Identity NorthView

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

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

**Deadlines**

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

**Mail**

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**Phone**

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

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

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Three months | 10%
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Editorial

Thoughts about Ballot Measure 2
What is to be learned from the passage by 2-to-1 margins of anti-gay ballot measures in both Hawaii and Alaska? While Matthew Shepard died in Wyoming as a martyr to gay equality, and while people died in Oregon during their last campaign for equality, we can be thankful that no one was badly hurt in Hawaii or Alaska because of the campaigns over gay marriage. It is easy to feel depressed over the outcome, or angry with opponents, or bitter about being outspent by Outside churches, or even guilty that one did not do more (or perhaps that one did not participate in the campaign at all). What is harder is to take a long view. A long view suggests that:

- this campaign to defeat Ballot Measure 2 was one battle in a long war
- in the long struggle for equality for gay males, lesbians, bi's, and transgender folk ("gays") there will be fields for many future skirmishes apart from gay marriage; activists will not lack opportunity to be active
- a solid core of 32% of Alaskan voters are with us; we are not alone
- democratic ideals of equality and fair play will prevail in time
- a lot of education needs to be done
- gay rights are the third great liberation movement after women's liberation and racial equality, neither of which is yet fully won. Gay lib is not equal in scope to the women's movement, nor has it been the violence and intensity of the struggle that Blacks have suffered through. Both have cost the nation untold treasure and lives. Nevertheless, the gay rights movement is a major issue for this nation, because it involves five to fifteen percent of the nation (who knows the figures?). It will be just as difficult as the others for two reasons: any change in the status of gays will mean change in American culture in the broadest and deepest sense; and because acceptance of homosexuality confronts widely held, if not profound, religious views.

I see our opponents as victims. They are people who claim not to know any gay people personally, yet they hold deep prejudices. Our culture has taught them to hate, and their religion has given them plausible arguments to justify their hatred. However, they are mostly unaware both of their prejudices and of their passive victimhood in what they have been taught.

Just as the movements for women's lib and racial equality are slowly and steadily gaining ground, so will gay rights. There is no right way to win, and the skirmishes will have to take place on many fronts. Each person can do his or her bit in their own way. If you are gay or lesbian or bi or transgender, "come out, come out, wherever you are." If you are an ally, work to change the laws. If you are not comfortable with confrontation, you can support those who are. Use the "teachable moment" that teachers know about to raise the consciences of your friends. Educate, educate, educate! And I'll see you at the barricades.

Letter to editor

Dear Editor:
This letter is written to stimulate and solicit suggestions for building a stronger community of supportive individuals. Having been involved with the effort to defeat Proposition Two, I recognize there are many groups which serve some of the members of our community and that many individuals are left out completely.

I believe there is a community of interest on which an organization could be built to serve the existing groups and to focus the interest of persons who now feel left out.

If anyone else shares my concerns and is interested in discussing the matter, please call me at 276-2359.
Victor D. Carlson

Dockers: not just "nice pants"

In the November issue of OUT magazine, Dockers Kakhis placed a twelve-page advertisement celebrating the achievements of 10 lesbians and gay men, "heroes" who "show personal conviction — and how to be true to yourself." Those portrayed in the advertisement: actor/writer Guinevere Turner (Go Fish); actor Mitchell Anderson (Party of Five); Wilson Cruz, actor and former GLAAD board member; humanitarian Thomas Rollerson; Rea Carey, youth advocate and executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition; former Eagle Scout James Dale, who successfully fought the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory policy; writer Brad Gooch; Eve Fowler, photographer; television writer Max Mutchnick, co-creator and executive producer of Will & Grace; and Olympic athlete Bruce Hayes.

Dockers has truly put their money where their mouth is: not only did they produce this advertising campaign honoring ten of our finest, they will also be making contributions to lesbian and gay organizations working to fight homophobia in schools and help young lesbians and gay men. Already, Dockers has provided funding to the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) for 10 full scholarships to its second annual conference, enabling the group to bring students from across the country to their skills-building event.

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.
Winning the debate

by Talmadge Bailey

Well, appealing to people's logic and sense of fairness was not wholly effective on November 3. That, however, is no reason to give up. We still need two things: more visibility and more effective ways of getting our message out. So, whenever possible be out to family, friends and co-workers. As for more effective ways of getting our message out, here is a plan for a major in-your-face publicity stunt. All that's needed is the right four people to stage it.

What are the qualities needed in those four people? First they need to be committed same-sex couples. One couple should be of the female persuasion and the other couple of the male persuasion. Ideally, the two couples would live in geographically diverse locations like Barrow and Ketchikan, though Anchorage and Juneau would do. One person in each couple should also be employed with potential for family healthcare benefits if married.

This stunt is fairly complex, so pay careful attention to the following steps! The first step would be accomplished with absolute minimum publicity. This first step is to complete pre-nuptial agreements. One agreement would pair the man without healthcare benefits with the woman whose employer would provide those benefits to her lawful husband. The second agreement would pair the woman without healthcare benefits with the man whose employer will provide those benefits to his lawful wife. These agreements would serve to protect the couple's assets from some aspects of the marriage contract which might not be so desirable for non-committed couples.

Step two and all remaining steps would be completed with maximum publicity and fanfare. The two couples to be legally married would complete another set of contracts. One partner in each couple would agree to stand in as a proxy for the future legal spouse of their partner. Of course the expense of travel would preclude people being at their own weddings — that's why we picked committed couples from opposite sides of the state. The contract would be something like a power of attorney granting the power to say "I do." If you've followed this correctly, you're now looking at one woman standing in as proxy for a man at the altar with her life-partner while in another part of the state a man is standing in for her at the altar with his life-partner.

Imagine two men placing rings on one another's finger. Picture two women you-may-now-kiss-the-bridal. Imagine those guys leaving the church in a shower of rice and those two women leaving by car or dogsled with cans clanging in their wake. Of course their friends would throw two big wedding receptions with cake cutting and dancing. Yup, we're talking the whole show here folks!

Before and after the concurrent ceremonies in each geographic location our spin-doctors would be standing by to make important points. Point #1: they're doing it to gain healthcare benefits for their partners — just one of hundreds of benefits married people take for granted. Point #2: People will be griping about mocking and destroying the sanctity of marriage. Those people should be reminded that legitimate same-sex marriage or a meaningful domestic partnership law would have short-circuited the whole show. There are other points, but we won't go into details here.

I believe media coverage would also have another important effect. People would be exposed to the images you imagined a few moments ago. After people saw it a few times it would lose its shock value for most. Perhaps it would even be seen for what it really is — perfectly normal!
Feds push to end bashing of gay youth

by Carol Ness

OAKLAND — As an indication of how serious the effort to end gay bashing in schools has become, two officials from the U.S. Department of Education were on hand for a national conference on the issue. “This is the first time the department has sent a representative to the conference of a gay organization to talk about how to protect gay youth in schools,” said Kate Frankurt, an organizer of the weekend long gathering of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

GLSEN's second annual conference drew an estimated 900 gay and straight students, teachers, administrators and advocates from all over the country to the Oakland Marriott for the conference. That’s three times the 300 who attended GLSEN’s first conference last year.

Staging one of dozens of workshops were Art Coleman and Gloria Estolano, both of the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, watchdog for federal anti-discrimination laws covering schools and colleges. Coleman, a deputy assistant secretary for Education, flew in from Washington, D.C.; Estolano, an attorney, works in the OCR's San Francisco office.

 Lawsuits are an increasingly potent weapon in the battle to end what can often be rampant name-calling, harassment and even violence against young gay people in schools and colleges. School districts that have chosen to ignore the problem, or paid only lip service to solving it, are being held liable.

None of the federal anti-discrimination laws cover sexual orientation, and Massachusetts is the only state to mandate such protection. But under constitutional claims to equal protection and under the main law against sex discrimination and sexual harassment, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, new legal ground is being carved out to help abused gay youth. “I'm not saying we came to tell you we've got all the magic bullets and right answers,” said Coleman. “Frankly, we are struggling with as many questions as you have.”

While the legalities remain murky, more and more court decisions are clarifying the main issue involving Title IX, which under certain circumstances can cover same-sex harassment. For instance, Coleman said, a boy who is harassed by other boys because he is effeminate may have a valid claim that he’s being discriminated against because of his sex — because he doesn’t act like they do or what they expect a male to act like. Estolano's office is looking at just such a case involving a private school in the Bay Area that she did not name.

The issue has taken on new urgency since the October 12 death of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student who was beaten and left tied to a fence to die. “When you don't deal with sexual harassment, it leads to society accepting it, and that leads to tragedies like that,” said Estolano. “He was only 21 years old.”

Both the OCR officials and GLSEN organizers agreed that lawsuits should be a last resort in the fight. “I really hope school districts learn to listen more effectively to the students they claim to be serving without forcing them into the legal arena,” said Frankurt. “The last time students needed lawyers to get them through high school was in the '50s and '60s” during the civil rights movement, she said.

What’s needed instead, she said, was organizations that can stimulate real dialogue on the issue between the two very polarized sides — religious conservatives

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Small Georgia school shaken up by cross-dressing boy

CARROLLTON, Ga. — Patrick Nelson had heard there was a cross-dressing boy at his high school, but who was it? “I looked for him the first couple weeks. The honest truth — I didn’t even know,” Patrick said.

One day, he was talking about the mystery to a friend, who smiled and pointed to the pretty blonde at the desk next to his. “I said, ‘No way, that’s too weird!’ Patrick recalled. “Then I thought about it, and I said, ‘So what’s so weird about that?’”

But while Patrick and his friends were willing to accept Matthew “Alex” McLendon’s feminine appearance and mannerisms, others in this rural, conservative western Georgia community of about 20,000 weren’t. And so 15-year-old Alex withdrew from school under pressure, leaving supporters of the popular, easygoing student wondering what threat they had supposedly been protected from.

“Alex wasn’t causing any problems. She got along well with everybody,” said classmate and friend Meaghan Denkers. “She wasn’t trying to change anybody to be like her or anything.”

After a heated meeting of the board of the small, private Georgian Country Day School, Alex was “invited to withdraw” or face expulsion. Alex, who had enrolled in September after attending public school, was cited for wearing a tongue ring, but had been called before school authorities earlier about his female dress, makeup and hairstyle.

Most of Alex’s classmates — including some of the boys — wore bows in their hair in protest until ordered to remove them by the principal. Some indignantly quoted their school handbook, which urges acceptance of “diversity in opinion, culture, ideas, behavioral characteristics, attributes or challenges.”

“Alex represents something that’s way beyond the experience and the comfort zone of the very conservative people we live with,” said Lori Lipoma, Meaghan’s mother and a drama teacher at the school. “I really think we all lost something very precious that night.”

School officials would not discuss the case. “We make no comments on students,” said Rex Camp, chairman of the board of the school, where tuition is more than $5,000 a year for the 50 or so high school students. Kindergarten and elementary students are in a separate building, but one parent of a 6-year-old expressed concern at the board meeting about Alex’s effect on younger children. “I believe in sexual standards in society, and I want my child in a school that holds the same sexual ethics that I do,” said Craig Neal.

Alex, who speaks in a soft, feminine voice, began cross-dressing two years ago and considers himself “95 percent girl.”

Larry Harmon, a Dade County, Florida, psychologist who counsels patients on sexual identity, said such feelings appear to fit a rare condition called gender-identity disorder. He said it doesn’t necessarily imply homosexuality, and it’s difficult to know how many youngsters have it and why.

“I’m not homosexual,” Alex said. “I just look like a girl and I dress like a girl. It wasn’t anything flamboyant, not sequins or anything. But because I’m a guy…”

He has since enrolled in night school and hopes to pursue a career in fashion merchandising and modeling.

At the Georgian Country Day School — where Alex said he enrolled to get a better education — he struck up a friendship with Meaghan and was soon invited to spend nights over at her house. The first couple of times, Meaghan’s mother popped in on them unannounced just in case. “They’d be sitting there doing hair, or painting nails, and I said to myself, ‘This is a girl,’” Ms. Lipoma said.

A few weeks into the school year, he and his father were summoned to a meeting with school officials. They said that parents had complained, and that he had to dress like a boy, Alex recalled. He refused and was sent home. A special board meeting followed. Under the law, a public school would have had to show that Alex was disrupting education or undermining safety. A private school has more leeway.

Alex’s mother died when he was young. He said that his cross-dressing initially caused a rift with his father, but that the older man stood with him in the dispute with the board. Mack McLendon declined an interview.

“School is supposed to be preparing you for life,” Alex said. “Parents are trying to protect their kids by covering their eyes. It’s going to be a real shock for some of these parents when their kids get out into the real world.”
The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution guarantee everyone the equal protection of the laws. Many well-known gay rights cases, such as the successful 1992 challenge to Colorado’s anti-gay Amendment 2, have used equal-protection arguments. Scientists who study sexual orientation have been drawn into these cases, usually in an attempt to prove that gay people are “born that way.” In the Colorado case, for example, gay-gene researcher Dean Hamer testified about his own research. “Since people don’t choose their genes,” he said at one point in the trial, “they couldn’t possibly choose their sexual orientation.”

