with you in whatever configuration is best.

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

If this is something you (or someone you know) are interested in doing, please contact Ruth at 563-1324, Tom at 333-7504 or Shirley at 338-3708.
Seeking lesbian and gay elders

Organization of professionals in aging invites participation

The Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network (LGAIN) hopes to bring a number of lesbians and gay men over the age of 60 to a gathering in Orlando in March 1999 to hear firsthand about their experiences of aging. To hear about their housing choices, their role as grandparents, their involvement in giving or receiving care, their professional and social lives, and their understanding of bereavement.

In addition, LGAIN is actively seeking funding to provide support, including scholarships and transportation, to gay and lesbian elders who wish to attend or speak at this gathering. To assist with this effort, LGAIN welcomes donations from organizations and individuals, as well as grants from foundations.

LGAIN is a constituent unit of the American Society on Aging (ASA), the country’s largest association of professionals in aging. The Orlando gathering will be part of ASA’s 45th Annual Meeting. LGAIN is a pioneer in bringing the concerns of aging lesbians and gay men to professionals who design and provide services for older adults, as well as in helping make the voices of aging gay men and lesbians heard in their own communities and among professionals in aging.

To explore the possibility of participating in the Orlando conference, to provide financial support, or to receive more information about LGAIN, contact Gerard Koskovich at ASA, 833 Market St., Suite 511, San Francisco, CA 94103-1824; phone (415) 974-9641; fax (415) 974-0300; e-mail <gerardk@asa.asaging.org>.

Small town youth tells of harrowing year

On May 26 an excellent Moscow-Pullman Daily News article profiled local high school student Joshua Dyer as he looked back on coming out at the start of his senior year.

“Dyer spent his senior year at Pullman High School as an openly gay male, experiencing harassment, losing friends and receiving death threats,” it begins. “Then, while presenting his senior project on gay issues last week, Dyer announced it had all been an act: He was a heterosexual who had wanted to experience homosexual harassment firsthand for his research paper.”

It continues by quoting Dyer: “I’m still the same person I’ve always been. The only thing that has changed is the label people use to describe me. If people don’t have a label for me, it makes them uncomfortable and, hopefully, gets them thinking.” The Daily News continues, “Dyer is gay, and certainly not ashamed about it. But he felt the heterosexual fib was needed during his presentation to make people listen to his message: Homophobia is damaging to gays and straights alike.”

The article discusses the numerous difficulties and threats Dyer has endured from peers over the past year, as well as the mixed support he received from teachers, “Dyer says he doesn’t consider the school a safe place for others to come out. ‘It was just a small group of people who harassed me,’ Dyer said. ‘But that small group makes a big difference.’”

In addition, the Daily News interviews teacher Gloria Tindere, who oversaw Dyer’s project, and notes that Dyer learned “just as much as his fellow students. ‘There were times that maybe Josh made assumptions about why his friends were acting a certain way and assumed they weren’t accepting him,’ Tindere said. ‘But then we’d talk and hear a different side, that they were just confused or unsure of how to handle something.’”

GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) is a national organization that promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.
Schools are clueless about gay issues

by Fred Hillman

Recently I attended part of the Alaska Safe Schools Workshop in Anchorage, co-sponsored by the Alaska Department of Education and NEA-Alaska. The goal of the conference was to make “participants aware of various techniques that can be used in schools and communities to create a safe environment for students and staff.” However, the focus was on guns and law & order. One of the organizers told GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) that “this conference is about school safety; this does not concern your issues.” None of the background material, reference literature, or handouts made any reference at all to gay issues in schools.

