With palette of ice and crystal,
My brush dances on the wind,
The canvas every pane and branch,
An art of magic for the season.

-Jack Frost

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Identity NorthView
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Editorial

Friends and Allies  by Fred Hillman

In the editorial last month I left out an important phrase. In writing that a solid core of 32% of Alaskan voters are with us in opposing Ballot Measure 2 (which outlawed gay marriage), I omitted a qualifying phrase—"and most of these are not gay."

Why do I make this point? Because for any minority, it is so easy to fall into an "us-against-them" mind-set, and this is too easily translated into "gay versus straight." Why would any non-gay person support a "gay" cause, such as protection from discrimination, or equal rights in education, work and sports, or even the right of a lesbian or gay couple to marry? Probably for many diverse reasons, but surely foremost among them must be a thoughtful and deep belief in fair play and in freedom for minority people to live their lives in equality and privacy. In short, 32% of voters believe in the principles that are spelled out in our national and state constitutions.

Ballot Measure 2 is but one broken rung on the ladder of equality, freedom and privacy that gays, along with other minorities, must climb to reach the paradise of a just society. There will be other rungs to step on. Some of them will break like Ballot Measure 2; others will carry us to the goal. There is a long way to go. While the motivation to climb must come from within, the climb cannot be made without support from our friends and allies. There are many more of them than lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people may be aware. We do have allies! They did not forget us on Nov. 3. We will need them in the future. Let us never forget them!

Letter to the Editor

I have a brand new web page, and I'd like to invite your readers to check it out. They can find it at <http://www.lesleanewman.com>.

Thanks and hope all is well with my friends up North.
Lesléa Newman

Obituary

Armond S. Pepe

Longtime Alaska resident Armond S. Pepe, 64, died from heart failure December 1, 1998, at Mary Conrad Center.

A memorial was held at Holy Family Cathedral, officiated by the Rev. John Adams. A second service will be later in Missoula, Montana.

Mr. Pepe was born May 15, 1934, in Anaconda, Montana. Attending Montana State University, he earned his degree in business administration and went on to serve in the U.S. Army for two years. Moving to Fairbanks in 1968, he stayed for one year until moving to Anchorage in 1969.

He owned and operated his catering business, House of Armond, until his retirement in 1988. Mr. Pepe enjoyed Italian cooking and catering for many dignitaries, local and visiting.

He received numerous community service awards and actively promoted the first Energy Expo for Alaska. He was also recognized by past community leaders for outstanding volunteer work in local service organizations. An active member of the Imperial Court of All Alaska, he was Empress II of All Alaska.

Mr. Pepe is survived by his father, Albert Pepe of Missoula, Montana; his sister, Mary Ann Bedard of Scottsdale, Arizona; and his brothers, John Pepe of Seattle and Joe Pepe of Fresno, California.

Family requests that any memorial donations in Armond's name be sent to the Alaska Kidney Foundation, 4160 Tudor Center Drive, Anchorage, 99508; or the Four A's, 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 102, Anchorage, 99503-1736.

Arrangements by Evergreen Memorial Chapel.

Catalan partnerships begin

The new registered-partnership law in Spain's Catalonia region took effect October 23. It grants cohabiting gay and straight couples many of the rights of matrimony but withholding adoption rights for gays.

Spousal rights are included in the areas of inheritance, alimony, next of kin, apartment leases and work leave. Rights that are a matter of national rather than regional law are not included — in areas such as social security, taxation and immigration. Couples must file a notarized document attesting to the nature of their relationship to access the new rights.

"We know that this law cannot be the final result of our fight for a full legal recognition of same-sex couples, but it is an important step for the Catalan gay-lesbian movement," Barcelona's Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana said.

Countries with laws that grant same-sex couples nearly every right of matrimony include Denmark (and Greenland), Hungary, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The Netherlands grants registered gay couples all spousal rights.
Winning the debate

by Talmadge Bailey

Fairness is a fundamental value. You'll want to remember this when discussing how you expect to be treated under the law. Fairness is also a positive thing. Fairness even resonates at an emotional level in many people. You can always appeal to people's sense of fairness in a positive way. This contrasts sharply with the methods your enemies use to rally people against you. They use emotionally charged imagery like footage from a pride parade. They promote sexual stereotypes, implying all gays are promiscuous child molesters. These are all appeals made to peoples' negative gut reaction to gays and lesbians. Even when they try, your enemies find it difficult to use their methods in a positive way.

There are many circumstances when you'll want to appeal to people's sense of fairness. When your favorite assembly member conspires to remove funding from a program simply because there is a "gay-connection," you can counter by appealing to this fundamental sense of fairness. All you need to do is remind people of a few facts. As a group, gays and lesbians pay more than their fair share of taxes. In fact, they pay more for a lot of things because they are generally prevented from taking advantage of "family rates" on everything from car insurance to health-club memberships. Gays and lesbians have far fewer children than the general population, yet they are forced to subsidize schools from which most derive no direct benefit. Many city services paid for with tax dollars are also bastions of macho intolerance. Yes, that was a general reference to police departments everywhere. Is it then fair to say lesbians and gays can't have tax dollars pay for anything not passing a Reich-wing traditional family values litmus test? Is this not taxation without meaningful representation? When would-be oppressors tried this in the past, the results ranged from significant quantities of tea being thrown into Boston harbor to riots, marches and civil wars.

Similar arguments work on a national level, after all fairness is fundamental. Lesbians and gays pay the same amount into Social Security yet collect far fewer benefits as a group. Why? Because most lesbians and gays are single according to the rigid definitions used by the Social Security administration. That's why! Single = no chance that a surviving spouse will collect benefits after the wage earner dies. Then there's the Pentagon, sucking blackhole for tax dollars that it is. But that's okay for most people; they can get some of their money back by working for the Pentagon and even getting extra training and educational benefits in the process. Not so for lesbians and gays, at least not unless they're wise in the ways of deceit and successful in hiding their true selves. Where's the fairness in that?

This same fundamental value demands fairness in the way same-sex couples living in marriage-like circumstances are treated. Fairness may begin as a hodgepodge of city, state, and local domestic-partnership laws. But it cannot end there.

People living in marriage-like circumstances, but prevented from marrying by archaic traditions, still need equal treatment under the law. Some countries in Northern Europe have shown us the way. In the Netherlands, lesbians and gays are allowed all benefits of marriage except for four: The word "marriage", ceremonies in the national church, adoption, and artificial insemination. Well, okay, it is not perfectly fair. However, it is far closer to the ideal than anything in this country.

Next month: The bug a boos of gay adoption.
Gene speeds AIDS progression

WASHINGTON — Government scientists have found a genetic trait that makes people get sick sooner once they are infected with the virus that causes AIDS. The finding, the first to describe a gene that speeds up the progression of AIDS, may help drug designers in their search for new treatments for the deadly immune system disease, says the research team from the National Cancer Institute.

In the new study, researchers looked for the genetic trait in both uninfected people at high risk of getting AIDS and those who already had caught the virus. People with a specific pattern in their DNA, which the scientists called PI, progressed more rapidly from being infected and having no symptoms to having AIDS. The scientists estimate the gene is present in 7 to 13 percent of the population.

Geneticist Mary Carrington says, “In the first five or six years, those individuals will progress more rapidly by a year or two.” She says the gene only has this effect in the early stages of the infection. The gene appears to play a role in the production of a molecule — known as CCR5 — that helps bring the virus into immune system cells. Carrington says the new research shows that ”if you play around with CCR5, you're going to affect progression” of AIDS.

CCR5 caused excitement among AIDS researchers two years ago when they observed that some people were protected from the disease if they had defects in the two copies of the gene that produces the molecule. Even a glitch in one of the two copies of the CCR5 gene could slow down the progression of AIDS, says Carrington. The gene the scientists are reporting on in the new research is known as a promoter. It does not directly build the CCR5 protein, but it influences how much of it will be produced.

Carrington adds that another team recently published a similar finding in a different scientific journal, which supports the Cancer Institute's work. The scientists believe that one form of the promoter gene leads to more CCR5 on the cell surface, giving the AIDS virus more doors to enter. But, Carrington says, they still have to prove this theory. She says new drugs might aim at the promoter as a target, decreasing the production of CCR5 and slowing the disease progression.

Carrington says that people with the mutant form of CCR5 appear to still be protected from getting AIDS, even if they have the PI form of the promoter.

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Georgia law overturned

ATLANTA — The Georgia Supreme Court overturned the state’s anti-sodomy law, saying it violates the Georgia Constitution’s guarantee of a right to privacy.

The court voted 6-1 to overturn the sodomy conviction of Anthony Powell, who was convicted of sodomizing his 17-year-old niece in 1996. Powell’s lawyers had argued that the sex was consensual. The law has been the subject of previous challenges but was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 1986 landmark decision.

Chief Justice Robert Benham, writing for the majority today, said it “manifestly infringes upon a constitutional provision ... which guarantees to the citizens of Georgia the right of privacy.” In the U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld the law, the court ruled 5-4 that consenting adults have no constitutional right to private homosexual conduct.

The court reversed the federal appeals court ruling that the Georgia law, which defined sodomy as “any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another” infringes on a “fundamental” constitutional right.

The Georgia law was challenged by Michael Hardwick, a gay Atlanta bartender who was arrested in 1982 for committing sodomy in his home.

Associated Press, November 23, 1998
Hindsight is 20/20, as the saying goes. It’s only now, after voters overwhelmingly supported a ban on gay marriage, that I am able to see clearly what had bugged me about the whole media campaign.

More than $2 million was spent on the campaign, and yet very little of the public discourse has gone into addressing the homophobia underlying the issue. Viewed through the lens of the media, it felt like gays and lesbians were in a collective closet watching straight people battle over what we should or shouldn’t be allowed to do.

The vote “Yes” camp framed the debate around gay marriage and successfully appealed to the deep-seated fear most people have about homosexuality.

The vote “No” camp deftly dodged that issue, and instead argued the more academic points of protecting the Constitution, separation of judicial and legislative powers, and abstract concepts of civil rights. In a technical, legal sense that’s what the vote was about. But in an essential, emotional sense it was about gay marriage. It was a battle of emotion vs. intellect. And any salesperson worth her salt will tell you that emotion will win every time.

To me the biggest defeat is not that as gays and lesbians we can’t get married — yet. Rather that those who advocated against same-sex marriage get off virtually scot-free with their mock innocence about the measure NOT being anti-gay, but simply about preserving traditional marriage. I mean, really, can someone please explain to me what is the threat to traditional marriage?

The vote “Yes” camp ran television ads showing a little boy reading a book about “Daddy’s Wedding,” insinuating that two men getting married is some evil, dangerous threat to the boy. Another ad depicted a man and a woman running toward each other with arms outstretched and then cut to a scene of two men completing the embrace.

Letters to the editor were published in which straight people pondered in various ways the “issue” of homosexuality. (What are we gonna do about these problematic queers? Is it a choice or isn’t it? It’s not the same as discriminating against other minorities, is it?)