The importance of the “born-that-way” argument has to do with the fact that equal-protection doctrine does not in fact offer equal protection to all. Rather, it offers the highest degree of protection to groups of people who fulfill certain criteria: they must have been the victims of discrimination, they must have been unable to rectify the situation through the normal political process, and they must have little choice about belonging to the group (the so-called “immutability” requirement). Racial minorities, and groups defined by their national origin, are the main examples of such highly-protected groups. Judges are expected to strike down any law that discriminates against such a group, unless it can be shown to serve a compelling national interest.

It’s the immutability requirement that depends on scientific evidence. In my view, this evidence does support the view that sexual orientation is immutable in the equal-protection sense. The evidence includes not just the genetics but also the brain research by myself and others, as well as research into efforts to convert gay people to heterosexuality by a variety of means. Even the Christian Right seems finally to be getting hold of the idea that conversion doesn’t work: their recent ads spoke only of gay people becoming celibate or getting married, which has nothing to do with changing one’s sexual orientation.

Not all gay people believe that sexual orientation is inborn or immutable. The great majority of gay men, according to an Advocate survey, believe they were born gay, but lesbians have more diverse opinions on the matter, some believing that choice played a significant role. Perhaps supportive of this notion, some of the scientific research suggests that genes have less influence on sexual orientation in women than in men. If this is the case, could pursuing the “immutability” argument be divisive, leading perhaps to greater legal protection for gay men than for lesbians? And what about bisexuals — surely they have a choice?

I doubt that many people, whether gay, bisexual, or straight, have any choice about who they find sexually attractive.

To some people, it seems inappropriate to make an internal mental disposition — sexual orientation — the equivalent of an outwardly visible trait such as skin color. Certainly, sexual orientation can be hidden in a way that skin color cannot. But a gay person who conceals his or her sexual orientation is already a victim of discrimination, in my opinion — perhaps more so than a gay person who is out of the closet. And scientific research increasingly suggests that mental traits can have biological roots as deep as those that contribute to our physical make-up.

It would be great if the law respected the identity and sexual expression of gays and lesbians, regardless of what determines a person’s sexual orientation. Unfortunately the 1986 Bowers vs. Hardwick decision, in which the Supreme Court ruled that the constitutional right to privacy does not cover gay sex, has greatly restricted this line of attack. But there are still ways in which the Constitution protects us that are not dependent on theories of causation. In the Amendment 2 case, for example, the decisive argument concerned gay people’s constitutionally protected right to participate in the political process — a right that doesn’t depend on being “born that way.”

In the wider world too, we all wish that gay people could be respected and valued regardless of what makes us gay. We help bring this goal closer every time we present ourselves openly and honorably to society. But in the real world we inhabit today, ideas about causation strongly influence people’s moral judgments about gay people and gay sex. As long as this is true, biological research will continue to play a significant role in the social debate.
Where in the World?

Sydney Mardi Gras

No, it's not to early to be planning for that trip to the gayest of events, the Sydney Mardi Gras. Qantas Vacations has jumped on board this year with a package which includes round trip air from San Francisco or Los Angeles, hotel accommodations at the Carlton Crest or Southern Cross, airport transfers, buffet breakfasts daily, Mardi Gras party ticket, gay & lesbian Sydney harbor cruise, and the gay & lesbian swim carnival. All of this starting at $2,299 per person based on double occupancy. Must be ticketed by December 31. (How about tickets in the stocking of that special someone?)

Half a Virgin?

"Out in London" is a program offered by Virgin Airways which allows you to take a friend at half of the economy ticket price to London. Tickets must be purchased by December 10 for travel from October 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.

British Virgin?

Why not consider sailing away on one of the few remaining tall sailing ships, the Sir Francis Drake. It sails British Virgin Islands February 20 to 27 on a special gay & lesbian adventure. The 1917 ship has been recently refitted, is a three-masted schooner with a crew of 14 and only 28 guests in 13 air conditioned cabins. Starting at $1,100 per person, meals, gratuities and port taxes are included.

International gay winter games.

You can compete or just watch March 5 - 14 in Innsbruck, Austria as the gay winter games get underway. Round trip air from New York or Boston to the games, 7-nights hotel, breakfast and dinner daily, transfers, and opening ceremonies hosted by the Innsbruck Tourist Office as well as gay and lesbian parties. Price is $1,388 per person.

Alaska PFD travel update

As promised, here is the latest information on available PFD deals.

Reno Air is offering 5 round-trip tickets to Seattle, San Jose, San Diego, Reno, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. An extra $100 gets you to Colorado Springs, Tucson, or Oklahoma City, and $200 gets you to Chicago.

United Airlines offers 4 round-trip tickets between Alaska and 7 western states with an add-on of $200 to other destinations. Last day to purchase is November 21, Alaska, Delta, and Northwest PFD offers have expired, and Reno Air is December 15.

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.

Don Roberts
1-7-26 ~ 9-25-98

Our cherished Don died of cancer at home with his family by his side.

Remembrances may be made to The Nature Conservancy, Hospice or the Salvation Army.

Sue, Laury, Wendy, Rob and Catherine
Volunteer Spotlight

Shirley Randal

Want a job done, give it to Shirley. Need help, call Shirley. This woman invented the word “dependability” — and you don’t have to check on her... she takes her responsibilities very, very seriously! Our volunteer of the month is persistent when necessary, but always has a smile and a good word for everyone. At our monthly potluck gatherings, she’s the one who pushes for new members for Identity and gets those donations rolling in... and doesn’t take no for an answer!

Shirley burst on the Alaska scene back in the early 70s, landing in Dillingham to help with her husband’s family business. They moved to Anchorage in 1972. Not being one to sit idly at home, she went to work for the University of Alaska, Anchorage campus in the Registrar’s office and was there for 3½ years.

She decided to take sabbatical leave from the University for a couple of years, then they moved to Soldotna where she worked part-time for an engineering company. In 1982 they moved back to Anchorage and she landed her final job with the State of Alaska in their Community & Regional Affairs Office. After a lifetime of work, she finally retired at the end of 1996.

Her serious hobbies are reading, plays, movies, computers and travel, not necessarily in that order. She spent 4½ years in Tokyo as an Air Force wife and thoroughly enjoyed it. She has family in England, her birth place, and takes time to visit her two daughters in the eastern US. A proud grandmother to her five grandchildren, she visits them as often as possible.

Shirley is an officer on the Identity Board of Directors and is also on the board of the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Having such a rollicking attitude, she decided that retirement wasn’t very fulfilling, so she started a new delivery service... just to keep busy.

Swept with the dimension of a new lifestyle, she came out to friends and family in 1995... and is very proud of her decision. Shirley Randal, we salute you!

Even the founders of these ex-gay ministries aren’t “cured” of anything, and often go right back to being gay. Ultimately, these groups have no interest in loving gays — they just want to exploit the hatred of homosexuals through fundraising. We are the modern-day “red scare,” and the easiest buck in town.”

— Tracy Baim, editor of Chicago’s Nightlines, in her July 15 “Off The Cuffs” column.
GLSEN alarmed by students’ increased homophobia

NEW YORK — The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) expressed alarm at the results of a survey conducted by Who's Who Among American High School Students. The poll, which surveyed over 3,000 achieving 16-18 year old students, revealed that 48% admit they are prejudiced against gay people. This represents an increase of 19 percentage points from last year's survey.

“This startling increase is a wake up call for administrators and teachers who believe they are doing enough to teach their students the values of diversity and respect,” said GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings. “These numbers suggest that homophobia is one of the last socially-accepted prejudices, especially in our schools. Our schools are failing here.”

Though alarmed by the findings, Jennings says the increase is not entirely surprising. Political leaders and sports stars, such as Trent Lott and Reggie White respectively, participated in one of the most public anti-gay crusades ever, last summer. “Students live up to the standards we set for them. When role models say that accepting diversity isn't important, students take the message to heart,” he continued.

GLSEN notes that the failure of schools to address these prejudices contributes to:
- 18% of male college students claiming they have used violence against their g/l/b/t peers
- g/l/b/t youth being four times as likely as others to be threatened with a weapon in school
- g/l/b/t youth being five times as likely to have skipped school once a month due to feeling unsafe.

“It's those who believe that our schools should teach respect for every American student need to be alarmed by these findings,” he continued. “Prejudice prevents children from accessing the education our country promises to all. When we tolerate that prejudice, we ensure that divisiveness and hatred will continue to be part of our national fabric.”

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) is the only organization dedicated to ending anti-gay bias in America's schools. Established nationally in 1994, GLSEN now has over 80 chapters.

New web site for transgender youth

TransBoy Resource Network has announced the birth of a comprehensive new web page for F2M (female-to-male) transgendered, transsexual, gender queer and questioning youth... the first of its kind. TransBoy Resource Network at http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywoodPark/6484, or e-mail <transboys@hotmail.com>.

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

by Victoria Shaver

Every Thanksgiving my dad has the family stand round the table and we each share what we are thankful for. Thanksgiving is my favorite time of year and sharing my gratitude is my favorite tradition. While the history and herstory of why and how this holiday came to be is less than ideal, I like the idea of families gathering together to give thanks. This Family is no different. We have much to be thankful for.

We would like to thank Identity, AGB, and The Mount McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club for providing funding to place ads in the newspapers. Our flyers are still being torn down and our voice hushed by ignorance and fear. We are thankful that we are no longer completely silenced by all of our flyers being taken down. Our postings are staying up more than ever before and we have found many allies at UAA. We have been busy building bridges while hosting get-out-the-vote booths and contributing to campus life in many different areas. We would also like to thank I, a graphic artist, who designed our flyers this semester. (We’re gonna keep on moving forward...)

We would like to thank all of the community members who have taken the time to come to THE FAMILY. Fenken always leads an in-depth discussion. Fred took us down memory lane, as well as future pursuits in which GLSEN and P-FLAG will be involved. Dennis & Sheldon visited bearing good food as well as fellowship.

Krista has actively been educating us on ICOAA activities and Lisa has brought HIV/AIDS, safer sex, and general health information from the Neighborhood Health Clinic. Lisa also supports THE FAMILY by donating money from her new venture, the rainbow boutique, collection of g/l/b/t jewelry and novelty items. Her house serves as a drop-in center, oh yeah, and she feeds most of us. Thanks Lisa!! (We’re gonna keep on moving forward.)

There are so many individuals to thank... We would like to thank our advisor, the only openly gay professor at UAA, Gretchen Legler. She signs each and every form (and UAA has a ton) for our club activities, room reservations and serves as a sounding-board and advocate for individual members and the club at large. We would also like to thank Ruth M., who came and spoke to the group last semester, Doug F. opened his home to us; Tal and others who have helped us with our website; and Di from the 4A’s came and did Henna tattoos. We are thankful for Mickey H, our biggest supporter in the magazine recycle & exchange, and all of the other individuals who have helped support THE FAMILY in their own way. (Never turning back... Never turning back.)

We would like to thank The Pride Conference/Speaker Series, Alaska Native Health Board & Identity (Greg) for pulling together an excellent weekend of Pride Activities October 9 and 10. Not even a week after this event we hosted the candlelight vigil in memory and celebration of Matthew Shepard’s life.

Huge thanks go to everyone who helped by spreading the word about the event, bringing candles, speaking, and attending the vigil. MCC hosted a special service that Sunday and all offerings in memory of Matthew, a University of Wyoming student, were given to THE FAMILY at UAA. (We’re gonna keep on loving boldly...)

We are very grateful and thankful for everyone who spent time volunteering, giving money and working on the No on 2 campaign, and for everyone who put themselves out there. For openly gay candidates (thanks Kevin!) and out junior and senior high school students. We are thankful for all of the people who have worked so hard to make it possible for those of us who are out to be out. We are thankful for the feeling of solidarity we experienced when singing “Keep Movin’ Forward”, as we made our way through Election Central on the night of November 3. Also many thanks to the NorthView staff, past and present. For you — just for reading this long list of our thanks, thank you. For buying the NorthView. Thanks for being part of our family. For some of us, me specifically, the gay community is my support and my family. (We’re gonna keep on loving boldly...)

My dad has already (happily) told me that one thing he will be sharing is thanks for the passing of Proposition 2. I am truly thankful for what I have just written on behalf of THE FAMILY as well as my personal gratitude to the ICOAA for the scholarship they awarded me. Without this support I would not have been able to attend school this semester. I am also thankful for each and every one of you, my family of choice, and for my partner Dee Dee. And I am thankful for G/L/B/T PRIDE. And if, on November 26, I choose to be with my family of origin, I will read this in its entirety. (Never turning back!)

For these are all of the things I am most thankful for.

Shalom.
Stargazer Commentary

by Barbara J. Soule

Oh, it's hard to be ahead of your time... Stuff that my friends and I were into ten to fifteen years ago has gone high fashion.

