Views

Bob De Loach ........................................... 6
Club notes, calendars .................................. 40-43
Comics .................................................. 27,35,36,43
Cyberlust ................................................ 42
David Bianco ........................................... 30
Directory ................................................... 38-40
Editorial ................................................... 4
F. Kenneth Freedman .................................. 4
Fairbanksan ............................................. 28
Ken Lovering .......................................... 16
Lee Lynch ................................................. 21
Michael Thomas Ford ................................. 22
Paula Martinae ......................................... 15
Romeo San Vicente ..................................... 19
Simon LeVay ............................................. 3
Volunteer Spotlight .................................. 7

Advertisers

4As .................................................................. 24
Ah, Rose Marie B&B ................................... 30
Alta’s Bed and Breakfast ............................... 28
Anchorage Press ......................................... 20
Apollo Travel Service .................................. 6
Bela ............................................................ 31
Breast Cancer Detection ............................. 14
Capri Cinema ............................................. 31
City Mortgage ............................................ 12
ComputerLand Alaska .................................. 9
Courtney’s .................................................. 3
Damron ........................................................ 17
Design/Craft ................................................ 31
Elizabeth McNeill, PhD ............................... 26
Fotos by Frank .............................................. 22
Freedman, Ken ............................................ 4
Frigid North .................................................. 3
Gallery Bed & Breakfast .............................. 7
Gabriel Salon ............................................. 14
Hill Clinic .................................................... 28
Hoeltting, Jill .............................................. 2
Island Watch B & B ..................................... 40
Jack White Real Estate ............................... 23
Kodiak Kafe ............................................... 23
Mendel & Associates ................................... 8
Oldtime Music Co ....................................... 35
Personal Service Realty ................................ 7
Potluck ....................................................... 13
Professional Infusion ................................... 32
Puffin Family Charters ............................... 11
Rhodes, Phyllis .......................................... 40
Sauerdough Lodging ................................... 10
Short, Sylvia L ............................................. 7
Skylince B & B .......................................... 34
S.T.A.R ....................................................... 25
The Body Shop ......................................... 30
The Wave .................................................. 26
TimeFrame .................................................. 25
Unitarian Fellowship .................................. 6
Waddell & Reed ........................................... 18

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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Contributors

Cover: Photo by Kathryn M. Crawford, produced by Karen Kornacki.

Distribution
The NorthView is mailed (bulk mail) to members of Identity. Identity’s membership 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 II. 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.

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

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Editorial

Amy O'Mara

I happened to meet her at the post office. She was walking on that bitter winter's day and I intended only to offer her a ride. As can happen, we ended up talking for over an hour in the lobby of the post office. An older woman, Pauline was rich in life experience: adventurer, traveler, keeper of her own history.

“Quvishivik,” she eventually came to explain, had long guided her. “It means,” she said, “Make the best possible use of the present moment. And Amy,” she continued, “Remember that a moment can be an instant or a lifetime.”

This comes to mind with the unnatural silence of the state's conservative right. Following the initial smattering of media attention and Lehmanisms aimed at the justification of Ballot Measure Number 2, they have been largely silent. I suspect that, as polling day draws near, we will suffer an onslaught of vitriolic, inflammatory misrepresentations of the measure’s meaning, as well as the tired distortions and so-called representations of the gay and lesbian community. Ought to be a truly ghoulisih Halloween, with the best among us demonized.

In the short-term, misinformation is a very effective siege engine. As a political tactic, the conservatives are certain to employ the method. Deception, inaccuracy and distortion have historically been comfortable table mates and bed-fellows of those opposed to civil rights. My own experience indicates that the populace is largely unaware of Ballot Measure 2. This is an advantage the conservatives surely hope to capitalize on. Though time is short, the advantage can be diminished.

Our secrecy can well become the whore and lackey of the Right. Our efforts at truth-telling, at standing up to intolerance and claiming our lives without shame will make an appreciable, necessary difference in the anticipated flood of distortions.

Quvishivik.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

A friend who lives in Lincoln County, Oregon is kind enough to pass along your newspaper, and I enjoy the articles very much. It is one of the best that I have read in the country because of the interest level of the content. I do wish, however to express a concern.

The information from PFLAGpole (“A Click Away To Buying Books”) in the June 1998 issue describes the way that PFLAG members may purchase books exclusively at Barnes & Noble “at considerably lower prices.” Although I believe in saving money, I find this approach to be extremely short-sighted. Many people think that the superstores are the best places to shop because of the great variety when, in fact, the stores’ purchasing – and returns – policies are gradually destroying the diversity of books being published.

Without the courageous actions of small presses and independent bookstores that have published and sold books not available in mainstream bookstores, many of these gay and lesbian books – now sold at superstores – would not exist. I use the word courageous because many times these endeavors are financed by the owners at little or no return, owners who have had to suffer from vandalism, loss of sales, and other problems because they publish or sell these books. Obviously, these people do not wish to be martyrs, yet they do not deserve to be ignored now that gay and lesbian books have become more acceptable in the mainstream book world.

If superstores do not sell books within a very short time, they return the books, often in damaged condition, to small presses that cannot afford to “eat” these costs. In addition, major publishers such as HarperCollins are thinking their publishing decision based on superstore sales, resulting in the requirements for “safe” books. Superstores are also given advantages in purchasing books from main-stream publishers, both in the costs and arrival of books in the store. These actions limit the content of books published as small presses are forced out of business.

Gay, Lesbian, and feminist bookstores have actively supported PFLAG, providing information to members and creating spaces where the gay and lesbian community can feel comfortable. The search engine made available by PFLAG eliminates any information about other sources for purchasing books. Independent stores struggling to exist in the presence of a large, wealthy corporation will also be forced out of business without support from our community.

I hope that PFLAG members will understand the value of supporting publishers and bookstores that wish to promote a diversity of materials for the gay and lesbian community instead of a corporation that bases all its decisions on revenues to be accrued. Thus I would encourage PFLAG members to recognize the destructive nature of this program to small presses and bookstores and to provide support for those institutions that have provided the wealth of information for gays and lesbians in today’s world.

Sincerely,

Nel Ward
Green Gables Bookstore
Newport OR
Winning the debate

by Talmadge Bailey

Winning the Debate is a series written to help people counter disinformation from the right-wing. Previously published in the SEAGLA newsletter Perspective, we are joining with No. 19. For those interested in past articles, you can check them out online. Just follow the links through SEAGLA’s website for “newsletter” and then “selected articles.”

The series began as a response to misconceptions purposely cultivated by anti-gay forces. It is now a collection of ideas to get people thinking so that they might be better prepared when faced with anti-gay rhetoric. If you've heard anti-gay propaganda and would like to see Tal's ideas for neutralizing it, just ask!
<talmdge@alaska.net>.

*****

Is homosexuality a choice? In the past I have always made the case that homosexuality is not a choice. However, I have recently found reason to believe that homosexuality is a choice — for some people. Read on to see what has changed my mind.

There are several pieces of evidence to examine. One key item to consider is the people saying homosexuality is a choice. After considering the other evidence, I'm sure you'll regard many of those people in a new light! Some other items to consider are recent studies regarding human sexuality. You may have read about a study in which men identified as “homophobic” were shown homoerotic material. The homoerotic material was also shown to a control group of ordinary heterosexual men. Both groups were monitored for sexual arousal while being shown the material. The interesting thing was that the “homophobic” group was aroused by homoerotic material while the control group was not. The results were perplexing to some, so the study is being repeated to seek an explanation. Meanwhile many gay men found great entertainment value in this paradoxical finding.

In another recent study, men and women were questioned regarding their stated preferences and practices. Both men and women were then assigned a category based on the label they chose, but on what they had been doing sexually. This was the study that determined that there were political lesbians, but no gay male equivalent. This was interesting in itself being as nature seems to prefer symmetry in such things. Another interesting finding was that, when graphed, the women's results were “U” shaped. There were a lot of 99% heterosexual women, a lot of 99% lesbian women, a significant number of women striven in a continuum between the two ends of the scale. The result for men's sexuality was very different. The resulting graph for men was two vertical lines. Almost all men were exclusively gay or exclusively straight. Where were the bisexual men?

That brings us to some final evidence to consider. That evidence is social attitudes toward people of “minority” sexuality. Bisexual men are actually revered by many people. Lesbians seem to find a fair degree of acceptance. Gay men find more limited acceptance. However, bisexual men are almost uniformly condemned by everyone. Heterosexual men typically regard bisexual men just as they do gay men — not to be trusted in the locker room and frequently seen as second class citizens. At least gay men can hang out with heterosexual women. Unfortunately, the bisexual man is suspect whenever he seeks a simple friendship with a heterosexual woman. The bisexual man is seen by women as a person who can't be trusted not to seek sex, and can’t be trusted to remain faithful to women in general — much less any one woman. He will not be embraced by most gay men for exactly the same reasons! All this adds up to a tremendous cultural bias forcing “latent bisexuals” towards the ends of the scale.

Is there a connection between all these pieces of evidence? I think there is. That connection is the heterosexual males who insist homosexuality is a choice. I think they may represent the men that nature would have placed between the two extremes of 99% homosexual and 99% heterosexual. As cultural biases pressured them, they felt forced to make a choice between sex with women and sex with men. Is their anger over being coerced to make a choice the driving force behind male homophobia, and is this why some can say with such confidence that homosexuality is a choice.

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Pride Foundation grants $70,000 to lesbian and gay projects

The Pride Foundation is pleased to announce grants totaling $70,000 to 17 Northwest community organizations in its Summer 1998 granting cycle. The organizations funded benefit gay men, lesbians, and allied communities in a wide range of areas including youth and family services, AIDS education and support, the arts and recreation, outreach and advocacy, women’s health, and other community services. A record 95 proposals were submitted by nonprofit organizations requesting over $415,000 in support for our summer 1998 cycle.

“We are overwhelmed by the projects and innovation that we have seen this summer. Our community can be proud of the way we continue to find new ways to address the issues we face, especially involving families and youth. There are still many worthy projects that we can’t fund, and we are working hard to raise funds so we can continue to increase the number of grants we award each cycle,” commented Karen Bosley, Pride Board Member and Grant Review Chair.

Grants support a wide variety of projects including PFLAG’s “OK” ad campaign which features a lesbian or gay youth along with a parent or grandparent, Brother to Brother in Portland for their support program for African American gay and bisexual men to address health concerns and other related issues, Washington State Historical Museum’s “Do Ask, Do Tell, Outing Pacific Northwest History” symposium, and Advocates for Abused and Battered lesbians for their groundbreaking work to support youth who have experiences same-sex violence.

“We are pleased to support the innovative work of these organizations,” commented Ted Lord, Pride’s Executive Director. “By supporting the Pride Foundation, over 2,500 donors and 250 volunteers are investing in creative solutions to our community’s issues.”

The Alaska Native Health Board, based in Anchorage, was awarded $5,000 for activities which will increase awareness of sexuality and gender issues in the Native two-spirit community. The activities include bringing a speaker for National Coming Out Day and providing scholarships to relevant conferences.

The Pride Foundation is the only community foundation specifically targeting the needs of the lesbian and gay community in rural and urban areas of the Northwest. Please call (206) 323-3318 for a copy of our newsletter, With Pride, or to request a grant application.
Out of My Mind

by F. Kenneth Freedman

As the “No on 2” campaign heats up, there’s likely to be a lot of rhetoric flying around, both negative and positive. Feelings will run high, whether or not you’re directly involved in the politics. How can you ignore it when a coworker waxes eloquent about how gay and lesbian relationships are not as real and deep and abiding as hetero ones? Even if you are in the closet, you will likely react in some way, and more likely than not it’ll be a combination of hurt and anger, perhaps some shame, and a little pity that the prejudicial comments are so benighted.

One way to look at it is through the lens of fear around homo-orientation and, in particular, homoeroticism. Things sexual seem to be a bête noire to many folks and when faced with a person who expresses themselves differently sexually, their own issues around sex and sexuality can be (how shall I say?) aroused. Of course, it is a misplaced focus. Everyone is sexual. That’s what, in my opinion, makes us like our hetero neighbors. What makes us different is the rest of ourselves, our feelings, our spirituality, our ways of knowing, our ways of viewing the world.

The Kinsey Reports published in the late 1940s and early 1950s provide a good insight on sex as a continuum rather than a diametric opposition. After interviewing over 18,000 men and women, one revealing statistic showed up: nearly 37% of the males interviewed, had had sexual contact with another male, in their adult life, to the point of orgasm. We are told, however, that only 10% of the population in America identifies as gay or lesbian. That means that there’s a lot of sex going on out there, and that same-sex contact isn’t limited to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or intersexual populations. That leads me to believe that we do, indeed, have sex in common with our straight counterparts: the difference is, as I’ve said before, everything else.

So, the polarization (them v. us) must have a purpose. Why else create paper tigers? My belief is that the polarization makes it easier to answer and dismiss the tough questions without too much soul-searching. In other words, if the issue can be reduced to a them-against-us, or moral-versus-immoral premise, no soul-searching need happen. The TV sitcom approach will work, meaning, the dilemma can be reduced to a few sound-bites, simplified so as to obscure the subtlety of the questions, and judged as easily as Hollywood generally manages to present life in most TV and films.

The hard part is what I call holding the tension. The big life questions frequently want more time to percolate than a sound-bite-type conversation or TV show. And that’s the hard part. We’re generally not trained to hold that tension as life goes on: there’s a general belief that problems need to be resolved, usually by men, and it’s just a matter of gathering facts and drawing conclusions. We’re rarely trained to deal with life in an atmosphere of shared power, which purposefully includes people of all races, genders, and orientations — and opinions! The trick is to continue the process, another feature of life and maturity that can cause confusion. Process means ongoing dialogue, soul-searching, sharing, going back and forth, staying in the loop, and not demanding anyone else change their position just because it’s convenient or because the conversation is getting frustrating or draining or because it’s time to end the meeting on a unified note.

I believe we as gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people, and intersexuals have a gift which we can share with our fellow humans on this journey. That is the gift of insight. We do have “other ways of knowing,” meaning perspective that has its provenance in our very souls. Harry Hay saw a significant difference in the ways in which gays and non-gays viewed the world — a difference in consciousness, which extended far beyond sexuality. He believed that homo-oriented people possessed a special spiritual quality which, if fully realized, could be channeled for the betterment of humanity.

To me “No on 2” also means No to Fear of differences; No to Demonizing any person because of diversity; and No to Rendering what is complex into a black-and-white sound bite. And Yes to Process, long and sometimes tortuous, but ultimately rewarding, enriching, and healing.