The vote “No” camp entirely avoided all that messy stuff. While the “No” ads were thoughtful and well-conceived, they did nothing to alleviate people’s fear of same-sex marriage, or directly address why gays and lesbians should be allowed to get married, or say anything about gay people at all! The vote “No” campaign not only didn’t confront homophobia, but at times it even subtly condoned it. Ads ran showing straight people saying, “I’m not in favor of same-sex marriage, but I don’t think our Constitution should be messed with.”

Now, I’m not using the term homophobia here as an epithet. It’s often taken that way, and rightly so. Homosexuals are a largely feared and often hated minority, and hurling accusations of homophobia and bigotry against others is one way we defend ourselves and say, hey, the problem isn’t me, it’s you.

But the truth is, fear of homosexuality — homophobia — is at the root of why we have to fight for the ordinary stuff of life that straight people take for granted. Things like not being fired from our jobs, being denied housing, denied spousal benefits — all because our sexual orientation is different and misunderstood.

Civil rights gains for gays and lesbians have been won through gay and lesbian visibility. Increasing numbers of gays and lesbians coming out of the closet have enabled more people to see that we’re not the bogeyman, we’re not sick, and that despite our little in-jokes about offering toasters to each new “convert,” we really don’t recruit others to our way of life.

The closet is a dark and ugly place where fear and ignorance thrive. It’s a whole lot easier to discriminate against people who remain an abstract, unknown and threatening concept rather than flesh-and-blood citizens going about their lives like anyone else.

And in the costly media battle over the same-sex marriage amendment, gays and lesbians remained an abstract, unknown and threatening concept.

That’s a real shame.

Trish Moore is the Star-Bulletin’s Kauai correspondent. Honolulu Star-Bulletin, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, Hawaii 96802.

<letters@starbulletin.com>
Virgin boy meets virgin girl, they fall in love, get married, have sex for the first time on their wedding night, and remain sexually faithful to each other until death do them part. Sounds good, right? And maybe once or twice, in the entire history of the human race, it actually happened.

Idealized visions of human sexuality such as this one would be harmless enough, except that they often form the basis for moralistic attacks on sexual non-conformists, especially gay men. So let's take a look at the whole issue of monogamy, including variations on it and deviations from it, from a scientific perspective.

Out there in the animal kingdom, monogamy is connected with the raising of young: in species where it takes the combined efforts of two parents to raise offspring, stable pair-bonds tend to form. This is true of many birds, as well as some species of primates and rodents. The reason is clear enough: if one parent deserts, the offspring will probably die, so evolution only perpetuates the genes of animals that are faithful.

Behind the proper facade of these “monogamous” relationships, however, a lot of hanky-panky goes on. This has been studied by researchers who analyze the DNA of families of animals in the wild. Among most species of “monogamous” birds, for example, it turns out that something like 15 percent of the offspring are fathered by an outsider male. In some species, however, such as tamarin monkeys and prairie voles, all the young are truly the offspring of both members of the pair. Thus, biologists distinguish between “social monogamy,” which involves pair-bonding without sexual exclusivity, and “sexual monogamy,” which is sexually exclusive.

The willingness of males to sleep around is well understood in an evolutionary context: sex is so “cheap” for a male that it’s well worth it for the chance of producing some extra offspring. Why a pair-bonded female would be willing to have sex with a stranger is much less clear, because such a female is already producing about as many offspring as she can. The usual thinking is that females hope to have sex with a genetically “superior” male who can produce better-quality offspring than those produced by her own mate.

In human societies all kinds of sexual arrangements have cropped up, from free love to the harem, but the dominant pattern has been social monogamy. As with many species, a goodly fraction of all human children — about 10 percent of children in the contemporary U.S., according to some estimates — are not the biological children of their “social fathers.” In general, men are more eager to sleep around than women, for the biological reasons just mentioned, but women are willing enough to make the game worth playing.

An extra wrinkle arises in human sexuality, however, because humans have gone further than most animals in separating sex from reproduction. In evolutionary terms it seems truly bizarre that humans would be willing to expend great efforts and take great risks to have sex outside their established partnerships, but would then make the sex non-reproductive by the use of condoms, the penetration of non-reproductive ori-

fices, or the choice of partners of the same sex. Evidently, the evolutionary process has been hijacked by the intervention of mind — something that we’ll probably see a lot more of in the next million years.

Gays and lesbians are at least as diverse in their relationships as heterosexual people. But because homosexuality eliminates the battle of the sexes, marked differences in styles of partnering have evolved. No longer restrained by the reluctance of women to have sex with them, gay men tend to have more life-time sex partners, including much more casual sex, than do heterosexual men. Gay men, in effect, come closer to achieving what straight men would like to achieve. Lesbians, on the other hand, have on average relatively few life-time sex partners — even if we have to acknowledge the feats of some individual lesbians such as the admirable Pat Califia, author of Macho Sluts and Doing It For Daddy.

Of course, many gay men do seek and find Mr. Right, or a sequence of Mr. Rights, and settle down in lifetime or serial monogamy. These partnerships can be sexually exclusive by agreement, or non-exclusive by agreement or by deceit. If the partnership is non-reproductive, one might imagine that the pressure for sexual exclusivity would vanish, but often it doesn’t. Presumably the desire for exclusivity among gays is either a hangover from our heterosexual evolutionary origins, or a practical issue connected with fear of desertion or disease.

I don’t think it’s demeaning to gay men to acknowledge that tensions and conflicts do arise around issues of monogamy. Scientifically, these conflicts are just the consequence of evolutionary trends. But to solve them may require re-establishing a moral sense — not the imposition of outmoded heterosexual standards but the development of a code that is relevant to our own circumstances.

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

Looking for education?

Coda International is offering three educational tours for the gay traveler. "Voyage to the Land of the Pharaohs" takes place March 17 to 29. The program includes air from New York City to Cairo. Three nights at the Nile Hilton in Cairo, 2 nights at the Sonesta Hotel in Luxor, and one night at the Le Meridien Helopolis in Cairo, all with full breakfast daily. Also included is 5-night cruise aboard "Panorama" including all meals. A complete program of tour and lectures with guest speakers, the cost is $4,395 per person.

The second tour, "A Voyage to Turkey and the Greek Islands" takes place June 17 to 27, is similar but has a 6-night cruise from Athens to Piraeus, Mykonos, Delos, Santorini, Lindosm, Rhodes and ends up in Kusadasi Turkey. Prices start at $3,995.

The third tour is "Tunisia: Land of Many Faces" and departs November 14 for a 9-night tour. This tour departs Tunis/Carthage to Douga/Bulla Regia then Thuburbo Majus/ Sousse. Next it's Kairouan/Monastir, Matmata/ Djebba Island, Kerkennah Island/ Sfax, Mahdia/ El Djem and back to Sousse. Five nights are spent cruising on this tour. Price is $3,595 per person double occupancy.

International Gay Winter Games

These events will be held this year in Innsbruck, Austria from March 5 to 14. Events include alpine downhill, snowboarding, cross-country, figure skating (my favorite) and speed skating. Depending on the number of competitors, ice hockey and curling in drag may be offered. Weather permitting, tobogganing, bobsled and luge may be offered. A total of $1,388 per person buys a round-trip air from New York City or Boston to Munich, transfers, 7-nights hotel, buffet breakfast and dinner daily, hotel taxes and gratuities, as well as the events.

February Calendar

4-13 RSVP Cruise from Tampa to San Juan
5-20 Women's New Zealand tour
6-21 African Safari of Kenya and Tanzania
7-14 Yoga week at the Isla Mujeres, Mexico
10-Mar 2 Women's bike tour of New Zealand
12-14 The Hearts Party in Chicago
12-15 Multisport Trip Lake Tahoe, NV
12-16 New Orleans Mardi Gras
12-23 Egyptian Tour from Our Family Abroad
13 Saint-at-large White Party NYC
13 The Red Party in Montreal, Quebec
13-15 Hot Lava Weekend in Honolulu, HI
13-18 Carnival in Mexico Veracruz
18-27 Sydney Mardi Gras Sydney, Australia
18-27 RSVP Cruise San Juan to Cozumel
20-27 Gay Ski Tour in Big Sky, MT
20-27 Whale Encounter in the Caribbean
20-27 Tall Ship Sailing British Virgin Islands
21-Mar 3 Olivia Far East Cruise Singapore-Bali
26-27 Ski Daze Ill Big Bear, CA
27-Mar 14 South African Tour by David's Trips

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Call the Anchorage Daily News Newsline (277-1500) and enter 5400 for topics and speakers.

3201 Turnagain Street: 248-3737

by Bob DeLoach

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These events will be held this year in Innsbruck, Austria from March 5 to 14. Events include alpine downhill, snowboarding, cross-country, figure skating (my favorite) and speed skating. Depending on the number of competitors, ice hockey and curling in drag may be offered. Weather permitting, tobogganing, bobsled and luge may be offered. A total of $1,388 per person buys you round-trip air from New York City or Boston to Munich, transfers, 7-nights hotel, buffet breakfast and dinner daily, hotel taxes and gratuities, as well as the events.

February Calendar

4-13 RSVP Cruise from Tampa to San Juan
5-20 Women's New Zealand tour
6-21 African Safari of Kenya and Tanzania
7-14 Yoga week at the Isla Mujeres, Mexico
10-Mar 2 Women's bike tour of New Zealand
12-14 The Hearts Party in Chicago
12-15 Multisport Trip Lake Tahoe, NV
12-16 New Orleans Mardi Gras
12-23 Egyptian Tour from Our Family Abroad
13 Saint-at-large White Party NYC
13 The Red Party in Montreal, Quebec
13-15 Hot Lava Weekend in Honolulu, HI
13-18 Carnival in Mexico Veracruz
18-27 Sydney Mardi Gras Sydney, Australia
18-27 RSVP Cruise San Juan to Cozumel
20-27 Gay Ski Tour in Big Sky, MT
20-27 Whale Encounter in the Caribbean
20-27 Tall Ship Sailing British Virgin Islands
21-Mar 3 Olivia Far East Cruise Singapore-Bali
26-27 Ski Daze Ill Big Bear, CA
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3201 Turnagain Street: 248-3737
Volunteer Spotlight

Greg Kramer

It's hard not to drop any cliches when speaking of him. A man of merit, a ready smile, bouncy personality and enthusiasm for the moment, make him a person of confidence and mandates attention! He cuts a mean figure in a black tie outfit, speaks with a brazen tongue and is at his most compelling self when waxing about far off places to visit. Our volunteer of the month is that vivacious guy...Greg Kramer.

Born, back in the Year of the Ram, in the wilds of New Hampshire where he cut his business teeth working as a bank manager, he came to Alaska and buried himself in Barrow (don't ask why) for over two years. Finally achieving Nirvana, he moved to Anchorage in 1993 and started his own business, Triangle Tours. If you want to hunt tigers in India, see Greg. If you want to swim the English Channel, call him. Or if you feel the urge to take a safari through Mongolia, ask Greg for his advice on what to pack! He might even lend you his tutu for that trip to Moscow!

