Editorial

Vote NO On Ballot Measure 2

Ten or eleven days from the time you receive this, hopefully you will be voting on Ballot Measure 2. YOUR VOTE COUNTS. (And if you are not registered to vote, all I can say is "Tsk, tsk, shame, shame!".) At best, only a very few votes will decide the issue, perhaps just one, perhaps just YOURS.

When David fought Goliath, the issue was not which was stronger or better armed or more skilled in the traditional arts of warfare. The issue at stake was the survival of a nation. David was a lowly shepherd; Goliath was the giant warrior of the Philistines. Because of a well-directed stone from David's sling, Goliath fell, and the tribes of Israel lived on to become the Jewish nation. Think of your vote as the stone in your sling.

The wily politicians who are trying to foist this amendment onto a gullible public are trying to paint this as an issue of gay marriage. They are citing tradition and morals and tradition. Translate that as the narrow views of one particular religious tradition. They are simply wrong — wily but wrong. Ballot measure 2 is not about marriage; it is about the constitution.

Alaska has a model constitution. It is one of a handful that has a Bill of Rights section that guarantees the civil rights of privacy and equality to ALL people in the state. Now, politicians citing religious reasons and backed by half a million dollars from an Outside church in Salt Lake City want to take away those rights from a few citizens. That this is clearly a political ploy and not a vital matter to the people of the state is shown by the fact that gay marriage is already illegal here and has been for three years. A constitutional amendment is unnecessary.

The early settlers in this nation, the Pilgrims, Puritans, Baptists, and Quakers, came to the colonies mainly to escape religious persecution and also to seek opportunity. Like the early colonists, some of the settlers in Alaska came for opportunity and adventure, and many came because they felt hemmed in by the customs of their home-towns, and they wanted the freedom of the frontier. Privacy was valued, and neighbors were treated as equals. Homesteaders who were dependent on their neighbors were slow to judge them. The Last Frontier has always had a tradition of live-and-let-live. With statehood, those frontier values of equality, privacy, and freedom of religious belief were then written into our state constitution.

But recall that the Puritans in Boston within a few years were hanging Quakers they disagreed with. Some Alaskans with that same Puritanical religious fervor now have lost the Alaskan frontier spirit. They are quick to judge and condemn their neighbors who are a bit different from themselves. They would like to make outcasts of people they perceive as gay. Their strategy is to rewrite the constitution. Their first step, but assuredly not their last, is to pass Measure 2. Don't let them do it! VOTE NO ON 2!!

Letter to editor

by Karen Carlisle

Dear Editor,

Just a note to confirm what is already obvious. I am not writing anymore Dear Love articles for the NorthView. The issues of a relationship between aging dykes are too deep and too personal to discuss casually in a newsletter. It is likely that I will continue writing the articles with the depth they deserve, but toward the idea of publishing a book with the old and the new, and illustrated with line drawings by Dear Love.

On our recent visit to Anchorage it was good to see so many of you, and both of us had an intense longing to stay. The weather was gorgeous, the flowers breathtakingly beautiful. The progressiveness of Alaska is amazing, I miss that deeply. And feminism, and environmentalism. The political activism within the lesbigay community is so impressive. We both left ourselves open to returning if we could get work. Then we looked at the newspaper ads and saw many jobs we were qualified to apply for, and what I saw were long-hours, intense-stress types of jobs, and I knew I couldn't do it anymore. And then there is winter.

We hope to return every couple of years. We work almost everyday and we're not making squat for money, but somehow, we're making it. We can take naps everyday if we want to, I've even started taking naps.

I get daily opportunities to use music, humor, teaching, and writing groups to raise consciousness. I wrote a piece in a writing group in the voice ofFKF talking to his parents about being queer, estrangement, and then reconciliation; the old straight ladies were mad at them, compassionate toward FKF. We have a picture of Harriet Tubman in our motel, and calendars of women of color in my office at the health department. I'm always on the inclusive language bandwagon (even with dykes!). Alix Dobkin taught a bunch of old redneck guitarists to play "Sail Away Ladies, Sail Away" with her at a community singalong that I usually lead at the Urbana Volunteer Fire Station. I usually lead; and I keep haranguing the health department to have more visuals about HIV and other STD's. There are none!

So much work to do, and plenty of places to do it. Missouri still has an anti-sodomy law, and a group like Dan delion out of St. Louis is trying to organize the state to pass a recession bill, but the Springfield community (lesbigay/transgendered) is apathetic. They're at the social stage. And of course, if you're rural living, it's tough to ally with urban queers, but it's a choice I make for the sake of my soul and my health.

So, it's the motel in summer, the used bookstore and espresso shop in winter, and I hope we succeed.

So farewell, my friends. Blessings and good life. Y'all come visit.

RR2 Box 2553-A, Hermitage, MO 65666, e-mail <bluheron@today's-tech.com> (put "for Karen" as subject)
Identity online!

by Talmadge Bailey

October is the month before elections. October is also Lesbian & Gay History Month. This means a lot of relevant surfing for gay or lesbian cyber-citizens. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLADD) is a good starting point for history month resources. You’ll find the link in Identity’s online calendar.

You can also use the Identity online calendar to find more on and even upcoming programs like Showtime’s all-gay In Through the Out Door comedy show. (October 27th)

Speaking of the calendar, there is a handy utility called Netminder which can send you an e-mail notice every time the calendar is updated. You just need to enter your e-mail address and read the user agreement once. We’ve made it easy to monitor the Identity calendar for updates, but you can actually use this utility for any page on the web. Technically its free, but as usual they will slip a little advertising into the update notice. Other than that, Netminder does not generate any junk e-mail.

Because it’s the month before elections, you’ll want to know how to vote smart. Our friends at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund have just what you need to make informed choices. The site is called Gay Vote 98 and can be found at <www.gayvote.com> or you may simply follow the link from the Identity activism page. Gay Vote 98 includes information about lesbian and gay candidates, anti-gay ballot measures, and voting records of congressmen and senators on our issues.

Gay Vote 98 has excellent information regarding the anti-marriage ballot measures in Hawaii and here in Alaska. If you want to go direct to Alaska’s “NO on 2” website, the address is <www.no-on-two.org>. While looking at this site, please keep in mind that the campaign needs to distance itself from the gay aspect in order to win. Yes, it makes this writer angry too, but its just political reality. The person who maintains the Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance has been very busy. Thanks to Bronze in Juneau, there are unofficial “branch offices” for the campaign with a greater gay awareness at <www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Stonewall/4622> and <members.tripod.com/~no_on_2>.

You can help the campaign by sending money, asking others to send money, and publicizing the campaign. Make sure to share the address for the campaign whenever you send e-mail to your cyber-pals! There are other ways to help the campaign to numerous to list here, so feel free to contact them directly. E-mail <voteno@alaska.net>.

Identity Inc. and The Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance web weavers have also teamed up to create the Alaskan Gay & Lesbian web ring. A web ring is a collection of web sites with something in common. Using web ring utilities available online, webmasters can create an easy way to navigate through all the related sites. For more information, just click on the web ring logo at the bottom of any member welcome pages — <www.ptialaska.net/~seagla> or <www.alaska.net/~identity>.

Happy Halloween!

Public media should not contain explicit or implied descriptions of sex acts. Our society should be purged of the perverts who provide the media with pornographic material while pretending it has some redeeming social value under the public’s “right to know.”
— Kenneth Starr, 1987, Sixty Minutes

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Gay and lesbian history month

October marks Gay and Lesbian History Month, dedicated to recounting the often-untold contributions of lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans throughout history. In observance of the month, communities across the country are opening a new chapter of dialogue — despite potential controversy. The focal point of this national grassroots movement will be the critically-acclaimed documentary Out of the Past, winner of the 1998 Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

“For centuries the contributions of lesbian, gay and bisexual people have gone untold. The five history textbooks most commonly used in American public schools never once mention the words lesbian or gay. This silence robs lesbian, gay and bisexual youth of a sense of their history, and presents all students with a distorted image of our past,” stated Kevin Jennings, Executive Director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

In an effort to bring attention to these unacknowledged contributions, Out of the Past documents the emergence of gay men and lesbians through 300 years of American history. The stories are framed by the present-day struggle of Kelli Peterson, a young woman who stirred national controversy as she attempted to form a Gay-Straight Alliance at her public school in Salt Lake City. Lauded by critics and audiences, Out of the Past was awarded one of Sundance’s highest accolades earlier this year and will be broadcast nationally on PBS this fall.

Now the film is serving as a catalyst for dialogue in communities across the country. GLSEN has mounted a massive grassroots campaign to screen the film for local educators, students and other constituents in cities as far-ranging as Los Angeles and Greensboro, NC. The long-term goal is for communities to adopt Out of the Past into their classrooms. “We see this as a tremendous opportunity to open discussion in our school, and to give students a more accurate sense of their history. I honestly feel that our community and educational standards will be strengthened by this effort,” stated Judy Vreeland, director of the Boston-area Walden School.

But the movement is not without its detractors. Some educators feel that high school is not the place to be teaching young people about gay men and lesbians, regardless of their contributions to society. In addition, several PBS affiliates have chosen not to air Out of the Past even though the network will be broadcasting the film across the country on October 15.

GLSEN and its supporters are forging ahead with their efforts, propelled by the strength of the documentary and the attention it has garnered in national media. “Out of the Past speaks powerfully to the high school audience. Every school’s effort to celebrate diversity and promote tolerance is advanced by showing and discussing this film,” stated Eileen Mullady, Head of the Horace Mann School in New York.

A full press kit, including press clips, a synopsis, production notes, photographs, honors and awards, is available upon request. Contact Matt Lavine, (212) 727-0135 x105 or <mlavine@glsen.org>.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) is the largest national organization working to end the destructive effects of anti-gay bias in schools nationwide. With over 85 local chapters throughout the country, GLSEN strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation. For more information about GLSEN, please visit <www.glsen.org>.

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Gay bars adopt Dallas school

A lesson in kindness: bar provides support, gifts for adopted grade school

J.R.'s is an Oak Lawn bar and grill with a $4 million-a-year liquor business. Sam Houston Elementary is Dallas' oldest school and one of its poorest. The distance between them is exactly a block. But until last fall, they were worlds apart.

Then, as principal Ricardo Weir likes to say, destiny intervened.

This fall, J.R.'s and three other gay bars owned by Caven Enterprises Inc. are adopting the entire school. They're planning Halloween parties, Christmas gifts for every child, Valentine celebrations and an Easter egg hunt.

Sam Houston has some new playground equipment this year, courtesy of J.R.'s. Its yard is free of cockleburs for the first time in a long time. Teachers were welcomed back this fall with a pizza-and-Pepsi party. The children have more than $1,000 in new school supplies. The number of tutors signed up to read to the children once a week has doubled, from 35 to 70.

It all started last fall when J.R.'s manager, Donald Solomon, was looking for a small Christmas project. Bar employees had collected Christmas toys for the school in previous years. But Solomon wanted to do something more. He wanted to provide Christmas for a few families who live in the little neighborhood of frame houses behind the Cedar Springs Road bar.

"If you want to say no, it won't hurt my feelings," Solomon remembers telling assistant principal Bernette Austin. Christmas is for children, Solomon said. "We don't have kids," he said. "Some of our families reject us."

So the assistant principal considered the offer. Sam Houston is the seventh-poorest school in the district, Weir said. Free lunches go to almost 97 percent of the students.

The principals told Solomon they couldn't pick one or two children from a class of 22. So the bar manager sighed and said, "All right, we'll take a whole class. Pick one." The principals thought about it. But once again, they couldn't choose. "How can we choose one kindergarten class when the other eight are equally in need?" they asked.

"How many children are in the kindergarten class altogether?" Solomon asked. One hundred and seventy, came the answer. Solomon went back to his employees and took a vote. "Can we adopt the entire kindergarten class of Sam Houston Elementary School for Christmas?" The vote was a unanimous yes.

"We were the unknown Santas," Solomon said. Just before Christmas break, while the children were in P.E. class, J.R.'s employees sneaked into the school, decorated the rooms, set out refreshments and delivered the toys.

“One hundred and seventy kids, and all of them got what they wanted and more," Mr. Weir said. "I'm not talking little toys. I'm talking skateboards, Barbies. The teachers were in shock. They told me they'd never seen anything like it. Nobody had ever adopted a whole class before."

The Dallas Independent School District oversees all such partnerships, said Michael Ralston, the district's director of community relations. "We meet with partners to see if the business ... is appropriate to working with schools and children," said Mr. Ralston, a former Sam Houston PTA president. As for Caven Enterprises, the company has done tremendous work at the school, Mr. Ralston said.

"They're giving the school books and funds and school supplies," he said. "Everything that these schools are lacking, this group is stepping in to bring them. I think it's great that this is an opportunity to set a precedent."

Rebecca Bermudez, president of Sam Houston Elementary's community council, said she's grateful that J.R.'s has stepped in to help. "I'm very much attuned to the fact that this is a gay community. ... They are our neighbors, and, by golly, they support the kids. They've done some wonderful things," Ms. Bermudez said.

One day Jack Polacheck, Solomon's boss and owner of Caven enterprises was visiting Weir when the principal said, "Isn't that interesting? We're such good friends. You have four businesses. I have a school with four grades that need to be adopted. It almost seems like destiny, doesn't it?"

So Polacheck went to the employees at the three other Oak Lawn bars he owns and asked them if they wanted to follow J.R.'s lead in adopting Sam Houston classes. They did.

Polacheck and his employees are careful that no liquor references or ads accompany anything at the school, he said. "We don't want to offend any parent," he said. Weir said no parents have complained.

"They're our neighbors," he said. "We're not going away. They're not going away. And we need them."

Adapted from Dallas Morning News, August 30, 1998
Our primitive ancestors ate their defeated enemies, it's said, in order to absorb their bravery. Nowadays, we rarely get the chance to follow their example. But the "magical thinking" that lay behind it still flourishes, and nowhere more so than in the gay and lesbian community. As an example, take dietary supplements.

Dietary supplements are things you eat or drink, over and above your regular food intake, that are supposed to improve your health or fitness in specific ways. If you've ever worked out in a gym, for example, you can't have missed the shelves full of products that promise to increase your lean body mass. The main ingredient of most of these products is protein, often hydrolyzed (broken down with enzymes or caustic chemicals). It seems to make sense, right? You want muscles, so eat protein, the main constituent of muscles.

But you're already taking in far more protein in your regular diet than you know how to do with. A half egg a day is sufficient for a healthy, pregnant adult to stay in protein balance indefinitely. When you take in extra protein, your body doesn't make muscle out of the surplus. It makes fat, and excretes the nitrogen through your kidneys. In other words, eating protein supplements gives you more expensive pizz than your friends, and if that's something you consider worth paying for, then you and your money are soon parted.

Sometimes manufacturers will try to sell you a specific protein for a particular tissue. For example, there are shampoos that contain hydrolyzed keratin, the main protein of hair. That's idiotic, for three reasons. First, the amino acids produced by hydrolysis of keratin are the same as those produced by the hydrolysis of any other protein. Second, these amino acids are not going to get down to the hair follicles, where new hair is made. And third, hair growth is not limited by the availability of amino acids, unless you're living in a concentration camp.