Fortunately, two of the guest speakers — Jerry Painter and Frieda Takamura — are part of the eight-member research team for the Anti-Violence Documentation Project of the Safe Schools Coalition of Washington [State]. Mr. Painter has been a staff attorney for the Washington Education Association for the past fourteen years and presently is their General Counsel. He explicitly made the points that:

- disrespect is an early form of violence
- the most common form of disrespect in public schools is the use of the words “faggot” and “dyke” and their synonyms
- no student can feel safe until all students feel safe
- early on-the-spot intervention in halls and classrooms is far more effective in preventing violence than are punitive laws
- teachers must be taught to be pro-active on these issues
- teaching respect for differences within the student body, including those of sexual orientation, must be incorporated into the curriculum

Judging from the responses of the participating teachers and administrators, my impressions of both the sponsors and the attendees at this conference are that, by-and-large, Alaskan educators are clueless about sexual orientation. They have no concept that malicious harassment over sexual orientation can be related to violence or even that it is an issue they should be concerned about. Please someone prove me wrong!

Having said that, I heartily congratulate the Alaska State Department of Education and NEA-Alaska, first for staging the workshop and secondly for inviting a high-level speaker who could, and did, speak forthrightly about this taboo topic of sexual orientation.

Editors note: please see also the article in this issue by Detroit columnist Deb Price, “Adults must teach teens to value life”, on page 27.

Fred Hillman is president of GLSEN Alaska, Southcentral chapter. The motto of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network is “teaching respect for all in our schools.”

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"Don't be silly—they can't possibly be lesbians! I happen to know that they both crochet!"
Gay democrats launch national organization

With U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) serving as chairperson, a convention of about 100 gay democrats voted on May 11 in Kansas City, Missouri, on May 11 to approve bylaws creating a new gay democratic group called the National Stonewall Democratic Federation.

Organizers said they plan to open an office in Washington, DC, and hire a full-time executive director sometime next year to enable the group to serve as the national voice for gay democrats. Frank pledged to raise $100,000 for the new group.

A mission statement adopted at the Kansas City convention, which was May 9 thru 11, calls for the organization to promote the Democratic Party within the gay community and to work with leaders of the party toward improving from "good" to "better" on gay civil rights issues.

"Our aim is to educate the gay community about the great difference between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party on our issues," said Michael Perez, president of the Virginia Partisans Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club and one of the organizers of the new national group. Perez said organizers of the Stonewall Democratic group believe the Democratic Party, while not as strong on gay issues as activists would like it to be, is "far stronger" and much more committed on gay civil rights issues than is the Republican Party.

Delegates attended the convention from 24 states and the District of Columbia, Perez said. Among them were members of D.C.'s Gertrude Stein Democratic Club and at least three gay democratic groups from New York City.

The creation of the new group comes seven years after a separate national gay democratic organization folded because its organizers were unable to raise sufficient funds to keep it going, according to gay democratic activist Tom Clorhlon, who helped start the earlier group. The earlier group, founded in 1984, had been called the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Democratic Clubs. It later changed its name to Gay and Lesbian Democrats of America.

At a meeting in Philadelphia last November, organizers of the latest group elected an acting board of directors, laid the groundwork for the Kansas City convention, and voted to name the group the National Federation of Lesbian and Gay Democrats. But at the Kansas City convention, a number of delegates raised objections to that name, saying it excluded bisexuals and transgendered persons. After discussing the issue, the delegates voted to change the name to the National Stonewall Democratic Federation, which commemorates the 1969 Stonewall riots of New York. The riots, triggered by a police raid of the Stonewall gay bar in New York's Greenwich Village, are considered the starting point of the modern gay civil rights movement.

The decision by gay democrats not to include the words "gay" or "lesbian" in the name of their new organization follows the same path that gay republican activists have taken. In 1993, gay republicans formed Log Cabin Republicans, a national group in Washington, DC, which pushes for the election of pro-gay republican candidates and lobbies the Republican Party to support gay civil rights.

Despite aggressive lobbying by Log Cabin Republicans, the Republican Party has adopted several anti-gay planks, including one opposing gay civil rights legislation, in its national party platform. The Democratic Party has adopted pro-gay planks in its platform since 1980.