What little time is left after the long workday he spends reading and cooking. Hiking is another passion for Greg, as is tennis and jet-kiing. But his first love, and adrenaline kick, is bungee jumping! And to quiet his nerves after all this activity, he turns to music to soothe his fevered brow!

Greg is on the Board of Directors of Identity. Ask and he will reminisce for hours about how successful this year's National Coming Out Day festivities were at the Fourth Avenue Theatre... and his hope to repeat this success next year. Last year he was instrumental in bringing a group of gay and lesbian travel agents to Anchorage, and he will not accept the status quo when given a challenge!

You could say he's a Man for all Seasons. Let's give Greg Kramer a round of applause!

French senator comes out

French Senator Bertrand Delanoe, a Paris Socialist, came out of the closet on the M6 network TV program Zone Interdite (No-man's Land) November 24.

"I'm a homosexual," Delanoe said. "Perhaps I'm underestimating the consequences of the discussion we are having today but I'm 48 years old [and] I must live my convictions. ... And my career has never been the most important thing to me.

"I would really prefer the citizens to be indifferent [to my sexuality]," he said.

Delanoe is also secretary of the Senate's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and is planning to run for mayor of Paris in 2001.

According to French media, the only other open gay in French politics is Pau Mayor and National Assembly Deputy Andre Labarrere.
WASHINGTON — An 8 percent increase in reported hate crimes against gays and lesbians in 1997 was among the statistics released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program. This increase is particularly troubling since overall serious crime continues its decrease.

"While we share in the good news about the decrease in serious crime, the hate crime statistics are disturbing" said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "We know that the FBI hate crime statistics are the tip of the iceberg, because they are derived from police who voluntarily submit statistics to the FBI. Once again, we underscore the need for the 106th Congress to direct the moral authority and resources of our federal government to the fight against hate crimes by passing the Hate Crimes Prevention Act early in the next session."

The FBI report found that 1,102 crimes targeting people because of their sexual orientation were committed in 1997. This was an eight percent increase over the 1,016 bias-motivated incidents reported to the FBI in 1996. In 1995, the FBI reported 1,019 hate crimes based on sexual orientation.

Last July, both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees held hearings to amend current federal law to include sexual orientation, gender and disability, and to expand federal law enforcement jurisdiction as an important step towards closing a loophole needed to assist Americans affected by hate motivated attacks. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), sponsored in the last Congress by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Reps. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., and Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., would amend current federal law to include real or perceived sexual orientation, gender, and disability. The bill would enable the FBI to investigate and prosecute violent hate crimes against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

Currently, only 21 states and the District of Columbia include sexual orientation in their state hate crimes statutes. Eighteen states have hate crimes laws that do not include sexual orientation, and eight states have no hate crimes statutes whatsoever. Three states have laws that are unclear.

Two federal hate crimes laws include “sexual orientation” as a protected group. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, under which these data were collected, and the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which provides for tougher sentencing when it is proven that a crime committed on federal property was motivated by bias.

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

by Lesléa Newman

It was sure to be the New York moment of a lifetime. Cher, singer of "I've Got You Babe," "Half-breed," and "Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves," Cher, wearer of those outrageous wigs and outfits; Cher, the first woman to show her belly button on TV (and to call David Letterman an a—hole, in public anyway); Cher, mother of Chastity and widow of Sonny (Mary Bono who?); Cher was going to be signing copies of her book, The First Time at the Barnes and Noble in Chelsea. It was just too good to be true.

Now anyone who knows me knows my pet peeve is the celebrity-turned-author. I am sick of people who can't put a sentence together being paid mega amounts of money for a book they didn't even write. How would Madonna feel if I got paid more money than she'd ever see in her entire life to lip-sync "Like a Virgin?" But forget all that. We're not talking your run-of-the-mill celebrity here. We're talking the Goddess herself. We're talking Cher.

The evening before the great event, I called the bookstore. "Yes, Cher will be here," the bookseller said. "She'll start signing at 12:30 sharp."

"What time should I arrive?" I asked.

"We open at 9:00."

"I'll be there." I hung up and dove into bed for my beauty sleep. At 8:30 the next morning, I left my pied-a-terre and started walking up Sixth Avenue. I arrived at Barnes and Noble at 9:15. There was no evidence of a line anywhere. I even had time for a cup of coffee. Just to be sure though, I asked at the information booth.

"Cher? Oh yes, she's still coming. You buy your book first, then take it outside and get on line."

Outside? I quickly made my purchase and left the store to join the mob of fans snaking around the block. "Did you really get here at 9:00 this morning?" I asked the woman up front.

"No," she said. "I got here at 9:00 last night."

I made my way to the back of the line, which was full of gay men, much to this fag hag's delight. I joined a crowd of especially fetching fellows, figuring if I was going to stand out in the cold for two hours, I might as well enjoy myself. "What did you do, take the day off?" I asked the boys.

"I lied to my boss," said one whose name was Scott.

"What about you?" I asked the guy standing next to him. "I am his boss," he replied, extending his hand. "I'm Rob. And this is my boyfriend, Tony."

"I'm Brent," said an unusually pretty lad.

"I'm Deanna," said the woman to my right. "I don't even like Cher."

"You don't?" The crowd was ready to pounce.

"No. I'm here for my friend Rocky. He met her once, years ago."

"He met Cher?" Deanna, who was almost dog meat two seconds ago, was now the envy of the crowd.

"She was trying on shoes in Bloomingdales," Deanna said. "And she asked Rocky what he thought of them. I'm sure she'll remember. Look, here's his picture."

As we all gathered around to gawk at Rocky, a panhandler came up to us. "What are you on line for?"

"We're here, we're queer, we're waiting to see Cher!"

"Cher? Sonny died. Oh Lord have mercy, Sonny died."

The panhandler started moaning and groaning until a cop shooed him away.

At 12:00 some people from the bookstore came out and handed us "The Rules": "Huh," I muttered. I've been signing books for over a decade and I've never had any rules. But this was Cher and her rules were:

1. Cher will only sign two items. (For the mathematically impaired, two means two books, two CD's or one book and one CD.)

2. Cher will only write her name. She will not write a personal inscription.

3. Cher will not sign any memorabilia and you may be asked to surrender these items at the door. ("Not on your life," Rob clutched his 1965 Sonny and Cher "Look at Me," album to his chest. "They'll have to kill me first.")

4. Cher will not pose for any pictures.

As everyone contemplated the rules, I thought of the rules I would like followed at my next book signing:

1. Everyone must buy multiple copies of each one of Lesléa's books. (For the mathematically impaired, multiple copies means six or more.)

2. Lesléa will personally inscribe your book if you pronounce her name correctly.

3. Lesléa will not sign any memorabilia, and you may be asked to surrender these items as well as your jewelry at the door.

4. Lesléa will be happy to pose for pictures, but only for Hollywood agents.

At exactly 12:30 the line started inching forward and the press descended upon us. "We're from WSLEEZ. Do you think Chastity is a lesbian because Cher smoked pot in the sixties?"

Scott laughed. "Honey, if that was true, we'd all be lesbians."

Continued on Page 11
Stargazer Commentary

by Barbara J. Soule

The “alternative” way of life sometimes collides with one’s biological and “other” family. November 20 is the day I flew out to visit my long time friends, Mariah Redwood and Joanne Contini — former owners of the Alaska Women’s Bookstore. When Joanne and Mariah lived here I shared many mellow dinner evenings in their gracious company when the Women’s Full Moon Study group gathered to drum, chant and meditate with them and other women to explore and find the spiritual connections that exist among us at the deepest level.

Joanne and Mariah have a life in Portland, Oregon. Joanne has a full time job. Mariah has had health problems that she now thinks are under control. She is taking a computer skills class and is thinking about going back to work. The two women live in cute, small, two bedroom house with two lots on an unimproved (unpaved with bottomless potholes) street. The dogs, Yukon and Chaco look very healthy and happy. Although surrounded by the city, they live on a very quiet, pleasant street.

I was concerned as to whether or not my two friends were happy and had a life. Joanne showed me the outside of their bathroom door. It has articles taped to the door about events the two of them have included in their life. Ticket stubs for shows, plays and concerts are lined up in neat rows. The door is almost covered. Both women talked about the friends they have made the year that they have been in Portland.

Joanne and Mariah told me they missed the Anchorage and Eagle River women getting together for Full Moon rituals. There is a goddess temple in Portland. Joanne said they were warmly welcomed by some very young looking women who drummed, chanted and danced into the wee hours on a week day. Joanne groaned that as much as she loved ritual circles she was getting too old to be up half the night and then have to be up at 5:30 in the morning for work.

I told Mariah and Joanne there are a few spiritual groups that meet in Anchorage, but they are just beginners searching for their way and have not achieved any group cohesiveness or deep communion. I’ve been meeting with the Buddhists for the past two years. They have long involved historical practices. Most texts are translated from Sanskrit or Tibetan and lose their grace in the translation. I’ve been initiated into five different empowerments. My friend, Julianne, has six empowerments. Neither of us knows where this path is leading us as yet. In my meditations, the Buddhas and the Buddhastories dance in my visions and reach out their hands for me. I reach for them and sometimes seem to touch one of them. The sensation is joyous and wonderful, but I’m not sure how else my life is being impacted.

Later on my vacation, I went on to visit my sister and brother-in-law’s home in Vancouver, Washington. Pam and Roger are Lutheran; they sing in their church choir. Their church was doing a Thanksgiving service. I believe in giving thanks and do it often. It has been ages since I was in a conventional church. I don’t often have a very high opinion of traditional religion, but since Pam is a Lutheran, I thought I just see what Lutherans were about these days and maybe get some insights as to what kind of people Pam and Roger are.

I was pleasantly surprised and impressed. The pastor, at the Thanksgiving service, mentioned every one of the members by name and what he was thankful for about that person. Many people in the congregation fed and assisted homeless families, taught classes in prisons or assisted these projects in some way. All the guests were invited to join in the communion even though the pastor had no idea who we were.

After attending the Thanksgiving and following Sunday service, it occurred to me how easy a path conventional religion is. It has a text, with a road map. The blueprint is written down for all to read themselves. The clergy and pastor answer questions and guide one on the finer points. There is a church to go to on a regular basis for instruction and fellowship and communion of souls on the same path. Just how hard an alternative path is became very real to me, and I shed a tear or two before I remembered how wonderful it is, too.

Although my sister Pam knows that I am gay, she and I have never had a talk about it. The last time we were together was at my father’s funeral in 1985 and we were too griefed to discuss it. My sister was wonderful. Pam said that I was her sister and that she loved me. I cried a lot with my sister’s arms around me — healing tears. Two more things have occurred to me. One is that there are Christians who live the message to love one another, accept gays and reach out with good hearts to others. My sister, the Christian, put her hand out to me like the Buddhas and Buddhastories in my visions — healing occurred and love prevailed. It is a good lesson for me to remember — to keep my own hand extended with acceptance and love to others.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season whatever you decide to celebrate in the days ahead.

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

Continued from page 9

The reporter thrust a mike in Scott’s face. “If Cher would go out with you, would you change your sexual preference?”