Another kind of magical thinking attributes potency to anything that has a powerful taste or smell. Garlic is the perennial favorite in this department. If it makes your breath stink and comes out your armpits it must be doing you good, right? Wrong! Garlic (whether raw or as pills or capsules) does absolutely nothing for you except ruin your relationships. Its most widely-touted benefit — lowering cholesterol — was recently tested in a double-blind controlled trial. Result: identical cholesterol levels in the subjects who took garlic and those who took a dummy pill. Predictably, industry representatives lined up on TV to explain how the researchers used the wrong form of garlic, enrolled an insufficient number of subjects, tested the wrong kind of cholesterol, and had evil intent toward the dietary-supplement industry.

What really gets me upset, though, is the way the supplement industry uses AIDS, or the fear of AIDS, to sell products. "Immune boosters" line shelf after shelf in my local gay-owned pharmacy. Sounds good, right? Boosting your immune system should help you ward off HIV infection, or prevent the onset of symptoms if you're already infected? That's what they want you to think, but they're lying. None of these products do what they're claimed to do. In fact, "boosting the immune system" is a meaningless concept, based on a misunderstanding of the nature of AIDS. The disease is caused by a highly specific failure of one element in the immune system. Much of the immune system in people with AIDS is normal or even hyperactive — witness the frequency of allergic drug reactions in people with AIDS. The idea that you're going to help yourself fight off HIV by drinking "immune fitness tea" or anything else is ludicrous. Spend your money on regular healthy food and, if you have AIDS, take your prescribed medications religiously.

Finally, there's a very primitive type of magical thinking, according to which things and their opposites are closely related. This is the basis of a whole field of charlatanry called homeopathic "medicine." Homeopaths will tell you that the best cure for a condition is a substance that actually causes that same condition! No one has milked that kind of thinking more effectively than the manufacturers of "weight-loss" drinks and prepared meals. To help you lose weight, they actually sell you food, the very thing that is harming you! The fact that people fall for this on a multi-billion-dollar scale says something about the survival of irrational thought processes in our "enlightened" culture.

The U.S. government has abdicated its responsibility to regulate dietary supplements or to review the advertising claims that promote them. So nothing stands between you and a complete rip-off except this fearless columnist and your own common sense. Use it!

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.

**QUEER SCIENCE**

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.
Where in the World?

PFD time again

For us lucky folks who live in Alaska it’s pay month again! This means that each of us get our $1540.88 from the government to spend as we wish. This year is the highest ever, and there are lots of firms who would like to relieve you of your money this year. As of October 1, Alaska Airlines has tossed their hat in the ring, as has Hawaiian Vacations and Yure Air. Alaska is offering a somewhat disappointing four-round trip tickets to most of their west coast cities plus one round trip within the state. Hawaiian Vacations is offering five-round trip to the islands, but also as of this date there is little space left for the months of January, February and March, when we Alaskans like to thaw out in the sun. Yure Air is offering seven-round trips for their cities in Alaska, if you want to do that much within the state. The other major carriers like Delta, Reno Air, Northwest and United have not, as of this date, posted their ante into the PFD pot. Hopefully by next issue I can submit all of the available plans with the pros and cons of each. Stand by.

Sunny Palm Springs

As you read this I expect to be in sunny Palm Spring with my ever-loving. I’m going down for some inspections of gay properties in the desert, and hope to report on this gay mecca in my next effort.

Fest’iver a Quebec

A most stylish gay winter getaway. March 11 to 14, Quebec City will again be host to the gay community for a major event. Just last year they hosted the IGLTA convention and put on what was reported to be one of the gayest events in recent history. This time they are encouraging winter visitors to their city for fun and frolic.

Absolutely London

Starting at only $639 per person you can fly transatlantic from New York or Boston, with transfers from Gatwick or Heathrow to your hotel, 3 to 6 nights hotel in London, open top bus tour and London guide. This is sponsored by none other than British Airways. Who said the main stream businesses are not discovering the gay dollar?

By the way!!

We note with interest that following Pat Robinson’s threat to the State of Florida, and Disney in particular, that God would bring winds and rains to the sunshine state for their allowing “Gay Day at Disney” and other pro gay items, that the state has been relativity untouched and that the religious right strongholds in North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas have had all sorts of winds, floods and other God-sent disasters.

A little short this issue

Since it is now 9:30 p.m. and I’m departing shortly after midnight, it might be well that I get this off to the editors in the sky and think about packing for the trip! Now, now, do as I say and not as I do! Never have been one to fret much over packing, I save it for the last thing before going out the door to the airport, so not to worry. I am anyway going to cut this a little short so that the rest of the household doesn’t start to panic. I expect to have lots more for you next month, so good luck and good traveling...

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

Darl Schaaff

He's been called effervescent, talented, driven, ingenious, adroit, hypersensitive, a workaholic. And our volunteer this month is all of the above... and so much more! Even his name, Darl Schaaff, conjures up visions of desert nights and men with turbans riding camels!

To say his life is like a ball, ricocheting around like a road runner, only touches the surface of this man's lifestyle. If there's work to be done, give it to Darl. Need some pizzazz at your work place, give him a call. His company, Art Service North, specializes in special events, trade shows and custom exhibits. This may include a Broadway gala evening, complete with dinner and live music, or it may include decorating your offices with shrubs and flowers on a monthly basis. Or, how about setting up an exhibit for your annual trade show? He'll handle it with credibility, panache and a flair that only comes with lots of experience and a love of people!

This gifted guy came to this far north country from Nassau, in the Bahamas, 20 years ago. Penniless, his first job in Anchorage was working for PJ's as a male stripper — honest! With a flip of a coin, Alaska had won over going “down under” to New Zealand — and we’ve been the fortunate beneficiary of Darl’s physical reality.

Some of you may remember those wonderful, nostalgic musicals he put on while working with Janet as Jan-Dar Productions — they specialized in Broadway musicals featuring song and dance of a by-gone era. Each summer for the past 17 years he has molded a bunch of wild, noisy kids into a great show called “The Music Machine.” And if that wasn’t enough, he’s been a director on the Anchorage Arts Council.

But mention martial arts and his eyes light up, that great smile surfaces and he'll expound for hours on his first love. Taking gold medals at all three of the Gay Games held in the past decade, he's now an official member of the steering committee and has helped supervise and brought that organization to the forefront of the martial arts world.

And what does the “man of all seasons” do for sheer pleasure and relaxation? He simply loves to renovate houses — from a simple one-bedroom condo to a palatial five-bedroom chalet. His life-partner, Russell, is there helping where he can, always basking in the limelight of Darl's shining star! We salute you, Mr. Schaaff — our friend, compatriot, soul-mate and confidante — you've got chutzpah!

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WASHINGTON, DC — Barney Frankly on ENDA, an award-winning short film now being distributed nationwide as a Public Service Announcement (PSA), has appeared at gay and lesbian film festivals from Honolulu to Tucson to Hartford, on public access TV in major markets, and in a variety of other venues. The Barney Frankly on ENDA Film and Video Project is continuing its wide distribution of the piece.

Narrated by former U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) and featuring openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), the 3-minute PSA addresses the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which was originally defeated in Congress by a single vote in the fall of 1996. Rep. Frank asks gay men and lesbians, as well as supporters of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, to contact Congressional representatives and urge them to fight for the passage of ENDA. The legislation is designed to protect people from discrimination in the workplace based on their sexual orientation — a basic civil liberty which is as-yet-lacking on a federal level.

Bill Corey, Co-Producer of the PSA, said: “We strongly urge anyone with the ability to help disseminate this critical information to do so.” Copies of the PSA are being distributed free of charge by the not-for-profit Barney Frankly on ENDA Film and Video Project. “The exigency of this piece’s distribution cannot be understated. On November 3rd, Americans will elect new leaders across the country, and it is critical that we as a nation and community fight to ensure just representation of our peoples. The time is upon us to act responsibly and fight to establish basic, equal rights for all Americans. Passing ENDA would provide just such a guarantee.”

In the PSA, Rep. Frank notes that conservative organizations, such as the National Rifle Association (NRA), have had a history of effectively organizing community members in lobbying and other political efforts. Rep. Frank says, “The key will be, do the gay men and lesbians, and the people who love us and care for us, care more about ending bigotry than the bigots care about perpetuating it. If you ask the average Member of Congress today, he or she has heard more from the bigots who want to perpetuate the bigotry, than from those of us who want to oppose it.”

Shortened real time audio and video versions of the PSA, as well as information on how to order free videotapes and flyers, are also available on-line at: <http://members.aol.com/barneyenda/).

For more information, contact Bill Corey, Co-Producer, Barney Frankly on ENDA (202) 234-2008 or (202) 234-7952 (FAX) or <endapsa@aol.com>.

Freedom has always been an elusive tease, and in the very act of grabbing for it one can become shackled.
— Alice Walker

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Jewish lesbian juggler opens Out North’s 14th season

by Gene Dugan

When San Francisco juggler Sara Felder steps onto the stage in Anchorage on Saturday, October 24, Out North’s 14th season will begin with a timely look at gay marriage. Felder’s solo play, June Bride, is the hilariously poignant story of a traditional Jewish lesbian wedding, only with a little more juggling.

Last year when Out North was de-funded by the Anchorage Assembly, several Assembly members criticized the nonprofit arts group for not presenting “family-oriented” work. But June Bride has been hailed by the L.A. Times as “A veritable tribute to family values.” This one-night-only event in the Discovery Theatre of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts is a benefit performance for Out North to help raise funds that have been denied to the company because of their support of work that reflects minority concerns — including the concerns of gay and lesbian people.

Out North addresses community issues through a wide range of arts, including the visual arts. The Disaster Blankets, a visual art exhibit by British weaver Lilian Tyrrell, will be on display at Out North throughout November. Images from the news media dominate these huge hand-woven tapestries to illustrate bigotry, greed and fanaticism. Tyrrell will discuss her work at Out North at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 7. The slide show and talk will be followed by a reception with the artist.

The New York production of Sugar Tit! runs November 12-17 on stage at Out North Contemporary Art House. Tye Giraud’s joyful and compelling dance/music theater work uses an ensemble of multi-talented women to celebrate the survival of women of color.

The Lilith Fair singer/songwriter/guitarist known as “jr” opens Out North’s new Northwest Music Series with concerts at Out North on November 20 and 21 at 8:00 p.m. This young Seattle-based African American woman’s work has been described as “moombles.”

Alaska Native carver and poet Susie Silook opens her visual art exhibit, Girl Power, with a slide program and reading of her work on December 5. Describing herself as a “born-again pagan” whose art is her heritage, Silook’s ivory and mixed-media carvings use Native myths and the strength of Native women today as the inspiration for hauntingly beautiful creations.

Out North starts out the new year with Under 30, its popular annual showcase of new performance works by Alaskans. This time Jill Bess returns with a musical-drama about her relationship with her therapist, local funny-man Mark Muro brings to the stage his off-beat view of a world rushing toward a millennial orgasm, and vegetarian writer Patricia Eckert offers a multi-media presentation of her life among the omnivores.

Seattle band Sadhappy will bring their unique sounds to Out North Contemporary Art House later in January. Chicana writer/performer Ruby Nelda Perez is next with her comic play, Rosita’s Jalapeno Kitchen. Later on in the season All Strung Out shows off an amazing array of avant garde puppetry.

Independent film and video from around the world will be featured at Out North in March.

In April a new stage work called Pipedreams will be brought to Out North by Fairbanks Drama Association to offer a probing look at the people who helped build the Pipeline.

Many other live art, visual art, and media art events — some of them free — will take place throughout the season, including O.N. S.T.A.G.E., Out North’s year-round program for at-risk youth which attracts participants from east Anchorage middle and high schools. This year Out North is also developing a housing project.

Out North needs your support to continue to offer our community a wide variety of arts opportunities found nowhere else in Alaska. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to Out North Contemporary Art House, 1325 Primrose, Anchorage, AK 99508. Tickets for the October 24th performance of Sara Felder’s June Bride are available at all CarrsTix locations or by calling 263-ARTS. For a season subscription or information for all other Out North events and activities, email <info@outnorth.org>, or call the Out North box office at 279-8200.

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Puppets for adults will be featured this season at Out North.
This is a general distress and help call. Community member, Pepper Shaykin's long time companion, Baby, has a cancerous tumor. Baby is a large dog, a Labrador-Husky mix, and a non-dominate female. Those who know dogs know that the non-dominant female usually squats and pees when confronted.

Officially, I am Auntie Barbara, but I am one of Baby’s founding mothers. On Fourth of July in 1987, a group of women were hanging out and picnicking at the home of the former women's bookstore owners — Mariah Redwood and Joanne Contini. We ran out of something and Pepper and I volunteered to go over to Safeway for it. In the Safeway parking lot at the Northway Mall, Pepper and I were approached by a man with a puppy cuddled in his windbreaker. The young man asked if we knew of someone to take the pup. He had gotten a job out of town and could not take the dog with him. Pepper couldn’t resist saying she was an animal rescue person.

Baby was so tiny she fit in the palm of my hand. Pepper was sure the pup would be a small dog. Me, who has raised Huskies at one time, noticing the size of the puppy's feet, insisted it was going to be a big dog. Pepper fell in love with the puppy before we got back to Joanne and Mariah's. Misjudging the dogs age, the food the two of us purchased for the pup caused serious gastronomical problems within two weeks. In addition, the dog had worms - probably contracted from the mother. Baby almost died from the combination. The dog precipitated a huge veterinarian bill the first month Pepper had Baby, and she couldn’t find another home for the growing puppy.

Fortunately Pepper stayed enamored with the playful, good hearted, “not always too bright” pup. Housebreaking Baby was a long process and many times I heard Pepper pleading “Baby, Please!” For a time, Baby, Please shared Pepper's home with the cat, Kitty, Thank You, who just adored her Auntie Barbara — although I haven't a clue why. Kitty eventually went to another home that treats her like the royalty she is.

Since Baby, Please is non-dominant, she is not a good guard or watch dog. She shares Pepper’s life with the mostly rottweiler, dominate female, Kali. Sister Kali is extremely intelligent, territorial and protective. She has gone through screen doors and plate glass windows in pursuit of persons trying to break in the house and returned with large chunks of clothing in her mouth.

Baby is an eleven year old now and a good size dog. She is one of the most playful, sweetest, gentlest, loving companions imaginable. Baby is affectionate and always gives her Auntie lots of kisses and usually ends up in my lap on the floor. Her joy of life and rollicking playful spirit is indomitable and courageous. Her owner, Pepper, takes diligent, meticulous, excellent care of all the animals.

Pepper is another psychic. She “knew” something was wrong with Baby and discovered the cancerous tumor. A veterinarian confirmed the tumor's existence. It is inoperable, and chemotherapy and radiation will destroy the eye and part of her nose. The cancer is in the left nostril and goes up behind the left eye and is “hot dog” shaped.