The mission statement adopted by the Stonewall Gay Democratic group last week says the organization will help gays form new gay democratic clubs throughout the nation. In addition, the organization will push for the election of openly gay democratic candidates and pro-gay democratic candidates in general to Congress. According to the mission statement, the group also will help elect openly gay delegates to the 2000 Democratic Convention.

DC activist Daniel McGinley, a member of Rep. Frank's staff, has been named interim executive director of the new group. McGinley said there are about 40 gay democratic clubs in the United States, with most located in large and medium-size cities. Among them are D.C.'s Stein Democratic Club and the Virginia Partisans Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, which includes gay democrats from the Northern Virginia suburbs.

At the same time gay democrats met to form the new Stonewall Democratic group in Kansas City, the Democratic National Committee adopted two pro-gay resolutions during its own meeting in Washington, DC. One of the resolutions calls on Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a gay civil rights bill. The other changes the DNC's bylaws to require democratic parties in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to include specific plans for reaching out to gay men and lesbians in their process of selecting delegates to the 2000 Democratic Convention.

Both resolutions were submitted by the DNC's 12 openly gay members, including openly gay DNC member Richard Rausch, the vice chair of the DC Democratic State Committee. In March, DNC co-chairs Steve Grossman and Roy Romer named gay democratic activist Mark Spengler as the DNC's full-time director of Gay and Lesbian Outreach. Although the DNC has designated staff members in the past to serve as liaisons to the gay community, Spengler's appointment marks the first time DNC officials have designated a full-time DNC staffer to such a post. Grossman and Romer sent a joint letter participants in last week's Kansas City convention expressing support for the new gay democratic organization.

Copyright Washington Blade
Gay cowboy documentary reveals much about filmmaker

by Alison Macor

“The horses don't care if you're straight or gay. They're still going to buck you,” says rodeo star Gene Mikulenko in American Cowboy, Kyle Henry's rich documentary that offers a peek inside the gay rodeo circuit.

Screening at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema as the ninth installment in the Texas Documentary Tour, Henry's film is a complex portrait of a professional cowboy that is as much about filmmaking and the role of the documentary filmmaker as it is about Mikulenko and his career.

More aggressively reflexive than the other films in this series, American Cowboy illustrates Henry's fascination with the modernist impulse that calls attention to the storytelling process and the way that films (and their filmmakers) can manipulate viewers through style and theme. Henry links the emphasis he places on his film's construction to his own role as a viewer.

“It comes from that ambivalence about what film is and what it does to an audience,” Henry says. “I'm a filmmaker, but at the same time I'm wary of what film does to a viewer, what film's done to me and where my views of the world have come from.”

The University of Texas graduate student sees a parallel between film's ability to manipulate, meaning the expectations that people have when watching (and making) a documentary film. “That's the thing about documentaries,” says Henry, who produced, directed and edited American Cowboy. “You're confronted with the ethics of what you're doing and how the images are going to affect people.”

For Henry, such a concern extends beyond the audience to include the subject of American Cowboy. As an openly gay man, Mikulenko felt the burden of representing a particular demographic on screen. As Henry explains it, “You realize how this person will be representing not only who he is but, as a disenfranchised minority, he's also going to have to represent an entire subgroup.”

Henry describes American Cowboy as a film that attempts to break out of the roles assigned to gay characters in fiction and nonfiction films, however. He views Mikulenko's sexuality as only one component of who he is as a person. Indeed, American Cowboy works hard to make this clear through its strikingly beautiful slow-motion sequences of Mikulenko riding in competition and its humorous moments revealing Mikulenko's personality.

While Henry admits that his own sexual politics inform American Cowboy, he and Mikulenko share a bond that has little to do with their homosexuality. Both men place great importance in trusting their instincts. For Mikulenko, ignoring his gut feelings led to a debilitating fall that sidelined his career, providing the context for much of American Cowboy's narrative. For Henry, following his instincts encouraged him to shelve his original narrative idea for the pre-thesis project (a requirement of UT's master's program in radio-television-film) and pursue the subject of an article that appeared in OUT magazine in the spring of 1996.