Scott rolled his eyes. “Dearheart, I don’t want to sleep with the woman. I want to go shopping with her.”

“What about you?” The reporter turned to me.

“I wouldn't have to change my sexual preference,” I told him and waved right into the camera. “Hi, Mom!”

Two hours later, my little group finally entered the bookstore. Deanna went first. “Do you remember Rocky?” she asked.

Cher studied the picture. “I’m sure I do,” she said, “but I don’t have my glasses.” Oh how gracious was the Goddess!

Brent went next. Cher signed his book and then blew on the ink. “Be careful, baby, it stays wet for a while.” Brent swooned and crawled out on his knees.

Rob and Tony presented Rob’s album together.

“There’s no fan like an old fan,” Cher said, signing away.

Then it was my turn. I thought of all the things people have said to me at book signings. I like your work. You’re not as good-looking as your photo. Is your hair real? I didn’t want to sound like an idiot. But what could I possibly say? “Cher,” I whispered.

“Yes?” Oh that voice!

“I...I...” And then to my tongue-tied horror, I burst into tears.

“It’s okay,” Cher said, reaching out her hand. Should I kiss it? Press it to my breast? Thank God, I came to my senses and shook it. Then a guard politely showed me the door, which I floated through. In fact weeks later, my feet have yet to touch the ground. Who cares if I waited six hours to spend six seconds with my idol? I’m still in Cher Heaven and I’m never washing my right hand again.


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WASHINGTON — Tolerance for gay and lesbian Americans has sharply increased in the last three years and most people support anti-discrimination laws protecting gay people, according to a Human Rights Campaign poll released at a press conference and conducted by top Democratic and Republican pollsters. The findings reiterated the trend of increased tolerance in this year’s elections where voters chose moderation and rejected right-wing extremism.

“American voters rejected the mean-spirited anti-gay positions that have been expressed throughout this election season, and registered their dissatisfaction at the polls. In most cases where the voters had a choice, they picked the moderate pro-gay candidate,” said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch at the press conference. “This should be a clear message to the Republican leadership — extreme right candidates no longer make good candidates, and more and more, Republicans are seeking liberation from a Christian Coalition hold on the GOP.”

“This poll is consistent with the election results and the voters desire for solutions instead of scapegoats. Ninety percent of HRC endorsed candidates won their races, compared to only 46% of candidates backed by Gary Bauer's ultra-conservative Campaign for Working Families. I think this discrepancy says it all about America's increased tolerance for gay Americans,” said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg.

The bipartisan poll, conducted for HRC by the Democratic pollster firm Lake, Snell, Perry, and Associates (Celinda Lake), and Republican pollster firm American Viewpoint, (Linda DiVall), showed that support for gay and lesbian equality was bipartisan and widespread. Among the findings:

A majority of voters, (54%-32%), say that civil rights laws for gays and lesbians are intended to secure “equal rights” instead of “special rights.” This number is up from 1995 when the ratio was (41%-38%).

Americans widely believe, (64%-13%), that U.S. society is more tolerant now than it was a decade ago, and over a majority believe that increased tolerance is desirable.

Majorities of Americans, (58%-25%), support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, (56%-23%), and strong support extends across all demographic and partisan subgroups.

Majorities of Americans support certain rights and benefits for gay and lesbian partners, including hospital visitation rights, (71%-24%), inheritance rights, (67%-27%), and health care benefits, (61%-29%).

“This increase in tolerance has mistakenly led people to believe that gay people are already covered by anti-discrimination legislation. Our poll reveals that only 14% of people realize that it is still legal to fire gay people in 40 states because of their sexual orientation. Clearly, people’s attitudes are way ahead of the politicians’ and we need to work to clarify this misconception,” said HRC Communications Director David M. Smith.

This poll surveyed 800 adults in the U.S. who indicated that they planned to vote or had voted in the 1998 general election for Congress. The survey was conducted November 1-3, 1998. The sample was drawn using random dial methodology. It was distributed geographically based on the expected distribution of 1998 general election voters. The data were weighted by age, education, and gender to reflect the 1998 electorate. The margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points.

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

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

Date: Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Time: 6:30 p.m. doors open/socialize; 7:00 p.m. dinner; 7:30 p.m. announcements & program

Place: Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street

Program: Join us for Christmas Caroling
WASHINGTON, D.C. — A diverse coalition of bisexual organizations launched a provocative ad campaign countering the “ex-gay” conversion therapy ads that the Religious Right is attempting to air on television. Bisexual activists crafted the ad to respond to the Christian Coalition and affiliated organizations’ anti-gay propaganda. The ad counters the position that “converted” Christians are all heterosexual, and that sexual orientation is easily defined into two invariable categories.

“The current national debate has been dumbed down to a question of whether people’s sexuality is fixed at birth or can be changed through brainwashing,” explained GenderPAC Executive Director Riki Ann Wilchins. “Painting sexual identities in such stereotyped fashions cheapens a meaningful discussion down to a TV commercial. Real life is more complicated than that. Whole populations have been excluded from the current whitewashed dialogue, and we want to bring them back into the discussion.”

“As bisexuals, we have a unique perspective on the debate about supposed ‘cures’ for homosexuality,” declared Lani Ka‘ahumanu, founding organizer of BiNet USA, the nation’s largest bisexual advocacy group. “Most of the people who ‘convert’ to heterosexuality through these programs admit that they still have same-sex attractions. Many of these people are undoubtedly bisexual, but have chosen opposite-sex relationships for the time being.”

Starting with the conservative groups’ own slogan — “If you really love someone, you’ll tell them the truth” — the ad explains the complexities of sexuality and the true meaning of compassion and respect. Challenging the “truth” of conversion therapy, this coalition speaks out against the Right’s messages of rejection, hatred, and self-hatred, and the Right’s insistence that their way is the “One True Way.”

“All of us, regardless of sexual orientation, have the right to love whomever we choose, be treated with respect and dignity, to live lives safe from violence, harassment and discrimination,” said Linda Blair, president of the Bisexual Resource Center in Boston, MA.

The Right’s conversion therapy campaign began with a series of national newspaper ads this summer. The campaign has stated that sexuality is a result of nurture and environment and can be “cured” through conversion therapy. Some gay and lesbian organizations have countered with reports of studies indicating that sexuality may be at least partly genetic in nature. Between nature and nurture, the bisexual activists argue, lies one small but incredibly important word: Choice.

“Some people’s sexual orientation can change over time,” Anything That Moves bisexual magazine Business Manager Dan Mullen observed. “Many people remain open to the possibility of romantic or physical involvement, regardless of a person’s gender, throughout their entire lives. Whether we are bisexual, heterosexual, lesbian or gay, we make our own choices. We choose who we love, even as we choose the direction of our lives.”

Whether sexual orientation is nature or nurture or a combination, this broad coalition of organizations believes the bottom line is that all people deserve respect and equal protection under the law.

Nearly twenty national and international organizations, including the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, have signed onto the ad, which was created by BiNet USA, the Bisexual Resource Center, and Anything That Moves magazine. Together, these organizations represent the most diverse coalition to enter the discussion to date.

The ad can be viewed and downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.anythingthatmoves.com/reaction>. 11 X 17” printed versions can be ordered by sending $6 to ATM, Attn: Poster, 2261 Market St., #496, San Francisco, CA 94114. Anything That Moves grants permission to any bisexual or bisexual-friendly organization to reprint the ad as part of their own media presentation or publicity work. It is requested that all users forward a copy of their ad with information on when and where it appeared to Anything That Moves at the above address or via email to <info@anythingthatmoves.com>.

Contact: Heather Franek, BiNet USA, (415) 626-5560, ext. 126, <hfranek@carleton.edu> (no attachments) or Loraine Hutchins, BiNet USA, (202) 882-4384 <wonderwoman@igc.org>.
Lesbian Notions

by Paula Martinac

An irate gay man recently wrote a letter to a New York gay newspaper calling for the resignation or impeachment of ... no, not Bill Clinton, but Elizabeth Birch, the head of the Human Rights Campaign. The letter writer was infuriated by HRC's endorsement of the conservative, anti-choice Republican, Al D'Amato, in the November mid-term elections month. Though we can't impeach our lesbian and gay leaders, HRC's latest gaffe should make us all take a critical look at what those leaders are doing in the name of "the community." The nation's largest lesbian and gay lobbying group is missing the boat because it's too busy pandering to a powerful and vocal conservative gay phalanx, while state and local lesbian and gay organizations struggle to accomplish positive social change.

Here's a fact from the recent elections for you to mull over: While HRC was trying to be fair and "bipartisan" by embracing D'Amato, the African-American community in several Southern states was mobilizing to help shape a new political landscape. I seriously doubt that many African Americans were wringing their hands as they pushed the ballot box levers, worrying about alienating black Republicans. No, instead they were voting overwhelmingly Democratic — in the South Carolina and Alabama gubernatorial races, over 95 percent of African-American voters went for the Democrats.

That's a stunning figure. The result? Two Democratic challengers who ran primarily on the issue of improved public education (funded by state lotteries) won, despite strong and organized opposition from the Christian Right, which painted the lottery as "immoral." (Yeah, right, like inferior schooling isn't really what's immoral.) If there isn't a lesson in these two elections for the lesbian and gay community, then I'm straight.

In my mind, HRC's endorsement of D'Amato over thundering objections from many in our community was emblematic of what's gone wrong with that organization, the most powerful and visible in the lesbian and gay movement. It increasingly jumps through hoops for smug, self-serving, white people who couldn't give a dam about anyone else. You know these folks and their narrow-minded positions: "Bad public education? Move to a better school district!"

"Abortion? What's that have to do with me?" If it weren't for the discrimination they experience as gay people, they'd be totally free to focus their attention on their stock options. Take the gay man who recently wrote me an angry letter (and he wasn't the first to do that, believe me) because I dared to assume that lesbians and gay men might actually be concerned about many other progressive issues than just freedom of sexual expression. "If you're interested in women's issues," the guy advised me, "join NOW." Not only doesn't he get it, he doesn't want to.

I want a national leadership that "gets it," that learns something from these mid-term elections. (And no, the lesson isn't that George W. Bush is the next Republican to start kissing up to.) I want leadership that, instead of pushing an unwanted candidate on a local gay community, says, how could we have done more to have helped the ill-fated gay political struggles in Fort Collins, Colorado and Fayetteville, Arkansas? I want leadership that spreads its power and influence around by pumping more money into state and local political efforts.

State and local groups are actively lobbying for hate crime laws, launching voter registration drives, and trying to garner the support necessary to pass anti-gay discrimination ordinances. But they can't raise the cash that the national groups can. Big donors like to save their biggest bucks for national lesbian and gay groups, thus buying their way onto boards of directors that give them a little taste of power and influence, too (to make "important" decisions like endorsing D'Amato). So even though our state and local organizations are really on the frontlines of activism, the lesbian and gay movement annually spends five times more on its national strategy than it does on state political efforts.