I am asking those who know how to channel healing energy to send energy to shrink the tumor away from the eye and to continue shrinking the tumor down to nothing. The people who meditate, during their meditations, visualize or think of the tumor separating from behind the eye cell by cell, leaving the eye intact. Send the tumor melon or orange sherbet colored energy and light, if you can. Those of you who still pray, please ask for healing when you say your prayers. If there is anyone who thinks praying has no use, the introduction in the book used for the elementary Quantum Physics class at UAA says that research has proven if a person just thinks about the particle of an atom, that atom is changed. Your prayers are significant. We are working for a miracle. Miracles do occur — impossible things happen. The world is wonderful with magic and miracles in it. Energy, prayers and intentions do count. We all need a miracle once in a while.

Please help us save Baby.

Barbara J. Soule is a Reiki Master, a clairvoyant psychic, a lesbian artist, performer and writer.
Deadline for special provision on Roth IRA is December 31

by Kathleen Madden

Pst! Looking to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA? Well don’t overlook a special one-time offer that expires this year. Investors converting their traditional IRAs to the new Roth IRA are going to owe income taxes. But the good news is that the taxable income can be spread over four years (tax years 1999-2001), if investors act on or before December 31, 1998.

The Roth IRA is one of the most significant investment opportunities to come along in decades, making conversion to a Roth worth serious consideration.

Who should convert?

If the income taxes you pay now can be offset by the Roth IRA’s tax-free growth before you retire, it’s a good idea to look at conversion. And if you expect to be in a higher tax bracket at retirement, remember qualified Roth distributions are tax-free, unlike traditional IRA distributions.

Each situation requires a thorough financial analysis to determine the best solutions, but both a conversion Roth (and a contributory Roth IRA) offer unique advantages. To make the right decision, taxpayers need to weigh the number of years they have until retirement, their current and future tax brackets, and their estimated investment returns.

Why a Roth IRA?

The Roth IRA can be an excellent investment opportunity. With a traditional IRA or an employer-sponsored retirement plan, taxes are deferred until you withdraw funds. By contrast, the Roth IRA allows your investment earnings to grow tax-free and, when you withdraw funds, no federal taxes are owed on any dividends or capital gains earned. To qualify, you must hold the account for five years, then funds can be withdrawn under one of several conditions: when you reach age 59-1/2, become disabled, or die, or for qualified first home purchases.

Roth offers fewer restrictions

A Roth IRA can be an effective retirement tool for people of all ages. It can provide tax-free retirement income in addition to Social Security benefits or an employer’s retirement plan. And, besides its tax-free provisions, the Roth IRA offers several advantages over the traditional IRA:

* The ability to contribute past age 70-1/2, an important consideration given that more Americans are staying in the workforce longer and living longer;

* No mandatory age at which you have to begin withdrawing funds (traditional IRAs mandate withdrawals beginning at age 70-1/2);

* The ability to pass the Roth to heirs income-tax-free (except for estate taxes), if the Roth IRA is at least five years old when the beneficiary takes distribution; and,

* Tax-free distributions before age 59-1/2 due to disability or death, if the Roth IRA is at least five years old.

The Roth IRA does impose income limits on participants. For example, single persons can make an annual after-tax investment of $2,000 if their adjusted gross income is less than $95,000. Couples can invest $2,000 each if they file jointly and if their combined adjusted gross income is below $150,000. Regardless of marital status, you can convert an existing IRA into a Roth provided your income is less than $100,000.

Tax savings add up

The tax savings can be significant between a Roth IRA, whose distributions are tax-free, and a traditional IRA, whose distributions are taxable. In a hypothetical case, assume you are in a 28% tax bracket and contribute $2,000 at the beginning of each year at an assumed 8% annual rate of return. After 30 years, both the Roth and traditional IRAs are worth the same amount. However, after taxes, the traditional IRA nets only $160,326 while the tax-free Roth nets $244,692.*

The potential tax advantages of a Roth IRA are the most significant improvements since the inception of IRAs more than two decades ago. Every investor needs to consider a Roth IRA, based on their own financial needs and circumstances, preferably with the help of a personal financial advisor, and a tax advisor, too.

*This example assumes a growth rate for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect the actual performance of any specific investment, nor does it factor in the benefits of the potential tax deductibility of traditional IRAs.

Kathleen Madden is a Financial Advisor for Waddell & Reed (see ad elsewhere in this issue.) The Anchorage office is one of 200 nationwide. They can be reached at <http://www.waddell.com>.

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we have always been... we shall always be.
San Francisco preachers will perform gay marriages

by Tyche Hendricks

One by one, the 28 clergymen and women stepped to the pulpit and proclaimed their support for gay and lesbian marriages, then solemnly lit a candle in affirmation of their pledge.

The interfaith service at the First Unitarian Universalist Church on Franklin Street included rabbis, ministers and priests from a dozen faiths who were concerned about a backlash against homosexuals. They were among 150 clergy members from Northern California who have signed a proclamation of their willingness to perform same-sex unions.

The service — the first of its kind in San Francisco and perhaps anywhere in the country — comes at a time when some state governments are passing laws declaring gay marriages illegal, and religious denominations are enduring schisms over the issue. California State Sen. Pete Knight, R-Palmdale, is spearheading a petition drive to put a “Defense of Marriage Act” on the ballot for the 2000 primary election. The measure would ban recognition of same-sex weddings performed in other states. The campaign must gather 700,000 signatures. It comes after five attempts to get such a bill through the Legislature failed in the past four years.

In Nebraska earlier this year, a Methodist minister was tried in a church court for marrying a lesbian couple. Though he was acquitted, he lost his job and the president of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church warned that ministers who perform gay marriages could still face prosecution. In 1997 the Episcopal Church narrowly rejected a plan to establish blessings for same-sex marriages.

But in the Bay Area, gay and lesbian couples have found rabbis, Buddhist and Episcopal priests, and Baptist, Lutheran and Methodist ministers, among others, willing to bless their union.

Some of the clergy at the ceremony are homosexual, others said they were moved to participate because they had a gay parent or child or sibling, but the majority spoke of conscience and faith.

The Rev. Stephen Lee, of Bethany United Methodist Church, said he and other Methodist ministers continue to perform gay weddings, despite the Nebraska controversy. “Regardless of what the institution says, it doesn’t change the element of love. You can’t legislate that,” he said.

“Jewish tradition teaches that all human beings are created in the image of God,” said Rabbi Sydney Mintz of Temple Emanu-El. “All of us possess the same right to love and be loved and to have our love recognized.”

Before he lit his candle, the Rev. John Marsh, a minister at the Unitarian church, said he was there on behalf of those in less tolerant regions. Marsh said he had spent 10 years as a minister in Edmonton, Alberta, and one day was visited by two young men from a small Alberta town who asked him to perform a ceremony to bless their union. “Before they found each other, neither one had known any other gay or lesbian person in the world,” he said. “I vow to keep the beacon burning for those outside San Francisco, in the rural towns of North America, to let them know there are more possibilities for love than they’ve sometimes imagined.”

The organizers of the service said they plan to repeat the event every year. Some, like Unitarian minister Margot Campbell Gross, are contemplating a boycott on signing civil marriage licenses for heterosexuals until they can sign them for gay couples as well.

In addition, the Rev. Gross said she plans to suggest that her Unitarian colleagues in other parts of the country organize similar interfaith services to support gay marriage.

San Francisco Examiner, September 16, 1998

CLASSIFIED AD


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

Date: Friday, October 23 (not October 30)
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: Dan Carter speaks about 1998 election issues.
Are lesbians more likely to develop breast cancer?

by Micki Boling

The question about whether lesbians are more likely to develop breast cancer than heterosexual women is a complicated one, because lesbians live in all communities and are diverse in race, ethnicity, class, and political outlook. They cannot be grouped by an overall risk assessment for any disease. Knowledge about early detection and the development of breast cancer can help every woman, including lesbians, to assess her risks individually and plan actions she can take to find it early.

Being a woman and getting older are the greatest risks for breast cancer. Seventy-five percent of breast cancers are diagnosed in women age 50 and over. Eighty-five percent of women diagnosed have no family members with the disease.

If you began menstruating before age 12, became menopausal after age 50, delayed childbearing until after age 30, or did not bear children, you are at higher risk for developing breast cancer.

The time interval between menarche and first birth has the most influence in a woman’s later development of breast cancer. During this period, breast cells are bathed with estrogen that protects them and prepares them for lactation. Also, genetic events may occur that can cause alterations or mutations to breast cells in this safe and protected environment. Estrogen protects these mutations and the altered cells may survive and later develop into cancers. Currently, scientists are doing research to identify the genetic events that occur during these years. This may provide opportunities for pre-cancerous detection and intervention.

Over the last fifty years changes in diet, exercise patterns, and environmental factors have dramatically lengthened the time between menarche and first live birth. Early in the 1900’s, women’s first menstrual periods arrived at age 15 or 16, and babies typically arrived soon thereafter. Today many girls begin menstruating at age 11 and delay having children until later in life or do not have children. The chances of developing breast cancer go up as the interval between menarche and first birth increases because this is the time when breast cells are most likely to mutate and mutations may have a greater chance to survive and become cancers.

Until we know what causes breast cancer every woman needs to be vigilant about finding cancers early by getting an annual checkup that includes a clinical breast exam and, if appropriate, a mammogram.

Studies have shown that lesbians may have less access to health insurance than heterosexual women do, they may have experienced discrimination, and that they may avoid breast cancer screening. Women of all sexual orientations have expressed fears about finding cancer, the effects of radiation, and the perceived discomfort of mammography.

The Alaska Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (AK-BCCEDP) is available to pay for screening exams for women 18 and over if they have no insurance that pays for these services (or cannot meet the insurance deductible) and meet income guidelines. Lesbian sensitive health care providers are available to perform an annual checkup that includes a clinical breast exam, Pap test, and pelvic exam. At age 40 a woman and her AK-BCCEDP health care provider assess the need for a mammogram (x-ray of the breast). It is important that a woman discusses mammography with her health care provider so they can decide together what is right for her. A mammogram is included in the annual exam beginning when a woman reaches age 50.

AK-BCCEDP services are located in Anchorage, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Seward, Soldotna, Talkeetna, and Wasilla. The AK-BCCEDP system has many sensitive female providers. For assistance in finding an appropriate health care provider, call the YWCA ENCOREPlus Program in Anchorage: 907-274-1572. Outside of Anchorage call me at the toll free number (800-410-6266).

Here’s one more incentive to have a mammogram: Rosie O’Donnell is giving free T-shirts to women who send her proof that they have had a mammogram in the last year. The T-shirts say, “I’ve Been Squished.” To get one, send a copy of your receipt or other proof that you had a mammogram within the last year. The address is GM Concept Care, I Got Squished, PO Box 65695, Salt Lake City, Utah 84165-0695.


Lesbian Notions

Getting angry over “post-gay”

Some members of our community think it’s time for lesbians and gay men to take on a “post-gay” sensibility. Post-gay thinking is tricky, because it purports to be all about opening up the lesbian and gay community and envisioning what has been called a “mixed, gay-friendly society.” The problem is that in order to be post-gay, lesbians and gay men have to shut down their anger and be “nice.”

Post-gay reasoning goes something like this: Now that lesbians and gay men have achieved some rights and visibility, we should try to define ourselves by more than our sexuality. There should be an end to the insularity of gay culture and a more organic melding of lesbians and gay men with the rest of society. Post-gay advocates also want to see more self-criticism taking place on issues like gay male preoccupation with gym bodies.

Most of these individual points are hardly new. Almost 10 years ago at OutWrite, the national lesbian and gay writers’ conference, keynote speaker Edward Albee enraged his audience by branding contemporary gay literature as artistically confining. Almost 20 years ago in Faggots, Larry Kramer blasted gay men for their alleged obsession with sex and appearance. And many lesbian feminists of the 1970s and 1980s critiqued what they saw as the one-note politics of gay men and built their own movement based not solely on sexuality but on a range of progressive issues.

If “post-gay” meant a broadening of lesbian and gay activism beyond gay civil rights, I’d be on the bandwagon in a minute. I’d love to be part of a post-gay movement that forms coalitions with labor, people of color, and women’s groups in order to achieve sweeping social change — health-care reform, for example, and improved public education.

But that’s not what the post-gay crowd has in mind. They propose becoming less angry about gay issues instead of becoming more angry about a host of issues. “Anger has been a useful muscle,” wrote James Collard, the new editor-in-chief of OUT magazine, in the August 17 issue of Newsweek. Collard pointed out how an army of angry queers brought the AIDS crisis to national attention. But, he added, it’s time to put anger aside, because it “weakens [our] fighting strength by excluding the many gay people who no longer see their lives solely in terms of struggle.”

When someone tells me I shouldn’t get angry, I tend to get even angrier. Not long ago, when I wrote in my latest book that lesbians and gay men had often been “vilified” by heterosexuals, especially the Christian Right, one of my editors, a lesbian, sent me an e-mail warning me that I was “way too angry” (and followed it up with a happy face emoticon). Her point was that it was ineffective and divisive to get mad at straight people, even those who actively work against lesbians and gay men. This notion that lesbians and gay men are too angry and too focused on struggle reminds me of the criticisms that post-feminist “feminists” started hurling at the women’s movement several years back. According to post-feminism, because women have achieved a certain degree of equality, they should stop being angry, particularly at men. Christina Hoff Sommers, Katie Roiphe, Camille Paglia and many others made (and continue to make) money and names for themselves deriding feminism as a “victim” mentality. Sommers has decried feminists as unattractive women who are “just mad at the beautiful girls.” Roiphe has poo-pooed everything from date rape to sexual harassment to heterosexual safer sex as non-issues manufactured by anti-sex feminists. Many young women have latched onto these ideas. One 20-something wrote in Esquire that she and other women just want to “make out with our boyfriends and not worry about oppression” — unaware, it seems, that their sexual freedom was won by angry feminists.

Like post-feminism, post-gay thinking is insular and privileged, an ahistorical, in-crowd dialogue to engage in over cappuccino. What about the lesbians and gay men who are already leading what would technically qualify as post-gay lives? They don’t have much connection with gay culture, can’t afford or don’t want to live in gentrified gay neighborhoods, or don’t even know many gay people. The problem is that many of these people can’t come out, for reasons of jobs, family, or housing. Their lives aren’t post-gay; they’re confined by homophobia and discrimination.

Ultimately, you have to have choices in order to choose to be “post”-anything. The fact that so many lesbians and gay men have to remain in the closet makes me angry. And it’s one big reason that a true post-gay era is a long way off.

Until we redefine behavior in terms of human rather than masculine and feminine, we are locked in a dance of death.
— Anna Kuhn

Friends of the Klondyke Kontakt
The KK has a new e-mail address <klondykekontact@hotmail.com>
Coming out opportunities: past, present, missed & realized

by Ken Lovernig

Macy's department store

Paul bought some swimsuits a few days earlier with his credit card and he's asked me to return them for a refund. His credit card in hand, I'm waiting for the clerk to scan the items back into the store inventory. Soon, he will ask for the card and I will have to sign something and, for a moment, I wonder if I can forge Paul's signature accurately enough. I think back to my retail days when wives would sign for husbands all the time.