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

F. Ken Freedman is a counselor with a private practice in Anchorage, is a former co-Editor of the NorthView, and a gay activist. © 1998

F. Kenneth Freedman.

Every time I say a kind word about gays I hear from people, and some are damn mad. People throw Leviticus, Deuteronomy and other parts of the Bible at me. But it doesn’t bother me. I’ve always been compassionate toward gay people. People are shocked by some of the things I discuss in my column, but that’s their ignorance. You can’t help that.”

— Dear Abby columnist Abigail Van Buren, 80, to People magazine, July 13.
Where do we stand in the war against AIDS? A series of articles in *Science* (19 June 1998), written by leading researchers and policymakers, offer a dramatic overview of the progress that has been made, and of the immense challenges that still face us. Here are some highlights.

**Treatment.** David Ho of Rockefeller University, a pioneer in the development of combination therapy (and *Time* magazine’s 1996 Man of the Year), discusses the prospects for fully eradicating the virus from the body of an HIV-positive person. Although combination therapy often reduces the amount of virus in the blood to undetectable levels, stopping treatment (even after 2 years) allows virus to reappear. This is because several kinds of cells in the body harbor HIV in an inactive form, in which it is unaffected by anti-HIV drugs. The longest-lived of these cells are the so-called “memory CD4 cells” — T lymphocytes that have integrated the virus into their DNA but that have then gone into a state of dormancy. Ho estimates that these cells will continue to harbor HIV for at least seven years and possibly for more than ten years.

Ho also suggests, however, that it may be possible to flush out these memory cells by “activating” them, i.e. by causing them to start producing new virus. Once the memory cells go down this pathway, they have only a short lifetime. Promoting a surge of virus production might not seem like a wise course of action, but as long as the person is being successfully treated with combination therapy it should not cause harm. How to perform the activation? Ho proposes using a variety of known T cell activators, at least one of which is a clinically available drug. These substances would need to be modified, however, to increase their effectiveness and to reduce their toxicity. If this technique should work, we might finally dare to speak of a “cure.”

**Vaccines.** The search for an AIDS vaccine has been going on for over ten years. What seemed to be dramatic breakthroughs have been followed by equally dramatic let-downs. Just last year, for example, there was a lot of hope for vaccines made of “attenuated” viruses — live HIV particles that have been rendered harmless by removal of part of one of their genes. A group of doctors even volunteered themselves to be the first to receive the vaccines. Now they’re probably glad that their offer was turned down, because many of the monkeys that received attenuated-virus vaccines have fallen sick or died. It turns out that the weakened virus was able to repair its damaged gene and to regain full virulence.

Although there are many avenues left to explore, Harold Varshes (director of NIH) and Neal Nathanson (director-designate of the Office of AIDS Research) conclude that “a vaccine that fully prevents the establishment of HIV infection is a daunting and perhaps an impossible goal.” Accordingly, researchers have lowered their sights and are working on vaccines that are likely to be only partially effective. One such vaccine consists of the proteins of the virus’s outer envelope, produced by recombinant DNA technology. The vaccine has the advantage of being safe, but the human tests done so far suggest that it may not confer any protection. Nevertheless, a vaccine of this kind is now being tested on several thousand people in the U.S. and Thailand. Anyone who receives this vaccine should be aware that they will probably remain fully susceptible to infection and to developing AIDS.

**Prevention.** Considering that nearly 6 million people worldwide were newly infected with HIV in 1997, prevention programs could be considered an abysmal failure. Still, there have been some striking small-scale successes. In Thailand, for example, educational efforts have led to increased condom use, less extramarital sex, and less sex with prostitutes. As a result, the rate of HIV infection has dropped by 50 percent among young men (to 1.9 percent) and by 30 percent among pregnant women (to 1.7 percent). Condom use has also increased markedly in some parts of Africa. In Congo, for example, a media campaign led to a twenty-fold increase in condom sales in just three years. In San Francisco, the fraction of gay men who practiced unprotected anal sex dropped from 65 percent to 18 percent during the years 1985 to 1988, but a much-publicized reversal of this trend among younger gay men threatens to start a new wave of disease.

According to Peter Piot, executive director of the United Nations’ AIDS program, it is both a moral imperative and in our own self-interest to join the battle against AIDS in the developing world, for if the virus is allowed to spread unchecked, economic collapse is likely to follow. “The biggest disappointment is the lack of political commitment in many countries, both rich and poor,” says Piot. “The price of not acting is going to cost us millions in human lives but also billions in dollars.”

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well known for his research on the “gay brain.” He is author or co-author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends*, *Queer Science* (all MIT Press), the novel *Albrick’s Gold* (Richard Kasak Books), and *The Earth in Turmoil* (W.H. Freeman, 1998). He may be reached at <SLeVay@aol.com>.
Where in the World?

Do you know the way to San Jose?

With any luck, by the time you read this I will be in San Jose with my ever-loving of 26 years. San Jose, Costa Rica, that is. Hope to bring the latest from the great Central American destination. We’re on a gay trip, so who knows what we might find.

New Orleans party schedule

The next event for this far out southern queen is “Southern Decadence” which runs from September 3 to 6. Two-night packages for land start at $159. Next it is one of the grandest Halloween parties, October 30 to November 1 with a continuous costume party starting at $199 per person. The granddaddy of all blowouts, Mardi Gras, next year will run from February 12 to 17. Four nights hotel, day cruise, city tour and more runs $399 pp. And the “Jazz Fest” will run April 30 to May 3 starting at $175 pp.

Fly the friendly skies

United Airlines and Above and Beyond Tours are pushing their “United with Pride” program. It is another example of a mainline carrier who recognizes the gay dollar. From April 16 to August 21 they offer a fare of $1198 to Sydney, Australia, including 5 nights at the Southern Cross Hotel, welcome cocktail, Sydney harbor cruise, gay welcome info, taxes and service charges. The air is included from Los Angeles or San Francisco. To Europe they offer a $903 fare from Seattle to London, 3 nights hotel, daily breakfast, and 3 day transport pass. This plan is offered through October 31, 1998. Also through October 31, 1998 the carrier offers round trip Seattle to San Jose, Costa Rica, first and last nights hotel in San Jose, 3 nights in Manuel Antonio, air in country, airport transfers and taxes for $999 per person double.

Above and Beyond Tours

The president of this very well established gay firm has announced their new season. Don’t forget the Sydney “Sleaze Ball” September 30 to October 5, 1998. The Australian package includes air from San Francisco or Los Angeles, your hotel, daily buffet breakfast, and tickets to all the events, starting at $1895 per person double. Their escorted tour to gay friendly Costa Rica is November 3 to 12 and includes all meals, accommodations, transfers, air from Seattle and a naturalist guide for the duration. The price is only $1900 per person double. Then it’s “Thanksgiving in Fiji,” November 19 to 28; “Thanksgiving in Amsterdam,” November 25 to 29; “Christmas Down Under,” December 20 to January 2,1999; “New Years in Paris,” December 29 to January 4; and all followed by the grandest blowout of them all – “Mardi Gras in Sydney,” February 24 to March 1, 1999. There are all kinds of add-ons for this grandest of gay celebrations. Why not plan to be included in this not to be missed celebration on all that is gay. Join 22,000 of your brothers and sisters all at one grand blowout event on the last day. Prices start at just over $2000 for air hotel and all of the events.

Pass the sunblock, dear.

Windjammer Barefoot Gay Cruises sold out their September 5 to 12 cruise, so they have added another week. Join 72 passengers and 31 crew on board this 236’ tall ship September 12 to 19 and cruise to Margarita and Grenada. Rates starting at $850 per person includes all meals, free run swircles, and unlimited wine with dinner, as well as fabulous entertainment. Why not get away on this romantic adventure with your special someone?

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

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

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3201 Turnagain Street: 248-3737
Volunteer Spotlight

Talmadge Bailey

Alabama claims his place of birth, but after so many moves, you won’t find any southern accent left in his voice... only a force to be reckoned with. Our Volunteer of the Month is Talmadge Bailey, a recent arrival to Anchorage. He was transferred here by Uncle Sam as a civil employee after spending the past four years down in Juneau.

Tal, as he likes to be called, is not a newcomer to our state... he spent four years here attending high school back in 1977-81. Then the Navy called for his services, which lasted some eleven years.

While down in Juneau, he was heavily involved with the Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association (SEAGLA) and was an active worker for them. Since arriving in Anchorage, he’s become involved with Identity and has helped many of our members with computer problems they might have, including designing web pages for the Anchorage Garden Buddies. Tal was instrumental in getting Identity’s webpage up and running, while still in Juneau.

He says his hobbies are nil, but his first love is the computer... and especially slinging mud at the Republicans. He urges all of you to get out and vote, work to defeat Ballot Initiative 2, and be sure to vote for a gay-friendly legislature! Tal says he’s single now, but sort of engaged too... figure that one out!

If many of our [gay] spokespersons are to be believed, equality with straight America is best won by demonstrating that we can be monogamous spouses, tidy neighbors and loyal soldiers. ... True gay liberation is not about gay people conforming, but rather about the whole world transforming.  
ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Civil Liberties Union and the national ACLU’s Gay/Lesbian Rights Project today filed a lawsuit against the state seeking to strike from the November ballot a proposed constitutional “amendment” prohibiting state recognition of same-sex marriages.

The lawsuit was filed in Superior Court against Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer, Director of the Division of Elections Sandra Stout, and the State of Alaska, on behalf of Liz Dodd, Auke Bay; Vic Fischer, Anchorage; Katie Hurley, Wasilla; Ernest Line, Wasilla; and George and Jean Rogers, Juneau. Plaintiffs are all longtime Alaskans who are registered voters planning to vote in November. Hurley and Fischer served as members of the Constitutional Convention. Plaintiffs wish to preserve the amendment and revision processes set forth in Article XIII of the Alaska Constitution.

In May, the Alaska legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution 42, amending the state constitution to prohibit same-sex marriages. Earlier this month, Lieutenant Governor Ulmer certified the measure as Ballot Measure 2 on the November ballot.

Jennifer Rudinger, Executive Director of the AkCLU, said Measure 2 represents a “sharp break” from Alaska’s long-standing traditions of equality and privacy for all.

“Our whole system of government in Alaska, as set forth in the Alaska Constitution, is based on the fundamental notion that all people are entitled to equal protection under our laws. Measure 2 so radically alters this underlying principle of equality that it amounts to a revision of the Alaska Constitution and not an amendment at all,” she said.

“If the legislature wishes to revise the constitution, Article XIII says they have to call a constitutional convention,” explained Rudinger. “Instead, Measure 2 is a wolf in sheep’s clothing — a revision of our entire philosophy of governance disguised as a constitutional amendment.”

Attorneys in the case are Allison Mendel of Mendel & Associates in Anchorage, as Cooperating Attorney for the Alaska Civil Liberties Union, Beth Stevens of Sullivan & Cromwell in Los Angeles, as a Cooperating Attorney for the ACLU, and Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU’s Gay/Lesbian Rights Project in New York.

Contact Jennifer Rudinger, Executive Director, AkCLU, (907) 258-0044.

Women’s Coffeehouse begins new season

by Lisa Jamieson

The Women’s Coffeehouse will have its season opening September 12 from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm at the Qupqugiaq Cafe. Mark your calendars for the second Saturday of each month because that is when the new Coffeehouse organizer, Barbara Wish (telephone 258-0499) will be hosting this womanly event. It will be a roaming Women's Coffeehouse, to be held at various locations around town (like the Q-cafe or Firehouse cafe, etc.).

We need performers!! If you have a talent you would like to share — song, prose, music, art, etc., please call. We need performers. New performers encouraged to perform. Did we mention we need performers? Please call us if you are interested in performing. New ideas always welcome. Call the Coffeehouse goddess at 258-0499 or email her charmin’ co-hort at <asvls@cwolf.alaska.edu>.
Memories

A “short” herstory

by Carol VanDyke

A couple of weeks back Lisa called and asked if I'd be willing to be interviewed by a Klondyke Kontakt staffer. No, no, I quickly replied (thinking it would be about my recent operations). Wait, she said... you've been in Alaska for such a long time we thought you might have some words to say about the changes you've seen in our community throughout the years. Hmmm. Since I have been here a long, long time, my memory sometimes fails me, so as far as changes in the community are concerned, I don't have a lot of input except to say we seem to be growing smaller in number. But I do have a lot of memories connected to Alaska and me personally. This may be a bit disjointed and not in any chronological order.

We (and I will be using “we” a lot because for a big portion of my time here was as a “we”) arrived in Anchorage on September 17, 1977... thinking we'd probably be here for a couple of years. And here it is almost 21 years later, and I am still here! But soon I will be leaving this place I've come to love and to call home...

My partner was transferred by the U.S. Government and was met by... you got it... a lesbian. Wow, we said, we're everywhere! This gal introduced us to our first group of gay friends up here - a most delightful group of 12 men and women - mostly very closeted. That first winter here was interacting with them and getting to know Anchorage. A few of them remain very close to me and my heart to this day.

Summer came, and we went looking for the ballparks to find the ball teams... and more lesbians. There was no fast pitch! Coming from the Midwest where fast pitch was queen, this was a big disappointment to us... but not for long. There was quite a range and caliber of ball playing going on in this town - several really hotshot slow pitch ball players on down to the “let's just have fun” teams (more our type of actual playing). We had a great time watching the games (!) and meeting more new women. In fact, one of the characters we met that summer was Andy. Andy was a very neat dog, and we met Andy's mom, and for the entire summer we never knew her as anything but Andy's mom (yes we finally did find out her name, but called her Andy's mom anyway). We met some neat women, and a few of them became long-standing good friends.

Somewhere in here we also started searching for a lesbian bookstore, and found it. “Ships, Shoes, and Sealing Wax,” housed in the basement of some fine women - Lynn, Marion, and Ruth! This expanding bookstore grew and moved and grew and moved. At one point we even had a “share” in it - back when they were selling shares to keep it alive - I think this was when Lucy and Karen had it and called it the Alaska Women's Book Store. It finally ended up, as you all know, as Joann and Mariah’s “Bona Dea.” And now they are gone! What a loss to this community. But kudos to all of those who kept it alive for so many years!