One program I like the look of is the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's "Equality Begins at Home," a campaign that will provide financial support to more than 30 state organizations for planning and carrying out high-visibility political events in state capitals next March. The thinking behind this campaign is simple: that lobbying the U.S. Congress for national gay rights legislation is insufficient. In fact, it's approaching things backwards. Political change is only likely to happen at the national level when we have a network of energized, powerful communities nationwide that aren't just reacting against anti-gay measures but are helping to enact local gay rights legislation, getting out the vote, and working to enlist straight allies.

NGLTF's campaign isn't just good politics. It is, I think, a prime example of good national leadership.

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Friends of the Klondyke Kontakt
The KK has a new e-mail address <klondykekontact@hotmail.com>
Company Outings III, the spousal equivalent victory

by Ken Lovering

I could say it was a day like any other, but I'd be lying.
I was returning to The Big Company after a week-
long vacation, so I had a bit of a spring in my step, e-
ergetic to see my spirited colleagues and give a go to a
fresh start. I would bring more passion to my work, dis-
cover new efficiencies to manage my workload more
effectively, raise the bar.

My mailboxes (actual and electronic) were burdened
with memos, flyers, and more details about details than
I could ever digest in a day. I sorted through them, one
by one and tossed them into my recycle bins (actual
and electronic).

Then I saw THE memo amidst my shuffled papers. It
was what I'd been waiting for yet not expecting. It was
the memo for which I and a few others had raised our
voices a couple of months back.

"We are pleased to offer medical and dental benefits
to the partners of our lesbian and gay associates," it
said. So it was that my husband Paul received a new
title: a cold corporate label irrespective of the nurturing
and love that we share. In addition to being my hus-
band, partner, lover, significant other, longtime com-
panion (does anyone use that one anymore?), he is
now my S. E., my Spousal Equivalent, my footnote to
conventional.

Victory! Call the press! Call a meeting! Call the cater-
ers!

I scanned my electronic mail for more and found one
from an ally in HR who helped us push this through.
She had sent a congratulatory message to four of us
who had gone out on a limb and confronted The
Owner with the gross inequality of The Big Company's
benefit structure. "A few voices can make a big differ-
ence," she wrote.

Indeed.

Before the spousal equivalent benefits were offered,
I had spoken covertly with my compatriots about our
memos to the CEO, about inequality, about discrimina-
tion. We conspired behind a closed door, breathly
whispered in my box of a cubicle, or daringly talked in
code in public places throughout the building.

The motive behind the secrecy of our ambitions, I
had naively thought, was our own self-protection. We
did not want to be seen as insubordinates, as Organiz-
ers with a capital "O." If we publicly spoke out against
discriminating policies, if we garnered sympathizers
and allies, then we'd be nixed, or so I feared despite be-
ing assured otherwise.

So we shared statistics and stories in hushed tones:

Item 1: The hiring manager, who is gay, had made
three job offers in one week. The prospects had asked if
The Big Company offered domestic partner benefits;
when he told them no, they turned down the offers.

Item 2: Though many CEO's believe that offering
benefits will significantly increase cost to The Big Com-
pany, studies show that the actual increase averages
about one percent.

Item 3: Though there are many gay people who
work at The Big Company, only a few would sign up for
domestic partner benefits. First, all of them don't have
lifelong partners; second, most of those partners prob-
ably earn their own benefits at their own workplace.
See Item 2.

Item 4: The average cost of treating an AIDS patient
is several hundred thousand dollars, whereas the aver-
age cost of treating someone with a chronic heart dis-
ease is several million. Why? Because the heart patient
lives longer. (I know, I know: I hated this part of our
conversations, too, but a statistic is a cold, unfeeling
beast. I'm merely a messenger here. And if we consider
that the average CEO might believe that the vast major-
ity of gay people are HIV+, then this statistic happens
to work in our favor. Sorry.)

Item 5: Offering domestic partner benefits would
give The Big Company a competitive edge and foster
feelings of inclusion among all associates.

Item 6: A few years ago, before I arrived at The Big
Company, a small group of gay men and lesbians met
regularly for this very purpose. Their planning culmi-
nated in a meeting with the CEO in which he told them
that he would approve domestic partner benefits. In
the end, he did not.

Item 7: Rumor had it that the CEO's wife has made
many major decisions that have affected The Big Com-
pany, and she'd been forwarding articles about domes-
tic partner benefits to an HR contact for years. So any
communication we sent to the CEO was also sent to
her. This seemed a key element of our strategy.

Typically, when The Big Company makes a major policy change that benefits its associates, the CEO and Management blow their horn and proclaim with zeal what good they have done, even if only through an announcement at a monthly meeting for which everyone gathers. There has been no such proclamation, no such self-congratulation on their part. This seems symptomatic of the same denial that refused us the benefits for so long.

Now, we lesbians and gay men who made this happen, who insisted that this happen, continue to work in our four or five separate departments. Our paths seldom cross. When they do, it is for business or it is a brief exchange of politeness. We have shared no closure, no sense of collective accomplishment.

But I want to take each one of them, nay I want to take them all, and joyfully embrace them and I want them to acknowledge for themselves and for us all that we have done something amazing. We have done what many said couldn’t be done. We have defied the odds, we have defied the prejudices of a corporate world in which gay men and lesbians are seldom recognized, we have even defied our own limits and accomplished something that is bigger and more crucial than we all know.
Shopping ordeals
and other holiday traditions

by Jen Kohout

I've been putting it off for weeks now. Today, I finally ran out of excuses. Work was no longer too busy; I'd caught up on my correspondence; the oil was changed; the dry cleaning picked up; no social engagements scheduled. It was time.

As I drive across town, I tell myself to relax, that it won't be all that bad. But my feeble efforts at optimism are drowned out by a creeping dread. A car whizzes by. I suddenly realize that I have slowed to a crawl.

Within minutes, I see the large gray warehouse looming ahead. Then from behind a set of telephone transformers, emerges a red neon sign: "Costco." As I pull into the parking lot and scan for a vacant space amidst the abandoned shopping carts, my mind goes blank with the kind of resignation one experiences before embarking on only the most unpleasant odysseys. I park, take a deep breath and reach for my shopping list.

When we made the list three weeks ago, Karen and I came up with only two items. Garden Burgers and some shampoo. It seemed so simple that I'd thoughtlessly volunteered for the task. "Sure, I'll go," I'd said. But as with many things in life, there's the theory, then there's the reality. The ramifications of what I'd agreed to do began to set in. I'd just committed to spending an entire lunch hour trying to steer a flatbed trailer cart around enormous towers of Purina Dog Chow and studded snow tires while dodging screaming children and women dressed in blue vests pushing samples of fried cheese curds. A terrifying image to an avowed non-shopper like myself.

I procrastinated as long as I could. Then we ran out of Advil and tampons and I could wait no longer.

Walking up to the open door, I grab a cart and head for the blue vested guy who's sole function appears to be to confirm that everyone has an embarrassing picture on their Costco Card. He nods at me and suppresses a snicker as I walk by (or at least that's what I imagine). I vow to get a new picture the next time I'm here.

Even before I have the card back in my wallet, I am engulfed by video cassette recorders, Brita water filters, and lifetime packs of C batteries. All of which can be mine for the low, low price of something and 99 cents. I am completely mesmerized and utterly over-stimulated.

"Gosh," I think to myself, "it sure would be handy to have extra C batteries around the house." Even though the last time I used a C battery was when I got a LightBright for Christmas. I'm worse in the food aisles where I think things like..."Wow, only $4.99 for a bunch of bananas." Never mind that the bunch is larger than my dishwasher and would feed a half dozen gorillas for a month.

By the time I stagger into line, I've been plied with slices of pumpkin cheesecake, cups of cranberry juice drink, spoonfuls of mini-turkey pot pies, and fried mozarella sticks. My cart contains batteries, bananas, Garden Burgers, tampons, a 5 pound bag of baby carrots, a double box of Graham crackers, a gallon-sized jar of apricot jam, a tub of Salsa, and a couple gallons of cranberry juice drink.

As I inch slowly forward in line, I assess whether the experience was as bad as I imagined. Granted, my quick trip to Costco had taken over an hour, made me late for work, resulted in a cart full of extraneous items, and a tension-headache. But I did manage to pass on the turkey-sun dried tomato sausage links, the four tubes of Mint Gel Crest, and the pumpkin cheesecake. As I massaged my temples, mostly I just felt relief at the prospect of leaving the building. I could almost taste the cool winter air outside.

"I'll just cart this all out to my car, toss it in the back, grab the Advil and some water for my head, and...oh, no! Where's the..."

Jen Kohout skils, eats, and writes in Anchorage, AK when she isn't out shopping.
Deep Inside Hollywood

**Showtime's got Milk first**

Showtime is beating rival HBO to the punch, announcing its own Harvey Milk project, which will star and be executive produced by Wings alum Tim Daly. Shooting begins this month in Toronto on *Execution of Justice*, which features Daly (who most recently played Paul Rudd's ex in *The Object of My Affection*) as San Francisco supervisor Dan White, who murdered fellow supervisor Milk (the city's first openly gay elected official) and San Francisco mayor George Moscone in 1978.

No word yet on whether this news jeopardizes a planned HBO movie on Milk from openly gay producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan. But the duo isn't hard up for work. They are exec producing *Double Platinum* for ABC, set to air during the May sweeps. Legendary diva Diana Ross and R&B chart-topper Brandy (Moesha) will play mother and daughter in the movie and will contribute six new songs. The storyline centers on Ross's character's reconciliation with her daughter, whom she abandoned as a baby for fear that the child would impede her path to stardom. The mother, now a singing legend, makes peace with her now 18-year-old daughter and helps jump-start her budding singing career. Problems arise when their kinship becomes public.

**Cruising the courthouse**

Fresh off a half-million dollar settlement from a London tabloid which claimed her husband was gay and their marriage a farce, Nicole Kidman said the first couple of Scientology isn't finished. She recently told an interviewer that their successful lawsuit is a harbinger of further legal action, adding they will sue any publication or person who claims Cruise's missile goes in anything but a female. Kidman says their children are now of school age and should be protected from such speculation, which she reiterates is totally false. I just hope this doesn't give Jodie Foster any ideas.

**Fatherhood**

Is openly gay actor Rupert Everett cruising for chicks? Rumor has it that indeed he is, but the *Best Friend's Wedding* co-star isn't interested in “changing teams.” Instead, he's looking for someone to help conceive a child. It seems Everett and his partner are having trouble adopting a baby in England.

Meanwhile, Everett's pal Madonna long ago severed her romantic ties with personal trainer (and aspiring actor) Carlos Leon, but Lourdes' father insists he has an active role in bringing up baby. Leon has surfaced to dismiss rumors that he was paid $300,000 by Madonna to “disappear” after Lourdes' birth.

**Leo the bloodsucker**

When Tom Cruise was cast as the Vampire Lestat in *Interview with a Vampire*, novelist Anne Rice loudly voiced her displeasure with the decision, only to amend her criticism after the film was a success, praising the performance by the “heterosexual hunk.” But it seems she's changed her mind. This time, Rice (busy promoting her latest novel, *The Vampire Armand*) is doing her best to influence the casting process up front, lobbying for baby-faced megastar Leonardo DiCaprio to fill Lestat's cape if a planned *Interview* sequel comes to fruition.