Aromatherapy has even invaded Sears Roebuck. Many catalogues want to sell expensive scented candles and oils that are heated over candles or water to scent your personal atmosphere. While using those items can be wonderful, go easy. Use of too many scents can give one a bad headache and, at worst, an allergic reaction. Choose one scent that smells really wonderful to you. If it's not good for you, it probably won't smell delicious. The effects of aromatherapy candles, oils, incense and the effects of a relaxing, sensual atmosphere, while being revitalized and rejuvenated, only occur by using prime grade genuine ingredients. Many items offered for commercial sale use artificial or partially artificial ingredients.) When I'm looking for oils or candles I look for homemade, and I ask if artificial ingredients are used. Most authentic essential oils can only be put together in small batches.

Spiegel had its own separate catalogue of aromatherapy candles, incense, bath products and Zen meditation enhancing items — pillows, low tables in rich wood colors, Zen rock gardens, a relaxing pump waterfall and other furniture all in deep, rich, subdued fashionable colors. I had to laugh when I saw the color schemes Spiegel picked. They chose deep wood colors; burgundies and aubergines that are almost brown; midnight blue; charcoal; and a forest green that is almost black. What I know about Zen meditation is that the questions are strange and the answers are so simple as to make the absurd make sense. I always end up laughing my head off — in a calm serene manner, of course. The ridiculous becomes divinely relevent. An array of aromatherapy for everyday living and meditation is in.

It's kind of odd because the first time I heard about Zen meditation was from drug culture hippies. I know several former hippies who through drug use, achieved higher states of consciousness. Those who survived with their brains intact have become very spiritual. Many spend a great deal of time and effort to get back to those wonderful places without the drugs.

My old high school buddy, Jerry, is one of those former hippies. Jerry, I swear, wore three piece suits and carried a brief case all through high school. He dove into the hippie drug scene and took any drug he could get. As a teenager, Jerry was anal-retentive; as a drug-clean adult, Jerry is a loving, gentle, somewhat intellectual and very spiritual man. He was unusually lucky. The drugs expanded him into a better person. Other people were not so lucky. I had a lovely dinner with Jerry and his partner, Joan a while back. The night of the dinner Jerry introduced me to Joe — who went to West Anchorage High with us, too. Joe lives with and is cared for by Jerry and Joan. Joe is a brain fried hippie. His face is stuck in a permanent smile and he glows with serenity. Jerry can feed, bathe and dress himself, but he's stuck in the Zen mode. Ask Joe any plain logical question and he'll give you a Zen answer. While Jerry's gourmet cooked dinner was divine, the dinner conversation was a challenge, because Joe thinks that he makes perfect sense — he does in a way.

So, what is my point. Well, don't let anyone mislead you when they use the words Zen. Zen is wonderful but not in the least subdued or somber. For most of us, achieving a Zen state requires meditation. A Zen teacher is helpful. Also, don't be lured into spending a fortune on aromatherapy. It can go far beyond buying scented candles, oils and incense. Aromatherapy can be beneficial when used sparingly in the right hands. Locally, there are people claiming to be able to cure a variety of serious physical ailments with essential oils and expensive treatments. Beware.

Baby Update: Wonderful Baby, Pepper Shaykin's Husky-Labrador mix canine companion, is holding her own. The veterinarian says that the cancerous tumor has not gotten bigger. Cancer fighting herbs and remedies have been added to Baby's food without upsetting her delicate digestive system. Keep up the prayers the and sending of healing energy. Please don't stop — Baby is not cured, yet. Thank you for sending your energy and prayers.

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

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Good-bye nasty Republicans

The flood of anti-gay Republicans, whose mean-spirited extremism has so damaged our country, is receding far sooner than most analysts would have predicted even a month ago. Thoughtful moderation is now the resurgent force in American politics. Best symbolizing that break from the past is Wisconsin's historic embrace of Tammy Baldwin, the first open lesbian ever elected to Congress.

The elevation of Baldwin, 36, from the Wisconsin Legislature to the U. S. House signals that "the political arena is finally catching up to the social and business worlds," says Kathleen DeBold of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. "When you're electing people, you're hiring someone to represent you. I think voters (in Madison) took a real good look at the resumes and said, 'We want the best candidate and she happens to be a lesbian.'"

Baldwin, who captured an open seat, is the first gay member of Congress to come out before winning a first term. She had hoped to share that honor with fellow Democratic congressional candidates Christine Kehoe, a San Diego City Council member, and Bronze Star winner Margarette Cammermeyer of Washington state. Baldwin will join re-elected gay Reps. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz.

From Baldwin's stunning breakthrough, to the triumph of gay-friendly Gray Davis in California's gubernatorial race to the election of the most moderate new congressional class in years, the results of Campaign '98 have many of the earmarks of a new political era. "It was such a resounding rejection of extremism," says Winnie Stachelberg of the gay Human Rights Campaign (HRC). "There's a clear message to the Republican leadership that extreme right candidates don't, in fact, make good candidates."

Still, Election Day also brought reminders of how far gay Americans are from true first-class citizenship. In Hawaii, the well-oiled money machines of the far right proved they've not yet entirely lost their ability to prey on voters' fears and prejudices. By 69 percent to 29 percent, Hawaiians amended their state constitution to authorize lawmakers to continue restricting marriage to male-female couples. Likewise, Alaska amended its constitution to bar same-sex marriage. And of the four communities that voted on gay-rights ordinances, only South Portland, Maine, outlawed discrimination.

Despite the success of anti-gay initiatives, voters were turned off by candidates who attacked opponents for being gay-friendly. That should signal the Republican Party to stop taking orders from religious extremists.

"All these religious right candidates running for president in 2000 — John Ashcroft, Gary Bauer, Steve Forbes, Dan Quayle and Bob Smith — shouldn't bother packing their bags for New Hampshire," says Rich Tafel of the gay Log Cabin Republicans. "If the religious right continues to dominate the party in 2000, we will not only lose the White House yet again, we will probably lose the Congress."


Although anti-gay Republicans still control Congress, power is shifting. Overall, the Senate's new faces will make it a bit more mainstream, HRC's Stachelberg says. In the House, the Democrats' pickup of five seats clearly strengthens the hand of Republican moderates — good news for gay Americans.

Warning that it's "a little early" for predictions, Stachelberg nevertheless sees the congressional results as boding well for efforts to outlaw anti-gay job bias, fight AIDS and target hate crimes.

All in all, Election '98 turned out better than we gay Americans had real reason to expect, despite falling far short of what we had hoped.

Deb Price is a Detroit News staff writer whose column is published on Monday. Write letters to The Detroit News, Editorial Page, 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, Mich. 48226.

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Identity
LOS ANGELES — When veteran human rights activists Jesse Jackson and Troy Perry held a joint rally and press conference in Los Angeles, it turned into more than a public statement against hate crimes. It launched a national movement.

During the standing-room only rally in West Hollywood, the Rev. Troy Perry, Founder and Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, announced the formation of a national campaign, “200,000 by 2000.”

“The shock and pain we have felt around Matthew Shepard’s murder must be translated beyond words into action,” said Perry, a delegate to President Clinton’s White House Conference on Hate Crimes. “The “200,000 by 2000 Campaign” is a positive step in this direction. The campaign is gathering signatures and endorsements of 200,000 American religious leaders calling for full enactment of federal hate crimes legislation by the Year 2000.”

Perry, who attended funeral services for Matt Shepard and who led the Community Memorial Service in Wyoming, knows something about hate crimes. More than 20 congregations of the predominantly gay Metropolitan Community Churches have been victimized by the hate crimes of arson and firebombing, and numerous others have been targets of desecration and vandalism.

A broad coalition of religious leaders has endorsed the “200,000 by 2000 Campaign,” including Bishop Melvin Talbert, Resident Bishop of San Francisco for the United Methodist Church; Rabbi Brad Artson, Vice President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California; the Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ; Bishop Carl Bean, Presiding Bishop of Unity Fellowship of Churches Movement; and the Rev. John Buehrens, President of the Unitarian Universalists Association.

The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Senior Pastor of MCC LA which hosted the rally, commented, “Who would have dreamed that a predominantly gay organization would be helping to set the pace for passage of hate crimes protections by religious leaders from across a broad diversity of America’s faith communities?”

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, President of Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and previous candidate for President of the United States, echoed the call, noting, “We are in a struggle between dreams and dream busters. Our challenge is to turn pain into power.” During his Los Angeles appearance at the Metropolitan Community of Los Angeles, Jackson expressed strong support for passage of the Federal Hate Crimes Protection Act and his solidarity with the gay and lesbian community.

Other speakers at the rally included Rabbi Steven Jacob of Kol Tikvah of Woodland Hills and the Rev. Leonard Jackson, Associate Pastor of First AME Church of Los Angeles and a Board Member of the Interfaith Alliance. The Rev. Dawn Wilder, Director of UFMCC’s youth ministry, shared her moving personal experiences of providing spiritual support to high school and college students in Wyoming this past week and of her visit to the fence where Matt Shepard died.

The rally was unusual by the large amount of press coverage it received from wire services, newspapers, television stations, TV news magazines and documentary makers. “The media attention is another indication of how deeply Matt Shepard’s life and death have touched every segment of our society,” said Perry.

According to Perry, religious leaders will present the 200,000 signatures to Congress on April 30, 2000 as part of the Millennium March on Washington for Equality.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches was founded in 1968 to provide positive, affirmative houses of worship for the gay community. For additional information, visit the UFMCC website at [http://www.ufmcc.com] or send e-mail to [ufmcccha@aol.com].
As for what is immoral

by Donald Kaul

The Bible-thumping right is in tantrum mode and has been throwing its rattle out of its playpen over the suggestion that its words have meaning.

A number of news organizations and commentators have connected the dots between the demonization of gays by "Christian" groups and the murder of Matt Shepard, the 21-year-old who was beaten to death by ostensibly heterosexual thugs in Laramie, Wyoming.

This has driven the likes of Pat Buchanan -- who is to rational political discourse what snowmobiles are to wilderness preservation -- to complain about "Christian-bashing."

"The left is now using Shepard's murder both to diabolize Christian teachings on homosexuality and to impose on society its own moral code," Buchanan wrote.

He was referring to dangerous lefties like columnist Deborah Mathis of Tribune Media Services, who recently pointed out that groups like the Family Research Council, while consistently characterizing homosexuality as "unhealthy, immoral and destructive," are adamant in their refusal to accept responsibility for inspiring hate crimes against gays. She doesn't buy that. The right's rhetoric, she says, "poisoned the air which poisoned the minds which connived to attract, deceive and destroy a young man who deserved, in the least, to be left alone."

"They are complicit."

That seems pretty self evident to me, but conservatives don't like to hear it. An archconservative gasbag in Colorado read the column on his radio program and before you knew it Mathis' syndicate was inundated by 30,000 protest calls.

(Which is the problem with touch-tone phones; you can teach just about anyone to dial them, regardless of intelligence.)

I do think it passing strange, however, that the same people who want to close pornography shops whenever some creep abuses a child or to ban violence from the airwaves when a kid offs a classmate after learning how on television, would think that their relentless attack on certain members of society can be made without consequence. You call a group of people evil and sick and immoral often enough and some nut case out there is going to act on it.

Which doesn't mean I want to muzzle the Christian right -- it has a right to express its opinion; it's a free country -- I just think it should stand up and be accountable for what it brings forth.

As far as the substance of the "Christian" critique of homosexuality goes, I've always found it a little warped. Yes, you can find a basis in the Bible for viewing homosexuality as an abomination, but you can find a lot of things in the Bible, an acceptance of slavery among them. Despite the best efforts of many "fundamentalists" to persuade us otherwise, not every word in the Bible is wise, let alone true. It is a book of enormous complexity and profundity, but there is no single interpretation of it that is infallible.

I prefer to go to Sigmund Freud to find the reason for this pathological hatred of gays by some. People who get violent when confronted by homosexuality are deeply frightened at the homosexual stirrings within themselves. By lashing out in hatred they are proving to themselves and others that they are not gay.

I know, that's Pop Psychology 101, but it makes sense to me. When you come down to it, why should anyone care what someone else's sexual orientation is? Why should God care, for that matter? You'd think He has enough trouble trying to keep people from killing each other without worrying about who's going to bed with whom.

The very fact that the anti-gay movement feels that homosexuality is voluntary, a weakness, tells you something. Anti-gays apparently look at the gay lifestyle as this enormously attractive thing that you have to be strong to resist. Why do they believe that, do you think?

Personally, I think if being gay were a simple matter of choice, hardly anyone would choose it. It's more trouble than it's worth. I prefer to think of it as a tendency, like being left-handed, and with about as much moral weight.

Of course, we used to punish kids for being left-handed, forcing them to learn to write from the right side. That was a lousy idea, and so is trying to force gays to be straight.

It's OK to be gay. It's being hateful that's immoral.

Des Moines Register, Box 957, Des Moines, IA, 50304, fax 515-286-2511, e-mail <letters@news.dmreg.com>.
Lesbian Notions

Can lesbians and gay men work together? Just as problems in a dysfunctional family ferment when they aren’t addressed openly, this question has popped up repeatedly over the past 30 years because the lesbian and gay “family” never really handles it head on.