It was our good fortune that second winter to meet two of the greatest gentle men - Dan and Al (also honorary lesbians since they are two of the biggest supporters of the lesbian sector) - who have remained a part of my extended family all of these years. It was also at this time that we expanded our “horizon” a bit more, and joined our first “club” - The Mt. McKinley Non-Ascent Club. With a name like that, how could we miss! Being quasi jockettes, that is. Even thinking of climbing a mountain was out of our realm of thinking. Their meetings were at the Jade Room - and how many of you remember that oldie! That group had many crazy events, and we had some fun times... especially the year of the big scavenger hunt - in cars - four or five-member teams. Our team had five, and fortunately for us neither one of us was driving or we would not have come in second place. And speaking of mountain climbing - we finally really did climb Flat Top, and let me tell you I felt as if I was on top of Mt. McKinley! What a neat experience - especially for this non-jock. We did enjoy many years of camping out though... first in a tent... then we bought that old clunker that looked like something the Army tossed out. Vanessa, we called her, because she was after all a female van.

What great times we had with her!

We eventually met more and more sweet women and several men throughout Anchorage and found out what a fairly large gay community Anchorage had. Several of my close, extended family friends have left Anchorage in the past six or seven years, leaving an empty spot in my heart. But several old friends have remained and some new ones have joined in - along with some good poker-playing buddies (who never let me win). My life is full, and I am extremely blessed!

Throughout the years we became involved in several different groups and/or organizations - usually in the background. We were “gopher” types and did lots of folding, stapling, and stuffing. Neither one of us being particularly politically correct (I never did find out what that actually meant) nor politically active, we probably failed some of our sisters and brothers in that arena, but we were always supportive of “the cause” and helped when and where we could.

I know you must realize how fortunate we are here in Alaska's gay community to have so many varied groups with the men and women working together for their different passions - Equal, the Imperial Court, Identity, (continued on page 10)
Memories (continued...)

4-A's, the Family, PFLAG, Mt. McKinley Non-Ascent Club, RAW, the KK, NorthView – to mention a few. And the women and men who stand up and speak up and out for our rights – for all of us. Makes me proud to be a part (even in a small way) of this community.

About a year after inception, we were invited to join a group of women called OPAL, and we stayed active in that group for a long time – even becoming board members and working on the newsletter (and eventually doing the newsletter). I ended up doing the newsletter myself for several years after my partner was out of my picture frame. I relinquished the position of being “Opalina” a couple of years back, weaning myself in preparation for leaving Alaska. It was like cutting off my right arm. In its earlier years OPAL was thought by some to be a very elitist group. I never felt that, and I’m sorry that some did. Hopefully over the years, that image changed. OPAL was a place where a closeted (for whatever her reason was) lesbian could come and be fairly assured that she was in a safe place and yet could meet other lesbians and enjoy some social activities. Even though we were not closeted and were pretty much out in the open, OPAL became an important group for me and will always hold a special spot in my heart. Over the years through OPAL I met many more fine women, adding more friends and acquaintances to my circle and spiral.

And speaking of my partner being out of the picture – when that happened early in 1991, I was overcome by how many of you called me or stopped me on the street and told me how sad and sorry you were – that it was like we had been “a model, long-term couple” in this community, and yet we had fallen — and it stunned the community. Well, it stunned me too – big time. We thought (I’m sure as many couples do) that our relationship would be a forever one. I guess in modern-day terminology it was quite a long “forever” – almost 21 years of some truly loving, laughing, sharing, wondrous times. Even though deeply hurt and saddened by this partnership ending, I don’t regret a day of our years together.

“You’re in the World” – what exciting years those were. Carol Annie opened her mouth and sang from her heart – brought tears to these eyes! I thought, mmmmm, she could sing to me all night long! Libby Roderick! A short story here, but one that will always be with me. Several years back we attended an auction for some fundraising event, and Libby had offered up a half-hour tape. I was a bidding fool. Not much money in my pocket, but my hand kept going up and up – Jill just looking at me like I was losing my mind. At $145 I stopped, and Lucy Freye won the bid for $150 and the private taping. And as only Lucy could do, she stands up, turns and looks at me and says to the auctioneer, Libby, and the audience, “I think it only fair that someone who could bid me up that high ought to also pay up if Libby is willing to make two tapes.” What could I say? I now have my own private tape from Libby... and I will cherish it always! And then their was Tess, Charlie and Lori. The first time I heard them sing, I thought mmmmm, they could sing to me all night long. And then... and then... and then... along came HOT AIR! Whoa! Pulled out all the stoppers. What a group! What talent! What voices! I thought I’d died and gone to heaven, and yes, they could sing to me – not just all night but all day too! How I miss them. A lot of talent in this town, and not just in the entertainment field!

And what talent we didn’t have here, Breakeven Productions brought to Anchorage. For us, it was an eye opener to have live lesbian performers right here in our very own town! Sometimes right in our (not literally, but a friend’s) living room! Many thanks to Linda and all of her hard-working efforts to bring up some mighty fine entertaining folk!

You’d think – coming from Michigan – that I’d been to a women’s music festival before – well I hadn’t. The famous – or infamous depending on your viewpoint - Michigan Women’s Festival had begun just the year before we came to Alaska, and we never seemed to get back to Michigan at the appropriate time. So my first trek up to Fairbanks to attend the music festival there was quite exciting and fun for me. I loved it! Haven’t been to all of them, but did make it to several.

During my years in Alaska I was privileged to take part in three major events that did not take place here but have become special events in my life. The Quilt. The unfolding of the entire Quilt in DC Since it had already touched our lives personally, it was even more heartwrenching and yet heart-filling to be a part of the Alaska group and the unfolding of “our” quilts in memory of our men and women who had died.

Olivia Cruise. The first Olivia cruise for lesbians, second ship, but nonetheless part of Olivia’s maiden voyage. We, along with several other Anchorage friends flew to Florida where we were joined by two of our Floridian sisters – and cruising we went. Our first cruise – a ship full of lesbians, and what a grand time we had!

The March on Washington in April of 1993. Several of my friends here were going and urged me to join them. I did. Another unforgettable experience! Thousands of us! Utterly awesome! And imagine my surprise upon returning home to learn that a short interview I’d had in DC got...
published on the front page of the Lifestyles section of the Anchorage Daily News. "...Carol VanDyke ... the 60-year-old Anchorage legal technician is also a lesbian ... and for all of last weekend, she became a gay rights activist as she joined about 130 Alaskans who traveled to Washington DC for the largest gay rights rally in the nation's history...." My one and only claim to fame!

This past year has not turned out how I planned on living my last eight months in Alaska. Coming through two major surgeries to remove cancerous tumors on the spine and the slow recuperative period that is still ongoing has definitely altered my lifestyle — but not my outlook on life. I’ve always enjoyed life and each and every day of it. But this experience has really driven it home how precious life truly is and possibly how short it could become! I am extremely thankful to be alive and walking and with a promising prognosis.

I cannot tell you in words how much the support of this community (and that includes many of you) on my behalf has meant to me — the outpouring of your caring through cards, prayers, well wishes, financial support, phone calls, volunteers to take me here and there while I could not drive — all of these things — all for me — was almost more than this heart could handle. A lot of these things were done from my own circle of friends and OPAL’s efforts, but many came from that outer spiral of friends and acquaintances that many of us seem to gather around us. Throughout my lifetime I’ve always been on the giving end, not the receiving end. It is a very humbling and different place to be, and it was a place extremely hard for me to accept. But I do so from the depths of my heart with my deepest gratitude and thanks.

My official working career ended July 31, and I will be leaving Alaska on August 31. I have already shed so many tears just at the thought of leaving this beautiful state, my town, my friends, my community, my co-workers, I sometimes wonder why I’m leaving. Mostly because I have a mother, my 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren down there in the Lower 48, and none of us have money to travel much, and I want to be able to see them more often. And secondly, I don’t want to live in a “winter” state any more — I’ve been in one since I was six years old, and I don’t want to shovel snow or scrape ice ever again. This reminds me of a funny-to-me story. A couple of years back during a conversation about leaving Alaska while talking with my mother (who lives in Texas and who was, and is, anxious for me to be closer to her), I said, but mother, what if I fall in love with a sweet woman here in Alaska and end up staying here the rest of my life. Dead silence. “Put your blinders on,” she finally said in her infinite wisdom. And I always listen to my mother.

Where am I going? Ashland, Oregon — if all goes as planned. At least I’ve shipped 63 boxes there — guess I’d better follow. Why Ashland? Part of that extended family who did leave Alaska (Ann and Nancy, Dot and Stace) have moved there and love it. I visited twice and fell in love with that little artsy-fartsy town; it has a movie house, and it does have mountains (well, foothills maybe), and it could be a perfect place to start the next chapter of my life.

So, I will leave, but it will be with very mixed emotions — but with oh so many wondrous memories of my almost 21 years here — almost a third of my life. Many of us have crossed paths at one time or another — some of us have become closely associated in one way or another and some of us only casually so, and some of us just give each other a hug, a hello, or a smile when we see each other. But all of you — all of you... have touched my life, made it brighter, and I’m thankful. I will miss you all. Thanks for the memories!!!

Until I see you again, save me a dance and/or a hug!

P.S. For those of you who remember me, come join me for farewell hugs (and maybe a piece of chocolate) from 7 pm to 9 pm on Thursday, August 27, at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church (also home of MCC), 2311 Pembroke Street. Turn east at Boniface and 24th; go one very, very short block and turn north, leading right into their parking lot.

Let us learn, then, that energy of faith which enables us to live constantly in the vision of the good, and let us descend, in action, into the world of fact, with that vision always before us.

— Bertrand Russell

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Planting spring flowering bulbs in Alaska

It's still summer and it's already time to think spring! August is the time to plant your spring flowering bulbs, including tulips and daffodils.

To grow these bulbs in Alaska requires different timing and different planting depths than what is traditional. Elsewhere bulbs are planted in September and October, but here the earlier in August, the better. They may be hard to find this early. In the far north we need to plant bulbs early because they must completely develop their root systems before the ground freezes. In south central Alaska freeze up occurs early, the end of September or the first of October. Without a fully developed root system, the plants will go into their blooming season without an adequate supply of moisture and nutrients and may not produce the flowers that are expected. Bulbs, unlike most other flowering plants, produce their bloom first then grow their green tops to manage and store the food necessary for their fall roots and the following season's flowers.

The second big difference is the planting depth. The recommended planting depth on the package will be 3 to 4 inches. In Alaska, plant bulbs 6 to 8 inches deep, to delay flowering, causing spring flowers to bloom in summer. This also will protect the roots from the heaving of soil caused by the freezing and thawing that occurs near the surface. When the bulbs are planted too shallow, the root crown may break off the fleshy stem as the ground moves. When this happens the bulb does not regenerate roots and will rot.

Caring for bulbs is relatively easy. Choose a well drained soil; bulbs tend to rot when they are planted in high organic wet soils. Plant early in August; plant deep — 6 to 8 inches and water and fertilize as you would for any other plant then cut the foliage off just above the soil when it dies back in mid summer.

These tips will help assure success in your bulb garden.

Reggie is owner of Denali Seed Company. He can be reached at 344-0347 or 349-2339; his e-mail address is <reggie@t-one.net>.

Mardi Gras pumps $99 million into Aussie economy

This year's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras pumped $99 million (US $60 million) into Sydney's economy, according to survey data released by organizers. That makes Mardi Gras the most economically significant cultural or sporting event in Australia.

Mardi Gras President Bev Lange commented, "Given the significance of Mardi Gras' annual return to the national economy, it is time that equal rights for gay and lesbian people were delivered."

South Sydney Mayor Vic Smith said, "Not only should this silence the critics, but demonstrate what a valuable investment Mardi Gras is to Sydney."

The data was compiled by the University of New South Wales' Australian Graduate School of Management.

We turn not older with years, but newer every day.
— Emily Dickinson, Letters

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

Date: Friday, August 28
Time: 6:30 p.m. doors open/socialize; 7:00 p.m. dinner; 7:30 p.m. announcements & program
Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street
Program: Ron Swartz, Police Officer, speaks about domestic violence
Poll shows attacks against gays have repercussions for GOP

WASHINGTON — A new poll released by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and conducted by the polling firm Penn, Schoen, and Berland shows that dire political consequences await the GOP if they continue down their current path of anti-gay rhetoric and discriminatory legislation against gay Americans, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

“The vast majority of Americans are appalled by the recent anti-gay crusade waged by the Right wing. This poll shows that politicians who once thought they benefited from attacking gays may be in for a rude awakening in November. America has drawn a line in the sand that says that job discrimination and singling out one group of Americans is morally and politically unacceptable,” said HRC communications director and senior strategist David M. Smith.

Among the findings is that 75 percent of Americans believe job discrimination against gay people should be illegal. The poll also shows that there are political consequences for gay bashing with 48 percent of likely voters saying that they would be “less likely” to vote for a Congressperson who voted to overturn President Clinton’s ban barring job discrimination against gays. Only 17 percent of respondents said overturning the discrimination ban would make them “more likely” to vote for their Congressperson.

The poll also asked how the recent attacks on gay Americans by the GOP affected the respondents’ opinion of the Republican party. Forty percent said their opinion was “less favorable.” Only 18 percent said anti-gay rhetoric made their impression of the party “more favorable.”

According to the poll, Americans overwhelmingly believe the recent anti-gay rhetoric, such as Senate Majority leader Trent Lott’s comparison of gay people to kleptomaniacs, is divisive. Sixty two percent said they believe that the recent public “discussion” on the equality of gay Americans hurts the country and fosters a climate of intolerance and hostility, while just 24 percent of say it helps the country.

“Voters are perplexed by this new obsession with gay people and are wondering when Congress will realize it is time to start focusing on real issues instead of red-meat for the Far Right” Smith said.

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

When men talk about defense, they always claim to be protecting women and children, but they never ask women and children what they think.
— Pat Schroeder quoted in Ms., 1976

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Lesbian Notions

by Paula Martinac

Recently, I picked up a flyer for a new project in New York City called the “Queer Youth Cotillion,” where young people will be “brought out” into the queer community as in the debutante balls of the past. The flyer made me think about how the phrase “brought out” was originally used in the lesbian and gay community. When I was a fledgling dyke in the late ’70s, “to bring out” meant an older lesbian or gay man initiating a younger person into “the life” through consensual sex. Many of my lesbian friends came out that way as teenagers, usually with teachers or the married women they had met, and it was considered a queer tradition.

Twenty years later, our community stands at a point of profound contradiction on the issue of sexual relationships between young people and adults. Many of us are now used to young people being in sexual relationships, but many of us are still stuck in old patterns of thinking. On the one hand, we’re protective of queer youth, acknowledging their vulnerability to addiction, suicide, homelessness, and HIV. The community should rightly be proud of the energy it has expended in providing young people with safe places in which to meet each other and achieve positive self-definition.