The clerk points out an electronic screen that I will have to sign with a plastic stick that resembles a pen. I panic, figuring I can't fool a computer. I imagine that I'll sign the stupid screen, the computer will send a message to the clerk that my signature doesn't match the one on the card, and store security will be all over me.

I sign, and I miss the distinctive loop in the "k" of his last name! I can't go back! I can't erase it and try again! I try to play it cool.

"There you are, thank you sir," the clerk says and hands me back the card.

(Of course, it never occurs to me that a thief wouldn't use a credit card to return merchandise.)

Dentist's office

I am filling out one of those endless forms before allowing a complete stranger to poke and prod inside my mouth with sharp gadgets that could be mistaken for instruments of torture. As I run through the inquiry by pen, I wait for the inevitable inquiry over my HIV status. When I arrive at it, I mark it appropriately. But farther down the page, I'm puzzled by the choices which await me:

___ Single ___ Married ___ Divorced

Now I'm not stupid enough to believe that only gay men are infected with HIV. But I am smart enough to know that the majority of folks out there readily and quickly associate HIV with gay men. So why is this dentist, on the same page, 1) asking me if I'm HIV+, and 2) pegging me into heterosexual conventions?

I write in another choice and mark it as such:

X Partnered.

Workplace break room

One woman has just returned from a honeymoon Caribbean cruise. She shamelessly brags about it to a second woman, who I know is also married. They speak about the cruise as if it was Nirvana itself, as if the very secret of Happiness is hidden in Pina Coladas on the Sun Deck.

I am about to embark on just such a cruise with my husband Paul and I debate whether to mention it. I'm not sure I want to get sucked into their enthusiasm, despite that I'm (of course!) looking forward to my vacation.

But I know better than to seek Nirvana and Happiness with a capital "H."

"I'm leaving on a cruise next month," I say.

One of them gets a look of wine and romance in her eyes and says "Oh, are you going on your honeymoon?"

I want to respond, "Oh, God, no — gross!" Of course, she can't know that her version of marriage is not in my future, after all, I don't wear a tag proclaiming my sexual orientation. And, incidentally, neither does she. But she talks about her husband all the time.

Wake

Paul's great aunt Claire came all the way from California for the services of her departed sister. As always, Claire's "friend" Norma was by her side, having accompanied her on the trip.

No one in Paul's family talks about Claire and Norma, but their place in the family history is chronicled in photos. Here they stand outside someone's church wedding — in much younger years — their cat glasses and June-Cleaver-dresses flacking their figures. And here they are on a front stoop somewhere at another family event, perhaps a few years later.

They moved to California soon after these pictures were taken and are seldom heard from, seldom discussed, until family duty calls them back to face those people who choose not to ask them questions for fear of the answers.

Paul is pleased to see her at the wake. Their conversation carries a formality typical between distant relatives. When she asks where he is living, he tells her Boston, with his "friend" Ken. He is careful to place just the right stress on that euphemistic wink of a word, that word that so coyly described underground relationships when they absolutely had to be kept underground.

He feels a private alliance; he feels the elitism of membership to an exclusive club that stretches back countless generations.
Wedding
I have rented a tux, ridden Amtrak to New York City from Boston, and figured out the bus system into New Jersey to the town in which my brother Rick is getting married. I am an usher. Paul would be with me, but he has not yet entered my life. My bachelorhood makes me further ill to be attending my brother's wedding.

It is Rick's day. Despite that he does not yet accept or believe that I am gay, I am standing at his wedding reception as the DJ announces the dreaded garter toss, demanding that all single men come forward.

I linger in the crowd, behind some tall people. But the best man's wife appears before me and urges me to join the other drooling men. I tell her no.

"Rick told us you were gay," she says, "us" being her and her husband, the best man.

Why is she telling me this, I wonder. Better yet, if she knows I'm gay, why is she pushing me to participate in a strictly straight ritual? I smell the stench of conversion. Men are whooping and screaming at the garter removal.

And then this woman says, truly believing that she is being sensitive, "I hope that doesn't make you uncomfortable — that he told us."

I begin to fume.

There are moments when one must assess what is a self-serving reaction against what is a right and humble reaction. This could be my self-serving reaction: Why would MY being gay make ME uncomfortable? Seems to me, sweetie, since you're raising it as an ISSUE, that it makes YOU uncomfortable. So get your pretty little head out of the SAND and go have some more champagne!

Here is my "right and humble" reaction:
"No," I say. "That's fine."
"Good, then go up there and have fun!" She is a misplaced cheerleader, cheering for the wrong team.
"No, thanks, I'll pass."
"Oh, go on." She pushes me (!) toward the dance floor where all this heterosexist mayhem is reaching a crescendo.

If my exchange with this woman continues, it will only erupt into something nasty. So, because somewhere in the core of my soul I love my brother, I step onto the dance floor as the garter flies through the air.

Metamorphoses lie in wait for us.
— Genet

Pick me up
for a good time

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1-800-462-6654
to order a FREE catalog of Gay Travel Guides.
Schools fail to protect gay students

by Carol Ness

The nation's schools earned a near-failing grade on a report card assessing how well they protect their gay and lesbian students and teachers from discrimination and harassment.

The 2nd annual report card, issued by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, evaluated 42 of the nation's largest school districts, home to more than 6 million students. The average grade was a D. In 1997, the national average was a C. This year's drop might not mean actual deterioration so much as a statistical change because the number of schools surveyed was reduced this year to a geographically diverse sample.

San Francisco schools earned an A for the second straight year; not surprising since their program has served as a model. Four districts in the county scored A's, Los Angeles, San Diego, Miami and Philadelphia, Boston received an A-

Nationally, 16 surveyed districts earned failing grades, including Chicago and many Southern and Midwestern districts.

The report card, which was being made public at a press conference in Washington, D.C., was prompted by the case of a gay Wisconsin boy, Jamie Nabozny, who suffered insults, taunts, threats and beatings at school because of his sexual orientation. He sued his school district and won $900,000 in a 1996 landmark ruling that put schools across the country on notice that they need to protect their students from endemic anti-gay harassment.

"The report card initiative is our effort to make fair, objective judgments on districts on this issue and to understand what steps are needed to improve conditions," said Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. "The results show a need for immediate and dramatic action to protect our students." At the press conference with Jennings was Leslie Sadashiv, a Strongsville, Ohio, nurse whose 14-year-old gay son, Robbie Kirkland, killed himself last year. He had been called anti-gay epithets, teased, punched and hit with rocks since first grade.

Though his family accepted his homosexuality, Robbie was harassed by his peers, and just before returning to his ninth-grade class after Christmas break, he shot himself in the head. His suicide note said, "I hope I can find the peace in death that I could not find in life." His mother believes it would not have happened if his classmates had not been allowed to persist in tormenting him.

The survey asked school districts if they have policies protecting students and staff from anti-gay discrimination and harassment, provide teacher training and a curriculum that incorporates gay subjects, and support gay-straight student clubs.

Still, all the policies in the world will not protect students if they are not avidly enforced, according to Grant Peterson, head of the San Francisco-East Bay chapter of the education network. "We know kids are still suffering. Even in San Francisco, with its A, you know there are kids being harassed, and there is still training that needs to be done," he said.

The Laguna Salada school district in Pacifica found that out the hard way, when it was sued by a youngster over years of harassment despite all the proper policies. The case was settled in the youth's favor last summer for an undisclosed amount after his attorney had successfully argued that teachers and administrators did not adequately protect the boy.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network said its research shows that a typical high school student hears anti-gay slurs as often as 26 times a day, but teachers intervene only 3 percent of the time. As a result, the taunts escalate to physical violence, with 19 percent of gay and lesbian students suffering attacks associated with sexual orientation, the group said. In addition to suicide, the harassment can cause students to drop out and abuse alcohol or drugs, educators say.

The report card "hopefully will help the districts evaluate where they are in the process of improving safety for all kids," Peterson said. "In the process we are going to help a lot of kids, both straight and gay, because straight kids are targets of anti-gay harassment, too." The education network also works directly with school districts, conducting workshops on sexual orientation issues for teachers and administrators.

San Francisco Examiner, P.O. Box 7260, San Francisco, CA, 94120, fax 415-512-1264, e-mail sfe@examiner.com.

Editor's Note: Local chapters of GLSEN meet in Anchorage and Fairbanks. See on-going calendar and Club notes for meeting dates and times.
Show me the manuscript!

The tabloid headlines sounded a warning bell a few weeks ago. But there's no Tom Cruise outing in the works. David Ehrenstein's forthcoming book, Open Secret: Gay Hollywood 1928-1998 (William Morrow & Co.), features a chapter titled "Tom Cruise," which fueled a story in the National Enquirer speculating that the very married mega-star was about to be exposed as gay. But instead of rehearsing rumors about the star's sexuality, the book, due in October, uses Cruise as a metaphor to discuss our fascination with the bedroom habits of celebrities.

The book will also discuss the fascination over the sexualities of Richard Gere and John Travolta. But no, don't expect Ehrenstein (a former Advocate columnist) to make any revelations about gerbils.

Blank and Bobby McGee

Melissa Etheridge won't be Janis Joplin after all. The lesbian rocker has long dreamed of playing the legendary soul singer, but word has it she just doesn't have the acting chops to pull off the role. However, Melissa's partner, Julie Cypher, will remain as a producer of Piece of My Heart, which she also co-wrote. Kiss the Girls director Gary Fleder has been brought in to helm the film and help find a new actress to play Joplin. Lili Taylor (I Shot Andy Warhol) has previously been mentioned for the role.

Gay on Broadway

Openly gay actor Anthony Rapp (Rent) will star as the title character in the Broadway revival of You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. B.D. Wong, who made a convincing woman in M. Butterfly, co-stars as Linus.

Meanwhile, Terrence McNally's play promises loads of controversy, with the conservative Catholic League bussing in true believers for opening night protests when Corpus Christi premiered. In the play, Jesus is depicted as a gay man. Expect to hear a lot more about this one, including word of a vocal counter-demonstration organized by gay playwrights Craig Lucas (Prelude to a Kiss) and Tony Kushner (Angels in America).

The ten best... and one worst

Everyone else is doing it, so why not me? What follows is my opinion of the 10 best queer-themed films of all time, along with the one worst.

10. The Bird Cage: The film isn't great, but Nathan Lane's performance is. He and writer Elaine May were a match made in celluloid heaven.

9. Longtime Companion: No movie better captures the dawn of the AIDS epidemic. Everything else about it is solid too, from the acting (especially Bruce Davison) to the writing to the directing.

8. Mommie Dearest: Some say it ruined her career, but Faye Dunaway's portrayal of Joan Crawford captured just the right note in this hilariously over-the-top take on the private life of the movie queen. Who among us hasn't shrieked: "No wire hangers!"

7. Tootsie: Dustin Hoffman may not have made an attractive gal, but this crowd-pleaser was a throwback to studio classics while remaining very contemporary. And Jessica Lange can make a man "consider" heterosexuality.

6. Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?: You couldn't have a queer top 10 list and not consider camp classics like this one, starring battling bitches Crawford and Bette Davis, whose eerie and hilarious performance of "I've Written a Letter to Daddy" served as inspiration for frumpy drag queens everywhere.

5. Dog Day Afternoon: Back when Al Pacino was subtle, he acted the hell out of great material like this. Director Sidney Lumet was also at the top of his form in this strangely moving story of a man robbing a bank in order to pay for his lover's sex change.

4. The Wizard of Oz: We've all traveled long roads looking for men who never turn out as advertised. And, of course, what friend of Dorothy's can't relate to Judy Garland walking in those shoes.

3. My Own Private Idaho: How things have changed since 1991. River Phoenix was still alive, Keanu Reeves was still desirable and gay director Gus Van Sant was still making singularly original films like this one, a visual masterpiece one-upped only by a mesmerizing performance by Phoenix.

2. Some Like It Hot: The first studio film to highlight men in drag is also the movie that made Marilyn Monroe a star. I think those are pretty clear criteria for the list, not to mention the film is funny as hell (written and directed by the legendary Billy Wilder). And Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon made far more convincing women than, say, Patrick Swayze and Wesley Snipes (more on them later).

1. Midnight Cowboy: Everyone was talking about gay director John Schlesinger's X-rated masterpiece, which starred Jon Voight as a small-town male hustler out of place in New York City. More than that, it's a great non-sexual love story between two men, wonderfully played by Voight and Dustin Hoffman.

And now, the worst, which was much easier to pick than the ten best. It's hard to figure out what's more awful in this film: the acting (save for Stockard Channing) or the writing (more than 100 clichés, I counted). But there's no doubting that To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar was an embarrassment on all counts. Thanks for nothing!

Romeo San Vicente, who is always looking to break "home run" records, can be reached at <RSVicente@aol.com>.

High-school theater saved my life. I was a drug addict. An alcoholic. An open lesbian. I was ready to slit my wrists but theater was there for me.

A Couple of guys

AHOY, WITHOUT THE NOSE RING AND MOHAWK, YOU'RE STARTING TO LOOK LIKE OUR YOUNGER BROTHER AGAIN.

WELL, ERIC, I GUESS I FEEL BETTER NOW, TOO. YOU'RE MORE LIKE MYSELF.

WELL, THEN, WHAT DO YOU WEAR ALL THAT STUFF TO FIT IN WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

NUH, IT WASN'T THAT. MARY ANN, SEE EVEN THOUGH YOU GUYS BOTH MOVED AWAY, MOM AND DAD ARE STILL REALLY CAUGHT UP IN YOUR LIVES.

AND WITH ERIC ANNOUNCING HE'S GAY AND YOU SQUOT TO HAVE A BABY...

THE EASY WAYS TO GET ATTENTION WERE ALL TAKEN.

who
what
where
when
why

it's all in the press!

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The Amazon Trail

Don't talk to strangers

Our community has a potluck every month. This particular potluck was held at the home of two women who live upriver and whom I'd never met before.

We set off with high spirits in my Ford chariot: Lover, the Hotelier, the Revered Poet and myself. The old gay couple who had semi-retired to their riverside paradise greeted us at the end of a long dirt lane. They seemed distracted by all the arrivals and we four, recognizing no one, meandered out back and crept down the steep steps to the river bank.

It was a beautiful site and sight. Fish leapt before our eyes, trees shaded us, boulders offered natural seating, the other guests stayed where I wanted them, far above. We tarried. And tarried, four new friends enjoying one another's company too much.

"I don't like all those new women up there," I grumbled.

One of the others laughed and agreed, "Me neither!"

This was stage fright and I was clinging to the known on that riverbank, content to enjoy the bonds I'd already made. There were youngsters up there in backwards baseball caps, fresh faces and the energy to be playing some kind of game. One gangly puppy had actually bounded up, shaken my hand and introduced herself. I felt like a curmudgeon. And for good reason. Humph.