This summer, a few writers raised the question but at the same time skirted it cautiously. In The Advocate, Bruce Bawer bemoaned “the great divide” between lesbians and gay men. While individuals in the queer family may have gripes with each other, Bawer asserted, we should all recognize that “the enemy is not each other ... [but] ignorance, fear, selfishness, resentment, irresponsibility, and ideological rigidity.” Reading this, I felt like Bawer was dad, chiding me that, okay, your brother may be insensitive to your issues, but he’s still your brother, young lady. Come on, kids, hug each other.

No sooner had Bawer had his paternal say than Pat Califia broached the same topic in OUT magazine. Califia interviewed activists and got them to voice all their bitter thoughts about the rifts between lesbians and gay men, while she herself stayed on the periphery. Her article made my head spin, its “he said, she said” quality mimicking the ineffectual way our movement has (not) dealt with its internal problems.

What has ignited this question once again is a new anthology called Opposite Sex: Gay Men on Lesbians, Lesbians on Gay Men, edited by Sara Miles and Eric Rofes. The most prominent and controversial piece in the book is Rofes’s “The Ick Factor: Flesh, Fluids, and Cross-Gender Revulsion.” Interestingly, while Rofes has been reviled in the gay press for his other recent book, Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-AIDS Identities and Cultures, for its assertion that we’ve entered a post-AIDS era, critics haven’t yet taken him to task for “The Ick Factor.”

In his essay, Rofes boldly cites one huge source of conflict in the queer family — many gay brothers are either repulsed by or ignorant about their lesbian sisters’ bodies and sexuality. Other contributors to the book, however, suggest that lesbians don’t seem to have a similar “ick” about gay men, unless they’ve experienced sexual assault. Instead, lesbians tend to object to gay men primarily when they display sexist attitudes toward women.

Rofes has been talking about his “ick” since the early 1990s, but he never acknowledges it for what it is — misogyny. It’s just not that simple, he says. But since when has misogyny ever been simple? It is complex, sinuous, and deeply rooted in history. In fact, the reason Rofes is even able to publish an essay in which he exposes his “ick” speaks to how entrenched misogyny is. Imagine a lesbian publishing an article about her disgust with male bodies. If she could get the thing into print at all, she’d be immediately dismissed as unstable, “sex-phobic,” or man-hating. In fact, lesbians are routinely called man-hating, by both gay men and straight people. But it’s curiously impossible for a lesbian to use the word “misogyny” (i.e., woman-hating) without being labeled as extremist or, my personal favorite, hysterical.

I’m glad someone as well-known as Rofes is spending time exploring the divisions between lesbians and gay men. But without any concrete ideas about how to tackle sexism and misogyny in our movement, these divisions reappear year after year, group by group, and are never taken seriously, even by many of our lesbian leaders. When racism has flared up in the lesbian and gay movement, activists have tried to find specific measures to confront it — holding workshops for white people, for example, like the one held annually at NGLTF’s Creating Change conference. Problems between the sexes, however, are simply allowed to fester.

I’d love to see an annual all-day workshop at Creating Change on sexism and misogyny — led by men, for men only. Ideally, the graduates would take the ideas they learned back to their communities for discussion. Since many communities have town meetings on everything from same-sex marriage to bareback sex to anti-gay violence, why not have public forums on sexism and misogyny at local lesbian and gay community centers around the country?

I also think co-ed workshops based on Deborah Tannen’s You Just Don’t Understand: Women and Men in Conversation could have merit for lesbians and gay men. Though written for heterosexual couples, Tannen’s book has value for the lesbian and gay movement, too, for its discussion of how differently women and men have been socialized to communicate.

In the long run, I don’t know if lesbians and gay men can work together. Clearly, the question will haunt us as long as sexism and misogyny remain secondary or tertiary issues that lesbians are seen to “nag” about and gay men complain they are sick of.

Friends of the Klondyke Kontakt
The KK has a new e-mail address <klondykekontakt@hotmail.com>
Gay bashing for a laugh

On Jerry Lewis, Matthew Shephard, and homophobia

by Ken Lovering

This Labor Day eve, by happenstance really, my partner Paul and I watched Jerry Lewis’ opening comedy routine on his telethon. He was playing the part of a misplaced a cappella singer, standing in a line of actual professional a cappella singers who obviously had their number down to a tee. Lewis, however, played the part of idiot, resulting in much nonverbal frivolity that is his trademark. He went cross-eyed, bug-eyed, and at one point throttled the neck of the innocent silver-haired man next to him. His audience, of course, roared.

But then a shocking thing happened. Jerry Lewis, before millions of viewers, gestured to that man whom he had just throttled, pointing at him like a mischievous child afraid to be caught name calling. Then Jerry Lewis mouthed the word “fag.”

His audience, of course, roared.

I almost jumped out of my chair.

“Are you seeing this?” I said to Paul, as if Lewis had been pointing at me.

My first thought was “Who can we tell?” But I truly didn’t think we’d need to tell anyone. I thought the media watchdogs at the Human Rights Campaign would be all over it before we could even change the channel. But no go. I haven’t heard anything. Is it possible that Paul and I were the only ones to see it? Six weeks or so later, on the day after Matthew Shephard died, I cried. I sat at my desk at The Big Company, read my local newspaper, and silently wept.

“It could’ve been either one of us,” Paul told me, and he was right. This young man’s beating and eventual death — to say nothing of its front page coverage in the mainstream press — made us all feel vulnerable and frightened. But above all, it made us feel sad and angry. How is it that our behavior and our identities inflame others? Who are these people who seem to believe that their twisted morality — the one that drives them to hate and to kill — is superior?

Well, let’s go back to Lewis.

Of course, no one can say — indeed, no one should say — that Jerry Lewis is responsible for the murder of Matthew Shephard. Such a claim would be outrageous, to say nothing of being unsupportable. Matthew’s killers (sorry, alleged) — Aaron J. McKinney and Russell A. Henderson — are behind Wyoming bars and that’s where they ought to stay. But we can surmise that the millions of viewers who laughed at Lewis’ routine share some accountability for any hate crime against a gay man, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered person. Simply put, if the homophobe is the entertainment, then we should all beware the audience.

In Lewis’ defense (yeah, right), he comes from a comic world where it helps to have a butt of a joke. In fact, for a long time, the butt was Lewis himself as he played opposite Dean Martin’s straight man (pardon the pun). Certain-
people can do no wrong: Consider Martina Navratalova, Ian McKellan, Ellen DeGeneres. If they make us laugh or think or cry, we talk about it with friends and family.

"Did you see how Ellen dissed the Establishment at the Emmy awards?" we might say. "She's just so cool!"

"Hey, did you see how Jerry Lewis strangled that fag? He's just so funny!" Well I hope Jerry Lewis read the front pages and watched the news programs. I hope he felt the same sense of loss that much of the country seemed to feel. And I hope he recognizes that gay-bashing is no laughing matter.

I've heard that it snowed during Matthew Shephard's funeral. I confess I don't know if it's true, because I couldn't bring myself to read about it anymore. But I want to believe it's true, so I haven't gone searching for the facts.

I want to believe it's true because we all needed our sorrow of that week to be covered by a clean, pure blanket. We all needed our sadness to be cleansed in the same way we need freshly fallen snow to make a sometimes ugly, hateful world look pretty.

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[T]he opportunity to be threatened, humiliated and to live in fear of being beaten to death is the only “special right” our culture bestows on homosexuals. — Denver Post columnist Diane Carman, October 10.
Anonymous HIV testing is key

by Brenda C. Coleman

CHICAGO (AP) — Anonymous screening for the AIDS virus leads to people getting tested and treated much earlier, a study found. But where name-linked testing is required — as it is now in 11 states — public clinics have seen no significant decline in the number of people tested, another study found.

In confidential testing, the person's name is linked to test results in a medical chart and kept on file at health departments to prevent cases from being tracked more than once. The names are stripped before results are sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In anonymous testing, only a number is recorded with the test result, never a name.

Federal authorities favor the availability of both. They say name reporting is the only way to track the epidemic, but anonymous testing may help curb it by getting people into treatment earlier. "The history of this disease has been a little different than ... other diseases, because we haven't had a therapy until recently that was highly effective," said Dr. Allyn K. Nakashima, lead author of one study and a CDC medical epidemiologist. Public reluctance to give names to public health officials for testing has eased, since a person's anonymity disappears when he or she becomes a patient, she said.

The CDC studied about 459,000 tests at health departments in six states before and after they implemented reporting of names of people who tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Name reporting did not appear to diminish the use of testing in the states studied — Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey and Tennessee — the CDC said in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Name reporting has been required since 1981 in all states for full-blown AIDS and has been routine even longer in all states for other diseases ranging from tuberculosis to gonorrhea and salmonella poisoning. But only 11 states require name reporting of HIV-positive tests.

A separate study in JAMA found that where anonymous testing was also offered as a publicly funded alternative — as it is now in 39 states — people who were eventually diagnosed with AIDS sought HIV tests and HIV-related treatment much earlier than other patients. HIV-related treatment averaged more than a year earlier in the anonymous group, the study found.

"That is one of the biggest (positive) effects of any public health program anywhere," said the lead author, Dr. Andrew Bindman of San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center. Their study involved 835 patients in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon and Texas. North Carolina has since mandated name reporting of HIV tests.

Early testing and treatment not only prolongs patients' lives but allows them to take precautions to prevent spreading the disease, the researchers noted.

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What would Jesus do?

Another gay play about the Bible may soon have New York's religious right in a frenzy. Critics who attacked Terrence McNally's drama Corpus Christi are worked up over Paul Rudnick's new comedy, The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told, opening this month at the New York Theater Workshop. It recasts Adam and Eve as Adam and Steve — who meet up with a crippled lesbian rabbi and board an ark populated with gay rabbits, a horny rhinoceros and a crew of dominatrixes.

The show is blasted as "blasphemy" by Family Defense Council chairman Howard Hurwitz. "This abuse of the Bible is to be expected from people who are pro-gay," he says. "This is an outrage for religious people." Said Rudnick, who wrote the movie In and Out, starring Kevin Kline: "I would hope they'll come to see the show before passing any judgment. They might even end up enjoying themselves."

He added: "I'd love to know who these fundamentalists imagine created gay people. ... If it wasn't God, maybe it was Cole Porter."

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Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

DeNiro and the drag queen

Despite the *Batman and Robin* debacle, fey director Joel Schumacher is still able to attract big names to his projects, with Robert DeNiro attached to his latest work. Schumacher wrote and will direct *Flawless*, about a retired security guard (DeNiro) whose recovery from a stroke includes vocal sessions with a drag queen.

Philip Seymour Hoffmann (who played the nerdy techie obsessed with Dirk Diggler in *Boogie Nights*) was just signed to play the drag queen who, believe it or not, forms an unlikely bond with DeNiro’s gruff working-class character. I must say I’m looking forward to hearing one of the *GoodFellas* sing show tunes.

Honorary queer

Hetero star Robert Downey Jr. is making quite a living playing gay in movies such as *Home for the Holidays*. He’s at it again in James Toback’s upcoming film, *Black and White*, which stars Brooke Shields as a documentary filmmaker chronicling two white Manhattan teens’ obsession with hip-hop. Downey Jr., who was in Toback’s last movie, *Two Girls and a Guy*, portrays Brooke’s queer husband.

Babs: the movie

Mrs. James Brolin is in talks with legendary director Mike Nichols (*The Birdcage*) about filming a “farewell” concert tour (tentatively scheduled for the year 2000). Of course, Streisand will want plenty of control over what is shown, so whether she and Nichols would be able to co-exist creatively remains a big question.

Accolades for Elton

Elton John’s new Disney-produced musical *Elaborate Lives: The Legend of Aida*, previewed recently in Atlanta, the pop star’s part-time home. The project reteams the designated mourner with *Lion King* lyricist Tim Rice. Advance word is excellent. Expect to see the show premiere on Broadway sometime next year.

Beauty or beast?

Stardom has brought fame, fortune, and self-confidence for recently ousted actor Kevin Spacey (he won’t confirm or deny the rumor). So his latest project shouldn’t be much of a stretch. American *Beauty* is a dark comedy starring Spacey as a working class lug with a loveless marriage and boring job who transforms himself into a hunk.

Debbie does dyke?

Wholesome ’80s popster Deborah (formerly Debbie) Gibson continues her career makeover that began with Broadway musicals and is now taking her to the big screen. Her new film, due later this month in limited release, is a gay comedy called *My Girlfriend’s Boyfriend*, in which Debbie plays the jilted lesbian. Maybe she’ll write a song about it.

Will it fly?

The first episodes of NBC’s allegedly groundbreaking sitcom *Will and Grace* give some indication as to how the gay angle will be played, er, underplayed.

From watching the premiere, it’s easy to miss the fact that lawyer Will Truman is even gay — a fact that straight actor Eric McCormack admitted recently. The sitcom will eventually address his character’s sexuality, though it won’t be a big issue since, unlike Ellen Morgan, Will has been out of the closet for a while.