On the other hand, too many of us still believe that sex between a queer teen and an adult is simply a beautiful expression of the younger person’s blossoming sexuality, without examining the unequal power dynamics of the relationship or the adult’s responsibility. We assume that in such cases, children, because they’re consensual, are always right and never have emotional side effects.

Intellectually, I understand why adult-teen encounters are given an approving nod in our community. Queer sexuality has for so long been vilified that any chance to express it is seen as cause for great celebration. Many of us remember all too well being 14 or 15 and wanting desperately to explore our sexuality, yet finding it impossible to do so. Even though we have to “cool around” with boys his age, one gay man, Rob Campbell, has talked movingly and bluntly about the economic realities that made him, at 14, seek out adult men for sex. “Older men,” he wrote in Out magazine last fall, “had cars and houses and money for motels.”

Campbell is aware, in a way that our community in general needs to be, of how these relationships can easily become abusive. Here are just a few current examples of how we continue to uphold the tradition of adult-teen sex without question:

1. A new book by Jane DeLynn was recently reviewed in a gay publication. The reviewer praised her earlier work, including what he labeled her “classic” lesbian love story, In Thrall, published in the 1980s. The theme? The sexual awakening of a lesbian teenager through a relationship with her high school English teacher. Nobody ever seems to complain about the inherently abusive nature of teacher-student intimacy.

2. The global lesbian and gay community applauded a move by the British Parliament in June that reduced the age of consent for homo-sex to 16, the same age as for hetero-sex. Admittedly, this was a step toward legal equality for gay Brits. But OutRage!, a London-based queer activist group, has been lobbying for an age of consent of 14 for everyone, so that teenagers can enjoy, as their statement put it, “healthy sexual relationships, without the interference of the law.” OutRage!’s advocacy focuses on sex between teens, disregarding the potential abuse by adults of such a low age of consent.

3. Lesbian writer Sarah Schulman published an op-ed piece not long ago about a gay 15-year-old who met a 40-year-old gay man online. The boy began meeting the man in person for sex, but his parents found out and stopped him. The teenager blew a fuse and murdered a younger boy. The crime, Schulman maintained, was caused by his parents’ homophobia, which stifled the teenager’s sexuality. She was unable to separate the teenager’s scenario from her own very different experience at 15 of being forbidden by her parents to see her 16-year-old girlfriend.

Before I’m branded as “sex negative,” let me say that I’m all for queer teenagers exploring their sexuality with each other. While there may be psychological power plays in teen relationships, the playing field is more equal in them than it is when a minor has sex with an adult who has greater economic means and/or authority.

If our community can understand the importance of social services for queer youth, we must also understand that “bringing someone out” is not a noble tradition. Instead, it’s deeply rooted in the patriarchal idea that those under 18 are the sexual property of adults. What resonated for me in Campbell’s essay was how he couldn’t find any queer kids in 1983, so he turned to adults. In 1998, I’d like to think that lesbian and gay adults have even more to offer queer youth than sex.

A sufficient and sure method of civilization is the influence of good women. — Emerson

Friends of the Klondyke Kontakt

The KK has a new e-mail address <klondykekontakt@hotmail.com>
"He’s kicking in walls," my brother Rich is telling me by phone long-distance. "And breaking windows. I’ve had to get three windows replaced. Took it out of his allowance."

He’s talking about his ten-year-old stepson. My nephew. (For a long time I called him my “step-nephew” until it was pointed out to me that he is still my sister-in-law’s son, and that this direct blood relation cancels out any “step” relation between him and me. But I’m still not sure.)

"You can’t tell anyone," Rich says with frustration and fear, after continuing with a lengthy and rather serious list of the boy’s transgressions that might indicate that the boy’s problem is chemical. Indeed, Rich would likely kill me if he ever found out I was writing these words — and I’m not doing so without guilt. But, what can I say, if you give me raw meat, I tend to cook it.

It’s the secrecy itself that interests me, you see. That makes me wonder what the business of secrets is. That makes me remember my secret and the self-torturous way in which I held it fast.

**********

A dozen years ago, I had not yet confessed anything about my woeful secret. Not even to myself. My friend Brian and I were both miserable, lonely, and desperate for affection. In a bar one night, he ogled women and I ogled him.

I snuck a glass of Drambuie past the bouncers and to Brian’s car. He told me I was nuts and I liked the attention.

We drove. That’s what we did when the tension in our post-adolescence seemed to strangle us. We broke free of everything that reminded us that no one would be waiting in our beds.

From my passenger seat, I tossed my empty glass out the open window. I said I had a horrible secret, I’m a terrible person. And no matter how he tried to coax it from me, I didn’t give in. I was sure our friendship would have been over if he knew.

He imagined the worst, exasperated. "Did you kill someone?" he said.

Perhaps myself, I thought. I am killing myself.

**********

Just last week, my husband Paul was talking to his mother on the phone, keeping his anger and his fear in check.

"Mom, you have to tell us these things. If you keep it to yourself just because Dad makes you, then you’re just gonna get sick, too. Before Terry died, he didn’t want me to tell anyone he was sick, so I didn’t. And it was the worst thing I could have done — for him and for myself. The more we know about Dad, the more we can help."

**********

The telling of the secret gives it life, insists that we must pay the secret heed and pull it from the depths of denial, that we look it in the face, that we look each other and ourselves square in the face. And that can be a terrifying ordeal. To acknowledge that we cannot control our child (or, worse, he cannot control himself); that our sexual preference might bring ostracism from the ones we love, the ones from whom we need love; that we have a terminal illness.

The revelation of secrets changes our lives forever. That’s what gives them their power, their potency. That’s why they are secrets.

**********

"I’m moving to Atlanta," I told my parents long after the Drambuie incident, "to be with Caroline. Only she understands me."

It was true. She’d been my high school biology teacher, then twice my age, and she was the only person in my life then who knew I was gay.

But my parents thought I wanted to be with her for entirely different reasons. Ever since she moved to Atlanta she’d had a hold on me, they said, and they weren’t sure what was going on but they didn’t like it one bit. I suspect they thought we were lovers. If only they knew the real secret, I used to think.

I wanted to hurt them with it.

Nothing I said earned their blessing for me to move to Atlanta. My secret then felt like my trump card, my way out. Surely, they’d want me to leave if I told them.

"I’m gay," I said, and the room fell silent. My mother began to cry. My father shifted into denial. And I went to Atlanta.

**********

My brother has five sons now, three stepsons and two of his own. It occurs to me during our phone conversation
that I once kicked in a door, probably when I was his stepson’s age. It occurs to me that his three stepsons have lacked a continuous emotional presence in the form of a father.

Not to be crass, but I have my money on the wall-kicker. But no matter what reveals itself over time, this is only the beginning for him and for my brother. And of course, I’ll support them in whatever way I can. But, dammit, why must pride and stubbornness and fear undermine honesty and our natural inclination to simply ask for help?

“You can’t tell anyone,” my brother says. By keeping this “family crisis” inside the family, it becomes more of a crisis. The sense of urgency and desperation festers until something gives, something snaps — and everyone wonders what in the hell just happened.

The night we were all lesbians

In an excellent July 10 review, Anthony Tommasini, a music critic with The New York Times, gave an informed, balanced job of assessing the world premiere of Patience and Sarah. The new chamber opera is based on Isabel Miller’s classic novel of the same name, which in turn was based on an actual early 19th Century relationship between two women from Puritan families.

Composer Paula M. Kimper and librettist Wende Persons “believe that the opera is the first to portray an openly romantic relationship between two self-affirming women. They may be right,” Tommasini says. Yet he is perceptive enough to realize that “the female voice is the glory of opera,” so that even though other plots ostensibly are about women’s relationships to men, “the soaring duets for the women reveal the subtext of the story – that theirs is the real loving relationship.”

Tommasini does not shy from detailed yet even-toned technical criticism of the work – but does not let that stop him from appreciating, even celebrating, the deep impact it had on the mostly female audience. “The final scene, though apparently based on fact, was an unabashed exercise in affirmation,” he wrote. “The audience stood, cheered and screamed its approval. Some cried. The creators, hand in hand, were greeted by a frenzied ovation. A gay male friend I had brought grabbed my arm and shouted, ‘I want to be a lesbian!’ How could one not on this night?”


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.
Professional management a logical choice for many investors

by Kathleen Madden

Investment markets are affected by economic, legal and political events in the U.S. and abroad. But a change in management at a single corporation can influence general market performance, too. So how can you keep up with the important and rapid changes that affect the performance of your investments? With several trillion (with a "t") dollars under professional management, mutual funds are often the answer for millions of "average" investors.

The information (tidal) wave

"Professional money management" in the context of mutual funds typically means a management team. A single fund manager or chief investment officer might hold the ultimate responsibility for a fund's activity and performance, but, in reality, the resources of an entire company are working in support behind the scenes.

By comparison, it's difficult for an individual investor to collect, organize and interpret all the data that's available, and that's really required, to make informed investment decisions. The "information challenge" to individual investors includes the following:

Quantity — There are thousands of investment choices, and a huge amount of information about each of them. Assuming you have the technological capability to capture all this data, the limitations of a 24-hour day still would likely prevent a personal effort to study the information and use it meaningfully to invest.

Speed — It's not just the volume of investment information that's a challenge for individual investors; the capability for timely action, too, is an important advantage of professional management. Advanced technology and full-time commitment typically enable professional money managers to be "ahead" of the general public in collecting and responding to financial information. Markets often move within seconds of breaking financial news. Even consumer-level advances in technology, such as the Internet, can't compete with the resources of an investment company when it comes to delivering an instantaneous response.

Meaning — Getting and using information quickly are only the mechanics of utilizing investment data. There's the information and there's what the information means. Here, the experience of professional fund managers is advantageous. Following a company, an investment sector (such as technology or pharmaceutical stocks, for example), or a specific political situation year after year provides the perspective that's required to understand — and appropriately respond to — financial trends and events as they happen. Such experience also enables professionals to better understand the potential mid-to long-term significance of breaking developments, too.

Mutual funds and diversity

Mutual funds are the "pooled" assets of many individuals invested in a diversified portfolio — stocks or bonds, or both. Such diversification helps protect investors against dramatic downturns in a specific investment or investment sector, but it also requires knowledge of a wide range of investment choices. The ability of a financial services company — one with extensive worldwide research and analysis capabilities — to obtain and use such broad-based knowledge typically outstrips the capacity of an individual working alone.

The role of the individual

While professionals can analyze and interpret national and international financial events, nobody's a better authority on your personal financial situation than you.

A professional financial advisor can be helpful in understanding your specific financial issues and determining priorities — saving and investing for a first home or retirement, college for the kids, retirement income, and so on. Matching specific investment strategies to specific objectives — mutual funds are designed to seek performance in different ways, and over different timeframes — can be a shared task with a financial advisor, as well.

But your goals remain precisely that...yours. Acknowledging the needs of your financial future is a significant first step that must be taken before the benefits of professional management — expertise, experience and quick execution — can be realized.

Kathleen Madden is a Financial Advisor for Waddell & Reed. The Anchorage office is one of 200 nationwide. Online: <http://www.waddell.com>.
Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

Harvey the duck

Sharon Stone will narrate an upcoming HBO animated special *The Sissy Duckling*, created by gay writer/actor Harvey Fierstein.

Described as a “gay version of the ugly duckling story,” Fierstein will voice the part of the queer quack. Other stars lending their voices to the project include Ellen DeGeneres, Anne Heche, Melissa Etheridge, Frasier’s Dan Butler and Andy Dick of *NewsRadio* fame. DeGeneres and Fierstein have both done other high-profile voice-over work, lately, in *Dr. Doolittle*, and *Mulan*, respectively.

Speaking of Heche, she is set to play Sally Bowles in the Los Angeles production of *Cabaret*. The part is a charm for those who’ve played it before; Liza Minnelli won an Oscar for her film portrayal of Sally and Natasha Richardson, who played the plucky dancer on Broadway, won a Tony for the role this year.

Happy trails

Gus Van Sant continues his hot streak by signing to direct Columbia Pictures’ *Brokeback Mountain*, a love story about two gay cowboys. This is familiar turf for the Oscar-nominated director, who brought Tom Robbins’ story about a lesbian cowgirl to the big screen in 1993’s forgettable *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*.

The project has an illustrious creative team behind it. Based on a New Yorker article by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie L. Proulx (*The Shipping News*), the story is being adapted for the screen by another Pulitzer-winner, *Lonesome Dove* novelist Larry McMurtry, along with his writing partner Diana Ossana. Mega-producer Scott Rudin will oversee the project, making it likely some big names will be attracted to the pic.

The original story first appeared in October 1997. The contemporary cowboys each have wives but fall madly in love, leading to difficult choices.

Indie news

Fresh off the success of his film *Billy’s Hollywood Screen Kiss* at Sundance and the Los Angeles gay and lesbian film festival, director Tommy O’Haver, 31, has been tapped by Universal to direct a live-action feature based on the *Archie* comic series. And Sean P. Hayes, who plays Billy in the film, is venturing into the mainstream as well but remaining gay in the new NBC series *Will and Grace*, which, in addition to Hayes’ supporting role, features a queer lead character.

Another hot indie movie now playing is *Buffalo 66*, featuring writer/director/actor Vincent Gallo, who is perhaps most famous as the grimy looking CK ad model.

Gallo wore all three hats in this film, which has been attracting generally positive buzz. However, when he read a so-so review by a *New York Post* critic, he reportedly responded by calling her and suggesting she was a lesbian, noting she gave a better review to the acclaimed dyke hit *High Art*, starring Ally Sheedy, because of her sexual orientation.

Gallo then repeated the queer name-calling by suggesting a *Newsday* critic who he mistakenly thought had dissed his movie was gay. Wonder if Gallo ever threw such verbal digs at his old boss Calvin Klein?

**Madonna retracts her claws?**

Madonna is trying to decide whether or not to take the role of Maggie the Cat in the London stage revival of Tennessee Williams’ *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The role, played by Elizabeth Taylor in the 1958 movie, is married to a sexually ambiguous man unable to satisfy her carnal desires.

Whether or not she takes the part, she remains busy stateside.

First, word has it that our favorite diva’s production company is shopping around an idea for a quasi-game show for television, *Truth or Dare*. The show (based loosely on her favorite parlor game as shown in her 1992 tour movie of the same name) would be set in a party-type atmosphere. Let’s hope it brings back the Randy tweedy undertones of such game show classics as *Match Game*.