**Tube news**

There are lots of TV items to report, including the welcome news that the delightful Joan Cusack (*In and Out*) will be starring in her own sitcom for the 1999 fall season. Mega-producers Carrey-Werner will produce the show, which is being developed by *Roseanne* scribe Eric Gilliland. ABC and NBC are both interested in picking up the series, which will be set in Chicago.

Reports that Nathan Lane's sitcom, *Encore, Encore!* is in danger of cancellation have been buttressed by the show's being benched during the highly competitive November sweeps. The sitcom is tentatively scheduled to return in December, but its days are indeed numbered.

Sean P. Hayes, who played gay in *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* and stars as Will's flaming pal in NBC's *Will and Grace*, is dodging questions about his own sexuality (paging Nathan Lane). Hayes says the fact that his career is just starting makes it necessary to remain coy about his bedtime preferences, though are appearances ever this deceiving?

NBC's top-rated *ER* is adding a second gay character to its cast, joining Jorja Fox's Dr. Maggie Doyle. Resident nurse Takata played by Gedde Watanabe (16 Candles' Long Duc Dong) reveals in an upcoming episode that he is queer, making him the only gay Asian-American character currently on television.

And finally, talk of a *Three's Company* reunion was squashed when John Ritter, who played a straight man posing gay to live in a cramped apartment with two annoying chicks, says he'd rather kill himself than bring Jack Tripper back to the small screen. I understand the feeling.

Romeo San Vicente, who threatens to sue any media outlet that claims he is gay, can be reached at <RSVicente@aol.com>.

**Gay nude beach okay in Winnipeg**

A gay nude beach received approval in Winnipeg, Manitoba, September 11. Nudity in public spaces is okay as long as there is no lewd behavior, a court and the provincial attorney general determined, according to the *Winnipeg Sun*.

About 40 men at Beaconia Beach were the first to take advantage of the new policy. Activists who oppose public nudity plan to challenge the ruling.
A Couple of guys

I'm sorry, but I just can't get used to that thing in here.

Well, I'm afraid you'll have to mother, or stay away until after New Year's.

Oh, David... This is a Jewish home. Why should you have a Christmas tree interrupting all your lonely decor?

Correction. Mother: this home is part Catholic now. Miguel lives here as well. And if the tree makes him happy, it stays.

So then, what? We should let the gentiles walk all over us? Well, I don't like it one bit.

See? Even Matisse agrees with me.

Bad boy! Actually, I think we should leave it up until spring.

who
what
where
when
why

Anchorage Press

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The Amazon Trail

Santa Dyke

How should a dyke or a gay man celebrate the winter holidays?

I’m pretty spiritual, but I’m nowhere near religious. What if I don’t observe any of the holy days this time of year, but celebrate the spirit of all of them? I’ve had Christmas trees with Solstice lights and a menorah burning on the mantle. I’ve wrapped speculums in aluminum foil and hung them from a collective Solstice tree. I spent one Christmas Day crying into my crystal Geyser over a break up, fearing the season had been ruined forever.

Has there ever been another time like this, with so many contradictory ideologies and interests driving our lives and sometimes competing with our needs? The radical right can whine about cultural diversity all it wants, but the phenomenon needs no queues or liberals to push it. Long ago I gave up trying to sort out what I SHOULD be doing for the winter holidays.

Kwanzaa, according to MelaNet’s online Kwanzaa Information Center, is a holiday which honors the oneness and goodness of life and has no ties to any religion. It is celebrated by many African-Americans from December 12 to 31. The symbols include a straw mat, seven-candle holder and ears of corn while the rituals include stories, songs, candle-lighting, a feast, dancing and preferably handmade gifts. This is an observance created to enhance a culture, taken from its history and preserved for the future.

Some Catholic and Protestant queers may go to midnight services and pay homage to that popularized derivation of goddesses who has existed in a thousand forms since the first mermaid left the water. Other Christians play Santa Claus (who only became the jolly figure we know during the 19th century in New York) for kids in hospitals, neighborhoods, childrens’ centers. Still others reject Christmas as pagan while pagan dykes and faeries draw on the ancient festivities of the return of the light. Observant Jews may celebrate the military victory that inspired Hanukah by eating latkes, lighting candles and bringing out dreidels to spin. Then there are those who play the holiday albums of Johnny Mathis and Barbra Streisand, dancing by the light of red and green candles.

For me this is a time of crafts and cooking, evolved and genetic families, giving and thanking, hibernation and celebration. About mid-December we decorate an artificial tree and sometimes set up an electric train. Lover adorns the house with cards and mostly homemade ornaments and makes cookies. I whip up a cranberry flummery from “The Political Palate,” a feminist vegetarian cookbook. We send holiday cards and I make catnip mice like my grandma did. We get together with friends to exchange funny little gifts.

We went to see The Nutcracker this year, a seasonal sometimes-ritual, and it was touchingly pretty. But the show! How militaristic, how het! Except that the little boy roles in this production were played by dashing young girls. Gosh, it would be great to see a lesbian Nutcracker.

Have a gay holiday? How? By decorating the nearest gay bar and designating non-gay drivers? Gays are not grinches. We operate, like African-Americans, within a dominant culture and perhaps will make of our diversity a Kwanzaa of our own.

Lover and I like to look at the lights — invariably called Christmas lights. We pack ourselves and a couple of friends into a car and drive through the dark as if going to grandmother’s house in a sleigh. We mock ooh and mock ahh, but it really is lovely to see the evocation of the unconquered sun the Romans greeted as the days grew longer.

Last year we visited a botanical garden all done up in colors. It was like a fairyland (see, all the good stuff was originally ours). The house on the grounds was blazing with lights and hot chocolate bubbled on the stove. Other coastal towns give their communities harbor light shows. What is more magical than boats strung with shining non-sectarian colors bobbing on the water?

So, hey! Christians used this originally pagan season to make their own fest, why can’t gays redecorate, so to speak? The day that’s called Christmas is about honoring the spirit of peace and giving. We’re good at that. The ritual is to come together and sing and give gifts and light up the darkness of winter. We’ve always had to play in the darkness. What the spirit of Christmas needs now is a jolly old — Santa Dyke!

I’m dreaming of a gay yuletide with wreaths of mistletoe. I hear carolers singing old gay tunes to midnight masses in the snow. Happy holly days!

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Dutch air force seeks gay recruits

The Dutch air force has launched an advertising campaign in the newspaper De Gay Krant.

The ad shows an F16 fighter plane with the caption: “There are more exciting places on earth than a dark room. ... Imagine yourself in the cockpit of an F16. You start it up and only moments later you have 15 million people beneath you ... Do you know a more exciting place than the F16's cockpit? Please let us know.”

A “dark room” (called a “back room” in America) is a space in a gay bar set aside for sexual activity.
My Queer Life

It's all in the cards

by Michael Thomas Ford

I can’t believe it’s that season again. I’m talking, of course, about that dreaded annual chore — holiday cards. It used to be easy. I only had a couple of friends. Every year all I had to do was buy a single box of cards and send them out.

But as I’ve gotten older, I’ve accumulated a lot more friends, and even more acquaintances. I now have several lists of people who expect to receive cards. Every year I go over them, weeding out the editor who didn’t buy anything from me in the previous year or the former friend who said my last book wasn’t all it could have been. Then I add the new people, the editors I desperately want to buy things from me, the photographer who took the only good picture of me in existence, the dog’s latest vet. It’s endless.

These lists are crucial. If I forget my editor’s assistant, then my next check mysteriously disappears for three weeks. Innocently omit the reviewer who gave my book such a rave? The phrase “a piece of trash” is sure to appear in her critique of my next one. We won’t even discuss what happens when friends are forgotten in the madness. Let’s just say that weeping is involved.

Once the final lists are drawn up, the tension shifts to choosing the perfect card. The holiday card must be something personal, a reflection of my own personality. No longer can I get away with sending the same thing everyone else is sending. Now I have to pick something clever.

Have you ever tried to find something clever while looking at stacks of cards that come ten to a package for $15.00, calculating that you need at least thirteen boxes, and trying not to throw up? It’s not easy, I can tell you.

That box of seventy-five cards with pictures of kittens wearing Santa hats for six bucks at Wal-Mart starts to look pretty appealing right about then.

Besides, it’s not just the outsides I have to worry about. I also have to consider the message. Not everyone appreciates a jolly “Merry Christmas” greeting. I need to worry about my Jewish friends. And my pagan friends. And my American Indian friends. And everyone else out there. I used to have one pile of Yule cards,

one pile of Hanukkah cards, one pile of “Season’s Greetings” cards, and a pile of generic snowy-looking cards. But then I would get all confused and send my Jewish editor a Kwanzaa card, and my pagan friends were not really all that pleased to see baby Jesus when they opened their envelopes. Now I demand one-size-fits-all.

Let’s assume, for the sake of argument, that this is a perfect world and I both manage to find cards that work for everyone and the bank gives me a loan to purchase them all. The battle still isn’t over. Now I have to write something in them. Simply signing them isn’t an option. That looks cheap and unfeeling. At least that’s what my publicist told me last year when I tried it.

No, everyone wants a personal message. This means I actually have to think of a good reason for why I’m sending each card. Sometimes that’s easy. I usually remember why I like my friends. And telling your agent that she “makes life worth living” is always sure to please. But occasionally a name pops up on the list that I can’t for the life of me put a face to. Clearly there was a reason for adding the person to the roster, but why?

In those cases, I have to come up with something vague yet cheerful. Even then, you never know. Last year I found a dozen names on my list that I couldn’t account for. Undaunted, I wrote out cards to them all with the message, “May the new year be as good to you as this one has been.”
A week later, the phone calls started coming in.  
"Um, hi. I just wanted to say I think your card was in really poor taste given what happened."

I'd gotten my lists mixed up. The unfamiliar names had come from a list of writers whose work I'd soundly rejected for an anthology I'd put together earlier in the year.

Even after the cards go out, there's the whole insecurity issue. Every year, about two weeks after I send out my cards, I start getting cards in return. But I'm not convinced those people actually meant to send me cards. I think they only did it because they got mine and felt obligated. This simply adds to my agony. I hate to think that I'm not already on someone's list, and that I only get cards from them out of guilt.

So I keep track of the days that go by between when I send my cards out and when I start getting them from others. Three or four days in between suggests that our cards crossed in the mail, bringing a sigh of relief. Anything beyond that and I get suspicious. Then I have to examine the received card minutely for clues. One with a scribbled signature and no message is suspect, but if the card is appealing enough I let it slide. One that looks like it came from a sampler pack, or has a pre-printed address label, is a dead giveaway, and I remove the sender from my own list.

I know, I sound petty and awful. I'm still better than my friend Julia. She actually keeps a list on her refrigerator of all her friends' names. If one of us fails to send her an appropriate card, we get crossed off. Then, when we go to her house for her annual holiday party, our shame is right there for everyone else to see. You can just imagine the wonderful cards she gets. I make sure to enclose cash in mine.