Famed television director James Burrows (who’ll helm the first 13 *Will and Grace* episodes) has been quoted as saying the show is primarily about two friends, one of whom happens to be gay. But he hinted that *Will and Grace* might be the first TV show to feature a man-on-man kiss, though not until the public is “comfortable” with McCormick’s character. Of course, that all depends on the unlikelihood of the show surviving its tough competition, namely Fox’s *Ally McBeal* juggernaut.

Inside biz

Former Warner Bros. marketing chief Chris Pula (*Nightmare on Elm Street, Seven*), who is openly gay, is in talks to head a new “genre division” within the aforementioned company. If all goes through, Pula will be the only openly gay man in Hollywood in such a high position, with the ability to green-light several films a year.

Coming soon...

The British press is lambasting gay filmmaker Todd Haynes’ latest, *Velvet Goldmine*, which explores the music and the open sexuality of the ’70s glam rock movement. Still, I’m curious about the film, what with hotties like Ewan McGregor (*Trainspotting*) and Christian Bale (*Empire of the Sun*) playing key roles and with Haynes’ strong track record (*Poison, Safe*).

Romeo San Vicente, who’s looking for an intern to call his own, can be reached at <RSVicente@aol.com>.

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MUY BIEN!

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Wireless

My pal the CEO and I were chatting about computers. Just that morning I’d unsuccessfully downloaded a media program designed to give me animated answers to some research questions.

“Ha! Ha!” he laughed. “My brother couldn’t get that to work either. He downloaded it, but he didn’t extract it and then wondered why he couldn’t use it. Ha! Ha!”

“Duh,” I said, feeling clueless — wireless. Extract? Why don’t they ever mention the little details? If women or gay men ran the computer world we’d have recipe-like instructions that included the electronic equivalent of add two teaspoons, stir, combine, cook at 350 degrees. Then extract from oven. We wouldn’t ever leave out that last essential step.

It’s a darned good thing Lover is not only a techno-wiz, but smart and patient. She extracted the program for me that night (I still have no clue what that means) and went back to her needlepoint. I stayed with my natokaneo new toy which enabled me to relive the Yankees World Series win and hear the cheering again and again.

I happily twiddled away, deciding after that successful installation to play with the settings. Lover had increased the number of colors; I would increase the number of pixels! This, I thought, would give me a clearer view of my triumphant team.

“Not a good thing to play with,” was all Lover said when I sheepishly broke it to her that I’d destroyed my computer. The screen had gone black, I told her. Yes, the machine was still running. The prognosis, Lover’s face said, was poor.

Did I freak? Naw. New computers only cost money. Naw. Replacing everything on a machine only takes time. Hundreds of dollars. Dozens of hours. Just because my eyes glaze over when I try to read a computer manual or understand something Lover’s explaining, why should the small detail that I’m totally wireless stop me from reckless experimentation?

Lover came barefooted and night-gowned to my room and struggled mightily. She turned the thing off, then on. Nothing. She pressed some keys and the screen lit up. The corners of the screen were marked, “Safe Mode.”

“Wow! How’d you do that?” I asked eagerly.

She shook her head and sagely pronounced, “It’s better if I don’t tell you.”

I couldn’t argue. I’d probably have tried it out when she returned to her sewing.

In any case, she saved my machine. Not that I deserved such a miracle. Especially since I just found out that I lost more than my urge to fool around — with my computer, not on my girlfriend — after last night’s fiasco. My speakers now emit an annoying hum instead of all the cute little jungle sounds that normally blare throughout my day.

It’d been such fun, talking on the phone with someone important like my computer incompatible boss, who is not to be confused with the computer literate CEO. He’ll be saying something worthy, like, “Good work, Lee!” when a chorus of crickets or a raucous jungle bird screams into the phone. Slight pause, image of boss wondering if he really heard the strange sound, then a hurried goodbye. Just one more weirdness coming from his satellite office.

Hey, some people are good at computers, some at —uh — I wonder if I perform any practical miracles around our house.

There are the spiders, of course. Lover prefers that I catch and evict them, though she’s more than willing to spot for me when I climb, lean or otherwise contort myself to reach the little guys. The worst is the bathtub. Have you ever balanced on the tub’s edge in order to stretch to the corner where ceiling and wall meet — and then try to coax a spider from its web fortress? If you haven’t, I’ll bet your partner has.

Somehow, though, this little specialty of mine doesn’t seem as valuable as saving spendy equipment.

Nor does my other achievement. Until recently I was the unrivaled champion of kitty litter cleaning. I won’t go into detail, but no one could argue (why would anyone try?) about my aptitude there. Recently, though, I was replaced. A litter box with electronic eyes came to live with us. It scoops the stuff up and dumps it into a closed compartment within moments after a deposit is made. The kittens are loyal — they won’t use the thing. Yet. As soon as they get used to it I know what will happen. Yep, I’ll be downsized. And you know who had to assemble this high-tech gadget. Yep, Lover. By wiring the potty she’s reduced my repetitive stress syndrome — known in non-geek circles as litter elbow — by 25%. Now I can spend my new-found spare time assembling custom techno music CDs to my heart’s content.

Last week I stayed with web virgins. Honest, they didn’t know how to search, outside of a mall, for the Barbra Streisand album they wanted. I taught them.

I hope Lover feels as good about her techno-rescues as I did about leading my friends through the wires of the web. Or as I do after I deliver her from preying spiders.

She swiftly fixed my sound problem, explaining, “One of the kittens unplugged the speakers.”

No wonder I was wireless.

Copyright Lee Lynch 1998
My Queer Life

Out of style

I'm just going to have to face it — I have straight hair. And no, I don't mean that it won't hold a perm, not that I've ever tried. I mean that it's hopelessly heterosexual.

I've tried to have gay hair. I've gone to expensive salons in the trendy part of town, where I've paid seventy bucks to have my hair "styled" by pouty young men with French names. But no matter how much they tease it and snip at it, gel it and blow it dry, it always looks the same. After an hour of fussing and trimming, the weary hairdresser looks at my reflection in the mirror and sighs.

"Well, it's nice and short," he says, trying to feign enthusiasm.

While other gay men walk down the streets with their freshly-buzzed flattops and stylish George Clooney-inspired cuts, my hair always looks like I just woke up. Plagued by several inconveniently-placed cowlicks, my head invariably resembles that of a baseball player who has worn his lucky hat for an entire season, even when I've just washed it.

I suppose I shouldn't be surprised by this. The truth is, I'm just not very good at the whole gay style thing. For example, I do not look fetching in black turtle-necks. They make me feel as if I'm suffocating, and I spend all day picking at the neck, convinced that my throat is closing up. Nor do I make any designer clothes look good. They may appear fine on the manikins, or on the models in catalogs, but once I put them on they sag in all the wrong places and instantly take on an air of garage sale out-of-datedness.

I have friends who are experts at style. They go shopping and return with three different articles of clothing and some fun accessories that can be combined into twenty-two different ensembles suitable for any occasion. When I go shopping, I spend all day wandering around in a daze and come back with some jeans, a flannel shirt, and a pair of wool socks, all of which look exactly like the other jeans, flannel shirts, and wool socks already crowding my drawers. Displaying my finds to my friends, they shake their heads sadly while I cringe in shame.

From time to time I'll go out on a limb and try something that I'm told is all the rage in gay circles. I should know better. When Marky Mark made those Calvin Klein boxer-brief underwear a fetish for homos everywhere, I dutifully bought some. I thought they would be daring. They weren't. They were scary. While Marky filled them out beautifully, on me they resembled some weird kind of diaper. Lying on my bed trying to feel sexy, I felt more like the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes. As for some of my other ill-fated clothing investments, I will say only that the money I spent on those leather shorts would have been better off in my retirement account.

Now that there are all of these catalogs especially for gay men, I feel even worse about all of this. I should just throw these things away when they appear in my mailbox, but of course I don't. Instead, I sit there turning the pages and looking at the men wearing interesting clothing as if it were the easiest thing in the world. On them, nipple-revealing tank tops look natural. On me, they look like halter tops. The models sport those multicolored Freedom Rings with aplomb, making both a fashion and a political statement. I know that on me they would hang like some decrepit rainbow. The catalog people lean jauntily against their kitchen counters, cheerfully eating cereal while wearing only silk pajama bottoms. If I did that, I'd end up with milk stains down my crotch within seconds.

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Still, I can't help looking at people wearing clothes I will never wear. I stare at them sitting in bed with their equally-fashionable lovers, pulling playfully on one another's socks, or perhaps running around outside with their golden retriever, whose fur is always as shiny and bouncy as that of his masters. I look down at my old boxer shorts and over at my dog, who generally smells like a pond and whose fur is never bouncy, and wonder where we went wrong.

Fashion disaster that I am, it's probably a good thing that I can stay at home and write for a living. If I had to go out into the world, I wouldn't know what to wear. I haven't owned a suit, or even a dinner jacket, in a decade. I can't remember how to tie a tie, since I haven't had to wear one since Easter Sunday the year I was eight. There is nothing in my closet even remotely resembling "dressy" shoes.

While I'm perfectly happy with my basic wardrobe of jeans and T-shirts, I live in fear of the day when I get invited to something that requires knowing how to dress. I have this recurring dream where I've been nominated for an Oscar for some breathtaking screenplay I've written. Everyone loves it, and there's no doubt that I'll win. It's the moment I've dreamed of for years.

Only I can't go, because I don't have anything to wear. As the first openly-gay man to win the Best Original Screenplay award, I want to make an amazing impression on America and the world by giving a rousing acceptance speech and showing everyone that, as a group, we are witty, intelligent people who bring magic into their lives. But none of the current hip designers want me to sport their creations, because they know I'll just make a mess of it. Left with the contents of my own closet, I just know that when I ascended the stage, what everyone would be staring at would be the scuffed-up work boots and faded L.L. Bean shirt I threw on before rushing out the door.

"He can't be gay," they would whisper to one another as the horrified award presenters dripping with style try to hustle me quickly offstage. "Look at that hair."

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World AIDS Day emerged from the call by the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention in January 1988. It is designed to open channels of communication, strengthen the exchange of information and experience, and forge a spirit of social tolerance. Since then, World AIDS Day has received the support of the World Health Assembly and the United Nations system as well as governments, communities and individuals around the world. Each year, it is the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS.

In Anchorage, World AIDS Day is a unique community-wide event that is free to the public. This year, we will host an evening of music, ceremony and sharing at the Sydney Lawrence Theater in the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at 6:30pm, December 1st. The event will be open to the general public and is suitable for the whole family. It will also be broadcast live throughout the state via APRN and via the Internet thanks to WEBDe-sign. After the performance, there will be a candlelight ceremony in Town Square.

The theme for the 11th annual World AIDS Day is 'Force For Change: World AIDS Campaign with Young People'. This theme reflects the fact that worldwide, five young people are infected with HIV every minute, making AIDS and HIV a very real part of everyday life for young people.

Many young people have questions and concerns about AIDS and HIV. Young people can and have played a vital role in AIDS and HIV prevention and support work. Young people can make a huge difference in raising awareness of AIDS and HIV by talking about AIDS and HIV in and outside school and college, by holding fundraising events for AIDS charities, or by wearing a red ribbon to show support.

For more information on World AIDS Day events or the statistics on young people with HIV/AIDS, see the official website at www.avert.org/worldaid.htm or contact the Four A's, 907/263-2050.
APA position on psychiatric treatment, sexual orientation

APA Media Release

The Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from the DSM in 1973 after reviewing evidence that it was not a mental disorder. In 1987, ego-dystonic homosexuality was removed from the DSM after a similar review.

The American Psychiatric Association does not currently have a formal position statement on treatments that attempt to change a person’s sexual orientation, also known as “reparative or conversion therapy.” An APA 1997 Fact Sheet on Homosexual and Bisexual Issues states that “there is no published scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of ‘reparative therapy’ as a treatment to change one’s sexual orientation.”

The potential risks of “reparative therapy” are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient. Many patients who have undergone “reparative therapy” relate that they were inaccurately told that homosexuals and/or unhappy individuals who never achieve acceptance or satisfaction. The possibility that the person might achieve happiness and satisfying interpersonal relationships as a gay man or lesbian is not presented, nor are alternative approaches to dealing with the effects of societal stigmatization discussed.

Several major professional organizations including the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers and the American Academy of Pediatrics have all made statements against “reparative therapy” because of concerns for the harm caused to patients. The American Psychiatric Association has already taken clear stands against discrimination, prejudice and unethical treatment on a variety of issues including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Therefore, the American Psychiatric Association opposes any psychiatric treatment, such as “reparative” or “conversion” therapy which is based upon the assumption that homosexuality is a mental disorder or based upon the assumption that the patient should change his/her sexual homosexual orientation.

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Ten teenagers, wielding pipes and nail-studded boards, mauled Paul Broussard on a city street. Two members of a neo-Nazi group lured Fred Mangione from a suburban tavern and stabbed him 35 times. Three men ambushed Thanh Nguyen as he snacked in a park, and yelling slurs, they beat, robbed, stripped and finally shot him.

The victims, all slain in recent years in the Dallas and Houston areas, were gay men out in public with gay friends. Their convicted killers, authorities say, were driven by hatred of gays and picked their targets at random.