“You know how you get an idea and that's just the right one to go with at the time? You just go with your gut and your instincts, and that's what I did,” Henry says.

Written by journalist Bob Morris and described by Henry as a fairly negative profile, this piece nevertheless sparked Henry's interest in Mikulenko's career. Already intrigued by西部ers and their mythic representation, Henry was inspired to meet Mikulenko and talk to him about his life. In addition to connecting with this subject because of their shared belief in the power of intuition, Henry admires Mikulenko's ability to set and meet goals. “There's obviously something there fueling what he's doing and why he's doing it,” Henry says.

Although Henry thinks that American Cowboy only hints at Mikulenko's drive and dedication, he credits much of the film's strength to his crew members, many of whom are fellow graduate students. Sequences such as the wonderful belt-buckle montage often were suggested by others working on American Cowboy. In fact, the film's structure and style are the result of Henry's self-described naiveté about the documentary filmmaking process. Much of the footage in the hour-long feature was shot by camera operators who kept rolling even after Henry had yelled “Cut.”

Ultimately, Henry describes the documentary process as a lesson in giving up control. “It's not up to you to make those moments happen,” he says. “All the best moments [in American Cowboy] came out of the time when I just sort of yielded to what was going on.”

The Austin American-Statesman, 305 S. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701, fax 512-445-9678, e-mail letters@statesman.com.
The Directory

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

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(A) Gatesky, Ketki/Jasmin, 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

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

Automotive Repairs & Fuel:
(A) Courtney's, Linny, 572-1227 (see ad)

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

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

Bed & Breakfasts, Accommodations:
(A) Ah, Rose Marie, 302 Cowles, Fairbanks, John, 456-2040
(G) Alfa's (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-389-2582 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(G) Crabtree Guesthouse (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(A) Fairbanks Hotel, (Fairbanks) Doris Lundin, 888-329-2468
(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2557
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 907-233-2268 (see ad)
(A) Regina's, 276-4904
(L) Rose-Beth's B&B, (Anchorage) Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G/A) Sauerdough Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946.
(L) Skyline B&B (Homer), Lisa, 273-3832.
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Sudie 907-586-2410.

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

Churches:
see Spiritual

Coffee Houses:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 562-0737
(A) Quiver Bean Coffee Co., Scott & Becky, call or fax 278-BEAN

College and Boarding School Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 277-7004 or (717) 886-8652

Computer Consultants, Graphics & Desktop Publishing:
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4275
(L) Angie, 337-0253
(A) Binky's Den, 205 4th Ave., Seward, Sue or Terri, 224-PAWS
(L) Communication Art, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 276-6862
(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 258-1339
(G) gra.l/x, Lucian, 561-3856
(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(G) Mark Mathis, 338-3357, <mmathis@alaska.net>
(L) TechLink, LeMiel, 276-6862.

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

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

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Anchorage Center for Families, 276-4994 (handles all kinds of family issues.)
(A) Barton Sloan, L.C.S.W., 563-7565
(L) Connie, 562-1826
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(L) 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entertainment:
(G) Art Services North, Dale Schaff, 561-2115
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(G) Cyrano's Film Gallery Cinema, 417 D Street, 561-0064.
(A) Syzggy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599
(L) Women's Coffeehouse, Lisa, 561-2198

Family Medicine:
(A) Dr. Phyllis T. Dunckel, 257-4600

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

Flooring:
(A) Big Bob's, Mark, 561-2121
(A) Quality Floors, Bob & Ruth, 248-3900

Florists/Greenhouses/Nurseries:
(G) Every Bloomin' Thing, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3158
(A) Mile 5.2 Greenhouse, Dale, 694-3978
(A) Tryck Nursery, Doug, 345-25075
### Directory