So here I am again. I've made my lists twice. I'm sitting here surrounded my mountains of cards. I'm working feverishly to get them all written and sent out in time. But I would just like to take this opportunity to say that if you don't receive one, it's not because I don't like you. It's just that my hand cramped up.
DEFINITION—A seasonal disruption of mood that occurs during the winter months and ceases with the advent of spring. Symptoms usually begin in September when days begin to shorten, and last through the winter into March, when the days begin to lengthen again. Light plays a big part in its origin and in its treatment. In rarer instances, the seasonal disorder symptoms occur in the summer months and may be caused by an intolerance to heat.

BODY PARTS INVOLVED—Nervous System.

SEX OR AGE MOST AFFECTED—Adults and children, and is more common in women.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS
- Depression; tiredness; sluggishness.
- Increased appetite (especially for carbohydrates); weight gain.
- Irritability; needing more sleep; feeling less cheerful, socializing less.
- Difficulty in coping with life as a result of these changes.

CAUSES—The pineal gland (one of the body’s clocks) in the brain releases a hormone called melatonin that can adversely affect our moods. Very little melatonin is secreted in light (daytime) and its peak production is usually at night, between 2 and 3 a.m. Winter months (with their longer nights) cause extra production of melatonin, so the level in the body is increased. The average nighttime illumination in homes or offices is not adequate to counteract this effect.

APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE
- Therapies continue to evolve for treatment of people with moderate to severe symptoms, but they usually involve extending the day artificially in various ways with light therapy (phototherapy). Duration and intensities of the therapy may vary for individuals and they need to be worked out with you and your medical team. Even though these light sources are commercially available, it is recommended that they not be used without medical advice. Examples include:

  Sitting in a very bright light (equivalent to 10 100 watt bulbs or more) for an hour in the morning and evening. Installing a computerized system of lighting in a patient’s bedroom that creates an artificial dawn. The light goes from very dim to bright like a sunrise. Wearing a visor cap with small battery-powered lights that provide illumination falling directly on the eyes.

  For some patients the light therapy doesn’t work and they may require other forms of treatment such as drugs or psychotherapy.

  Simple measures: keep drapes and blinds open in your house; sit near windows and gaze outside frequently; turn on bright lights on cloudy days; keep a diary or journal of your mood changes so that any changes or patterns can be evaluated; don’t isolate yourself (visit friends, see shows, etc.).

  Stay as active as your energy permits.

  Physical activity is usually always therapeutic for mood disorders.

  Get outside as much as possible, especially in the early morning light. Try to take a vacation in the winter months instead of the summer.


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Upcoming Events:
- December: Holiday Food Baskets for Clients, call 263-2050
- AIDS 101, 5:00-6:00pm, January 13 @ 4 A’s
- Free HIV Testing Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00pm @ 4A’s
- Thursdays “HIV Support Group” 7pm - 8pm, call 263-2050
- Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers Noon @ 4 A’s
WASHINGTON — Miami-Dade County Commissioners voted 7-6 today in favor of an nondiscrimination ordinance that will ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing and employment. The affirmative vote, which took place where Anita Bryant founded the modern anti-gay movement, was a huge symbolic victory that highlights the increasing acceptance in recent years of gay and lesbian Americans, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

"The local activists from SAVE Dade did a tremendous job educating the public and the Commissioners and they should be proud of their success. The fact that this win took place in Anita Bryant country is significant and gay and lesbian Americans throughout the nation are rejoicing in this symbolic victory," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.

In 1977, orange juice spokesperson and beauty queen Anita Bryant led a successful crusade to overturn a similar law as the one that passed today. Bryant's group "Save Our Children" served as a model for the Religious Right in their opposition of laws supporting lesbian and gay equality. Bryant's organization foreshadowed the notably vitriolic anti-gay campaigns that became commonplace in similar battles in the 1980's and 1990's.

"Just as Bryant's campaign served as a model for the Religious Right in 1977, SAVE Dade's efforts can today serve as a blue-print for advancing gay and lesbian equality. They realized that most people are against discrimination and effectively articulated why protections are needed," said HRC National Field Director Donna Red-Wing.

Activists tried to get the ordinance passed last year but ran into significant opposition from the Christian Coalition. Miami-Dade Commissioner Katy Sorensen recently reintroduced the measure. Dade County now joins 27 counties and 136 cities with nondiscrimination ordinances nationwide. Other Florida counties and cities with ordinances are: Broward County (Fort Lauderdale), Key West, Miami Beach, Palm Beach County, Tampa, West Palm Beach.

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

Are those copies of Out, Advocate, etc... you swore you would throw out still stacked in the corner?
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Stock market tips for safer sailing on tumultuous seas

by Kathleen Madden

Short of a crystal ball, thoughtful planning may be the best advice for navigating your investments over the rough seas of volatile markets.

Wide market swings, like those of late, provoke many to question their investment decisions. The decision of whether you should stay the course, drop anchor or head for calmer waters needs to be considered with your long-term financial goals in mind. And, what better time to check your investment compass than right now as you gather various year-end financial statements for tax preparation.

If you find your portfolio in rocky waters, don’t despair. Listen to what the experts have to say. Investment veterans generally offer three strategies for smoother sailing.

Maintaining a long-term perspective

Anyone sailing toward financial freedom needs to remember that this is a long-term trip that can have many ups and downs along the way. However, investors should be less concerned with short-term volatility and more aware of the value of a long-term focus. As measured by recognized indices, such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Standard & Poor’s (S&P) 500, the value of the stock market has continued to go up over the long term, outperforming other types of investments and outpacing inflation. (Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results.)

Avoid attempting to invest at what appears to be the “right” or “wrong” time. Instead, invest for the long term. The key to long-term financial success is time, not market timing. Delaying your investment — for whatever reason — limits your growth potential by reducing the amount of time your money can compound.

Diversifying your investments

Volatile markets don’t necessarily mean it’s time to avoid investments in stocks and bonds altogether. Although there are degrees of inherent risk with all investments, diversification can balance your investment portfolio allowing you to reduce risk associated with a particular security.

What mix of investments makes sense for you? Should you decrease your position in equities, own more bonds or increase cash? Each situation differs depending on you and your financial goals. That’s why it’s a good idea to consult a qualified financial advisor. He or she can recommend appropriate investments that match your long-term and short-term goals.

Make regular investing your top priority

Regardless of the financial course you chart, an excellent way to accumulate dollars for a future goal is through regular saving and investment. Fueling your investment with the same amount of money at regular intervals over time can soften the effects of market volatility. Treat investing as part of your monthly expense plan, along with your car expenses, rent or mortgage payments and utility bills. As inflation increases, even modestly, give yourself an annual “pay” raise by increasing the amount you invest.

But remember that regular investing is a long-term investment strategy and does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market. Since a plan of regular investing involves continued investment in securities regardless of fluctuating price level, you should consider your financial ability to continue purchases through periods of low price levels.

Regular investing can also increase the effect of compounding. This means your savings can multiply faster because you have the potential to earn money both on your initial investment and the earnings accumulated from prior periods. Over the years, you can continue to earn money on the money you’ve invested and on the money your investment has earned. An easy way to pay yourself first is to have automatic, prearranged bank drafts which go directly into your investment account.

Chances are, no single investment can satisfy your need for high return and minimum risk. But by diversifying among different asset classes — use short-term investments for short-term goals and long-term strategies for long-term goals and objectives — you can achieve a more comfortable balance of risk and return. More importantly, developing a financial plan and checking it regularly better your chances of reaching port on time and with you investment cargo intact.

Kathleen Madden is a Financial Advisor for Waddell & Reed. The Anchorage office is one of 200 nationwide. They can be reached at <http://www.waddell.com>.

CLASSIFIED AD

Mandela breaks silence

MTUBATUBA, South Africa — President Nelson Mandela urged South Africans to break the silence surrounding AIDS and to eradicate discrimination against those with the disease.

“Although AIDS has been a part of our lives for 15 years or more, we have kept silent about its true presence in our midst. We have too often spoken of it as if it was someone else’s problem,” Mandela said in a speech marking World AIDS Day.

He was speaking during a visit to Mtubatuba in KwaZulu Natal, the eastern South African province whose communities have been worst hit by the virus. “It is the silence that is letting this disease sweep through our country, adding 1,500 people each day to more than three million already infected. It isolates those who need our support and help. It threatens to undermine our efforts to grow our economy and build a better life for all our people,” he said.

The United Nations says South Africa has one of the world’s fastest-growing infection rates and is second only to India as the country with the most people with the Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV), the precursor of AIDS. But Mandela said South Africa can turn the corner.

“Just as we defied the prophets of doom who foresaw endless conflict in our land, we can defeat this terrible disease by all of us accepting responsibility for prevention of infection and for care of those who have been affected.” He urged those working in education, churches, the media and financial institutions to “work to eradicate the discrimination that denies support and dignity to those who need it. As traditional leaders and people of influence in our communities, provinces and nation, let us set an example,” Mandela said.

Anniversary of assassinations

November 27 was the 20th anniversary of the assassinations of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and gay Supervisor Harvey Milk, who were gunned down at City Hall by former Supervisor Dan White.

In July 1978 White resigned from the Board of Supervisors, saying he could not manage on the less than $10,000 a year salary. White had campaigned against the forces of “degeneracy,” and his conservative backers convinced him to try to get his job back.

But Moscone refused to reappoint him, and on November 27, 1978, White sneaked into City Hall and shot Moscone, then walked to Milk’s office and killed him too. Moscone was a reform mayor in his third year in office. Milk was one of the nation’s first openly gay elected officials.

White was a former city fireman and cop. His attorneys mounted what came to be known as the “Twinkie defense,” in which he argued that he suffered from diminished capacity because of the excessive amounts of junk food he consumed.

He was acquitted of murder, but convicted of manslaughter in a highly controversial verdict. Paroled in 1984, White killed himself the following year. He never expressed any public remorse for the killings.

Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was about to leave public life when Moscone’s killing vaulted her into the job of acting mayor. She won re-election twice and is currently serving her second term in the U.S. Senate.

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such is LIFE!

WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT IF......

SOMEONE GAVE ME A FRUIT CAKE ?? ??

.....REDUNDANT!!!
New Year’s Eve "gayla"

by Rand Thomsley

After a year’s hiatus, the Capri Cinema will again celebrate the new year’s dawning with a “gayla new year’s eve party.” Offering an alternative to traditional bar parties, the gayla party at the Capri will offer two feature films, finger-food brunch, and a champagne toast at midnight to welcome the new year.

The schedule for this year’s festivities includes a screening of the new Ian McKellen film *Gods and Monsters* at 9:45 followed by social break, brunch and midnight toast. The party will wind up with a screening of *It’s In The Water*, an outrageous comedy with a queer little twist, at 12:15. Admission for the entire evening is $10 per person, which includes everything, even party favors.

Tickets can be purchased in advance starting December 15 at the Capri box-office.