Once I'd acknowledged my nervousness, however, the old socialization kicked in, and I climbed slowly with Lover and friends to meet the new kids on the block.

It's never easy, is it, getting into outgoing mode, leaving the comfort of the familiar for the unknown? I like my small world. We've made some good friends since our move a year ago and we enjoy them tremendously. I particularly enjoy being accepted for who I am, not carrying the writer-me like a shield or a neon sign. I'm just Lee around here. By the time anybody figures out I write they already know my plain-jane self and like me or leave me be.

So we crested the embankment and I gazed at the — no, this wasn't a field of Amazon warriors come to break down my defenses. It was a hodge-podge of twenty-somethings to eighty-somethings and they were bumbling around just like us in their protective circles. That's what potlucks are for, right? To dish other women with our friends? I don't think so.

We'd tarried long enough for the food line to form. I'd always wondered why in heck people had to get together over food. Then there I was, chatting up the hosts while blithely spilling tomato sauce or whatever on my chinos.

Funny how that works. All of a sudden I was laughing, the hosts were laughing — everyone was offering napkins except the Hotelier, who had the bemused look of someone all too accustomed to visitors' messes. At the expense of my dignity, the ice was broken.

Who were these scary women? The hosts were a retired gay bar owner and a semi-retired nurse. One was as outspoken as the other was reticent. They spend their days "fitchin" for salmon in their small boat, gardening and caring for a beloved pup. One had a collection of comical Mona Lisa spin-off portraits. Now, were they anyone to be a-scared of?

Three of the young women had come from quite a distance. They hung together, but seemed to covertly observe their elders like eager fledglings. The joke among them, finally said aloud when Backwards-cap became unbearably uncomfortable, was that she'd been pierced in unmentionable places that very day. Cool. She accepted a couple of aspirins from parenting me. I worked on eclaircissizing my mind by remembering the names of the three and they tested me later.

Backwards-cap, who should be called Charlie, or Murph in my lexicon, had kept her ultra-feminine handle and confused me every time. Have we become that accepting of who we are that we don't take dyke names any more?

A bunch of women sat under a tree. Not until after dinner did I exchange words with any of them. Then I promptly fell in love.

Flowing white hair worn with a flair, so soft-spoken I could barely hear her. Elegant, tastefully dressed, fine-feathered with a bemused glimmer to her eyes, Prince Charming is the idealized lesbian of the stories I read when I was Charlie's (or whatever her name is) age. I just turned to mush and wanted to follow her everywhere. She is, as Murph (or whatever her name was) might say, Totally Amazing.

I think it was the Revered Poet who asked if Prince Charming was the lesbian I'd wanted to be when I grew up. It took some thought, but in one of those world-shaking moments of self-discovery I answered, "No, she's the lesbian I thought I wanted to be. I'm more comfortable as me."

No wonder it'd been nervous. It's not every day I go to one of those ubiquitous lesbian potlucks and find myself.  

Copyright Lee Lynch 1998
I can't buy anything anymore, and I blame all of this on little Mufara Burapti.

Mufara Burapti is seven years old and lives in Indonesia, presumably in one of the bleaker parts where there is no food, no schools, and basically nothing useful apart from a small patch of dirt and a bedraggled chicken. At least that's what I can determine from the bio of Mufara which was sent to me by the child sponsorship organization.

Last year, I decided it might be a good idea to sponsor a child. After all, I have it pretty good. I'm not rich by any stretch of the imagination, but at least I don't have to wait for a Red Cross volunteer to hand me a plastic pail full of old rice. I don't work eighteen hours a day sewing clothes for discount stores, and only once has anyone shot at me for voicing my political beliefs. Besides, what else can you do with twenty bucks a month that actually achieves something?

So Mufara came into my life. I did a lot of research before I sponsored her, making sure the sponsorship organization was legitimate, delving into the percentage of sponsorship dollars actually given to the communities being served, and, most important, satisfying myself that they had nothing whatsoever to do with a religious institution. I want my money going to build a child's life, not teach her to recite Bible verses before someone hands her some food like a trained seal.

Once I started sponsoring Mufara, I was very pleased with myself for doing something socially responsible. But being one of those foolish people who can't leave well enough alone, I then decided to see what other areas of my consumer-based lifestyle might need attending. So I began to look at the products I was using, and researching where they came from and who made them.

Within days, I discovered that I was doing just about everything wrong. The food products I dumped in my shopping cart came, I learned, from hideously evil megacorporations that not only loaded up their products with every harmful chemical known to science, but inevitably used cheap labor to make it all. Even when their business practices were borderline acceptable, a little more digging revealed that they had given enormous sums of money to anti-abortion groups, anti-gay groups, or anti-environmental groups. At the very least, they had killed bunnies to test their products.

The end result is that now I can't eat anything. If it doesn't have some kind of suspicious cancer-causing agent or dye in it, then it's probably packaged in something that can't be recycled, rendering it unfit for purchase. And even if it says it's made by Mother's Kitchen Natural Foods, a little scratching beneath the surface will reveal that behind the smiling maternal face on the box is really Big Ass Fake Food Manufacturers, Inc. They can't fool me.

As if all this isn't enough, the whole gay issue makes consumerism based on principles nearly impossible. First we couldn't drink Coors beer because the company had anti-gay leanings. Then we all stopped going to Cracker Barrel restaurants because they were mean to us. And most recently, we've had to stop flying American Airlines because the company's president agreed, after pressure from religious groups, to stop advertising in gay periodicals and offering gay-themed vacation packages.

Disney is particularly problematic. As most gay folks know, the Religious Right has been boycotting Disney for some time because of their policy of extending domestic partner benefits to their gay and straight employees. For this reason, it seems fitting that we should reassure the company that, as queers, we appreciate their support.
Except there's the Ellen problem. See, Disney-owned ABC is the network that dumped Ellen and her show when it became clear that being too gay was causing a dip in ratings. If they're willing to axle one of our own just because she's not going over well with advertisers, do they really deserve our dollars? All I know is that I skipped Mulan, but I'm not sure that anyone noticed.

You can see the potential problems all of this ethical consumerism stuff presents. Once you start, it just snowballs. I have enough guilt about driving a Volkswagen (the company once made war machines utilized by Nazis), but at least that was given to me, so I don't feel like the manufacturer actually got any money from me. Still, I have to fill it with fossil fuels, and that makes the part of me concerned about the oil monopoly and the exploitation of natural resources a little edgy. Every time I fill up the tank, I imagine another penguin giving up its little soul so that I can drive to the grocery instead of taking the bus.

So I recycle. I compost. I don't buy something unless I really need it. I eat organic cookies and drink juice made only from fruit grown by cooperatives. I boycott companies that are destroying the rainforests and contributing to human rights abuses, and I write letters of protest so that everyone knows just what I think about everything. On the days when I'm sure that I can't live without eating an Oreo (too much dye and packaged in non-biodegradable plastic), I work my frustrations out by walking fifteen miles to the co-op and loading up on chocolate Rice Dream and tofu pops, which I eat while watching Seven Years in Tibet and thanking the Goddess that at least one penguin can swim free because I didn't cave in to the evil advertising tactics of Nabisco.

The scary thing is that, more and more, my life is starting to look a lot like little Mufara Burapti's. My friends say I have a haunted look about the eyes. I haven't moved into a hut yet, but I'm living with less and less stuff around me. Yesterday I swear a chicken ran across the front lawn. I think I'll draw the line at the little plastic bucket, but who can say? I'll have to see if it's recyclable first.

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Teens and Sex

The sexual behavior of our youth can be an uncomfortable topic for many. It is not pleasant to think of teenagers being sexually active, and in fact, popular opinion states that they should not be having sex -- but they are.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Alaska department of Education sheds light on the subject of teen sexuality. In this study, the authors found that of high school kids surveyed, about half reported having sex at least once, and in Middle Schools, about 28% of boys and 18% of girls reported having sex at least once. The study went on to point out that in high school students, over 30% reported having sex within three months of taking the study.

These statistics may be shocking, however the consequences can be even more shocking. Kids between 15-19 years of age have the highest rate of gonorrhea infection in the whole state. Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that is transmitted much the same way as HIV. The big difference between gonorrhea and HIV is, gonorrhea is curable and HIV obviously is not.

Latex condoms are the best form of protection from HIV, gonorrhea and other STDs during vagina and anal sex. Yet the study found that only 60% of High School aged boys and 45% of girls reported using a condom the last time they had sex. No matter what your individual opinion on teen sexuality, the fact that our sexually active kids, as a whole, have little experience with condom use is alarming.

Compared to other states, Alaska still has a relatively low population of people with AIDS (as of August 1998 there were 426 confirmed AIDS cases in Alaska) and presumably, a comparatively low level of people who have HIV. It is true that as of August 1998, 31 people below the age of 19 have tested positive for HIV in the state which is a relatively low number considering their sexual activity, gonorrhea rates and how few use condoms. Unfortunately, it seems that the only thing protecting our teens from HIV infection is that they have less opportunity of encountering an HIV positive sexual partner than a peer in another state, such as New York.

This kind of protection is fragile indeed. The number of people infected with HIV is growing every day in Alaska. As this number grows, so do the chances of teens being infected with HIV. One may seek to find a simple answer to this problem, however none have succeeded. Neither condemning or celebrating teen sexuality seems to get at the point that our teens are sexual and becoming infected with STDs including HIV. It is my fear that while grappling with this issue, we may lose sight of who we are trying to protect - our youth. As one Anchorage teenager put it, "While the adults are deciding what information I should have about AIDS, I'm out their having sex without any."

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1 This number, reported to the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology, reflects people with AIDS who declare Alaska as their state of residence.
2 This number, reported to the State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology, reflects individuals aged 0-19 who have tested positive for HIV antibodies at state affiliated testing sites.

Upcoming Events:
- AIDS 101, 5:30-6:30pm, October 21 & November 17 @ 4 A's
- 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
- December 1st, World AIDS Day
Transgenders gaining rights

GLAAD Press Release

The transgender community — aided by the political gains of lesbians and gay men — “appears to be gaining acceptance as a bona fide minority group,” writes Steve Johnson in the September 1 San Jose Mercury News: “A small but growing number of cities grant them special protections; some employers take pains to treat them sensitively; and the media has given them increasing visibility.”

But Johnson establishes that transgender persons’ struggles are far from over, in a lengthy examination of the social and legal challenges they face. “They are routinely denied access to bathrooms and other public accommodations, according to a case before the California Supreme Court,” he reports. “Many complain that they are targets of hate crimes.” Transgender rights “also are problematic for some guys and lesbians,” Johnson states.

The article, which illustrates its points through having transgender persons tell their stories, is thoroughly reported and provides a survey of transgender life both in broadstroke and in some depth.

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.

Transsexual elected councilor

A transsexual was elected to the county council of New Zealand’s Grey District.

Jacquie Grant, known as the “Tranny Granny” for fostering over 50 children, became the first transsexual member of the New Zealand Order of Merit earlier this year.

Grant has lived as a woman for over 25 years and is thought to be the only transsexual approved for fostering by the state Children and Young Persons Service. She also runs courses for children with behavioral problems and founded Moana Zoo, a 50-acre (20-hectare) home for endangered animals.

New Zealand has one other openly transsexual elected official, Carterton Mayor Georgina Beyer.

No matter what your fight, don’t be ladylike. God almighty made women and the Rockefeller gang of thieves made ladies.

— Mary Harris (“Mother”) Jones

Are those copies of Out, Advocate, etc... you swore you would throw out still stacked in the corner? Here’s an answer for you!! Recycle Them!

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Let’s stop picking on homosexuals for god’s sake

by Paul Wood

When I go to vote on November third, I’ll be given the power to pick on queers. So will you. We’ll be asked if we want to change the constitution of the state of Hawaii so that it forbids homosexual marriages. If we vote “yes” we’ll be writing the language of prejudice and discrimination into the fundamental law of the land for the first time. A “yes” vote is like painting a mustache on the Mona Lisa.

Let’s put the issue of homosexuality to the side for just one minute. I want you to remember something about the constitution. Maybe you didn’t do so hot in high school civics, but so what. Certainly you know the basics.

All people are equal. Minorities have the same rights as anybody else. Each citizen gets life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

There is no “except for” clause in the constitution. There’s nothing that says, “All people are equal, but Japanese people can’t marry Filipinos.”

“Our people can’t marry short people.”

“Bald people can’t have children.”

The constitution doesn’t tell people who to marry. Who to have sex with. What to believe. The constitution doesn’t single out any one group of people and say — EXCEPT FOR YOU.

Except for the Portuguese — they can’t drive cars. Except for old people — they can’t watch television. Except for redheads — they can’t drink beer. Except for you.

Except for the people I don’t like.

It doesn’t say any of that. Here’s what it says:

“We, the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance, and mindful of our Hawaiian heritage and uniqueness as an island state, reserve the right to nurture the integrity of our people and culture, and to preserve the quality of life that we desire... with an understanding and compassionate heart toward all the peoples of the earth.”

Divine Guidance? Hmm. The God who made homosexuals — who made roughly ten percent of every human population, in every country and culture on Earth, homosexual — also made Buddhists and Jews and Shintoists and Hindus and Muslims and disbelievers and (yes) even radical right fundamentalist Christians. Please consult that God while you’re standing in the voting booth with your head bowed.

Hawaiian heritage? As everyone knows, the Hawaiians were amazingly tolerant of sexual behavior. Our uniqueness as an island state? We’re the civil-rights state number one. We know from experience how terrible it is to discriminate against minorities. We remember the cane camps and the World War II internments. We learned how to form our own language — pidgin — out of a disharmony of voices. We were the first to ratify the ERA. Our courts have ruled that homosexuals have a constitutional right to marry if they want to. When it comes to extending tolerance and acceptance to minority groups, we’re the biggest saps in America.

And America is so brave about the idea of personal liberty that it even tolerates intolerant people — Nazis and Ku Klux Klanspeople and people who dislike homosexuals so much that they’re willing to change the constitution in order to single them out and deliberately limit their personal liberty.

People like that have come into our state from the mainland with a budget of two million dollars and the deliberate intent to change our constitution.

They have publicly stated their purpose, which is to limit choice in three specific areas — the right of a person to love someone of the same gender; the right of a person to have or not have children; and the right of a person to decide whether or not to die.

They’re starting with the same-gender issue in this election. They’re spending lots of money on advertising. They want you to vote yes — yes, let’s change the constitution. Yes, let’s put it
in our constitution that we the people of Hawaii discriminate against homosexuals.

Later on, we'll go after the rights of pregnant girls. Then we'll go after people who are so sick that they want to die. But for now, let's pick on the queers.

If these people can't get you to vote yes on their amendment, they have a back-up plan. They want you to vote yes on the bill right next to it — one that will authorize the public expense of twelve million dollars to create a Constitutional Convention.

This "Con-Con" would assemble a bunch of citizens to give our constitution a total overhaul.