#### Furniture/Furnishings/Gifts:
- (A) Design Craft, David, 279-0638 (see ad)
- (G) Gabriel, 272-9045
- (A) 36th Avenue Hair Design, Ledjha, 561-8967

#### Health:
- (A) Alpine Indoor Air Purification Systems, Marjory, (907) 746-6381
- (L) Health Advocacy-Medical/Legal Research, Linda, 337-0253
- (A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
- (A) Nature's Own Way, Roberts/Debby, 561-0181

#### 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

#### 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

#### House-sitting:
- (L) Victoria, 245-2291

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

#### Kites, Games, Banners, Puzzles:
- (A) Northwind Kites, Pat, 279-4986

#### Legal:
- (L) Mendel & Associates, Allison, 279-5001 (see ad)
- (L) Rhodes, Phyllis; Mediator, 346-2217
- (A) Short, Sylvia, 562-4992 (see ad)

#### Massage Therapy:
- (L) Donna (NCMT), 243-0789
- (L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
- (G) Don, 338-8826
- (G) Gabriel, 272-7945
- (L) Leslie, 278-3346
- (L) Ariel, 277-5222

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

#### Moving:
- (A) Broco Cartage Company, Tim, 275-8763

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

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

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

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

#### Photography:
- (L) Alaska Photographic & Supply, Linda, 345-5434
- (G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 566-0600 (see ad)

#### Political:
- (A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth, 333-1190
- (A) Anchorage Women's Political Caucus, contact Janet Mitson, 688-0116

#### Printing, Electronic Graphics:
- (G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9226
- (G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292

#### Real Estate:
- (G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-0661
- (A) Bela Bodnar, RE/MAX, 244-4415 (see ad)
- (L) Bronwyn Real Estate, 907-277-4744
- (L) Century 21 (Missouri), Lucille, 417-745-6798 (w);
  417-993-4302(h)
- (L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
- (A) Rona Mason, Realtor, 242-8877 (cell) or 279-8877, (see ad)
- (L) Waltraud Barron, 278-1981

#### Recreation:
- (L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
- (L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087
- (A) Flowers by Irene (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, 886-899-2770
- (A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb,
  907-389-2725

#### Reiki/Counseling:
- (G) Rick, 743-9640
- (A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1914
- (L) Spiril Services, Barbara, 337-2011

#### Research:
- (L) Cration & Associates, 279-3982
- (L) Writing & Research Services, Lorraine, 277-7373

#### Social/Educational:
- (G) AGB Social Club, formerly Anch Garden Buddies, 272-5608
- (G) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Ross, 563-2110
- (GL) Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA),
  (Juneau) 907-586-4297

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

#### Spiritual:
- (A) Aquarian Foundation, Rev. Patricia Brown, 349-9555
- (A) Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive Living, Rev. Nancy Sweeney, 288-0010
- (A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737
- (A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Bass, 746-1089
- (A) Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, Anchorage,
  welcomes all regardless of orientation, 333-5253
- (A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266
- (A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church ( Kodiak), Fr.
  Paul, 486-5276
Directory

Student Organizations...

(A) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, 4148 Pikes Landing Road, Richard Kemnitz, 457-9009
(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, Voice mail 566-1813
(A) PFLAG Fairbanks, Nancy, 907-45P-FLAG
(A) PFLAG Juneau, 907-463-4203

Tattoos:

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

Theatre:

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

Travel:

(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770 or 888-699-2770

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

Club Notes

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

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As) Anchorage
offers HIV testing Wednesday afternoons (2:00-4:00pm) at
their offices, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102. Friday at noon
is a luncheon for People With HIV and AIDS. We are always
looking for groups willing to donate and provide these
meals. If you are interested in helping, with the luncheons,
volunteering with the 4As, or need information, please call
the 4As at 263-2050.

Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association of Fairbanks (AGLA)
(a UAF Student Organization, has regular meetings open to
gays, lesbians and allies, 1st and 3rd Friday. For further
information about meeting time and place, contact Matthew
at 907-474-6666, ext. 3535.