And Madonna’s Mayday Films has optioned the right to Lisa Rearden’s controversial debut novel, *Billy Dead*, as part of a deal with Warner Brothers. The book tells the story of an incestuous affair between brother and sister in a small town.

Romeo San Vicente, who thinks Madonna should hop a plane to London, can be reached at <RSVicente@aol.com>.

**AIDS research license plate bill approved in California**

SACRAMENTO — Legislation by Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, which would create an AIDS research license plate was approved by the Senate and sent to the governor by a vote of 22-4. Burton’s SB 844 would require the Department of Motor Vehicles, upon receipt of 5,000 applications, to design and issue a special license plate depicting a red ribbon, symbolizing the fight against AIDS.

“This epidemic has taken a tragic toll, killing 65,000 people in California alone,” said Burton. “This is a modest but important effort to make more money available for research into a cure for this terrible disease.”

The bill would enable car owners to order the AIDS awareness plates from the DMV for an initial fee of $50 and an annual renewal fee of $40. It would generate an expected $500,000 annually to fund AIDS research grants awarded by the University of California.
Congress rejects discrimination against gays in historic vote

WASHINGTON — After weeks of harsh, anti-gay public rhetoric from religious right organizations and members of the GOP Congressional leadership, a record 63 House Republicans fought back, voting along with Democrats to overwhelmingly defeat an amendment by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO) which would have rolled back all non-discrimination policies covering sexual orientation in the federal government.

The 252-176 vote to defeat the Hefley Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill was a crushing defeat for Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-TX) and religious right groups, who supported the amendment, and a victory for a coalition of conservative and moderate Republicans, along with Log Cabin Republicans and the Human Rights Campaign, who together led the drive to stop its passage.

“The message to the Republican leadership is clear — stop the gay-bashing now and return to a positive, unifying agenda going in to this critical election,” said Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans.

“These were Republicans from every political stripe saying to Trent Lott and Newt Gingrich that this attack on gays has gone too far.”

The 63 Republicans voting against Hefley set a record for House Republicans on a gay rights issue, doubling the previous record. The last such gay-supportive vote was in the 104th Congress, where 29 Republicans voted against an amendment to repeal the D.C. domestic partnership law.

“We commend these 63 Republicans who stood up for the principle that all Americans should be judged on their merits, including gay and lesbian Americans,” Tafel said.

“The real story in this vote is that a growing segment of the Republican Party is emerging,” Tafel said. “They are no longer afraid to draw the line on bashing gays and they are putting the leadership on notice that it will not work. It’s bad policy and it’s bad politics. That’s the message of this victory. While so many have reported on the anti-gay segment of the GOP, this vote shows there is a growing segment of the party that is inclusive and opposes anti-gay discrimination.”

“This was an unprecedented effort of teamwork in the gay community, with every national gay organization working together in close coordination with key Hill staffers, both gay and straight, on both sides of the aisle,” Tafel said. “This victory marks the maturing of the gay political movement, and the end of the old one-party strategy. The gay movement is becoming a strong, bi-partisan movement.”

Log Cabin Republicans is the nation’s largest gay and lesbian Republican organization, with 50+ chapters nationwide, a full-time Washington office and a federal political action committee. Contact Log Cabin Republicans at (202) 347-5306 or fax (202) 347-5224; website <http://www.lcr.org>.
The Amazon Trail

The weight of the world

by Lee Lynch

Weight is a weighty subject. I've been sensitive about being skinny. Now I'm sensitive about being heavier than I'd like to be. I can't win, even when I'm arguing only with myself.

Nobody else wants to hear about it. This blocky shape that I've become worries no one but me. Lover likes my new solidity. I seem generally more confident and outgoing these days, but I have no idea if that has anything to do with shape shifting.

I grew up skinny. Everyone in my family who's been long-lived has been thin. This convinces me that with my genes I would do well to shed whatever pounds might bring my silhouette back toward the Ichabod Crane model. Believe me, I love that Chantal and Pam and Lucy are big women. I'm not into judging anyone but myself although I'm sure society's measuring tape has ingrained itself in my consciousness.

Have another Ghirardelli chocolate chip. I only know how to spell the name because they're in front of me. Seventy calories per 1 and 1/2 cup. Not bad. Calories from fat: 35. Oh.

I hate knowing these things! And I hate having no will power. How did this happen to me? I loved being a skinny androgynous person.

Age happened. I remember when I first started getting a tummy. I got an exercise book. It detailed the YMCA or Marine or some such regimen. I was gung-ho and followed it religiously. It didn't take many push ups to develop the tendinitis of the shoulder that I live with to this day.

Another book was specifically geared to flattening one's stomach. I was not religious enough. Yoga was great, but I suspect only yoga instructors can put in the time to shape up. Certainly I couldn't, balancing a full time job and a writing career.

Something else happened more recently. I was cured of my food allergy. Before that my eating choices were severely limited. After the cure by an acupuncturist using the NAET program which reprograms the body, I began experimenting.

My allergy had been to corn. Because corn is so pervasive in America, I couldn't eat white flour, white sugar and a host of other processed foods containing some corn derivative. Over the months I learned to eat Mexican food (corn tortillas), returned to Chinese food (corn starch) and dove into American food (corn syrup). I could eat pickles again, and tartar sauce and Cherios. Potato chips and fudgsicles and Three Musketeers! Rich butter-fatty ice cream and anything I wanted at potlucks.

We went to the fair last weekend. I went hog wild eating Italian sausage for lunch and cinnamon-sugar doughboys for dessert. I tasted the funnel cake Lover was sharing with friends.

Last night I swore I'd have tea instead of indulging in taste orgies. Ha! I'm a born-again glutton ready to take on any dish that appeals, plus thirds. I dream of cream-sicles. I fondly recall the summers of my youth when I lay on the beach reading and delighting in a Milky Way. I haven't tried corn on the cob yet, but give me another week.

This burgeoning middle aged appetite came at a bad time. Middle age to be specific. This is when the thickening of the body occurs with no help at all. When menopause makes a person like me more nervous and I add compulsive eating to my recipe for living. When arthritis sets in and I, for one, became disabled for a year because of corrective foot surgery. I couldn't partake of optimal exercise (no complaints from me). When I needed medications to resolve one problem and their side effects created another — weight gain.

I understand that it's okay not to be an anorexic model. That's not what I aspire to. I just want to be able to climb stairs again without feeling like I'm luging sacks of potatoes in my pockets. I just want to stop buying all new sizes year after year. I just want kids to taunt androgynous me on the streets like they used to.

My mother-out-law said it had been so good to see us enjoying food on her last visit. She'd witnessed me discovering Ben and Jerry's Cherry Garcia. A whole pint of it at once. So much good food, so little time.

Lover went blueberry picking the other day. Six pounds she brought home. Such discipline. I would have wolfed down half of them as I drove.

I went shopping on the Web. Climbing pants have roomy gusseted crotches. Baggy jeans are still in style. T-shirts come in extra-large. Send me clothes with room to move.

There's no stopping me now. The joy of cooking has become a lifestyle. I only follow one rule, the quote we have posted on our refrigerator door.

"Never eat more than you can lift." — Miss Piggy

We were drawn to each other like a magnetic force. ... It was a chemical change. Completely. My entire body changed in her presence. My energy changed. It was amazing. I went home with her that night. We were done. We've been inseparable ever since.

— Actress Anne Heche on the night she met actress Ellen DeGeneres, to The Australian newspaper, June 25.
My Queer Life

Rite of Passage

by Michael Thomas Ford

Yesterday I became a man. It happened in the checkout line of Home Depot, where I was waiting to pay for the 18-inch Weber grill that sat in my cart.

"That's a fine grill you've got there," a voice behind me said.

The speaker was a man in his sixties. He was wearing plaid shorts, a Red Sox T-shirt, and white socks. He appraised my grill and nodded approvingly.

"I've had my Weber for thirty years," he told me. "You'll get a lot of use out of that baby if you treat her well."

"Yep, I can't wait to fire her up," I said proudly.

Something about that sentence struck me as sounding familiar. Then it hit me — my father had uttered the exact same words twenty-five years earlier. I was five. We were standing in line at K-Mart. It was summer. And he'd just purchased a new grill.

I still remember that grill. As soon as we got home, my father set it up in the back yard. He loaded it up with charcoal, ordered us all to stand back, and set a match to it. We all oohed and aahed as the flames leapt up, burned brightly for a few minutes, and then settled down to a dull glow.

From that moment on, the grill was the center of my dad's life. Every night that summer we waited patiently as he stood over the fiery embers, turning the hotdogs, flipping the burgers, and moving the pieces of chicken to just the right spot. Like some kind of suburban alchemist, he mixed up secret barbecue sauces and developed his own peculiar rituals for getting the various items to cook just so. The rest of us were forbidden to touch the grill, or even to go near it.

"Get away from that!" my father would shriek as one of my sisters attempted to take another hot dog. Racing over, he would snatch the tongs from her hand. "You have to do it a certain way," he explained patiently, carefully lifting the frank and setting it on her plate like an angel descending from heaven.

I was not, of course, the only boy whose father knew the magic of the grill. All across my neighborhood there were men who stood on patios at dusk, filling the skies with the thin smoke of roasting food. For those of us who stood by and watched, the grills became holy grails of sorts.

Sometimes during the day, while our fathers were at work, the boys of the neighborhood would congregate in a back yard. Unlocking the shed or garage where the grill of the house was kept, we would stand around it, looking at this symbol of manhood whose secrets were as yet unknown to us. Even empty of glowing coals, they fascinated us. Their steel bowls held the promise of adulthood. The tools that hung from their specially-designed racks gleamed seductively. We dreamed of the day when they would be ours to wield.

Various cultures have their own special ways of marking the passing from childhood to adulthood. Some send the young person out into the forest for a few days to fend for himself. Others mark the transition with dancing, and perhaps the killing of the largest goat. In our society, the celebrations are usually less dramatic. Graduation parties. Trips to the mall for training bras or athletic supporters. The securing of the all-important driver's permit.

For many gay men of my acquaintance, some of these modern-day manhood rituals were at least somewhat traumatic. The purchasing of a jock strap, for example, may have coincided with the discovery that one was not at all skilled in dribbling a ball from one end of a court to another. The first school social, carrying with it the necessity of asking a girl to attend, might have brought terrors...
of enormous proportion as a young man realized that he would quickly need to develop a repertoire of excuses to explain why he would prefer to stay home watching Now, Voyager to dancing the night away with his peers.

As for myself, my own transition to adulthood went largely unnoticed. I left high school before graduation. My first shave occurred while I was at camp. Because we lived in farming country, I was driving our truck long before I was legally allowed to, and only got a license years later, when I needed one for identification purposes.

No, for me becoming an adult was a journey with murky road marks. One day I was playing with blocks; the next I was paying my own rent on a studio apartment in New York. Somewhere in all of it, I forgot all about the grill. After all, gay men don't grill. We broil.

At least until yesterday. Warmed by the summer sun, I suddenly pictured myself standing by a grill, tongs in hand, and I liked what I saw. So off I trundled to Home Depot. It wasn't until I was in line and found myself discussing the merits of my new purchase that I thought of my father. When I did, I realized that finally, on the cusp of turning thirty, I felt like a grown-up. And it had nothing to do with the IRAs I'd dutifully contributed to, the books I'd written, or the many other little trappings of adulthood that now decorated my life. It was because I had my own grill.

I decided to invite my friend Jackie over to celebrate my manhood. After setting up the grill, I filled it with charcoal and lit it, just as my father had before me. I waited until the coals were glowing warmly, then brought out the platter of steaks. Lifting one gently with my new tongs, I set it onto the grill and heard the beautiful sizzle that signaled my newfound status. I felt like howling in some primal way.

My euphoria lasted approximately thirty seconds. Then Jackie came over and snatched the tongs from my hand. "Get out of the way," she said, setting her sights on my steak. "You're doing it all wrong."

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A life spent in making mistakes is not only more honorable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing.
— George Bernard Shaw

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According to the Anchorage Visitors Bureau, Coronation is one of the largest ‘conference’ events ever held in Alaska. This year will be no exception with six hundred attendees at the Howard Rock Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage: September 3-8, 1998.

Many Courts from Canada, the Lower 48, Mexico and England are planning on attending, as well the Duxal Courts from Juneau and Fairbanks. This year, many visitors have extended their visits to include many of Alaska’s tourist attractions.

For more information on Coronation events, call Jerry or Malcolm at 374-3158.

Along with the venues chosen for the many events surrounding Coronation, the bars in Anchorage will be very busy. As usual, 4A’s will be present and available at all events, supplying condoms, lube and information, as well as being available for any person requiring emergency assistance.

This Labor Day Weekend will be busy with parties and partying that will occur. All Coronation Events are ‘Drug Free’ zones, however, outside of the events some individuals may choose to use illegal drugs and abuse alcohol. It is each and every persons responsibility to take care of themselves in regard to sexual safety. Alcohol and drugs are the major contributors to HIV infection. Be careful! Outreach Workers will be about all weekend to monitor safer sex supplies and to peer counsel any person requiring support. The phone number at the Four A’s is (907) 263-2050 during normal office hours, or 1 800 478-AIDS after hours.

We would like to thank the reigning Emperor Mikey La Choy and the Reigning Empress Rosie Rotten for their support of 4A’s and the dedication they both have to stop the spread of HIV in Alaska.

We would also like to wish the candidates for Emperor and Empress XXVI, Michael and Kristara the best of luck in the upcoming elections and look forward to working with the new reign in 1998-1999.

Upcoming Events:

- AIDS 101, 5:30-6:30pm, Thursday September 3 @ 4 A’s
- Latino Men’s Conference, Saturday October 3, call 263-2054
- Free HIV Testing Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00pm @ 4A’s
- Thursdays “HIV Support Group” 7pm - 8pm, call 263-2050
- Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers Noon @ 4 A’s
Fairbanks “Follies of Dollies”

by Phil Crabtree

We'd like to say thank you to all those people who made the “Follies Of Dollies” happen. Those who give, and give, and give. These are truly the people our community is proud of.

This was an event the likes of which we have never seen in Fairbanks. It was a truly grand way for our Duchess Rochelle DeLitt (shown here) to step down and a new Duke and Duchess to be crowned.