The intolerant people behind the gay-bashing amendment would love to see us vote for such a convention. It would give them a perfect opportunity to push all their ideas into the constitution — while it's lying there anaesthetized on the operating table.

The scary thing about "Con-Con" is this: who's going to be there? You?

Not me, certainly. I'm too busy trying to make a living.

I'll be you-know-who. The people with the two million dollars and the bad attitude about homos.

I'm mad at them.

I'm mad at them for putting such a smutty referendum on my ballot, for dragging their dirty little campaign into the dignity of the polling place, for making me imagine for even an instant that I would ever go to my homosexual friends and say — hey, you can't do that!

If my homosexual friends are living together in committed partnerships, and some of them are, I wish them the best. I've been married twice. It's a tough thing to do, to stick together. Some of my gay friends seem to be better at it than I.

My relationship with a woman is not made worse or better by their relationship with each other. Their success has no negative affect on my family. It does not make me or my sons less heterosexual.

My children are all heterosexual — at least for now — but that's really just a matter of chance. I doubt any influence could have somehow "made them gay." On the other hand, and a flip of the coin, I probably could have fathered a gay child. And I probably would have spent a lot of useless time wondering why. Was it the divorce? Should I have played basketball with him more often? But eventually I would have just given up trying to figure it out and done what we all should do. Accept it.

If my son was gay, I would want to know as soon as he knew. I would not want him to suffer the terrible loneliness of hiding. As his father, I would like to be the one to reassure him that he's a person of quality, a person worthy of respect, despite the messages that he'd be getting in the school yard, on the streets, and even in the voting booth.

I don't have to point out to you — I'm sure you've observed it yourself — the mean gay-hating streak that runs through American culture. I can't say where it comes from. The cruelty is perpetuated in the school yard, a dangerous place for a "queer."

Imagine what would happen in a high school if the students voted, and the school authorities allowed, a rule stating that homosexual students couldn't use the drinking fountains.

It's a small thing. Just like saying they can't get married. No big deal. Just an official, school-wide statement that, yes, these members of the population are suspicious and probably inferior.

How do you think the gay-bashers in the hallways would react to the news that they just got a stamp of approval?

If we vote to sanction meanness, then we are personally responsible for the pain that will inevitably follow.

I'm mad because the proposed amendment is dangerous. It's explosive.

Resist the $2,000,000 campaign to make you vote yes. When you read the expression "Shall the constitution of the state of Hawaii be amended...?" —

Say no.

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September 18, 1998 Haiku Times, P. O. Box 1080, Makawao, Maui, Hawaii 96768, fax: 808-572-0168, e-mail <haltimes@maui.net>.

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**such is LIFE!**

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SOMETIMES I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT AND WONDER WHY I WAS BORN???

HAVE I BEEN HERE BEFORE???
WILL I BE HERE AGAIN???

WHY IS IT CALLED A PERMANENT WHEN IT ISN'T???

IT'S JUST SO HARD TO STAY PRETTY THESE DAYS!
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Fairbanksans

Further North in the Heart of Alaska

by Terry A. Fauth

Parties, productions and an important vote coming up. When will we find time to carve pumpkins and get a costume ready for Halloween?

Halloween dance

The Interior AIDS Association is again hosting the annual Halloween dance this month. Location will be the Alaska Railroad Depot on Driveway (behind the Fairbanks News-Miner) on October 31st. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. and dancing lasts until 2:00 a.m. Admission is $7. Available at the dance and also the IAA are tickets for this year’s $10,000 raffle to be held on November 13th, with 5 additional cash prizes. For more information call Pat at 452-4222.

PFLAG Fairbanks

Board Meeting (open to all) held on the second Tuesday of the month, and Discussion/Support gathering is held on the third Sunday of the month. Call 45P-FLAG for locations. The much awaited bibliography of books available at the Noel Wien Library is now online at <www.mosquitonet.com/~pflag>.

Klondyke’s Queens & Company

KDOQ’s production of Forbidden Fruits, Tommy & Timmy’s Wedding will be showing at the Palace in Alaskaland on October 16, 17, 23 & 24. Doors will likely open at 9:00 p.m. with the show starting at 10:00, but as these shows sell out early, be there ahead of time.

Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse

Located at 3560 College Road, they have many offerings this season. Mondays: Jazz Jam at 7:00 p.m.; Tuesdays: Open Poetry at 7:00 p.m.; Wednesdays: Alaska Boreal Forest Council Brown Bag Lunch at noon and Old Time Banjo & Fiddle with Seth & Eric at 8:30 p.m.; Fridays Nix on Six at noon, Folk Harp Music with Genie Loser at 5:00 p.m. and Celtic Jam at 8:00 p.m. Call Connie at 479-7701 for information on these, or the many meetings and groups that have found their home here.

Monthly Potluck

This month’s community potluck will be held on October 24th at 7:00 p.m., hosted by Ed at 606 D Street in Fairbanks. Call 457-6469 (Terry) for more information or to be the host hacienda for an upcoming potluck.

Duchy of Fairbanks

The Fairbanks Duchy is looking forward to an exciting and fun filled reign. This July, Fairbanks elected Augusta Von Braknell, “Lady B”, to be the new Duchess of Fairbanks. Due to forces beyond our control, her husband and Duke, Lord Braknell, had to leave us on an extended safari. As a result, Smokey Von Wolfe has been elected our new Regent Duke of Fairbanks to fill the position until the end of its term. The two also selected several outstanding members of the Fairbanks community to fill the House of Lords. Essentially, they have selected a dynamic and versatile team to help them with their goals for the sixth reign of the Duchy of Fairbanks. On October 3 at Club G, they announced their goals for the season:

- Increase awareness and visibility of the g/l/b/t community with the rest of the community and businesses in Fairbanks.
- Increase awareness and visibility of the Duchy of Fairbanks and ICOAA both locally and otherwise.
- Raise at least the projected goal of $20,000 for Fairbanks charities.
- Improve communication with Anchorage, Juneau, and other communities in Alaska.
- Fight for a more united and stronger community.

They hope to accomplish their goals, but they need your help. They are working on a calendar of events and fundraisers for the year, and will be able to establish it further after their first large group meeting. They do hope to have some fundraisers this year that we have not had before. The Countess of Camp, Rachel Von Slur, is hoping to begin a “Closet King and Queen of Fairbanks” event modeled after the one in Anchorage. They are also planning for a three-day Pride Festival on the weekend of June 18-20, which the Mr. and Miss Gay Fairbanks will be busy helping to organize. This year they also hope to host a four-day Ducal Ball on July 15-18. Other fundraisers and activities will soon be solidified. Look forward to a reign of camp, class and civic minded fun.

QNetAK

Located at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> and now in its third year of service to the community with calendar of events for Fairbanks and Anchorage, statewide resources, links and family friendly businesses. List your business (webpage is not a requirement) or homepage by e-mail to <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>, or to get on the mailing circle.

My mom’s like super-miss-artsy-liberal person. But my dad’s a little more conservative. He actually loved it. Afterward he had his picture taken with all the drag queens who were in the film.

— Actor Brad Rowe on his role in the new gay film Billy’s Hollywood Screen Kiss, to the Associated Press.
WASHINGTON — Therapy and “ex-gay ministries” that purport to change gay people to straight cannot substantiate their claims of “success” and are well outside clinical research and thinking in the psychotherapeutic world, according to a new report by the Human Rights Campaign.

“Mission Impossible: Why Reparative Therapy and Ex-Gay Ministries Fail” examines the empty promises of these techniques, and points out that their recent rise to prominence is the result of the agenda of the religious political groups such as the Family Research Council, the Christian Coalition and Focus on the Family.

“There has been no recent mad rush by gay people to change into heterosexuals,” said Kim I. Mills, HRC’s education director and author of the report. “These programs have been thrust into the spotlight recently because James Dobson, head of Focus on the Family, wants the Republican Party to hew to his conservative agenda. Right after Dobson’s highly publicized meeting with top congressional GOP leaders in May, three things happened: Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott compared homosexuality to kleptomania, Congress began to consider a raft of anti-gay legislation and these techniques were showcased in a series of national newspaper advertisements. These are not coincidences.”

“Mission Impossible” points out that neither this type of therapy nor these “ex-gay ministries” really deliver what they promise — i.e., to change gay people into heterosexuals.

“Ex-gay ministries dangle false promises before troubled people in order to lure them into their programs.” Mills said. “The clearest evidence that these programs are not effective are the testimonials of people who once participated in them — and the fact that so many of the most prominent ex-gay leaders returned to their former gay lives, only to be replaced by people who were never gay themselves and therefore cannot create new public relations disasters.”

These programs make inflated claims of “success,” but when journalists or others ask for substantiation, they cannot provide it, according to the report. For example, when the Public Broadcasting Service made the documentary “One Nation Under God,” in 1994, Exodus claimed a “change rate” of 71.6 percent, yet could not provide documents to back up this rather precise figure. Four years later, Exodus still could not substantiate its claims to Newsweek magazine.

Both ex-gay ministries and reparative therapists refuse to confront the underlying reasons for the apparent unhappiness of many of the gay people who seek their help, the study found. They presume that all gay people are mentally and emotionally unwell, ignoring the hundreds of thousands of happy, well-adjusted, successful lesbians and gay men across this nation.

Plus, not everyone they deal with is gay, yet they never make a distinction when they claim to have altered peoples’ most basic natures. This is what reporter Justin Chin wrote after participating in an ex-gay program affiliated with the Exodus Ministry: “Ex-gays are sexually celibate but homosexuality is still central to them. Everything in their lives revolves around homosexuality and avoiding it. ... The ex-gays try to drown their homosexuality in Bible verses, marriage, family and their own new subcultural niche, but their homosexuality remains.”

“Mission Impossible” also examines the policy statements of the pre-eminent professional associations in the psychotherapeutic world, all of which warn against so-called reparative therapy. Their report points out that the chief proponent of this therapy — an organization called the National Association for the Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, or NARTH — also cannot credibly substantiate the “change” rates they claim for their clients.

“The results of the one NARTH study are suspect because 63 percent of respondents were still undergoing ‘reparative therapy’ at the time of the survey, which certainly colored their thinking,” Mills said. “Plus, many were apparently bisexual. And, most important, the study did not follow these people over a long period of time.”

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Past Out

Who were Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead?

Margaret Mead is a name most students learn in school, and her most famous book, *Coming of Age in Samoa*, is a classic anthropology text. Her mentor and lover, Ruth Benedict, however, is less well-known outside of anthropology circles, though she was as famous as Mead in her day.

Born in 1887, Benedict (born Ruth Fulton) decided as a young woman to study anthropology. In 1922, she became a teaching assistant for Franz Boas, regarded as the father of American anthropology, in a class he taught at Barnard, the women's college at Columbia. In that class was a bright 21-year-old named Margaret Mead, a star undergraduate who was editor of the Barnard newspaper. Mead was also well-known on campus for her leftist politics and advocacy of free love.

Fourteen years apart in age, the two women shared a radical world view, a love of poetry, a commitment to their careers, and a deep, mutual respect.

At first, their relationship was strictly one of mentor and student, with Benedict viewing Mead as a daughter-figure and counseling her on her career. While she was working on her doctorate, Mead spent long hours alone with Benedict, discussing ideas that excited them or sharing favorite poems.

Within a few years, their passionate friendship, common among academic women at that time, blossomed into a lesbian love affair. During a trip together to the Grand Canyon in the summer of 1925, Benedict and Mead discovered that they preferred each other to the men in their lives. (They were both married, and each was having an affair with the same man, linguist Edward Sapir.)

But Mead never believed in the permanence of sexual love in the way that Benedict did. Mead tended to fall in love with more than one person at a time, disregarding the gender of her lovers. Mead's dislike of sexual exclusivity was one reason she never lived with Benedict. But her own homophobia also got in the way. Mead worried about an openly lesbian relationship damaging her career.

Benedict, on the other hand, began a new life after her affair with Mead. She separated from her husband and found the permanence Mead couldn't give her in two subsequent lesbian relationships. The first, begun in the early 1930s, was with research chemist Natalie Raymond. After they separated in 1939, Benedict became involved with clinical psychologist Ruth Valentine, with whom she lived until her death.

Having found her identity, Benedict spent the rest of her professional life trying to justify homosexuality, hypothesizing in her work that society, not nature, created the categories of “normal” and “abnormal.” The overarching theme of her masterpiece, *Patterns of Culture* (1934), was the struggle of the misfit individual against a repressive culture. Mead later wrote that her own exploration of “normality” in *Coming of Age in Samoa* (1926) was “a question Ruth Benedict had taught me to ask.”

Until her death in 1948, Benedict remained good friends and close colleagues with Mead. Soon after Benedict died, Mead began writing her mentor's biography, *An Anthropologist at Work*, which took 10 years to complete and was published in 1959. Though Mead never acknowledged her own relationships with women, in 1974 she wrote a positive article in *Redbook* magazine, arguing that considered bisexuality to be “creative.”

**Euro parliament denounces anti-gay nations**

The European Parliament passed a resolution September 17 denouncing Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Romania for unfair treatment of gays. The vote was 110 to 89 with 6 abstentions. The move was spurred by Austria, Cyprus and Romania's recent refusals to bring their anti-gay laws into line with European human-rights standards.

The parliament also expressed its refusal to “give its consent to the accession [into the 15-nation European Union] of any country that violates the human rights of lesbians and gay men.” Specifically, it:

* called on Austria to repeal Article 209 of the penal code, which sets a higher age of consent for gay sex than straight sex (this is particularly embarrassing since Austria holds the EU presidency for the second half of 1998);

* deplored the “insufficient law reform” passed by the Parliament of Cyprus on May 21, which replaced the complete ban on male homosexuality with a series of other discriminatory provisions, including an age of consent;

* deplored the refusal of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies on June 30 to adopt a government bill that would have repealed all anti-gay legislation included in Article 200 of the penal code.

“The adoption of this resolution is a big success for the European lesbian and gay movement,” said Kurt Krivkler, co-chair of ILGA-Europe, a regional body of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
GLAAD Press Release

NEW YORK — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) will present its 1998 Fairness Awards to Leonard Riggio, Chairman and CEO, Barnes & Noble, Inc. and Michael Barker, Tom Bernard and Marcie Bloom, co-presidents of Sony Pictures Classics, on Thursday, November 5, in New York City.

GLAAD presents the Fairness Awards to individuals and institutions that demonstrate exemplary leadership in combating discrimination based on sexual orientation through programs of education, communications and civil rights protection.

"Dozens of companies were considered this year, but the outstanding commitment from Barnes & Noble and Sony Pictures Classics to principles of fairness in their work and in their organizational policies made our decision quite clear," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "From Sandy, Utah to New York City, Barnes & Noble has served as a trusted friend to members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered community and to our families, through such creative and informative endeavors as its pioneering Gay & Lesbian Studies sections. Sony Pictures Classics has provided extraordinary visibility to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community vis-à-vis its extensive roster of remarkable and inclusive films."