AQB Social Club
(formerly Anchorage Garden Buddies) a social group for
gay men looking for an alternative to the “bar scene.” For
more information, call Sheldon at 243-0662.

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

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

Bruiin 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
c 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 lebighay
community, to educate about community issues, to organize let-
ter writing campaigns and other forms of political action,
and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regard-
less of actual or perceived sexual orientation. For more
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. For the summer months
only, meets at different times and days. For more information,
call Victoria at 245-2291 or e-mail
akgbp_ youth@hotmail.com.

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

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

Continued on page 41
Gay/Lesbian Book Club
at Barnes and Noble on third Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Kim Meck, Community Relations Coordinator for B&N Hosts this discussion group.

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)
a national organization which has a local chapter in Anchorage. Meets the first Sunday each month, 1pm at AUUUF. 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 healthy ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communities. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of each month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm; program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for program title.

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

IMR2
Anchorage gay youth group meets Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 4As, 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 102. 566-IMR2

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 hosts 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; campsports & 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 Social Group
a lesbian group sharing positive energy discussions of films, books and ideas. Meets second and fourth Mondays, 7-9 pm. For location, call Rose Beth (337-6779) or Lorraine (276-3337).

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
of Fairbanks meets the 3rd Sunday of every month from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at Into the Woods Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 3560 College Road, Fairbanks, Call 45P-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 voice mail 566-1813.

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 566-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
on summer hiatus.

The Millennium March on Washington for Equality

Logo contest for posters, T-shirts. There will be an official March logo developed for posters, T-shirts and other sales. The March is inviting submissions for the official Millennium March logo. All proceeds of sales of the posters and other March products will go to the March on Washington. For details on the logo contest, contact <MMOW2000@aol.com>.

For travel and accommodations information For further information regarding travel and accommodations, e-mail L'Arc en Ciel Voyages at <larc@galaxytours.com> or call 1-610-964-7888.

Join the Millennium March mailing list! To subscribe to the free Millennium March on Washington 2000 mailing list for regular updates on events, endorsements and March-related news — or to volunteer to help the March — e-mail <MMOW2000@aol.com> or call the March office at (818) 891-1748.
Cyberlust

Submit changes to <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): <http://www.alaskan4a.org>

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

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

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

Caroline, Karen: Writer, feminist, teacher, activist: <mkre@getonthe.net>

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

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

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

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


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

Family, The: <asvbs@uaa.alaska.edu> <http://cwulf.alaska.edu/> <ab@4am>

Fauth, Terry: <akhaer@mosquitoonet.com>

Freedman, F. Kenneth: Gay/Lesbian activist, <4ken@servcom.org>

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

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

Hillman, Fred: <ftmillman@alaska.net>

Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>

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

Identity: <http://www.alaska.net/~identity>

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

Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polarnet.com> website <http://www2.polarnet.com/~woods>

Klondyke Kontact: <klondykekontact@hotmail.com>

Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@aol.com>

KT Creative: <ktcreate@alaska.net>

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

Lovering, Ken: <kplove@juno.com>

Naff, Don: <donnaff@alaska.net>

Out North: <outnorth@artswire.org>

Parsons, Greg <gparsons@ptiaalaska.net>

PFLAG: Fbks. website <http://www.mosquitoonet.com/~pflag>
e-mail <pflag@mosquitoonet.com> Anch. website <http://www.alaska.net/~identity/pflag.htm>
e-mail <schlitter@micronet.com>

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

e-mail <qetnak@mosquitoonet.com>

Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

SEAGLA: <http://ptiaalaska.net/~seagla>

Severson, Kim: Entertainment editor Anchorage Daily News, board of Nat'l Lesb & Gay Journalists Asm: <kseverson@pop.adn.com>

Slanti of Juneau: <http://www.ptiaalaska.net/~slanti>

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

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

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

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

Walton, Eric: Q'sKlatch, Q's Outdoors, PFLAG, EQUAL etc.; <fsebw@aurora.alaska.edu>

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

Calendar

June

- Gay Pride Month -

Through Thursday, June, 25:
A “Loves Makes A Family” National photo exhibit at Side Street Espresso.