It was a long road that ended for Rochelle that night. Filled with many trials, including one encounter with an inner tube that damned near cost her her life! The girl's got courage, and class. Five years is a long time to wait for a successor. It's a long time to carry the crown, through hell and high water. It's something we can all learn from, a story of strength and determination that many probably don't even know about. Well I'm telling you now, the girl has much to be proud of and our community should be proud of the job she's done. And I hope that we'll all be sure and tell her so!

We'd all like to thank the Court for participating in the Fairbanks community. Your presence was heartwarmingly felt by us all. It is an involvement that has been longed for a long time. Now let us cultivate it mutually and, if it reacts anything like some things grow in Alaska, we'll be reaping a bumper crop!

Hats off to the new Duke and Duchess, it will take two to fill the shoes of Rochelle (no pun intended!).

We are proud, we are thankful, and let's make next year's event something we can again be proud of!

Partners measure introduced in Germany

Three German states have introduced a bill in the upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat, to ban discrimination against same-sex couples. The measure extends to gay partners nearly every privilege of matrimony — including access to adoption and the right not to testify against each other in court.

If Helmut Kohl's center-right government loses office in September's federal elections, the measure has a good chance of becoming law, activists said.

Meanwhile, more than 200,000 people turned out for Berlin's gay and lesbian pride parade June 28, walking from the glitzy Kurfuerstendamm shopping street to Bebelplatz Square on the east side of the city.

At the post-parade rally, gay Member of Parliament Volker Beck demanded that gays be allowed to marry.
Move over, Pat Robertson. Take your seat, Jerry Falwell. There’s a new head gay-basher in town: Dr. James Dobson. Co-founder of the conservative religious group Focus on the Family and a television & radio personality, James Dobson has achieved political power that is the envy of the religious right.

With a mailing list of over three and a half million and over five thousand radio stations carrying his broadcasts worldwide, Dr. Dobson gets noticed. He has managed to do what others, like Christian Coalition co-founder Pat Robertson, have failed to do consistently: get the Republican majority in Congress to represent his agenda. Although many Republicans agree with Robertson’s overall views on social issues, they may be left ill at ease by his proclamations that he is a prophet and a healer. Many in Congress also no doubt recognize that Robertson has a political agenda, having run for President more than once and saying he may run again. Conservative politicians seem to feel more comfortable with Dobson, whose rhetoric isn’t as sharp and who, whether others agree with them or not, seems to have genuine rather than simply political positions on social issues.

This is an election year, and when you take into consideration the gains made by the gay rights movement in recent years, it is not surprising to see the issue of gay rights become a hot topic. In what is seen as effort to raise its visibility and increase its involvement in the political debate over gay rights, Focus on the Family has hired two people who are self-described “former practicing homosexuals” to work in its public policy department.

The first is Amy Tracy, who previously worked as a press secretary for the National Organization for Women (NOW). The other is John Paulk, a former male prostitute, who will become the “homosexuality and gender analyst” for Focus on the Family. Tracy and Paulk are billed as key players in Focus on the Family’s efforts to counter gay activism.

James Dobson has not been without his critics. Focus on the Family co-founder and former senior vice president Gil Alexander-Moegerle left the organization because of disagreements over the group’s strongly conservative positions. After leaving the organization he published a book, *James Dobson’s War on America*, where he criticized Dobson and Focus on the Family for becoming an ultra-conservative political group rather than a group whose aim is to help families, as its name implies.

Dobson uses his organization’s newsletter, *Focus on the Family Citizen*, to highlight his concerns about the “dangers of the gay rights movement.” *Citizen* ran a series of articles attacking everything from gay couples adopting children to gay rights parades. With Focus on the Family’s new emphasis (obsession?) on gay issues, they will be the group to watch with a wary eye as we head toward the November election.

Michael Haase is concerned with all aspects of the equal rights movement. He may be contacted at <michaelh@servcom.com>.

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Boy Scouts’ quarrel with Unitarians stirs some anger

by Diego Ribadeneira

The Reverend Malcolm Bertram has fond memories of being a Boy Scout — the friends he made, the practical skills he learned, the values he absorbed that have helped guide him in life. But Bertram says he is appalled by the recent attitudes of the organization that helped make him a man.

Bertram, 64, a United Church of Christ minister, along with clergy in several Christian and Jewish denominations blasted the Boy Scouts of America for ordering the Unitarian Universalist Association to stop giving out religious awards to Unitarian scouts because the church promotes gay rights. “I think the Boy Scouts have gone off the edge,” said Bertram.

The Boy Scouts considers homosexuality immoral and prohibits gays from joining the organization, a position that has drawn increasingly harsh criticism from human rights groups and religious denominations.

“We understand that people disagree with us, but we have a long held position regarding traditional family values, which we have always taught,” said Gregg Shields, national spokesman for the Boy Scouts of America. “A person who is an avowed homosexual is not a role model for those values.”

Some conservative clergy sympathized: “It may not have been handled as smoothly as it could have, but I think the Boy Scouts are right to make people understand clearly what the organization says about homosexuality,” said the Reverend Marc Soares, pastor of Gospel of Life Christian Church, a Pentecostal congregation in Worcester.

But the Boy Scouts’ exclusion of gays from its organization promises to bring more clashes with liberal religious congregations because in many communities Scout troops are housed in churches and temples.

A small but growing number of congregations across the country, angered by the Boy Scouts’ stance on homosexuality, have refused to support Scout troops or allow troops to meet in their buildings.

In Arlington, for example, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church decided several months ago to stop sponsoring a Boy Scout troop it had long supported, according to Bishop Robert L. Isaksen, leader of the New England synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The congregation did allow the troop to remain in its building.

The dispute between the Boy Scouts and the Unitarian Universalists was provoked by a manual widely disseminated by the Unitarians describing the denomination’s beliefs and practices. The manual, which Unitarian scouts study in order to qualify for the “Religion in Life” award, accuses Boy Scout officials of “homophobia.”

The Boy Scouts angrily demanded that the Unitarians stop giving out the awards until the manual is reworked to the Boy Scouts’ satisfaction. Leaders of the Unitarian Universalist Association, headquartered in Boston, have refused.

Rabbi David Wolfman, director of the Northeast Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which represents Reform Jewish synagogues, said the Boy Scouts’ move would make it difficult for some rabbis to give out religious awards to Jewish scouts.

“That’s a decision we leave to individual rabbis and congregations, but if I were in the pulpit I would hate to send out the message that I’m condoning the Boy Scouts’ attitude toward gays and lesbians,” Wolfman said.

Some priests in the Catholic Church also have misgivings about the Boy Scouts’ position. “It sounds like the Boy Scouts are trying to make it a very black and white issue of how a particular church should deal with the issue of homosexuality,” said the Reverend Robert F. Verbecke of St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Chestnut Hill.

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such is LIFE!

QUEERS UPRISING AGAINST COLLECTIVE KRAP!
Further North in the Heart of Alaska

by Terry A. Fauth

A special thanks to all the Anchorage Imperial Court and performers that made the trip to Fairbanks for the first Interior Coronation. "Follies of Dollies" was a four hour extravaganza of talent and glitz that provided a fond farewell to our Grand Duchess Rochelle Delite, and lavish introduction to our new Duke and Duchess, Baron and Baroness Brachnell (shown here), with hopes of a yet stronger community. The show was a good reminder that, even with the spirit of independence in our great state, much more can be accomplished when we work together.

Monthly potluck

The first monthly potluck was held on August 15th with good response from the community. The potlucks were formed to provide an alternative to the bar for socializing. If you would like to host a potluck, or wish to attend, please e-mail <pennbear@mosquitonet.com> or call 457-6469 for details on next month’s event.

PFLAG Fairbanks

We meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 4:00pm at Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse, 3560 College Road. All are invited to attend even just to listen. The major upcoming topic will be the Vote No On 2 campaign. Proposition 2, if passed will amend the Alaska constitution to prohibit marriages other than one man and one woman.

Many other events and meetings will be held in the upcoming weeks. For more information e-mail <pflag@mosquitonet.com> or call 457-PFLAG.

GLSEN Fairbanks

The new school year is upon us, and with it another year of teaching acceptance and providing safe places for everyone. GLSEN invites everyone to participate in their monthly meetings held on the 3rd Monday of the month, 5:00pm at the Fairbanks Education Association offices on South Cushman.

We’re on the air in Fairbanks

Homophonic radio is the place to turn on Sundays from 3 pm to 6 pm for community events, local and national news, and of course music. At 91.5 FM, KSUA is also the place on Wednesday evenings for Lady B’s Golden Oldies from 7 pm until 9 pm.

QNetAK

Point your browser to QNetAK at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> for events such as Art Cook’s end of the season party in the next few weeks. Statewide links, businesses and homepages are featured in addition to the calendar, updated when possible. To get on the mailing circle of events and happenings, or to have your event included, e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>.

Parks Highway Express

Summer’s not over yet, plan to make a trip with family. Daily runs between Anchorage and Fairbanks with stops at your leisure, and Valdez too. Call 1-888-600-6001 for more information.

Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse

Located at 3560 College Road, this is a great place to meet with friends, attend a group, or hold a meeting. Call Connie at 479-7701 to plan a function, or for information on regular and upcoming events.

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Pete Pinney, Proprietor
Shopping with Ferron
and other Fairbanks Women's Music Festival highlights

by Lisa Jamieson

The Fairbanks Women's Music Festival has been a lesbian best-bet on the 4th of July weekend for the past decade. I hadn't been for a few years, but this year with a number of Outside performers scheduled for the 10th anniversary, I knew I wasn't going to miss it. I was not disappointed.

My friends and I had originally planned to leave Anchorage for Fairbanks at 3:00, but 3:00 became 4:00, and 4:00 became 5:00, and then we had to stop at Wal-Mart to pick up a prescription, and then we went back for some forgotten items, and by the time we reached Palmer we were hungry, and had to stop at Carrs for Asian food. We drove pretty much straight through (excuse me, I meant without stopping) after that. Because certain members of our party experience navigational challenges, and others of us were sound asleep in the backseat, we took the scenic route to Moose Mountain (south of Fairbanks) via the Arctic Circle, and eventually arrived in our hostesses' driveway at about 2:00 a.m. They were very understanding about being woken up.

The next morning, bright and early, I went off to Ferron's songwriting workshop. Actually, since we were camping in the backyard where Ferron was staying, I hitched a ride with her to the workshop. She wanted to stop for some office supplies on the way. I mentioned that Fairbanks has a big Fred Meyer, and her eyes brightened. I knew I had found a comrade-in-shopping.

The workshop was good, but intense. Ferron started it out by asking us to write about something that mattered a lot to us. We did. As a result, some of us had feelings. Ferron's brow furrowed. Ferron is a serious gal. I don't think she cracked a smile the entire workshop. I had a hard time using the writing method she wanted us to, and I didn't finish a single song. I used up most of my energy trying to keep from feeling that I was the class dunce. I did write part of a song later that night, and along with my workshop buddies, bonded with our fearless workshop leader on our several shopping excursions to Fred Meyer.

I used to think of Ferron as just a brilliant songwriter. Now I think of her as a brilliant songwriter and a great shopper. I used to think of Fairbanks as the place where UAF is located. Now I think of it as the place with the largest Fred Meyer in the western hemisphere. It must be the only place in the world where you can purchase fishing tackle, tampons and made-to-order sushi under one roof.

The festival stage was framed with birch trees, the audience area encircled by mountains. The sky was blue, the atmosphere relaxed. It was a sea of gals in lawn chairs. Lesbians and bisexuals and straight women and kids of all ages.

Marty and friends started the Fest off with drumming and dancing and smudging. I could tell, even before Marty said so, that this year she was doing it for Ruth. I had the feeling that a lot of the weekend was silently dedicated to Ruth, an expression of the love and respect so many have for her. If love can heal anything (and I am convinced that it can), that girl is in good shape.

I spent a good part of the weekend with several friends whose longtime partners recently announced that they were (already) dating someone else. My friends seem to be handling this challenging situation with an amazing amount of grace and maturity. Certainly more than I did when it happened to me. I thought about connections and letting go. I thought about betrayal and healing. I closed my eyes and listened to the music.

There were many wonderful performers. Deolores from Anchorage, and Yanni from Fairbanks wowed the crowd individually and together. Assorted girls from Anchorage and Fairbanks sang like birds. Full Circle played tight and lively sets both days. On Friday night, women sang into the wee hours in a circle at the campground. On Saturday, June Millington rocked the house. Aika Doblin sang Bob Dylan and Jamie Anderson made us giggle with songs about food items and unrequited love for Wynona. The schedule got later and later, as performers did unscheduled encores, and acts were added.

The hot Fairbanks sun bore down; some girls turned bright pink, some girls slathered on sunscreen. There was some drinking, but for the most part it was as wholesome as a church picnic. A few vendors sold crafts, and delicious food. My favorite was Chris' astounding sushi, but the pasta and ribs looked great too. Tracy and Louise and friends did a fantastic job.

Five hours after her scheduled performance time, Ferron finally took the stage. Her set was worth the wait. When she sang Aint Life A Brook, it was all over for me. I cried and cried for the gift I once thought was mine to keep. When the song was over, I smiled at the women around me who were also wiping away tears.

After Ferron played, June Millington led a jam session. Women danced and sang along and bunny-hopped up the ski slopes in the midnight sun. When the jam ended, the crowd scattered. I was wondering why everyone was going home so early, when I looked at my watch, and realized it was 2:30 a.m.. One by one, the tired ones crashed, the lovers went off in pairs, the drinkers curled up with their bottles, and the rest of us went to Denny's for breakfast.

While we ate, we chatted as the sun poured in the windows, the single girls comparing notes about the weekend. One of us was asked out on not one, but two dates. One was told that she was the most beautiful woman in the world, by a sincere young gal who then sat back down with her girlfriend. And another was chased through the woods by an inebriated woman who insisted that they would make beautiful babies together. We laughed, and I was glad I was there with friends. Hope we're all there again next year.

The height of the drama is inversely proportional to the depth of your maturity.
Past Out

How gay was the disco era?

by David Bianco

Disco music got its start in the black gay dance clubs of New York City in the late 1960s. To placate their clients, many of whom wanted to dance all night, black gay deejays began experimenting with records by groups like the Temptations and the O'Jays. They phased records in and out, splicing soul with another style called “Philly.” The result was disco, which had an insistent, pulsed, 120 beats per minute. Good disco music was nonstop; as one critic put it, the music saturated dancers and the dance floor.