The Barnes & Noble “Gay & Lesbian Studies” section has been providing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in even the most rural areas of our country with access to very important literature and information about that community. Barnes & Noble is an important resource, and, in some cases, a lifeline, for gay teens in suburbs as well as lesbian and gay people all over the country. In addition, Barnes & Noble was among the first companies to offer benefits to the domestic partners of their lesbian and gay employees.

"On behalf of Barnes & Noble booksellers, I am happy to accept this award," said Leonard Riggio, Chairman and CEO of Barnes & Noble, Inc. "We have never been in the business of censorship. We always believed in providing all of our customers with books, ideas and information they need and want."

The Sony Pictures Classics catalogue boasts an impressive list of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender films. Their titles include Beautiful Thing, Ma Vie En Rose, and this year's runaway independent hit, The Opposite of Sex. In 1995, Sony Pictures Classics also released The Celluloid Closet, a groundbreaking documentary chronicling the history of lesbian and gay images in film based on the classic book written by Vito Russo.

"We are honored to be acknowledged by GLAAD," said Michael Barker, co-President of Sony Pictures Classics. "Ultimately this award belongs to the filmmakers who have eloquently expressed the ideas of tolerance and truth."

HELP US TO HELP YOU

There are many ways in which our readers may assist in the publication of NorthView. It may be that you have a few hours of time to donate or you may have skills which you could apply on a volunteer basis. If there are no extra hours in your schedule and you have no skills which could be applied, why not consider sponsoring the mailing of one issue of NorthView.

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

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

If this is something you (or someone you know) are interested in doing, please contact Tom at 333-7504 or Shirley at 338-3708.
Imagine (for Matthew Shepard 1976-1998)

by Lesléa Newman

I have never cried on stage before.

In the twelve years I have been a guest lecturer at hundreds of universities, I have never before shed a tear behind a podium. Then again, I have never been greeted by a College President with tears streaming from his eyes. But this was the University of Wyoming, the school that Matthew Shepard had attended. Matthew Shepard, who just that morning had died, after spending five days in a coma resulting from one of the most brutal gay bashings of all time. Coincidentally (or not coincidentally?) it was the start of Coming Out Week, and I was the University of Wyoming's keynote speaker.

A few days before my trip to Wyoming, Jim Osborne, a member of the school's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Association called to tell me about what had happened to Matthew. "I thought you should know," he said, "and I wouldn't blame you if you decided not to come."

I only had one question: had the perpetrators been caught?

"They're already in jail," Jim assured me.

"Then I'll be there," I assured him. Even though my spouse was not thrilled at the idea, especially when more than a few friends called to express concern for my safety (I did have a bodyguard) I knew how important it was for those students to go on with Coming Out Week. And I was not going to disappoint them.

I was picked up at Denver International Airport by a young lesbian who asked me not to use her name in print because she hopes one day to join the Navy. As we drove (and drove and drove) — I learned that out west a "short ride from the airport" means a good three hours — my eyes wandered the wide open landscape. To this native New Yorker, the vast empty spaces were overwhelming and terrifying. It was easy to see how a young man tied spread eagle to a fence could remain undiscovered for eighteen hours.

As we pulled into Laramie, I spotted television trucks with satellite dishes parked outside the campus and bars. My driver proudly pointed out the tallest building in Wyoming: a student dormitory that boasted eight floors.

"What's your state population?" I asked my new friend.

"It's 450,000," she answered and then her eyes filled. "Minus one." I was met at my campus "guest suite" (a glorified dorm room) by my bodyguard, a six-foot blond muscle man who looked quite capable of protecting me from anything. After a quick shower, I was driven to a lecture hall, where Jim Osborne tied a yellow ribbon for Matthew around my sleeve before we fell weeping into each other's arms.

Why was I feeling so emotional? I had never met Matthew Shepard, or even heard his name until a few days ago. I subscribe to many gay and lesbian newspapers and unfortunately I read about gay bashings all the time. While I am always horrified to read such reports, it hit me on a whole other level to be on Matthew's school campus, meeting his friends and teachers and knowing that had circumstances been different he would have been there at my lecture. And to know that Matthew's perpetrators (I refuse to say "alleged") were in jail, a stone's throw away, at least by Wyoming standards. Russell A. Henderson and Aaron J. McKinney were to be arraigned the next morning, and had I not had flight reservations, I would have liked to show up in court. Like Yoko Ono, who had pressed her nose to the glass of the police cruiser that held Mark David Chapman the night he shot John Lennon, I wanted to see the face of someone who could be that cruel.

I started my presentation by asking for a moment of silence for Matthew Shepard. Then I addressed the gay men and lesbians in the audience, who I knew were feeling especially vulnerable and needed special words of encouragement to go on despite their rage, fear and grief. Next I addressed the heterosexual members of the audience, reminding them they had a special opportunity to show the world what kind of allies they were. Finally, I asked everyone in the audience to think of one thing they could do to end homophobia and promise the person sitting next to them that they would do that one thing before the end of the week. Then I launched into the talk I was being paid to give: "Heather's Mommy Speaks Out: Homophobia, Censorship and Family Values." Since the main point of my talk is that education — the earlier the better — is the key to ending homophobia, my appearance in Wyoming couldn't have been more timely.

After my presentation, I sat behind a book table, signing books and talking with students. Every single one of them shook my hand and told me how much my visit had meant to them. I know that when I visit a college campus the students see me — a real live, grown-up lesbian the same age as many of their mothers — as a role model. The students in Laramie didn't need to hear my speech (though they were a wonderful audience) as much as they needed to see me, an out, proud lesbian right before their very eyes. I know what my presence communicated: if my life was possible, their lives were possible, too.

The morning after my talk, I found myself back at the Denver International Airport, in a tram, heading for Terminal C. A woman who looked around my age smiled and pointed to my arm band. "What does that mean?" she asked.

"It's for Matthew Shepard," I said, and before I could explain further she started to cry.

"His poor parents," she said. "I can't imagine what they're going through."

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As the tram spilled us into the terminal, I thought about what she had said: I can’t imagine... and the words of Minnie Bruce Pratt came to mind. Pratt, the author of many books including Crime Against Nature and S/He, was a keynote speaker at OutWrite, the national gay and lesbian writing conference last year. Her speech addressed the danger of that very phrase, I can’t imagine. Minnie Bruce Pratt told us if we couldn’t imagine our lives turning out like someone else’s, then we were denying the fact that anything that can happen to someone else can happen to us, too. My guess is the woman I was on the tram with had a child, possibly a son, possibly a gay son, and she couldn’t imagine herself sitting at her child’s bedside, watching him die from wounds so violently and deliberately inflicted. I, too, have tried and failed to imagine the last hours of Matthew Shepard’s life before he lost consciousness. It is unfathomable to imagine the raw fear he felt as he begged Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney for his life. As a fiction writer, I know how important it is for me to use my imagination. It’s part of my job. Now I realize it’s part of my job as a human being, too. Because only if every one of us allows ourselves — no, forces ourselves — to imagine that we were Matthew Shepard, only then will we be motivated to do something. And something must be done.

While Matthew Shepard lay dying in a Fort Collins, Colorado hospital, a homecoming parade for Colorado State University marched through the streets a few blocks away. Part of the parade featured a fraternity float with a scarecrow with the words “I’m gay” spray-painted on it, a direct reference to the fact that the first person who came upon Matthew almost didn’t stop because he thought Matthew was a scarecrow.

There are hate groups on the Internet with addresses like <www.Godhatesfags.com>. Several gay organizations in Colorado have already gotten e-mail messages celebrating Matthew’s death. The messages end with the words, “I hope it happens more often.”

I hope that each reader of this article thinks of one thing they can do to end homophobia and makes a commitment to doing it this week. I told the students at the University of Wyoming that I was going to donate a percentage of my speaking fee to the Matthew Shepard Memorial Fund and that I would dedicate all the speeches I do for the rest of the year to his memory. I now carry a picture of Matthew Shepard in my wallet, so that on the days I feel too tired to get on another airplane and fly to another college to speak about lesbian and gay rights, I’ll look at his picture and remember why I do it. I do it so what happened to Matthew Shepard will never happen again. I do it because I have always been struck by the prayer for peace we read aloud every year in synagogue during the High Holy Days, which ends: and you shall lay down and no man shall terrify you.

To quote John Lennon: Imagine.

We must rid the world of the destructive notion that tragedy awaits unless we rigidly control sexuality with harsh, arbitrary rules; instead, we must demand that sexuality be governed by love and responsibility. This is gay liberation’s enduring message.

Defending prejudice

Reasons to vote Yes on Ballot Measure 2: Prejudice, prejudice and prejudice. There is no rational reason to vote yes on Ballot Measure 2, only prejudice. Many people will cite scripture in an attempt to justify their prejudice. However, prejudice has no place in law — not even when that prejudice is religion-based. Furthermore, those scriptures can cut both ways depending on who is wielding them. Thankfully, the founders of our country had the wisdom to draw a line between church and state.

Other people will attempt to justify their prejudice by saying the inclusion of gay and lesbian people will destroy the institution of marriage. If marriage is in danger, perhaps it needs a few more people joining in it instead of potential supporters of the institution being walled out. In the debate remember that if marriage lost its value as a social currency after being extended to same-sex couples, it would be due not to the same-sex couples, but the irrational prejudice against them. To clarify this argument compare it to a hypothetical situation in which homosexuals were to be barred from using money in order to “protect” the institution of money. If the homosexuals had not been using the civil institution of money but were on the verge of gaining access we would have a remarkably similar situation. Those who wanted to bar known homosexuals from using money might seek to have it changed to say “Legal tender for all debts, public and private except those involving homosexuals.” Let us assume they fail in the effort to change the money and homosexuals gained the right to use the societal institution of money. Let us also assume the money then became worthless. Did the money become worthless because homosexuals could use it, or did it become worthless because people believed homosexuals made it worthless? If your opponent in the debate is unwilling to accept this valid analogy, try comparing marriage with some other contractual arrangement such as a home loan. With the home loan analogy you must remember many same-sex couples actually do experience restrictions on access to this type of contract.

It is better to stick with the currency analogy. In fact you can logically extend the currency analogy to argue against marriage lite. Some people have advanced the notion that gays and lesbians should create their own traditions and leave marriage alone. In the currency analogy this would be the equivalent of creating a new and separate currency which might or might not be accepted in stores and businesses. This brings us to another useful comparison in the argument against marriage lite. Segregationists have advanced the notion of “separate but equal” in places as diverse as South Africa and the United States. Separate has in both instances turned out to mean unequal. Lesbians and gays don’t need gay-marriage anymore than people of color needed separate water fountains. Lesbians and gays need to be able to use whatever water fountain is there for everyone else!

On to the next scary thought: there are essentially only two groups of people who will be voting for ballot measure 2: The first group is those who are biased against homosexuals. The second group depends on the first group for power and wealth. This second group is the real problem. When a reich-wing politician runs out of real issues he or she will resort to manufactured issues. Whenever revenues are off at the 700 Club or Anchorage Baptist Temple, they depend on fiery rhetoric directed at “promiscuous homosexuals” to restore their revenue flow. We’ve seen it before. Some may object to me labeling these people as reich-wing, but I must remind everyone that a major element in the Nazi recipe was blaming unpopular minorities for the ills of society. anti-Semitism is no longer fashionable in most circles, however gay bashing has grown more popular than ever before. There are now unprecedented attacks on gays in full-page ads in major newspapers. These advertisements are motivated by fear — fear that homosexuals might be allowed to marry, fear that homosexuals might then embrace the institution of marriage, and fear that there would then be no “promiscuous homosexuals” to use for religious fundraising or voter activation.

Reasons not to vote Yes on Ballot Measure 2: It won’t stop same sex marriage, but will cost the citizens of Alaska a fortune in legal fees. Regardless of the law, gays and lesbians have and will continue to celebrate religious ceremonies to solemnize their committed relationships. This freedom is guaranteed under the U.S. constitution. Consequently, only the civil contract is relevant. In order to gain access to the benefits of the civil contract, gays and lesbians will continue to litigate when denied equality under the law. Because our constitution guarantees freedom of religion an equal protection, lesbians and gays must eventually be recognized as equal under the law — it is only a matter of when and how much money lawyers on each side of the issue will make in the process. Delaying the inevitable with pain and expense serves the best interests of no one.

Reasons to vote No on Ballot Measure 2: Equality for all citizens, protecting the constitution, and pro-
tecting the rights of all citizens. Emboldened by a victory on Ballot Measure 2, religious political extremists may seek to make other religious policies part of our constitution. The time to stop them is now. There is already one case where religious policy was made the law of the land with serious consequences. The ban on any late term abortion in one eastern state means that at least one woman is already carrying a fetus to term even though she already knows it has no brain and will die immediately after delivery. Will religious political extremists next ban divorce regardless of how often a husband beats the wife or molest children of the marriage?

Equality for all citizens under the law is a basic expression of fairness. This should extend to tax breaks and privileges of marriage. There are literally hundreds of advantages for married couples which same-sex partners are denied. If a person in a same-sex partnership is fortunate enough to receive healthcare benefits for his or her partner, then by law they pay taxes on those benefits. This is because for married employees healthcare benefits are not taxable income but for unmarried employees the same benefits are taxable. Another major financial benefit of marriage involves inheritance. For the price of a marriage license heterosexual couples are allowed to avoid most inheritance taxes when one partner dies. In order to gain a similar tax advantage, same-sex couples must set up elaborate and expensive legal entities for any joint property. These are just two examples of how tax law is unfair to couples barred from marriage.

What about that pesky "marriage penalty" we hear republicans screeching about? It is true that married couples are assessed higher income taxes than two unmarried people with similar incomes. If someone throws this at you in the debate, you can easily throw it right back. The so-called marriage penalty exists because our tax code was originally designed for a previous version of marriage where one man worked outside the home and one woman worked inside the home. In the one wage-earner model, a tax break was given based on the assumption that the wage earner was supporting himself and one or more dependents. In the interest of encouraging the continuation of this model, a second wage earner in the family was taxed at a rate to ensure there was no tax incentive for dual income households. Well surprise, surprise! The institution of marriage changed and now a majority of marriages are composed of one man working outside the home plus one woman working outside the home. Was marriage destroyed by this change? Apparently not - no more than it would be destroyed by allowing a few more people to participate. Allowing same-sex couples should be done in exactly the same spirit of fairness that is invoked by those who want to eliminate the marriage penalty.

Reich-wing disinformation exposed: What the reich-wing says: We must protect marriage. The truth: Marriage doesn't need protection. Marriage is not under attack. People need protection. In this case gay and lesb-

bian people need protection from the tyranny of the majority.

What the reich-wing says: Traditional marriage has always been between only one man and one woman. The truth: Marriage has frequently been between one man and as many women as he could afford. Marriage as we understand it is vastly different from what it has been in the past as well as what it is in many other parts of the world. Marriage has often been a property transaction in which ownership of women was traded. We see vestiges of these in our ceremonies where a male relative presents the bride or the parents being asked for a daughter’s hand in marriage. In other cultures marriage is arranged to enhance the social standing and wealth of the parents. The institution of marriage has changed markedly over the centuries with the idea of the woman having a choice being a recent change. Other recent changes include the addition of all sorts of tax incentives, healthcare benefits and other special rights for married people. Marriage has changed dramatically across history and including a few more people is just another little change.