And though just as vicious as Matthew Shepard’s murder in Wyoming, none of these cases caused a national outcry. Experts who track hate crimes say they’ve never seen a gay victim inspire the reaction that the image of a diminutive college kid lashed to a fence has. That reaction includes presidential pleas for hate-crimes legislation, a far-flung series of candlelight vigils, rallies on the streets of the U.S. Capitol and a funeral played prominently on network newscasts.

“I feel that this could happen to me or this could happen to anyone,” said Tim Townsend, a Denver man who never met Mr. Shepard but journeyed to his funeral in Casper, Wyoming. He wasn’t the only stranger there: the White House sent two representatives. Protesters arrived from God Said Ministries of Mount Enterprise, Texas, and from a Topeka, Kansas, Baptist church whose members regularly engage in anti-gay picketing at funerals. The protesters carried signs such as “Matt in Hell” and “God Hates Fags.”

San Diego journalist Rex Wockner, who compiles gay-related news from around the world and disseminates it on-line to hundreds of editors, called the situation unprecedented. “There are Matthew vigils everywhere, in cities as small as 60,000. There continues to be a deluge — which is not a strong enough word — of editorials, columns, op-ed pieces, local profiles and news stories in every daily newspaper I’ve seen,” he advised his news service’s subscribers. “Suffice it to say this would seem to be the biggest gay news story of all time.”

In explaining the outpouring, people on opposing sides of the country’s debate over homosexuality agree on this much: Gays and lesbians seem more visible, more human than ever before — and so inhumanity packs a powerful new wallop.

“Even 10 years ago, and certainly 20 years ago, talking about homosexuals was in many instances a theoretical discussion,” said Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, a Baptist preacher from Louisiana who heads the gay-friendly Interfaith Alliance in Washington, D.C. “Now when we talk about gays and lesbians, we’re talking about individuals with whom we work and with whom we worship.”

A spokeswoman for the Family Research Council, sponsor of a national advertising campaign that promotes conversion therapy for gays and lesbians, concurred. “There is a heightened awareness of who’s homosexual and who’s not,” said Heather Parish. “It might be a mother or brother or sister or daughter.”

Wayne Besen, spokesman for the gay advocacy group Human Rights Campaign, put it this way: “Matthew became a symbol because the boy next door was hung up like a scarecrow. People saw him as their son or little brother.”

The timing of his death has fed the fires of grief and reaction: It came as Congress was considering a bill making it easier for federal prosecutors to tackle hate-crime cases and just four months after another horrific killing made
national news — that of James Byrd, a Jasper, Texas, black man who authorities say was dragged to his death and beheaded by white supremacists.

"They create a climate and environment of intolerance and give license to those who seek to vent their rage or frustration on an entire community," Human Rights Campaign executive director Elizabeth Birch said, addressing a Washington rally.

Ms. Farish vehemently rejects such allegations. "Don't blame AA because a drunk was beat up," she said. The spokeswoman likened the men accused of killing Mr. Shepad to abortion-clinic bombers — extremists who give peaceful protesters a bad name.

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas leader Dianne Hardy-Garcia has charted killings of gays through all sorts of political seas. "We've had so many gay men murdered like this in Texas," Ms. Hardy-Garcia said. "I'm hoping it's a good sign that more and more people are becoming outraged." She counts 28 such cases in Texas in the last decade, all involving men killed in circumstances suggesting anti-gay rage — often an "overkill" slaying of someone met in a pickup area. Not all meet the definition of a hate crime, which requires proof of motivation.

Houston police Sgt. Lawrence Newcomb said he's been struck to see the Wyoming case get so much more attention than the death of Mr. Broussard, the young banker killed in 1991 with nail-studded boards. Maybe, he said, the public is starting to realize what's been going on "forever — gays are targeted because of their sexual preference." Sgt. Newcomb acknowledged that Mr. Broussard's death, by itself, didn't make him understand the extent of anti-gay violence. That came later, when he led undercover officers posing as gay couples in the neighborhood where the murder occurred.

Over a couple of weeks, they were punched, Maced, pelted with cans and hit with a baseball bat. Fifteen young people were arrested. "You don't know there's a problem," the sergeant said, "till you become a part of it."

"I love a man in uniform..."

GLAAD Media Release

In its October 25 edition, Chicago Sun-Times reporter John Carpenter wrote about Mike Perdue, an openly gay police officer on the Chicago police force, who serves as district liaison to the gay and lesbian community. Perdue, who moved to Chicago from San Francisco two years ago, applied for the force two years ago, through the efforts of the local Gay and Lesbian Police Association. Accepted to the academy, he has become one of the several out officers working in a district with a significantly lesbian and gay area.

The reporter asked the former district commander whether he thinks it's important that officers in the area reflect the community. "I don't just think it's important... I think it's critical... just as we have Hispanic officers in the Hispanic community." Carpenter also interviewed an out lesbian working in the civil rights division of the Police Department, and a "civilian" representative from the community. The reporter walked with Perdue down Halstead Street, and encountered a man who onlookers, the reporter noted, "might have speculated that the younger man was a friend who was also gay." In fact, he's a fellow officer, looking for a shop Perdue told him about, so he can buy his girlfriend a present. The piece closed, "'Great guy,' Perdue said as the man walked away. 'He and I went through the academy together.'"

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.

"I've been seriously offended by the lack of decent jokes on the subject, and believe me, if there were any more out there, I would have heard them."

— Singer George Michael on his April 7 arrest in a Beverly Hills "tea room," in an online chat on the Microsoft Network, July 16.

such is LIFE!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
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SOUNDS LIKE A MINISTER
WITH A FOOT-FETISH!
Further North in the Heart of Alaska

Gearing up for the holidays seems like an uphill battle sometimes. Just remember though, you have your real family all around you. Take some time out of the hustle & bustle, and just enjoy.

**Interior AIDS Association**

IAA needs hosts. Pat at IAA is looking for a few good men to host home parties this winter. The parties will cover topics relevant to sexual communications, “triggers,” eroticising safer sex and other topics relevant to sexually active gay men. There will be three parties over three consecutive weeks, each about 90 minutes long. IAA will help the host with invitations and prizes. Call Pat at 452-4222!

There will be an official Names Quilt panel dedication in the Great Hall at the University of Alaska Fairbanks on February 28 in conjunction with a special concert by the Fairbanks Symphony. For information on making a quilt panel call IAA at 452-4222.

**Alaska Gay/Lesbian Association**

AGLA is again holding meetings and functions open not only to University students, but to the whole community. On November 18 there was a reading by Sarah Schulman, a novelist and non-fiction writer from New York. She also gave a craft talk at the museum. Call 474-1136 or e-mail <fbagla@aurora.alaska.edu> for information about upcoming events.

**Community events**

GLSEN meets the third Wednesday of the month. Thanksgiving is our community potluck this month, location and time will be posted on QNetAK or you can call Terry at 457-6469. Klondykes, Queens and Company’s Christmas show is planned for Friday, December 11, with a pre-show meeting on the 6th at noon.

**On the air**

Updated community announcements, news and music can be heard twice weekly on KSUA 91.5 FM. Wednesday nights it’s Dames on the Dial hosted by Lady B from 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., and on Saturdays it’s Homo-Phonic Radio from noon until 3:00 p.m.

**Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse**

Ongoing attractions feature Mondays at 7:00 p.m. jazz jam with the groovy zoo trio; Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. open poetry; Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. old time music with Seth Danielson on banjo & Erik Kolborg on fiddle; and Fridays start at 6:00 p.m. with the folk harp of Genie Loser and 8:00 p.m. with Celtic Jam.

Special events include Chena Hot Strings on Saturday the 21st with an evening of bluegrass, and certain Thursday nights THINK! AGAIN! will fire up your mind with forums of ideas and opinions.

Community meetings are also very active. PFLAG meets on the third Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Gwich’in Table meets to converse in and learn Gwich’in language and stories of the natives and elders of the Interior on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m., and many others such as the Duchal council meetings. Call Connie at 479-7701 for more information or to reserve your space.

**World AIDS Day**

The Annual World AIDS Day vigil on December 1 will start at 5:45 p.m. in front of the Noel Wein Library on Cowles, just off Airport Way in Fairbanks. A candle light march will then light up the night and circle back to Fairbanks Lutheran Church at 10th & Cowles for the Service of Affirmation & Hope starting at 6:30 p.m.

**QNetAK**

To get updates on events, many of which are held with short notice and not included here, please e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com> and ask to be placed on the mailing list or just visit <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak>.

**AIDS drug cuts HIV levels in tests**

NEW YORK (AP) — An experimental AIDS drug cut HIV levels in patients’ blood by as much as about 99 percent in two weeks, a preliminary study found. That’s as potent as currently approved drugs, which can drive the AIDS virus down to undetectable levels when taken longer. The experimental drug showed the 99% reductions in the four patients who took the highest dose.

The drug, called T-20, sabotages HIV’s machinery for penetrating into the body’s cells, a different strategy from that used in approved HIV medications. Unlike the standard medications, T-20 wouldn’t work as a pill. So it was given by injection to the 16 patients in the two-week study. Results are reported in the November issue of the journal Nature Medicine by scientists at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the drug company Trimeris, Inc., of Durham, N.C., and elsewhere. Trimeris is developing T-20.

In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Douglas Richman of the University of California, San Diego, cautioned that much more study will be needed to assess how useful T-20 might be. Scientists will have to investigate side effects when T-20 is taken long-term, as well as the possibility that HIV will become resistant with chronic therapy, he wrote.

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GLSEN - AK grades school districts

Some districts offer “some” protection for GLBT persons. By Marty Haber

GLSEN Alaska, Inc. has fulfilled its responsibility for a high priority chapter project the 1998 Back To School Campaign (BTS). This project endeavor was very well received by the national GLSEN Director of Advocacy. The chapter thanks Kate Frankfurt and her staff for support and encouragement throughout the project. After reflection on the responses and final results of this project, GLSEN Alaska, Inc. has several conclusions for your perusal and consideration.

GLSEN Alaska Inc. sent out a request and subsequent follow up letter to all 55 school districts in Alaska requesting a copy of each district’s policy manual. The chapter’s first attempt to gather information on all school districts in Alaska yielded a total of 13 responses, representing 24% of the state. Nine actual policies were received which is 16% of the state’s school districts. Four districts requested that GLSEN Alaska purchase the respective policy at 25¢ per page. Two districts’ policy manuals were found on the Internet. Two districts were not collected due to funding limitations.

A total of 15 school district manuals were reviewed representing 27% of Alaska school districts. Although this was somewhat disappointing for GLSEN Alaska, Inc., the importance of opening dialogue with all 55 districts cannot be denied.

Grades were issued to each of the responding districts based upon their policies regarding protecting students and staff from discrimination and harassment on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation. GLSEN Alaska also considered district support for training staff on issues facing g/l/b/t youth, for activities related to diversity and for extracurricular activities / clubs. Grades given on these criteria:

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Juneau School District                      A
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District      B
Kodiak Island Borough School District        B
Lake & Peninsula School District            D
Lower-Yukon School District                 A
Sitka School District                        C
Southwest Region School District            Incomplete
Yakutat School District                     A
Yukon-Koyukuk School District               C

Through extrapolation of the data, the BTS revealed several very important documents and guidelines for the protections against discrimination and harassment of gay and lesbian adults and youth in the public schools. One of these is the Alaska Administrative Code 20 AAC 10.020, Code of Ethics and Teaching Standards. This code specifically names sexual orientation as a protected class.

Alaska statutes similarly protect educators by reference to the 20 AAC 10. The Equal Access Act (Title VII, Public Law 98-337) states that student-initiated groups must be allowed to meet without regard to religious, political or philosophical views.

Part of the on-going work of the BTS committee will be to lobby other school districts to adopt the legislative intents cited above for inclusion in their policy manuals. This is hardly a time or cost intensive focus because it is the law. Noncompliance or lack of conformance to federal, state and local laws can result in costly litigation for a public school district. Education on this issue should be a matter of fact and only require citing of the legal requirements.

The fact that GLSEN Alaska, Inc. touched all 55 school district superintendents through the BTS has served to create a database for future dialogue. This will be an important bridge for assuring teaching respect for all in our Alaska schools!!

Copies of the entire BTS report are available through e-mail request to madeline@alaskalife.net or request a hard copy for $5.00 to BTS campaign manager, Marty Haber at 277-6517.

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Past Out

Who was E. M. Forster?

British writer E.M. Forster's (1879-1970) elegant Edwardian novels, A Room with a View, Howard's End, and A Passage to India, later became opulent, acclaimed period movies. But his one novel of specific interest to gay readers remained unpublished in his lifetime. Fearing prosecution for obscenity, Forster decided against releasing Maurice, saying that the novel could not be made public "until my death or England's." The year after Forster's death, Maurice was finally published and is now a classic of gay literature.