Disco music, however, didn’t achieve wide public attention until white gay men adopted it, creating dazzling dance clubs for feverish, continuous dancing. In the summer of 1970, in the early days of the gay liberation movement, the Ice Palace in Grove Cherry Grove, Fire Island, was one of the first clubs to set up a deejay booth, gigantic speakers, a mirror ball, and elaborate lighting that pulsed in time with the music. “Disco” became synonymous with the clubs where the music played. Over the next decade in New York City, Los Angeles, and other cities across the country, vast, empty factories and warehouses were transformed into gay male pleasure palaces. Paradise Garage, the Flamingo, and the Saint were some of the glittering favorites of gay New York, while Studio One dominated Hollywood during disco’s heyday.

With its open eroticism, disco music was a tangible reflection of gay sexual liberation. Song lyrics often suggested sex, with an emphasis on fleeting romantic encounters. Disco dancing, with its wild bumping and grinding, offered up the possibility of casual sex to gay men whose sexuality had long been controlled by the dominant culture.

As with many pop culture movements, disco gradually moved beyond its underground community, becoming a profitable enterprise. Clubs turned into expensive, members-only establishments. Record producers discovered the sound and in turn introduced it to straight America. The hits of straight recording artists like Gloria Gaynor (“I Will Survive”) and Donna Summer (“Love to Love You”) were embraced in the gay disco scene, since so many of the lyrics could be imbued with gay meaning. But disco also saw its share of gay performers whose popularity crossed over to straight audiences.

The Village People presented a parody of both traditional masculinity and urban gay male culture, by performing in costumes as macho “types” – a construction worker, an Indian, a cowboy, a cop, a leatherman, and a soldier. To gay listeners, the group’s biggest hits, like “Macho Man,” and “YMCA,” had obvious referents.

Hollywood significantly watered down and transformed disco for straight consumption. The 1978 hit movie *Saturday Night Fever* marketed disco in a neat package and presented it to middle America as a new heterosexual fad. Like all fads, disco eventually faded,
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
Ricci makes *The Opposite of Sex* a very attractive film

by Shawn Levy

A Louisiana teen with a mouth of a stevedore and mind of a moll, she’s the linchpin of *The Opposite of Sex*, a sharp, tart, funny and continually surprising new comedy of manners from writer-director Don Roos.

As played by Christina Ricci (*The Ice Storm*, the *Addams Family* movies), DeeDee is a bottle-blonde vixen with cunning, gall and moxie to spare, a loaded pistol ever primed to fire off a threatening salvo or a blistering retort. Narrating her own unlikely history with sardonic black humor and no little savvy, she’s a cross between a film-noir dame and Cher of *Clueless*: a handful, an eyeful, a classic.

When the picture opens, DeeDee is bidding farewell to her late stepdad in a ghastly gesture tinged with venom and spite and hilarity — a perfect introduction to DeeDee’s manic mind. No sooner have the funeral dirges waned than DeeDee has hightailed it to Indiana, where she’s got a half-brother, Bill, a thoroughly decent high school English teacher who lives in a wealthy home willed to him by his late lover, TK, who died of AIDS.

Despite his reservations about this wild-seeming young relation, Bill takes DeeDee in, and that is the gesture that opens the door to hell. Within days, DeeDee has spun a web around Bill’s comely young lover, Matt, bedding him and convincing the dear dim lad that he’s heterosexual.

Presently, she announces that she’s pregnant, and she and Matt take it on the lam, stopping first to empty out a safe deposit box and pick up at least one other crucial item.

Bill is willing to write off the whole painful experience but for the incessant urgings of Lucia, TK’s sister, a fellow teacher and strident martinet who has never gotten over her crush on Bill. Worse, up pops Jason, Matt’s weasly, on-the-sneak lover, who threatens to accuse Bill of molesting students if Bill won’t lead him to Matt. Scandal ensues, then a chase, then even more unlikely developments.

It’s hard to think of anything that *The Opposite of Sex* doesn’t have.

Got all that? You’d better. Among its pleasures is the way *The Opposite of Sex* blasts confidently forward, accruing subplots, twists and themes without ever asking the audience if it has caught up. Roos lets the film move in strange and unforeseeable ways, constantly hovering around the red zone where DeeDee is most at home.

One of the film’s cannisest devices is DeeDee’s heartless and knowing narration. Although it sometimes feels that we are seeing the world solely through her eyes, Roos gives her only the microphone, holding on to the camera, for the most part, for himself. We can see that DeeDee is dead right in some of her judgments, but the wider view that Roos affords us lets us know how wrong she is as well. He thus has his tart and eats it, too: DeeDee is shocking but, in her own worldy way, naive.

Ricci isn’t the only fabulous presence in this remarkably assured first film. Martin Donovan — best known (if that’s the right phrase) for his work with director Hal Hartley — is fine as Bill: noble, righteous, a tad dull and unable to stop himself from correcting other people’s grammar. Just as good — stop the presses! — is Lisa Kudrow as Lucia, spiteful and twisted and spyky and quick-witted. Ivan Sergei is credibly dopey as Matt, and Lyle Lovett is a nicely homespun cop and, as Roos’ constantly inventive mind would have it, ladies’ man.

It’s hard to think of anything that *The Opposite of Sex* doesn’t have: superior acting, a fresh script, a nicely placid look-and-feel, a load of shocking humor, an edgy plot, a healthy dollop of sex. It’s one of the premiere American movies of the year, and there isn’t an effects shot in it — although it has a hurricane at its heart.

*The Opposite of Sex* opens at the Capri Cinema on Aug. 28.

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PHOENIX – As the largest ever group of citizens now barges into old age, it's clear that things are going to be mighty different. On the leading edge of that generation are gay and lesbian senior citizens who are helping to define the new rules, starting with the basics: housing. Nationwide, there are the beginnings of a move to develop and build retirement communities for older gays and lesbians, a generally well-heeled segment of the senior population.

"Part of what's driving this, as lesbians and gays are getting older, they're looking for community," said Terry Kaelber, director of Senior Action in a Gay Environment, a New York City social service agency.

"This generation lived in a time when they were labeled as sinners by the church, criminals by the legal system and sick by the medical establishment. What they have learned is that society does not value them. Our senior community has had to age with that."

The construction of gay and lesbian senior communities is underway in traditional retirement havens from Florida to California, future home of Our Town, where, a brochure says, "we can laugh at our own jokes, love who we want, and be accepted for who we are."

Niche marketing always has been a feature of retirement communities. Sociologists report a natural tendency for older people to seek the familiar and the safe.

Yet generations of social taboos have driven the current class of gay and lesbian senior citizens underground. Many don't identify themselves as gay or lesbian. So, the very group that is being targeted for these retirement developments is the most difficult to find.

Veronica St. Claire is the CEO of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons, formed a year ago in Los Angeles. The service organization is planning a gay and lesbian retirement community in Cathedral City, near Palm Springs.

"We found that, like many segments of society, there is a need among gays and lesbians to congregate with their own," St. Claire said, noting that older gays and lesbians are likely to be deeply closeted. "There are many older people who never use the g-word or the l-word. You just don't. These people have a large circle of friends, and they all know who they are."

When word does get out about the new communities, it can bring life-changing results. "I've had people calling me, jumping up and down for joy," said the developer of a lesbian-preferred senior housing complex in Florida who asked that neither she nor her facility be identified. "The sense of community is overwhelming."

"It's a terrible way to live your life – to have a secret. So many women are already living together in retirement communities, saying they are sisters. Here, everyone is free to be herself. They are safe here." The developer said she operates within fair-housing laws and wouldn't refuse to sell to anyone.

John Bernstein, a Los Angeles-based mature-market consultant, cautions that until traditional senior housing is fully exploited, the specialty market will not be fully developed. "Intuitively, it seems to make sense. It's just a matter of time. I think, for now, the developers will be coming from the gay community."

Most developments being planned rely heavily on private financing, raised in the gay community. Still, profit is a compelling motive. Peter Lundberg, who's developing Our Town in the San Francisco Bay Area, said that when he visited his conservative former boss to raise seed money, the man was so impressed he said: "Don't forget to come back to me when you begin building."

Lundberg's community model will be similar to conventional retirement villages, but it also will be sensitive to the different needs of this generation of gays and lesbians. "I don't think the rules are going to be different. The difference is we are going to be making them."
Homophobia hurts everyone

by Warren J. Blumenfeld

In this season of increased public criticism of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (g/l/b/t) people by political and “religious” conservatives, I cannot help thinking about something Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave and abolitionist, once said when he described the dehumanizing effects of slavery not on slaves alone, but also on white slave owners, whose position to slavery corrupted their humanity. While the social conditions of the 19th century were very different from today, nonetheless, I believe Douglass’s words hold meaning by analogy: “No [person] can put a chain about the ankle of [another person] without at last finding the other end fastened about [his or her] own neck.”

Though it cannot be denied that the scapegoating of g/l/b/t people by conservatives serves their political interests in a number of ways, eventually this strategy will backfire and the chain will take hold of them.

In truth, homophobia (prejudice and discrimination against g/l/b/t people) is pervasive throughout the society and each of us, irrespective of sexual identity, is at risk of its harmful effects.

First, homophobic conditioning compromises the integrity of people by pressuring them to treat others badly, which are actions contrary to their basic humanity. It inhibits one’s ability to form close, intimate relationships with members of one’s own sex, generally restricts communication with a significant portion of the population and, more specifically, limits family relationships.

Homophobia locks all people into rigid gender-based roles, which inhibit creativity and self expression. It often is used to stigmatize, silence, and, on occasion, target people who are perceived or defined by others as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, but who are, in actuality, heterosexual.

In addition, homophobia is one cause of premature sexual involvement, which increases the chances of teen pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Young people, of all sexual identities, are often pressured to become heterosexually active to prove to themselves and others that they are “normal.”

Societal homophobia prevents some g/l/b/t people from developing an authentic self identity, and adds to the pressure to marry, which in turn places undue stress and oftentimes trauma on themselves as well as their heterosexual spouses and their children.

Homophobia combined with sexphobia (fear and revulsion of sex) results in the elimination of discussions of the lives and sexuality of g/l/b/t people as part of school-based sex education, keeping vital information from all students. Such a lack of information can kill people in the age of AIDS. And homophobia (along with racism, sexism, classism, sexphobia) inhibits a unified and effective

(continued on page 36)
Homophobia hurts everyone (continued...)

governmental and societal response to the AIDS pandemic.

With all of the truly important issues facing the world, homophobia diverts energy from more constructive endeavors. It also prevents heterosexuals from accepting the benefits and gifts offered by gay people: theoretical insights, social and spiritual visions and options, contributions in the arts and culture, to religion, to family life, indeed, to all facets of society. Ultimately, it inhibits appreciation of other types of diversity, making it unsafe for everyone because each person has unique traits not considered mainstream or dominant. Therefore, we are all diminished when any one of us is demeaned.

The meaning is quite clear. When any group of people is scapegoated, it is ultimately everyone's concern. For today, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are attacked. Tomorrow, they may come for you. Everyone, therefore, has a self interest in actively working to dismantle all the many forms of bigotry, including homophobia.

I believe that we are all born into an environment polluted by homophobia (one among many forms of oppression) which falls upon us like acid rain. For some people, spirits are tarnished to the core, others are marred on the surface, and no one is completely protected. Therefore, we all have a responsibility, indeed an opportunity, to join together as allies to construct protective shelters from the corrosive effects of bigotry while working to clean up the homophobic environment in which we live. Once sufficient steps are taken to reduce this pollution, we will all breathe a lot easier.

Warren J. Blumenfeld is editor of Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price, and the Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity. He can be reached at P. O. Box 929, Northampton, MA 01061, telephone (413) 585-9121 or e-mail <blumenfeld@educ.umass.edu>.

Scotland Yard launches gay group

Britain's Scotland Yard launched a gay contact group last week in hopes of increasing the reporting of anti-gay crimes. Seven officers staff a gay-crime phone line 24 hours a day.

"We formed the group to develop a better working relationship between the police and the gay community," said spokesman Mark Williams. "Part of the gay community is not reporting homophobic offenses."

You must not be angry at unthinking speech; if you listen to every dog that barks, you will have no leisure to learn wisdom.

— Marion Zimmer Bradley
Wiring the gay world

by Steve Silberman

The Internet has changed the way gay people grow up, come out, organize political actions, and fall in love. For the last four years, a pioneering journalist named Rex Wockner has used the Net to up the intelligence quotient of the mainstream press and to affect the way media cover gay and lesbian issues.

By aggressively marketing his international news feed to Web sites like PlanetOut and to regional newspapers all over the world, Wockner has also widened the scope of gay journalism. Whereas gay newspapers in the '70s focused exclusively on the epicenters of the urban subculture - like New York, San Francisco, and Amsterdam, Netherlands - Wockner's international coverage has brought the struggles of emerging sexual-freedom movements in places like Zimbabwe to the attention of an international readership.

Wockner is "a one-man gay AP," says Tom Reilly, chairman of San Francisco-based PlanetOut. Wockner provides the invaluable service of being "an intelligent news agent," Reilly says, a smart filter in an ever-burgeoning datastream. PlanetOut supplements its own original coverage of gay and lesbian issues, Newsplanet, with Wockner's reportage.

PlanetOut is one of Wockner's 91 affiliates, a network of reprint outlets that includes such far-flung publications as bar rags in the Bible Belt, the high-traffic gay erotica site Badpuppy, a Thai journal called Pink Ink, and the newsletter of the Estonian Lesbian Union.

As Wockner does with a gay newspaper from the Ukraine called Our World, he only charges the Estonian Lesbian Union the equivalent of US $1 a month to reprint his blend of original reporting, clips, and a cheeky biweekly assortment of celebrity quotes called "Quote/Unquote."

"I have a stack of Estonian crowns in my closet," he chuckles. "My bank doesn't know what to do with them."

Wockner's diligent networking played a crucial role in breaking the story of America Online naming gay sailor Timothy McVeigh. Though the Navy's actions against McVeigh received some local coverage in Honolulu, it wasn't until Wockner funneled an email implicating AOL's role in the case to his mailing list that the mainland press picked up on it.

Elaine Herscher, the San Francisco Chronicle reporter — and subscriber to Wockner's list — who ran with the McVeigh story, says that reading Wockner's international coverage "gives me a sense of what's going on all over the world that I couldn't get any other way."

Other subscribers to Wockner's list — most of whom pay nothing to read it — include noted gay activists and writers Larry Kramer, Michelangelo Signorile, and Gabriel Rotello. In addition to a keyword-searchable archive on <gaytoronto.com>, there's a complete archive of Wockner's coverage in the Queer Resources Directory.