New Brunswick mayor ordered to proclaim pride weekend

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Mayor Brad Woodside was ordered to proclaim Gay Pride Weekend by a provincial Board of Inquiry September 17. The board said Woodside violated the provincial Human Rights Act’s ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation when he refused to declare Pride Weekend in 1995.

"They [gays and lesbians] are simply seeking to exercise their right to be equal members of the community as they are entitled to do by law," wrote commissioner Brian Bruce.

Woodside responded: “Contrary to what was said in this [ruling] — that gay pride is widely accepted in North America — that's not the case. I wouldn't consider Toronto and Vancouver to be the standard we all try to live by.”

Fredericton lesbian and gay spokesman James Whitehead told Canadian Press: “It's very frustrating when someone can turn something that seems so simple to begin with into something so divisive. There's been a lot of damage done.”

Recent identical cases in London, Ontario, and Hamilton, Ontario, saw the same outcome except the mayors of those cities were also fined — $5,000 in Hamilton and $10,000 in London. Woodside was not fined.
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 będzie 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 258-4777.

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

Advertising:
(L) KT Creative, Katie, 279-8974

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see 4A's page)
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Association (Fairbanks) 452-4222
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5656, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gail Charles-Abbot, 278-5019

Alcohols Anonymous:
(G/L) Gay, Joyous and Free, see Calendar
(G/L) Midnight Suns, see Calendar

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Gatekey, Ketki/Jaafini, 561-7327
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 274-9359 (3539)
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0852
(A) The Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

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

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

Bakery & Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 279-9191
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

Bars & Restaurants:
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191
(G/L) Mad Myrna's, 272-5297
(G/L) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080
(G/L) The Raven, 276-9672
(L/G) The Wave, 561-WAVE (see ad)

Bed & Breakfasts, Accommodations:
(A) Ah, Rose Marie, 302 Cowles, Fairbanks, John, 456-2040
(A) Allen's (Fairbanks), Pete, 907-389-2582 (see ad)
(A) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(A) Cheney Lake B&B, Mary/Jenetta, 337-4391
(C) Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(A) Fairbanks Hotel, (Fairbanks) Doris Lunardini, 888-328-4685
(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 907-225-2265 (see ad)
(A) Regina's, 276-4904
(L) Rose-Beth's B&B, (Anchorage) Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G/A) Sauerdough Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946.
(L) Skyline B&B (Homer), Lisa, 907-235-3832.
(L) Willow B&B (Juneau), Carol/Sudie 907-586-2410.

Books:
(L) AAA Online Real Estate Bookstore, Christen, 349-0298
(A) Alaskan Gene, 561-1340 (see ad)
(A) Cyrano's Books & Cafe, Sandy/Jerry, 274-2599
(A) Into The Woods Bookshop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-479-7701

Churches:
see Spiritual

Coffee Houses:
(G) Hollywood Canteen, Rand, 562-0737

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, 522-4275
(L) Angie, 337-0253
(A) Binky's Den, 205 4th Ave., Seward, Sue or Terri, 224-PAWS
(L) Communication Art, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 276-6622
(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 562-9814
(G) gra.f/i/x, Lucian, 561-5856
(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(L) Mac Doctor, Candy, 337-2011
(G) Mad Dog Graphx, Michael, 276-5062
(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, LCSW, 563-5765
(A) Connie Judd, 562-1826 (see ad)
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
(A) S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape), 276-7279
(L) Tess Bensussen, LCSW, 230-7019
(A) Tom Gormley, ANP, 566-2110

Deaf Support:
(A) Interpreter Referral Line, 277-3233 voice, 277-0735 TTY
(A) Deaf Rehabilitation Serv., 277-3456 voice, 258-2232 TTY

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

Disk Jockeys:
(G/L) The Wave, Anita, 561-WAVE (see ad)

Drag Shows:
(G/L) The Wave, Anita, 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 Schaff, 561-2115
(G) Copri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(G) Cyrano's Film Gallery Cinema, 417 D Street, 561-0064.
(A) Syzygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599
(L) Women's Coffeehouse, Barbara Wish, 258-0499

Family Medicine:
(A) Dr. Phyllis T. Dunckel, 237-4600

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
Directory

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

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

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

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

Helpline:
(G/L) Anchorage, Identity Helpline, 258-4777 (see ads)
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 907-458-8288
(G/L) Open Door Youthline, 456-GLBY
(G/L) Gay & Lesbian National Hotline, 1-888-843-4564
(G/L) Juneau, SEAGLA, 586-GAYS

House Cleaning:
(L) Connie’s House Cleaning Service, Connie, 276-3147
(A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4657
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning, Brent, 258-0828
(A) Sweeping Lady, Janet, 276-7608

House Sitting:
(L) Victoria, 751-7234.

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

Kites, Games, Banners, Puzzles:
(A) Northwind Kites, Pat, 279-4386

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

Massage Therapy:
(L) Donna (NCTM), 243-0789
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabrielle, 272-9045
(A) Leslie, 278-3346
(L) Ariel, 277-5222

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

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

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

Nutraceutical:
(A) Hope, 561-2330

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(L) Klondyke Kontakt (Alaska Women’s Cultural Center), 277-9765
(GLA) Identity Northview, 258-4777
(GL) Perspective (SEAGLA in Juneau), 566-4297

Obstetrics & Gynecology:
(A) Barbara Norton, Certified Nurse Midwife, 561-5152
(A) Jane, 563-5151
(L) Mary Ross, Nurse Practitioner, 563-7228

Odd Jobs:
(L) Deb, 275-3018

Pet Care & Veterinarian:
(L) Chena Ridge Veterinary Clinic (Fairbanks) 479-0001
(A) Dr. Ginny, 345-1515
(L) Dr. Vicki, 345-1515

Photography:
(L) Alaska Photographic & Supply, Linda, 345-5434

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

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) Christen, 349-0298
(L) Dynamic Properties, JILL, 261-7663
(A) Rona Mason, Realtor, 258-8877 (cell) or 279-8877 (see ad)
(L) Waltraud Barron, 278-1981

Recreation:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087
(A) Flies by Ilene (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
(A) Knik Glacier Tours, Palmer, Alaska; Tom Faussett, 745-1577
(L) McKinley Air Service, Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346
(G) Roy’s Bikes, Roy, 333-8221
(A) Stan Stevens Cruises, P. O. Box 1297, Valdez, AK 99686. (907) 835-4731 (in season), (907) 992-1297.
(G) 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, Lorraine, 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

Spiritual:
(A) Aquarian Foundation, Rev. Patricia Brown, 349-9955
(A) Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive Living, Rev. Nanee Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
Directory

Spiritual...

(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Bess, 746-1089
(A) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, Anchorage, welcomes all regardless of orientation. 333-5253
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr. Paul, 486-5276
(A) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, 4148 Pikes Landing Road, Richard Kemnitz, 457-9009
(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)

Support Groups:

(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) GLSEN, Fred, 562-7161
(A) I.M.R.U.2 (Youth Group), 566-4678
(A) PFLAG Anchorage, Voice mail 566-1813
(A) PFLAG Fairbanks, Nancy, 907-458-5298
(A) PFLAG Juneau, 907-463-4203

Tattoos:

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

Theatre:

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

Travel:

(b) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(b) Golden Travel, Albert, 272-5822
(b) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770 or 888-899-2770

Tutoring:

(G) Gabriel, Spanish, 272-9048
(A) James, Biology, 248-6412
(L) Carolyn Lancaster, M.Ed., School Survival Skills, 274-5059
(A) Kathleen L. McDonough, School Survival Skills, 274-5059

Lisbon mayor supports gay efforts

The mayor of Lisbon, Portugal, Joao Soares, attended the unveiling of the new headquarters of the group Opus Gay September 12 and the kickoff of Lisbon's Second Gay and Lesbian Film Festival September 14. The festival screened over 100 films.

Soares said he was "very proud that Lisbon is a city of freedom, tolerance and openness." Opus Gay President Antonio Serzedelo, 53, told Spain's El Pais newspaper, "After the blacks and the Gypsies, it's our turn [for freedom]."

Opus Gay (the name is a takeoff on the extremely conservative worldwide Catholic organization Opus Dei, which is Latin for the Work of God) is one of three main Portuguese gay groups along with ILGA Portugal and the Revolutionary Socialist Party Homosexual Workgroup.

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

Alaskan 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 7:00pm at Elmer's Restaurant, New Seward & Fireweed, on the first Wednesday of every month.

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

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

EQUAL, Inc.
whose purpose is to keep the community informed about political and legal events which have an effect on the gay community, to educate about community issues, to organize letter writing campaigns and other forms of political action, and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation. 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 "Homophonic Radio", 3-6 p.m. Sundays

THE FAMILY
is UAA's student club for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally students. Meets every Friday, 6pm, UAA Campus Center, Room 105. For more information, call Victoria at 751-7234 or e-mail <akgb_youth@hotmail.com>

website: <http://cwoof.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. 6:30pm potluck, 7:30pm 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 ‘K’ 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
Club Notes...continued

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)
Anchorage meets the first Sunday each month, 1pm at
AUUF. Membership is confidential. We welcome educators
and non-educator allies who are interested in the problems
of GLBT youth in our public schools. For more information
call Fred, 562-7161.
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, 3201
Turnagain Street. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm;
program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for program title.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA)

is a social and support group active in many causes: we
plan and present wonderful entertainment, and donate
money to needy organizations for them to carry out their
important goals. See Calendar for this month’s planned ac-
tivities, or contact Empress Rosie Roton at 563-2110. Or
write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.

IMRU2
gay youth group meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 5:30-7:30
p.m. at 4As, 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 102.
566-IMRU

Interior AIDS Association (IAA) Fairbanks

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

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)

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.
Meetings 3rd Thursday 6:00 pm at the Raven; campouts &
weekend trips, too. Write T.L.F.M.C., P.O. Box 202054,
Anchorage, AK 99520-2054. <tlfmc@micronet.net> <http://
www.webinigo.com/tlfmc/>

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
277-3226.

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-
shop, 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 3rd Tuesday of every
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-
dar for times and locations, 566-1133

Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA)

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

Support Group, Soldotna

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

Women’s Coffeehouse

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.

You’d be surprised, perhaps, with how few people want to
talk about sex with their congressman.
on Madison, Wisc., lesbian Congressional candidate Tammy
Baldwin, Aug. 3. Baldwin is being gay-bated by a fundamen-
talist-Christian opponent.

Helpline Training

Sunday, November 1
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Identity Office
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3201 Turnagain Street, Anchorage
Telephone Candy at 337-2011
Cyberlust

Submit changes to <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): <http://www.alaskanaid.org>
AGB: A monthly men's social club. <A_G_B@yahoo.com>
AGLA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc. <fsmph@aurora.alaska.edu>
Burleson, Laura: <fieble@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capri Cinema, Rand Thornley: <filmingallery@compuserve.com>
Carlsile, Karen: <karencc@todays-tech.com>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskadan@aol.com>
Cheney B&B: <Cheneybyb@alaska.net>
Childs, Lucian: graphic artist <lucian@alaska.com.net> <http://www.alaskakina.com/gfx/>
Crabtree, Phil, B&B, Fairbanks, <crabtreehome@geocities.com>, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4169>
Cracium, Jean: <jcracium@cracium.alaska.net>
Family, The: <saviu@uas.alaska.edu> <http://cwolf.alaska.edu/~abfam/>
Fauth, Terry: <albear@mosquitonet.com>
Freedman, F. Kenneth: <fkm@servcom.com>
Gay & Lesbian National Hotline: <http://www.glnh.org/>
GLAAD: Gays and the media <http://www.glaad.org>
Haase, Michael: <michaela@servcom.com>
Hernandez, Gabriel: <gabe@sinbad.net>
Hillman, Fred: <hillman@alaska.net>
Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>
IAA - Interior AIDS Assoc. Fairbanks <iaa@polarnet.com> website: <http://www2.polarnet.com/~iaa/>
Identity: <http://www.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: <lisaj7@hotmail.com>
Klondyke Contact: <klondykecontact@hotmail.com>
Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@aol.com>
KT Creative: <ktcreative@alaska.net>
Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <FMG@Micronet.net>
Lovering, Ken: <kaplove@juno.com>
Mautner Project is for lesbians with cancer and their families <http://www.mautnerproject.org>
Naff, Don: <donna@alaska.net>
Out North: <ournorth@arswire.org>
Parsons, Greg: <gparsons@ptialaska.net>
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Q Net AK, Alaska's Gay & Lesbian Information Source: <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>
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SEAGLA: <http://ptialaska.net/~seagla>
Severson, Kim: Anchorage Daily News <KSeverson@pop.adn.com>
Shanlin of Juneau: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~shanlin>
Soule, Barbara & Benham, Candy: <csoule@candy@alaska.net>
Thorsley, Rand: Capri Cinema, Rand Thornley <trianglervs.com>
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks: <rkennritz@polarnet.com> <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~uuff>
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Walton, Eric: <fsebw@aurora.alaska.edu>
Wave, Thei: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house <wave@alaska.net>

Calendar

October

Friday, 23:
F KDQ presents Forbidden Fruits. Doors open 9pm, show at 10, The Palace Saloon. Also on the 24th.
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF, Program: Dan Carter speaks on 1998 election issues.

Saturday, 24:
F Community Potluck, 7pm, at 606 D St. 457-6469.
A Out North presents June Bride in PAC's Discovery Theatre. Tickets available at Carrs Tix.

Saturday, 31:
F Interior AIDS Association Halloween Dance, Alaska Railroad Depot, 8pm. Pat at 452-4222 for info.
A ICOAA Halloween Party, The Wave. Doors open 7pm, show 8pm.

November

Sunday, 1:
A GLSEN, 1pm, AUUF.
A Identity HelpLine Training, 5-7pm, Identity Office at AUUF, Candy at 337-2011 for info.

Monday, 2:
A "The Disaster Blankets" tapestry exhibit opens, Out North. Mon-Sat, 3-6p., through 12/5. Info at 279-8200.

Tuesday, 3: ELECTION DAY

Saturday, 7:
J PFLAG, 10:30am, Mendenhall Mall Library.
A G/L Two Step, 7:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.
A Lilian Tyrrell slide program, 7pm, Out North. Tickets 279-8200.

Saturday, 14:
A Women's Coffeehouse, Full Circle at Firehouse Cafe, time TBD, 258-0499 for more info.

Sunday, 15:
F PFLAG, 4-5:30pm, Into the Woods Bookstore.

Monday, 16:
F GLSEN, 5pm, PEA 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
A GLSEN, first Sunday, 1pm, AUUF.

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, first and third 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.

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 THE FAMILY, 6pm, Campus Center Room 105.
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 G/L Two-Step, first Saturday, 7:30-11pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse. Donations accepted.
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

ENGLISH

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