To make sense of why Forster opted not to publish Maurice, it's necessary to understand the time in which he lived. Forster was an impressionable teenager when playwright Oscar Wilde was tried for "acts of gross indecency" in 1895. The ordeal of Wilde, who was left sick and impoverished, had a lasting impact on young gay men of that age. His name was virtually synonymous with homosexuality for many years after his death. In Maurice, the protagonist sees a doctor for his "condition" and confesses, "I am an unspeakable of the Oscar Wilde sort." Gay sexual relations remained outlawed in England until 1967. As Forster wrote bitterly in his diary late in life, "Society ... wasted my time by making homosexuality criminal."

Forster realized he was gay as a student at Cambridge, where he enjoyed physical closeness, but not sex, with a fellow undergraduate. The object of his affection was known by his initials, "HOM" — Hugh O. Meredith, who went on to become a well-known economic historian. HOM suggested that he and Forster share rooms, but Forster's mother, who was the overriding influence on him during most of his life, vetoed it. "[HOM] has always been considered a one man friend," she wrote, hinting at what she was afraid to admit openly. Forster declined HOM's invitation, but the two remained friends. In 1908, Forster dedicated his third novel, A Room with a View, to HOM.

Forster's passionate friendship with HOM probably provided inspiration for Maurice, but it was a visit to the home of gay writer Edward Carpenter and his working-class lover, George Merrill, that actually spurred the writing of the novel. On that visit in 1913, Merrill lightly touched Forster's bottom. "I believe he touched most people's," Forster noted 50 years later. "It was as much psychological as physical... I still remember it." Forster was over 30 and had not yet had sex, so Merrill's affectionate tap on the behind made a lasting impression.

Inspired by Carpenter and Merrill's relationship, and probably envious of it, too, Forster began writing Maurice that same year. The novel is the story of Maurice Hall, a middle-class youth who attends Cambridge and there has a passionate friendship with Clive Durham. Clive knows he is gay but struggles to be "normal." When Clive marries, Maurice at first contemplates suicide, then tries to follow in his friend's footsteps by finding "a woman... to diminish his lust." But on a visit to Clive's country estate, he meets and begins a sexual relationship with Alec, a gamekeeper. When Alec climbs into Maurice's bed, Maurice "cut[s] himself off from the congregation of normal men." Like Carpenter and Merrill, Maurice and Alec bridge the gap of class difference. Maurice leaves behind family and friends and goes off into the woods to live with Alec. Though the threat of being betrayed to the police always looms over them, Forster did allow his lovers a happy ending.

Forster revised Maurice three times, with an eye to posthumous publication, and asked other writers to read and comment on the manuscript. Some gay critics now believe that D.H. Lawrence patterned the lusty Lady Chatterley's Lover (1928) after Forster's book. When Maurice was published in 1971, reviewers dismissed it as derivative of Lawrence, when in fact Lady Chatterley's Lover was probably a heterosexualized Maurice.

It wasn't until 1917, several years after the completion of Maurice, that Forster's gay identity, writing, and behavior finally came together. While traveling in Egypt, he fell in love with a young tram conductor named Mohammed el Adl, and the two enjoyed a passionate affair. "I am so happy," Forster wrote in his diary, "I wish I were writing the latter half of Maurice now. I now know so much more." The affair was brief, with Forster worrying constantly that his mother would find out.

The most enduring gay relationship of Forster's life began in the early 1930s, with a young police officer named Bob Buckingham. Though Buckingham eventually married, the marriage did not hamper his relationship with Forster. In fact, the constable's wife May seemed to accept the relationship, and Forster was a frequent visitor to their home in Coventry.

Forster and Buckingham were together almost 40 years, until Forster died of a stroke in 1970 at the Buckinghams' home. In an end-note to Maurice that Forster wrote in 1960, he said, "I was determined that in fiction anyway two men should fall in love and remain in it for the ever and ever that fiction allows." With Buckingham, Forster had finally found the love that he only imagined when he wrote Maurice.
Proud of who I am

by Jo Hansen

Today was an interesting day because it was the day of Matthew Shepherd's funeral. I was sitting at a friend's house catching the highlights of the service on CNN when my 10 year old son came through the door and asked, "Whatcha watching?" as he sat down in front of the television. I replied, "A young man's funeral." He sat and watched for several minutes, which was a shocker to me, usually he grabs the remote and surfs for cartoons. As any good parent, I realized that he was going to start asking questions and over the years they keep getting tougher to answer.

The first question was, "Why is he dead?" "He died because of a hate crime." "What crime did he commit?" "He didn't commit the crime, he was killed because someone did not like the fact he was gay." "That's not fair." Then he sat quietly and was thinking about our conversation. I knew he wasn't done yet. He looked up and asked if this could happen to Victoria or Veronica, friends of ours that attend the University of Alaska Anchorage and Alaska Pacific University. How was I to answer this one? If I said, "No" and God forbid something did happen, he would say I lied to him. God bless his soul, he sure knows how to put me in a jam. "I sure hope it never does, but hate is a powerful thing," I finally replied to him. I was hoping this was the end of the conversation. He got up and gave me a big, long hug. His words came as he pulled away, "Mom, please don't go back to school in January. I don't want this to happen to you."

Boy, talk about just being hit by a 2 x 4 in the back of the head. "Okay, how do I answer this request," I thought to myself. Slowly I explained, "If I don't go back to school in January then the people who are filled with the kind of hate with which this crime was committed, win. And by letting them win they think they can do this to others in the future, and we don't want that do we?" I know he did not understand this answer, but he seemed to accept it. He then put on his roller blades and headed for the door. I overheard him talking to his friend who was waiting outside for him, "I wish sometimes my mom wasn't gay, so I wouldn't have to worry about her, but I am proud of her."

I decided to go to the candle light vigil that night at UAA that was being held by THE FAMILY in memory of Matthew Shepherd. I did not bring my son with me, but he was there in spirit. As I listened to people talk, I began to think back to the time when I came out to my son and explained what it means to be gay. He was seven and I had been sheltering him from my gay lifestyle for three years. He had met most of my friends, but his favorite were my friends Nik and Kelly, who have two girls the same age as him. We had just left their house and were driving home when he asked, "What does gay mean?"

"Where did you hear that word," I asked quietly, hoping he would lose interest quickly. He explained that his friends and he were playing house, and he wasn't allowed to marry one friend because she was the girlfriend of another girl. They called themselves "lessbeens" (so much for the kids saying lesbian right) and he had to be gay and have a boyfriend.

Okay, I wasn't getting off easy this time either. I stopped the car and explained that there was many different types of love. "There's love between a man and a woman, a woman and a woman, and a man and a man. All have the same basic love, a lot like how we love each other. Do you understand what I mean," I said, praying that would be the end of this talk. But he had to ask, "Mom, are you a lessbeen?" "Yes," I said quietly. "But I haven't told your grandmas because they wouldn't understand, Okay?" I explained. Knowing my brat child like I do, there was going to be a reply, and when he did he shocked me by saying, "Okay, but why would anyone want to kiss Kelly? That's gross!" And that was the end of it.

Later that summer my own son made me so proud of him and of his own way of dealing with me being gay. We were getting dressed after floating down the Boise River in Idaho. I had just changed clothes and was coming out of the women's bathroom as a lady passed me on the way in. I'd just spotted my son waiting for me when the lady started yelling at me for being in the women's bathroom and telling me that the men's was around the corner. I have, over the years, learned to ignore people like this by ducking my head, pulling my ball cap into place and walking away, but my son had other plans for her. As he grabbed my hand, he yelled at her, "That's my mom; she's gay and I'm proud of her!" I started bursting with pride as we walked away, leaving this lady with a dumbfounded look on her face. From that day on I vowed to never hang my head in shame when I encountered people like this woman. That was the day I became proud of everything that I AM.

How does this relate to the candle light vigil you ask? Well, just a few months ago I came out of a relationship that ended suddenly and negatively, which left me questioning myself and my sexuality. Once again, I was left with an overall feeling of shame. I saw people at the vigil that I knew, both gay and straight, and then to my surprise, I saw my next door neighbors (who are straight and whom I barely know) who came to show their support in stopping hate crimes like what happened to Matthew. It's funny how tragedies can give us the answers we are seeking in life. All because of my ten year old son and some really great friends and neighbors coming together in love and support, I realized where I am going in life and once again I am proud of who I am.
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
Life Partnerships?

By Sylvia Short

Now that the results are in on the sacred status of "marriage" it might be well to think positively on solutions to the current dilemma facing Alaska—that is, that the equality so vaunted in Article I, Section I of our state constitution is not being realized. While legalistics grind their way along, the following is a suggestion that should not find disfavor with the most rigid of homophobics.

Life Partnership. It is proposed that a statutory scheme be presented which would provide the following:

1. Any two competent adults may voluntarily enter into a Life Partnership, and all of the responsibilities, benefits and liabilities of marriage shall accrue to the Life Partnership.

2. Life Partnership shall be established by application for a Life Partnership license with the clerk and affirming knowledge of and adherence to all pertinent responsibilities, and acceptance of all pertinent benefits and liabilities, in the presence of two competent witnesses.

3. After issuance of the license, the Life Partnership is in effect, and no religious ceremony shall be required to create the relationship of Life Partnership.

4. Wherever in the Alaska Statutes the word "wife," "husband," or "spouse" appears, it shall apply with equal force and effect to each life partner who is a party to a Life Partnership. Wherever the word "marriage" in any form likewise appears, it shall apply equally to a Life Partnership.

5. A Life Partnership is dissolved by the death of either party thereto and may be dissolved under the laws relating to the dissolution of marriage.

This proposal, of course, would have to be tailored into our statutes, and there are some questions it raises, such as, whether it should apply only to Alaska residents on whether there should be a waiting period of, say, three days for the parties to absorb all the "responsibilities, benefits and liabilities" pertaining to marriage, etc., before affirming thereto.

Of course many of you will think this is merely a rehashing of the famed "domestic partnership" now viable in a number of jurisdictions. Probably it is (I haven't seen any of them to date), but I have a problem with the word "domestic"—always makes me think of maps and dishcloths! To suggest this to legislators for sponsorship, it would be indeed helpful if support for it could be noted. If you, or any group you belong to, will endorse it, please let me know at 562-4992!

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who oppose any mention of homosexuality in schools, and groups like GLSEN which seek policies and curriculum as early as elementary school so hatred of gays can never take hold.

Helping such groups, often called Gay-Straight Alliances, get started in schools, colleges and communities is one of GLSEN's most effective tools. GLSEN executive director Kevin Jennings takes credit for starting the first one when he was teaching at Concord Academy in Massachusetts in 1991. Now, there are more than 500 that GLSEN knows of and probably more, Frankfurt said.

Learning how to better run their own is what brought Veronica Lopez, 22, from Stockton to the conference on one of 100 scholarships provided by Levi Strauss' Dockers label. A Delta College student who works full time in a day care center, she knows just how ingrained homophobia can be and how early it starts. A 4-year-old boy recently came to her in tears because a 5-year-old had just called him an anti-gay epithet. "It shows the parents are talking about it, because kids don't even know what (gay) is," said Lopez, who has a 4-year-old daughter of her own.

Lopez started a gay youth group in her conservative, agricultural valley town, but had trouble with logistics. From other young people at the conference, she learned new strategies and the value of inviting in straight allies. "I think it's important that people realize we're not sick people... I consider myself pretty normal," said Lopez, who identifies herself as bisexual and has a lesbian sister.

The conference also brought Monoiki Ah Nee, 24, from Honolulu, just days before Hawaii's historic vote on gay marriage. But whatever happens with the election, he knows gay youth will be contending with the same old problems and he wants to help them. He and six other youths active in the pro-marriage campaign chose to take a precious few days to fly to Oakland because Honolulu has no GLSEN chapter and they remember how painful high school was for them. "They called me (anti-gay names) because I'm a big guy, soft-hearted and gentle. There was no GSA, there was no one to talk to," said Ah Nee, with a yellow flower tucked over one ear.

He hopes to fly home with skills that will make a difference to gay boys and girls constantly forced to defend themselves. "Why should we always have to fight harder?" he asked.

Copyright 1998 San Francisco Examiner
Planning can ease financial crunch of “sandwich” generation

by Kathleen Madden

Baby-boomer? Generation Xer? Forget the labels. With increasing life expectancies, practically all adults under 50 — and all generations to follow — face a common challenge: the reality of aged parents who will require care. And for many, the need to provide such care will come at the same time as pressure from the other direction — kids of their own who must be reared and educated.

It’s good news that sound financial planning can help couples “sandwiched” between children and aging parents ultimately meet these simultaneous needs. But it’s news that must be tempered by understanding how “care” for an aging parent might be defined, and by recognizing that the need for such care can occur at any time. Clearly it’s better to plan now, rather than on an emergency basis that can severely limit options.

What “help” looks like

In considering mom and dad’s care, it’s easy to default to the domain of money. The issues obviously dominated by dollars — housing, transportation, bill-paying, asset titling and positioning, wills, the coordination of government benefits and more — are crucial. But three additional issues are equally likely to have tremendous impact:

Healthcare — In a lifetime of healthcare expenses, the vast percentage of such costs can be incurred in just the few years before death. Covering these costs is a critical concern for older Americans… and for the adult children who become their heirs.