Wockner taught himself how to work the network — from Unix to newsgroups — while on sabbatical from reporting for print in 1994. He estimates that he spends four hours a day online gathering and disseminating information, as well as sifting through 150 gay publications a month for quotes and info-bites. His search for access points to the Net once entailed hotwiring alligator clips into the phone system behind a wall in Mexico City.

"In the old days, Activist A had to call Reporter B at Paper C and hope that the editor was interested. That strategy used to take two weeks to get anything out and only reached the readers of gay newspapers. The Net has changed all that," Wockner explains. "Now it takes 10 minutes to reach millions."

Wockner credits online organizing with the storms of protest that attend public appearances by Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe outside his home country. Mugabe has advocated the imprisonment of lesbians and gay men, calling homosexuality "sub-animal behavior," and declaring, "I don't believe [homosexuals] have any rights at all."

The most valuable role he could play as a journalist, Wockner believes, is to help out fledgling gay movements in the Third World by bringing news of gay activism to remote locales and by building networks of communication and support between incipient gay organizations and established ones.

"If someone in an organization with 14 people in a Third World country reads a story about hundreds of thousands of people marching in a pride parade in Los Angeles, they could get the idea that if they stick with it, they might make it," says Wockner. "That's really why I do this."

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Strange where our passions carry us, floggingly pursue us, forcing upon us unwanted dreams, unwelcome destinies.
— Truman Capote

If you are going to love someone of your same sex, then do it. Do it responsibly, do it beautifully, do it with commitment, do it deeply. Promiscuity, both homosexually and heterosexually, is dangerous, and if you're going to be doing that, you really have to protect yourself. I wouldn't have a problem with it [if my son were gay]. I don't have a problem with it now. A lot of my friends are gay. I just think you've got to love who you feel you've got to love. If not, you're living a lie, and that's a total waste. The whole pur-
— Singer Gloria Estefan to the Texas Triangle, June 25.
The Directory

This directory is our “yellow pages” and reference guide. It’s free! The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay, (B)isexual and (A)ll 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 The Directory and its significance. Don’t be offended: enlighten. All listings are in Anchorage unless indicated. Submit changes to <TomAndAl@alaska.net> or telephone 256-4777.

Accounting & Bookkeeping Services:
(L) Tammy S. Ackerman, CPA, 235-0662 (Homer)

Advertising:
(L) KT Creative, Katie, 278-9174

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see 4A’s page)
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-6567
(A) Interior AIDS Association (Fairbanks) 452-4222
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-465-1566, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gail Charles-Abbot, 278-5019

Alcoholics Anonymous:
(G/L) Gay, Joyous and Free, see Calendar
(G/L) Midnight Sun’s, see Calendar

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

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

Automotive Repairs & Fuel:
(A) Courtyard, Linny, 562-1227 (see ad)

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

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 & Breakfast, Accommodations:
(A) Ah, Rose Marie, 302 Cowles, Fairbanks, John, 456-2040
(G) Alta’s (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-389-2532 (see ad)
(G) Arctic Feather, Doug, 277-3862
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(G) Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-5501
(F) Fairbanks Hotel (Fairbanks) Doris Lundin, 888-329-6465
(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 907-235-2265 (see ad)
(A) Regina’s, 276-4904
(L) Rose-Beth’s B&B, (Anchorage) Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G/A) Sauder Lodge (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946.
(L) Skyline B&B (Homer), Lisa, 907-235-3832.
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Sudie 907-566-2410.

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

Churches:
see Spiritual

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) 888-8652

Computer Consultants, Graphics & Desktop Publishing:
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4727
(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, 562-9814
(G) gra.f/x, Lucian, 561-5856
(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.W., 563-5765
(A) Connie, 562-1826
(A) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
(A) S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape), 276-7279
(L) Tess Bensussen, L.C.W., Alternative Counseling, 562-2400
(A) Tom Gormley, ANP, 566-2110

Defaf 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 Hulbert, 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, Darl Schaaff, 561-2115
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(G) Cyranos’ Film Gallery Cinema, 417 D Street, 561-0064.
(A) Syzygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599
(L) Women’s Coffeehouse, Barbara Wish, 258-0499

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

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(L) Chris, 561-8040/338-3962
(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’ Things, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3158
(A) Mile 5.2 Greenhouse, Dale, 694-3978
Directory

Furniture...

(A) Dr. Ginny, 345-1515
(L) Dr. Vicki, 345-1515
Photography:
(L) Alaska Photographic & Supply, Linda, 345-5434
(G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 560-6000 (see ad)
Political:
(G/L) A No on 2, Dan, 274-9226 <alaskadan@aol.com>
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth, 333-1190
(A) Anchorage Women's Political Caucus, contact Janet Mitson, 688-0116
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9226
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292
Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-0460
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
(A) TimeFrame, 562-3822 (see ad)
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
(E) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail:
274-9087
(A) Flies by Ilene (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
(A) Knik Glacier Tours; Palmer, Alaska; Tom Faustus,
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) 833-4731, (800) 992-1297.
(L) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770, 888-899-2770
(A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb,
907-389-2725
Reiki/Counseling:
(G) Rick, 333-9640
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916
(L) Spirit Services, Barbara, 337-2011
Research:
(L) Craciun & Associates, 279-3982
(L) Writing & Research Services, Loraine, 277-7373
Social/Educational:
(G) AGB Social Club, formerly Anch Garden Buddies, Steve
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
Spiriual:
(A) Aquarian Foundation, Rev. Patricia Brown, 349-9955
(A) Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive
Living, Rev. Nancie Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737
(see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard
Bess, 746-1099
(A) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, Anchor-
age, welcomes all regardless of orientation. 333-5253
Spiritual...

(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276
(A) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, 4148 Pikes Landing Road, Richard Kornitz, 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, 907-63-4203

Tattoos:
(A) Bitchin' Tats, Cathy, 561-3653

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

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0651 (see ad)
(B) Golden Travel, Albert, 272-5802
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770 or 888-889-2770

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

250,000 at Amsterdam gay parade

Amsterdam's third annual gay Canal Parade, held this year in conjunction with the kick-off of the Gay Games, attracted 250,000 revelers to the city center August 1, police said.

More than a hundred boat-floats took part in the procession, which is organized by the Amsterdam Gay Business Association.

Club Notes

Anchorage unless otherwise indicated

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

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

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

AGB Social Club
(formerly Anchorage Garden Buddies) a social group for gay and bisexual men looking for an alternative to the "bar scene." For more information, call Steve 272-5608, or e-mail <a_g_b@yahoo.com>.

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

Aquarian Foundation
services Wednesday 8:00 pm and Sunday 11:00 am, 8500 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 3rd Saturday at 7 pm.

EQual, Inc.
purpose is to keep the community informed about political and legal events which have an effect on the gay/bisexual community, to educate about community issues, to organize letter writing campaigns and forms of political action, and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation. EQual is not a political action committee and does not endorse candidates. Anchorage, call Dan Carter at 274-9226.

Fairbanks 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 "Homophobic Radio", 3-6 p.m. Sundays

FAMILY—Anchorage
THE FAMILY is UAA's student club for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally students. For more information, call Victoria at 245-2291 or e-mail <akguyouth@hotmail.com>
website: <http://cewolf.alaska.edu/~abfam/>

Feminist Sing-a-Long (Women only)
third Saturday of every month, 1741 Westview Circle; call Carol and Fran at 333-0871. Non-singers are more than welcome. 6:30 pm potluck, 7:30 pm singing

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

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

Continued on page 41
GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)  
**Anchorage** meets the first Sunday each month, 1pm at  
AAUF. Membership is confidential. We welcome educators  
ond non-educator allies who are interested in the problems  
of GLBT youth in our public schools. For more information  
call Fred, 562-7161.  
**Fairbanks** meets third Monday, 5pm, FEA offices on  
Cushman.  

Identity, Inc.  
Founded to improve self and community awareness, under-  
standing, and acceptance of the expression of individual  
sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes  
and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of  
Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of  
the lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges be-  
tween the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communi-  
ties. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of each month  
at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3301  
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 (ICOA)**  
is a social and support group active in many causes: we  
planned 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 ac-  
tivities, or contact Empress Rosie Rotten at 563-2110. Or  
write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.  

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

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

**Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)**  
sunday services at 2pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church,  
2311 Pembroke, 258-5266.  

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

**Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club**  
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**  
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)  
**Fairbanks** meets the 3rd Sunday of every month from  
4:00pm to 5:30pm at into the Woods Bookstore & Coffee-  
house, 3560 College Road, Fairbanks, Call 45P-FLAG for  
more information.  
**Juneau** meets the 1st Saturday of every month at 10:30am  
at Mendenhall Mall Library. Phone: 907-463-4203.  
**Anchorage** holds meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of ev-  
ey month. For information call voice mail 566-1813.  

**Shanti of Juneau**  
offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their  
loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS preven-  
tion and educational information. Offices: 222 Seward,  
Suite 200; mail: P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655.  

**SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous)**  
12-step meeting; Tues., Thurs., Sat. Check ongoing calen-  
der 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 21842,  
Juneau, AK 99802-1452. Phone 586-GAYS  

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

**Women's Coffeehouse**  
Mark your calendars for the second Saturday of each  
month. Contact the new Coffeehouse organizer, Barbara  
Wish, at 258-0499 for time and location of events.  

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**“I do….gulp!”**  

Virgin Cola CEO Richard Branson hopes to take out a  
position for his new Virgin Cola in the giant cobra pit  
otherwise known as the American soft drink market. In so  
doing, he has created an advertising campaign that could  
give the U.S. its first TV commercial featuring a marriage  
between two men.  

In a series of television ads that began airing this past  
week, average Americans and music, media, and sports  
personalities are given the opportunity to stand atop the  
bright red Virgin Cola soapbox and say what is on their  
minds. The unscripted commentaries include some deci-  
edly unusual TV moments, including the first-ever same-  
sex wedding.  

Please thank Virgin Cola for uncapping this refreshing  
—and inclusive — approach to peddling soda pop. Con-  
tact: Jonathan Cutler, Public Relations Manager, Virgin  
Cola, 6100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, LA, CA 90048  

**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.
Cyberlust

Submit changes to <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): <http://www.alaskanaids.org>
AGLA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc. <fsmph@aurora.alaska.edu>
Burleson, Laura: <fsleb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capri Cinema, Rand Thornlay: <filmgallery@compuserv.com>
Carlisle, Karen: <kcarinr@todays-tech.com>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskadan@aol.com>
Cheney B&B: <Cheneybbs@alaska.net>
Childs, Lucian: graphics artist <lucian@alaskana.com> <http://www.alaskana.com/fgx/>
Crabtree, Phil, B&B, Fairbanks, <crabtreecom@geocities.com>, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4169>
Craciun, Jean: <jcraciun@craciun.alaska.net>
Family, The: <asvls@uaa.alaska.edu> <http://cwolf.alaska.edu/~abfam/> Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquitonet.com>
Freedman, F. Kenneth: <fken@servcom.com>
Haase, Michael: <michaelh@servcom.com>
Hernandez, Gabriel: <gabe@einhad.net>
Hillman, Fred: <fhillman@alaska.net>
Hillman, Browwyn: <browwyn@alaska.net>
IAA - Internal 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.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak>
Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polarnet.com> website: <http://www2.polarnet.com/~woods>
Jamieson, Lisa: <lisi57@hotmail.com>
Klondyke Contact: <klondykecontact@hotmail.com>
Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@coml.com>
KT Creative: <ktcreate@alaska.net>
Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <FMIC@micronet.net> Loving, Ken: <kpaflowl@juno.com>
Naff, Don: <donnaf@alaska.net>
Out North: <outnorth@artswire.org>
Parsons, Greg <gparsons@ptalaska.net>
PFLAG: Fbs. website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~pflag> e-mail <pflag@mosquitonet.com> Anch. website <http://www.alaska.net/~identity/pflag.htm> e-mail <schottler@micronet.net>
Pinney, Pete: <tfpp@aurora.alaska.edu>
Q Net AK, Alaska's Gay & Lesbian Information Source: website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>
Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net> SEAGLA: <http://ptalaska.net/~seagl>
Severson, Kim: Anchorage Daily News <kseverson@pop.adn.com>
Shanti of Juneau: <http://www.ptalaska.net/~shanti>
Soule, Barbara & Bonham, Candy: <solcandy@alaska.net>
Thornsley, Rand: Capri Cinema: <filmgallery@compuserv.com>
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel <triangle@servcom.com>
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks: <rkmizniz@polarnet.com> <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~uuff>
Vann, Beth: <Bb69007@aol.com>
Walton, Erie: <fwb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Waves, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffe house: <wave@alaska.net>

Calendar

August

Friday, 28:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF, Program: Ron Swartz on domestic violence issues.

Saturday, 29:
A Les Baird Memorial Service, 10:30am - 1:30pm, Pena Sports Area/Centennial Park. (Take eastbound frontage road from Muldoon). Gathering and potluck lunch at the covered picnic area.

September

Fourth thru eighth:
A ICOAA Coronation Events. Rosie Rotton, 563-2110 for more information.

Saturday, 5:
J PFLAG, 10:30am, Mendenhall Mall Library.

Sunday, 6:
A GLSEN, 1pm, AUUF.

Wednesday, 9:
A PFLAG, 7-9pm, AUUF, 562-7161 for details.

Friday, 11:
A THE FAMILIY, 6pm, UAA Arts Bldg. Room 121.

Saturday, 12:
A Women's Coffeehouse, 7-9pm, Qupqugiaq Cafe.
A Women's Two-Step, 7:30-11pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse. Donations accepted.

Monday, 14:
A STAR training begins for crisis line volunteers. Debbie at 276-7279 for information.

Sunday, 20:
F PFLAG, 4-5:30pm, Into the Woods Bookstore.

Monday, 21:
F GLSEN, 5pm, FEA on S. Cushman.
On-Going Calendar Items

SUNDAYS
A Metropolitan Community Church Services, 2pm 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 Inquire 337-6779.
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 IMRU2 5:30-7:30 pm at 4A's 1057 W Fireweed #102, 566-4678 (566-IMRU).
J Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
J "Women's Prerogative," KTOO-FM, Wednesdays, 9pm-10pm.
A La Cage aux Wave & Drag 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.
A Women's Two Step, first Saturday, 7:30-11pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.
A Women's Two-Step, first Saturday, 7:30-11pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse. Donations accepted. September dance will be held second Saturday.
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

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