Friday, 26:
F QUEER-Tillian: A Coming Out Ball, 8pm-midnight, Totem Bldg. at State fairgrounds. Open to age 16 & older.

Saturday, 27:
F Pride Rally & Parade, begins 2pm, bicentennial park, potluck BBQ follows. For more information on Pride Festival contact Pat at 452-4222.
F Summer Kamp, midnight-2am, Palace Saloon.

Sunday, 28:
F Potluck Brunch, 1pm, Into The Woods.
A Pride on the Parkstrip, noon-5pm, Delaney Park Strip, east of the flagpole. For information 337-2011 after 6pm.

July

July 3-5:

Saturday, 18:
F Follies of Dollies, fundraising show, Time and Venue TBA.

Sunday, 19:
F PFLAG, 4-5:30pm, Into the Woods Bookstore.

Tuesday, 21:
A PFLAG, 7-9pm, AUUF, call 562-7161 for details.
On-Going Calendar Items

SUNDAYS
A Metropolitan Community Church Services, 11am 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, 3-6pm
A Northern Exposure bowling league, Park lanes, 561-8744 for more information

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 Social Group, 2nd and 4th from 7-9 pm (see club notes).
A Lesbian Social Group, reviews films & books. 1st, 3rd & 5th. Inquire 337-6779.
F GLSEN, 5pm, FEA on S. Cushman, every 3rd Mon.

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 IMR2 5:30-7:30 pm at 4A's 1057 W Fireweed #102, 566-4678 (566-IMR2).
J Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
J “Women's Prerogative,” KTOO-FM, Wednesdays, 9pm-10pm.
A La Cage aux Wave & Drag Bingo, 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.
F French Club, Russian Club, alternating weeks at Into the Woods Bookstore.

FRIDAYS
A Lunch, 4A's, noon-1pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, Lori 263-2050. Everyone invited - HIV, volunteers and friends.
A Midnight Suns Gay AA Meeting, 7:30pm-9pm, 1231 W. 27th Ave.
A Identity Potluck fourth Friday at AUUF.
F Free anonymous HIV testing, 3:30-5:30pm, IAA offices, 710 3rd Avenue.
J Juneau Pride Chorus, 5:30-7pm, Floyd Dryden School, room 197.
F Dancing at The Palace Saloon, midnight - 2am.

SATURDAYS
A SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 12 noon, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
J PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 to 12:30 in the Mendenhall Library conference room.
F Dancing at The Palace Saloon, midnight - 2am.

Legend
A Anchorage, F Fairbanks, J Juneau, S Seward

Senate confirms presidential nominee for post at Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON — In a demonstration of fairness and bipartisanship, the U.S. Senate confirmed openly gay presidential nominee Fred Hochberg to serve as deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration.

"Today bipartisanism triumphed. Mr. Hochberg's qualifications were recognized and praised by many members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat. Our nation will always benefit when discrimination does not stand in the way of allowing talented individuals to make contributions to our society," said Human Rights Campaign political director Winnie Stachelberg.

Hochberg's confirmation makes him one of the highest ranking openly-gay officials in the Clinton administration.

HRC hopes the equitable treatment afforded Hochberg will extend to the President's nominee for ambassador to Luxembourg, James Hormel. After sailing through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last fall, a full Senate vote on Hormel's nomination has been unfairly stalled by several senators who have raised objections to his support for lesbian and gay equal rights.

"We look forward to the continued display of bipartisanship for James Hormel. If the few extremists blocking the nomination would allow a full Senate vote, we believe Hormel would be confirmed," said Stachelberg.

The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest national lesbian and gay political organization. Human Rights Campaign, 1101 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005, 202-628-4169, email <hrc@hrc.org>.
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