Housing — Live-in help, visiting nurses, assisted communal living, a nursing home… your home. These are housing choices that might have to be made. Regardless of option, the ultimate choice of care in this regard is eased by planning.

Personal care — People of all ages want to live, not be housed. And the often-daily requirements of providing an adequate “quality of life” for someone who can’t provide it for him or herself can be difficult. Someone must shop for groceries, the vacuum must be run, and transportation to the hairdresser’s is needed. If not an adult child to see to these needs of a dependent parent, who? Or how much will it cost to hire these services?

Specific steps to take

Personal financial planning is just that: personal. It’s common for healthy, viable seniors to maintain control of their financial future as long as possible. That said, adult children presented with an opportunity to help aging parents plan their even later years can consider these approaches:

Communicate/document — Ascertaining the current financial status and future preferences of elderly parents requires talking with them. Then, as appropriate, the legalities that ensure their wishes must be completed — everything from re-titling assets, completing a will, giving power of attorney, assigning insurance policies, and more.

Question the personal situation and resources — What family resources exist to help? Are there other grown children? What government/community services are available? Is Mom comfortable with public transportation, or never been on a bus in her life? Could Mom stay “on her own” indefinitely in a house with no steps? When might it be time to move to an apartment? Assisted living?

Secure the healthcare “front” — Here, adult children can help by becoming conversant with policies and coverage. Is long-term care part of Mom’s existing insurance package? Can it be added? Does the city offer unlimited “flat-rate” ambulance service for an annual fee? What assisted living and/or nursing homes are nearby? How do they operate and what are the costs? In some instances, adult children may have to pay for certain services and insurance coverage rather than have an aged parent do without. The expense of a single catastrophic medical problem could exceed the cost of insurance premiums many times over.

Get help — An investment professional can help identify, prioritize and set a course of action to meet the “competing” financial needs of aging parents, your children — and your own financial future. Seek someone who can understand both situations — yours and your parents.

Aging parents can go from active and independent to ill and dependent quickly. And if they do, a lot of other “life issues” can go on “auto pilot.” The planning — the saving — you were doing to ensure college for your 12 year old can be forgotten in the aftershocks of a parent’s medical crisis. College in seven years seems a long way off. An aging parent’s heart bypass or hip fracture is unavoidably today.

The better job you do of planning for the needs of an aging parent now, the less likely it is that the future needs of that parent will disrupt the financial plans you’ve established for your children and yourself.

Kathleen Madden is a Financial Advisor for Waddell & Reed. The Anchorage office is one of 200 nationwide. They can be found at <http://www.waddell.com>.
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AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Association, 263-2050 (see 4A's page)
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Association (Fairbanks) 452-2222
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gary Charles-Abbot, 278-5019

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

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(A) Gateley, Kethi/Jaimini, 561-7327
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 274-FLEX (3539)
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(G/L) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080
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(L/G) The Wave, 561-WAVE (see ad)

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(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.
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(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
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(L) TechLink, LeMiel, 276-6862.

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(A) Find It! Business Services (Macintosh); Larry, 279-4862

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(A) Marion, 562-0012
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(L) Tess Bensussen, LCSW, 230-7019
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(A) 36th Avenue Hair Design, Ledjha, 561-8967

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(A) Home Health Care, 261-3173
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(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:
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(A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4657
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(A) Sweeping Lady, Janet, 276-7608

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Massage-Therapy:
(L) Donna (NCMT), 243-0789
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(L) Leslie, 276-3346
(L) Ariel, 272-5222

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

Naturopathic:
(A) Hope, 561-2330

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(L) Klondyke Contact (Alaska Women's Cultural Center), 277-9763
(GLA/Identity NorthView, 258-4777
(GL) Perspective (SEAGLA in Juneau), 586-4297

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
(A) Service with a Smile, Liz, 274-5290

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
(G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 561-0660 (see ad)

Political:
(A) Alaskans Concerned About Latin America (ACALA), Ruth, 333-1190
(A) Anchorage Women's Political Caucus, contact Janet Mitson, 688-0116
(G/L) Equal, Inc., 274-9226
(G/L) Log Cabin Republicans, (503) 642-7292

Printing, Electronic Graphics:
(A) Alaska Micro Associates, Rebecca, 337-0460
(A) SOS Printing, Val, 562-1678
(A) TimeFrame, 562-3822 (see ad)

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
(L) Christen, 349-0298
(D) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(A) Rona Mason Realtor, 242-8877 (cell) or 279-8877 (see ad)
(L) Waltraud Barron, 276-1981

Recreation:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087
(A) Flies by Ilenes (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
(A) Knik Glacier Tours; Palmer, Alaska; Tom Faussett, 745-1577
(L) McKinley Air Service, Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221
(A) Stan Stevens Cruises, P.O. Box 1297, Valdez, AK 99686
(907) 835-4731, (800) 992-1297.
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770, 888-899-2770
(A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb, 907-389-2725

Reiki/Counseling:
(G) Rick, 333-9640
(A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916
(L) Spiril 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 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. Nancee Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737 (see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matsu Valley), Pastor Howard Hess, 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, 485-5276
Directory

**Spiritual...**

(A) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, 4148 Pikes Landing Road, Richard Kemnitz, 457-9009
(A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824

**Student Organizations:**

(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks) Pete, 907-479-7348 (see Club Notes)
(G/L) THE FAMILY, Victoria, 245-2291

**Support Groups:**

(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) GLSEN, Fred, 562-7161
(G) I.M.R.U.2 (Youth Group), 566-4678
(A) PFLAG Anchorage, Voice mail 566-1813
(A) PFLAG Fairbanks, Nancy, 907-45P-FLAG
(A) PFLAG Juneau, 907-463-4203

**Tattoo:**

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

**Theatre:**

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

**Travel:**

(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(B) Golden Travel, Albert, 272-5802

**Tutoring:**

(G) Gabriel, Spanish, 272-9045
(A) James, Biology, 248-6412
(L) Carolyn Lancaster, M.Ed., School Survival Skills, 274-5059
(A) Kathleen L. McDonough, School Survival Skills, 274-5059

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**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.

**Alaska Gay and Lesbian Association of Fairbanks (AGLA)**

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

**AGB Social Club**

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

**Anchorage Women's Political Caucus**

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

**Aquarian Foundation**

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

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

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

**EQUAL, Inc.**

purpose is to keep the community informed about political and legal events which have an effect on the lesbigay 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**

KSUA 91.5 "Homophonic Radio", 3-6 p.m. Sundays; Dames on the Dial, 8-10pm Wednesdays.

**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://cow.l.fslak.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.

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**Pope cancels meeting with pro-gay bishop**

Pope John Paul II cancelled a meeting with Swedish Lutheran Archbishop Karl Gustav Hammar reportedly because Hammar is too pro-gay.

Hammar supports allowing gay and lesbian ministers to register their relationships under Sweden's marriage-like gay-partners law. He also approved a recent showing in Sweden's main cathedral of Ecce Homo, an art exhibit that shows Jesus and the apostles in drag and as leathersmen.

According to correspondent Jon Voss, editor of the Stockholm gay newspaper QX: "Two pictures have caused most protests from the religious right: The Last Supper scene, where [Jesus] is sitting in high heels with 12 drag queens and transvestites. And one scene where he is baptized — nude — showing his dick. This has caused uproar and a lot of laughs because the model in the picture has a big dick. The bishop of Uppsala ... said the dick was erect, which the model, who works here at QX, denies."

Following the Vatican's announcement, Archbishop Hammar told reporters: "I deeply regret the decision of the Vatican and I am very surprised that this point has been made so strongly ... That they have decided to humiliate the entire church of Sweden in this way seems strange to me."
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, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communities. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of each month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm; program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for program title.

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

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 452-4223.

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; campsouts & weekend trips, too. Write T.L.F.M.C., P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99520-2054. <tlfm@micronet.net> <http://www.webindigo.com/tlfc/>. Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club is a social group open to anyone gay, lesbian, or ally. Look for upcoming events in the Calendar, or call Eric at 277-3236.

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

OPAL is a lesbian social organization with an open membership. They will be hosting a Christmas party, New Years Eve party and Valentine’s party. For more info or if you would like to volunteer, please e-mail <a_opal@hotmail.com> or call Anne at 349-1578.

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 & Coffeehouse, 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 907-465-4203.

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 prevention and educational information. Offices: 222 Seward, Suite 200; mail: P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437).

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

Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA) a non-profit volunteer organization that provides a support network for gay and gay people in Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter Perspective. P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1542. Phone 566-GAYS

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

Women's Coffeehouse
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 promised that carrot was for his nose!
Cyberlust

Submit changes to <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

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

AGB: A monthly men's social club. <A_G_B@yahoo.com>

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

Burleson, Laura: <saleb@aurora.alaska.edu>

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

Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <dandelion@alaska.net>

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

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

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

Cracium, Jean: <jcracium@cracium.alaska.net>

Family, The <avsl@uaa.alaska.edu>

<http://cwolf.alaska.edu/~ablan/>

Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquinet.com>

Freeman, F. Kenneth: <fkenn@servcom.com>

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

Haase, Michael: <michaelh@servcom.com>

Hernandez, Gabriel: <gabe@sinbad.net>

Hillman, Fred: <fhillman@alaska.net>

Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>

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

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

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

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

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

Jamieson, Lisa: <lisaj57@hotmail.com>

Klondyke Kontakt: <klondykekontakt@hotmail.com>

Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@al.com>

KT Creative: <ktr@kreview.net>

Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <fmcmicronet.net>

Levering, Ken: <kpm@juno.com>

Mautner Project is for lesbians with cancer and their families <http://www.mautnerproject.org>

Naff, Don: <donnaff@alaska.net>

OPAL: <a_opal@hotmail.com>

Out North: <outnorth@artsiw.org>

Parsons, Greg <gparsons@polarnet.com>

PFLAG: Fbi's website <http://www.mosquinet.com/~pflag>

e-mail: <pflag@mosquinet.com>

Anch. website <http://www.alaska.net/~identity/pflag.htm>

e-mail: <schlicker@micronet.net>

Pinney, Pete: <split@aurora.alaska.edu>


e-mail: <qetak@mosquinet.com>

Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

Sauerdough Lodging: <suits@ptialaska.net>

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

Severson, Kim: Anchorage Daily News <kseverson@pop.adn.com>

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

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

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

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks: <kemnit@mosquinet.com> <www.mosquinet.com/~uuff>

Vann, Beth: <bethv007@aol.com>

Walton, Eric: <bebew@aurora.alaska.edu>

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

Calendar

November

Thursday, 26:
F Community Potluck, 457-6469 for information

Friday, 27:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF, Program: Dave Chambers answers “What is Club Zero.”

December

Tuesday, 1: World AIDS Day
A Sidney Lawrence Auditorium at PAC, 6:45pm.
F Noel Wien Library, 5:45pm, gathering and candlelight march.

Wednesday, 2:
A Wave Employee drag show to benefit 4A’s, 9pm.

Saturday, 5:
J PFLAG, 10:30am, Mendenhall Mall Library.
A G/L Two Step, 7:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.

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

Saturday, 12:
A Organizational meeting for Celebration of Change, 6pm, UAA Pub.
A Women’s Coffeehouse Jazz Extravaganza, 8pm, UAA Pub.

Tuesday, 15:
A PFLAG, 7-9pm, AUUF.

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

Monday, 21:
F GLSEN, FEA on S. Cushman, 5pm.

Colombian court: teachers can be gay

A 1979 law that allowed firing of openly gay teachers was struck down by Colombia’s Constitutional Court September 10. In a 5-4 ruling, the nation’s highest court said the law was discriminatory. It affected about 250,000 public-school teachers from grade school through college.

“Homosexuality is not contagious,” said German Humberto Rincon, the lawyer who brought the suit before the court.

No one was ever actually fired under the statute.
On-Going Calendar Items

SUNDAYS
A Metropolitan Community Church Services, 2pm Sunday at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke.
F PFLAG, third Sunday, 4-5:30pm, Into the Woods Bookstore.
F Homophonic Radio, KSUA 91.5FM, noon-3pm
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, AUU, 3201 Turnagain.
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.
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.
F Dames on the Dial, KSUA 91.5FM, 8-10pm.

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, AUUF, 3201 Turnagain.
F Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd.

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, 3020 Minnesota ( Z Plaza, Minn & Benson)
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 Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd.

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 Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd.
A Womens Coffeehouse, 2nd Saturday, 258-0499 for information.

Legend
A Anchorage, F Fairbanks, J Juneau

ORPHAN AND WAIF HOLIDAY DINNER

December 25
Noon to ??
Potluck Dinner at 2:00 p.m.

No plan for Christmas dinner?
No place to go on Christmas Day?

Don't spend the day by yourself. Come join me and others for a Holiday Potluck Dinner (all faiths and non are welcome.) I will provide the turkey and ham; you bring a side dish or dessert to share. Dinner is formal with china, silver, crystal, and cloth napkins — but the dress is very casual. Spend the afternoon relaxing in my home with all the holiday decorations, music and a fire in the fireplace.

RSVP required by December 21
Space is limited; call early
Phone Judy G at 522-7494