**Review of Gods and Monsters**

Starring Ian McKellen, Brendan Fraser, Lynn Redgrave and Lolita Davidovich. Highlighted by a stunning tour-de-force performance from Ian McKellen as famed film director James Whale, *Gods and Monsters* is precisely the kind of lean, top-notch storytelling of which the real Whale would have been enormously proud. Simultaneously poignant and tremendously entertaining, this excellent effort from writer/director Bill Condon (Candyman 2) manages to be a triumph of both style and soul, a vessel well worthy of its esteemed subject matter.

Adapted by Condon from Christopher Bram’s fact-based novel, *Father of Frankenstein, Gods and Monsters* concerns itself mainly with Whale’s twilight years, when the legendary director of such films as *Frankenstein* and *Bride of Frankenstein* had already been long-ostracized by Hollywood for his open and surprisingly exhibitionistic homosexuality.

Using Whale’s unlikely friendship with his handsome young gardener Clayton Boone (Brendan Fraser) as a vehicle for psychological exploration, Condon pushes the envelope of traditional biopics into uncomfortable and invigorating new territory, blending in occasional fantasies and a surrealistic dream sequence or two to help punctuate the emotional tragedy that was Whale’s life.

McKellen’s Whale, however, is far more complex than even his films or the vagaries of his life would indicate. The portrait that emerges suggests an almost Shakespearean figure, a man consumed with conflicting emotions and hidden passions; loathsome yet sympathetic, sadistic yet wry, vengeful yet magnanimous.

Not to be overlooked is Brendan Fraser’s superbly nuanced performance, without which McKellen might not have had the chance to excel so magnificently. No less complex or conflicted than Whale, Fraser’s ex-marine Boone represents the perfect dramatic counterpart to Whale’s late-life angst, a common man thrust into an uncommon world for which he is both emotionally and intellectually ill-suited.

Inevitably, many will see *Gods and Monsters* as a kind of companion piece to Tim Burton’s *Ed Wood*, yet another indictment of Hollywood’s cruel willingness to unceremoniously dis-pose of great talent for which it no longer has a use. But *Gods and Monsters* is much more than simply another incestuous film industry conceit. It is a parable about the elusiveness of happiness, contentment and fulfillment, an all-too-timely reflection for the modern age. — Wade Major, *Boxoffice Magazine*

**It’s in The Water**

In this reprise favorite from last year’s Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, young SMU graduate Kelli Herd tells a story that’s sure to click with the droves of gay and lesbian Austinites who migrated here from conservative hinterland outposts. Herd’s 1996 debut film is set in the fictitious Texas burg of Azalea, a semi-small town with a distinct Waco/Tyler feel to it.

As a newly minted Junior League and born member of Azalea’s upper-class beau monde, Alexandra “Alex” Stratton (Chapman) seems to have it made. Granted, her husband is a self-absorbed drudge, their sex life is the pits and hersapid, catty fellow League members keep her trembling on the brink of a blowup. All that aside, she’s still rich, yummy looking and getting plenty of satisfaction from volunteering at the local AIDS hospice — despite having to fight through protesters from the local “Homo No Mo” chapter to report for duty.

One day at the hospice, she runs into Grace (Garrett), an old high school buddy who’s back in town after a reportedly painful divorce. The reason for the split, Grace confides, was that her hubby discovered her fling with a fellow (female) nurse.

While Alex ponders this news another friend, the brazenly inverted Spencer (Hallum) is pulling the chains of local homophobes by telling them there’s something in the local water supply that releases latent homosexual potential. Paranoia spreads like eeba, and soon non-standard sex is replacing the capital gains tax as the major local bugaboo.

In the midst of this ferment, several on-the-fence heteros fall off, including Alex, who very publicly takes up with Grace. “Wake up and smell the poppers, honey!” Spencer chortles as the unhappy housewife grudgingly faces her true nature.

As you’ve no doubt gleaned, farce is the game Herd is playing here. The water-supply business is simply a McGuffin which facilitates some broadly amusing reflection on the arbitrary nature of sexual behavior and gender roles. The social satire is a weak point. As in many gay-themed comedies, the straight opposition are virtually all hysterical, hateful buffoons with none of the conflicted feelings which make life with hets so problematic for real-world gays and lesbians. But again, subtlety was clearly not in Herd’s game plan.

What she attempted, with considerable success, was to create a good-natured tribute to people who’ve suffered the trauma of coming out in a less than supportive environment and lived to laugh about it. Enjoy that, and the attractive, appealing cast (including Austin favorite Terry Galloway in a memorable cameo), and you’ll hardly notice the lack of brow-knitting depth. — Russell Smith, © *Austin Chronicle*
ABCNEWS.com: 20th century

Glaad News Release

As part of the network's look back at the 20th Century, ABC's online news source, ABCNEWS.com has launched a new section of its site entitled “TheCentury.com”. At the core of the site’s multiple features is its “Time Capsule,” which is described as “a memory vault where people post their personal experiences and read what others have written.”

Among the varied topics listed for discussion is a “Gay Rights” section. ABCNEWS introduces the topic: “When New York's finest stormed a Manhattan gay bar in 1969, the modern gay rights movement was born. Despite advances, gay rights continues to be a flashpoint issue in the United States as the century draws to a close. The example of the recent death of Matthew Shepard, and the controversy surrounding his brutal murder in Wyoming, attests to the controversy that still surrounds gay rights as an issue.”

The site has already received numerous postings. Respondents currently featured on the site include a closeted gay man from a rural area speaking about his physical and emotional isolation, a former Marine who speaks to military issues, an openly gay man living in San Francisco, a proud lesbian who speaks about marriage and her coming out process, and many, many more diverse voices. ABCNEWS also prompts viewers with directed questions, facilitating discussions of more specific issues.

In addition to the Time Capsule, TheCentury.com also spotlights selected “Stories of the Century.” In honor of World AIDS Day, the site posted a special piece. Under the heading of “Science & Technology,” the 6-screen slideshow highlighted major events and developments relating to the AIDS pandemic. Entitled “AIDS Rages On,” it focuses on the impact of increases in homophobia owing to fear of AIDS, treatment issues, political backlash against the lesbian and gay community from religious political extremists, and the global impact of the disease. Each screen featured both a slide and an audio clip from leaders in the fields of treatment, prevention and activism such as Dr. David Ho.

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.

[If you wage a well-financed media air war in which people with an innate difference in sexual orientation are ceaselessly branded as sinful and diseased and un-American seekers of “special rights,” ground war will follow. It’s a story as old as history. Once any group is successfully scapegoated as a subhuman threat to “normal” values by a propaganda machine, emboldened thugs take over.
— New York Times columnist Frank Rich writing on the Matthew Shepard murder, October 14.]

Helpline training

by Candy Bonham

The Gay and Lesbian HelpLine needs your help. Our last training added one volunteer to our HelpLine but we've lost four others since October, so we're still very shorthanded. There will be another HelpLine training on Sunday, January 24. It will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Identity office, to the right of the sanctuary in the Unitarian Universalist church, 3201 Turnagain Street.

The training only takes two hours since we are not a crisis line, just an information and referral service. You're not getting calls from someone, for example, who is going to commit suicide if you say the wrong thing. We provide you with a resource book detailing the information to give to callers.

The requirement to be a HelpLine volunteer is not very demanding. We ask you to volunteer one night a month; you answer the HelpLine from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. from the comfort of your own home. You are anonymous; no one knows who you are. We don't have a lot of prank calls since the advent of Caller ID. Most of the prank calls are people calling somebody's pager and leaving the HelpLine phone number as a callback number. We get many calls from people looking for the gay bars.

Remember what it was like to feel isolated and alone? You do get the occasional call from someone coming out or someone who is struggling to know who and what they are, which makes all those other sometimes annoying calls worthwhile. The Identity HelpLine is the primary way other gay and lesbian people find us.

It takes dedicated volunteers to operate the HelpLine, and right now, even with some people taking more than one day, we don't have enough volunteers. So, I am asking you for your support — be a HelpLine volunteer. By the way, you don't have to be gay or lesbian to be a HelpLine volunteer. You PFLAG, GLSEN or heterosexual members out there would love to have you assist us.

Anyone needing further information should call me at 337-2011 or send an email to <sasolcandy@bigfoot.com>.

Hope to see you at the training.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
GLSEN

GLSEN Alaska, Inc. held its Annual Meeting recently and elected board members and officers for 1999. Dr. Fred Hillman has stepped down as president to remain Community Watch chairperson and board member. He led the chapter for two years.

 Newly elected president is Back to School Campaign coordinator, Marty Haber. Marty brings a background from NOW as Lesbian Rights Task Force chairperson for Alaska. She is a lesbian single mother of two teenage boys who attend school in the Anchorage School District, and she is an advocate for youth health issues through her employment with the municipality of Anchorage.

 Margaret McConnell is the new vice president. Margaret, a former teacher and life long lesbian, is looking forward to bringing to fruition the oral history project for GLSEN Alaska, Inc.

 Madeline G. Holdorf remains Secretary-Treasurer for another term. Madeline will continue to chair the membership committee and report on the chapter's national affiliation. All seven board members are diversity specific.

 GLSEN Alaska, Inc.'s Library Enhancement Project will be donating over $1,000 for resources statewide, from a grant that was given by the Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA). Currently the committee is selecting and purchasing titles for impacting secondary students, teachers, and the general public through multimedia resources.

 GLSEN Alaska, Inc. will be attending Anchorage School District board meetings through the Community Watch project. Also, dialogue will be taking place with all 55 Alaska school districts about the results of the Back To School Campaign, the state and national 'report card' grading school districts on how they are addressing gay issues.

 John Spear, national Field Director, will be in Alaska, March 5, 6, and 7th, dividing his time between Anchorage and Fairbanks. He will update Alaska on national issues of import on education and assist the chapter with strengthening our mission of teaching respect for all in our Alaska schools!

 GLSEN Alaska, Inc.'s next meeting is January 10th. A Second Anniversary celebration is in the works; call Marty at 277-6517 for specifics.

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**HELP US TO HELP YOU**

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

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

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

If this is something you (or someone you know) are interested in doing, please contact Tom at 333-7504 or Shirley at 338-3708.
CA Methodists target ban on same-sex unions

In a brazen challenge to the United Methodist Church's ban on same-sex unions, more than 80 Northern California pastors plan to co-officiate the "holy union" of the region's highest ranking lay leader and her partner of 16 years. The announcement has roiled conservative United Methodists who will attend "en masse" and report the offending clergy to church authorities, said the Rev. John Shepard II of the First United Methodist Church of Yuba City. The January ceremony also sets the stage for the largest showdown among any mainstream religious group over the combustible issue.

The Rev. Don Fado of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento, where Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton are long-time members, calls the action one of "ecclesiastical disobedience." The 8.5 million-member denomination recently prohibited gay and lesbian unions celebrated either by UMC clergy or on church grounds.

"We're denying a lot of people. We're pushing them out of the church both ways," Fado said. "I don't take it lightly. The church has said there's a rule there. But we're willing to risk the penalties."

The question of gay and lesbian unions has become a divisive one across the religious spectrum. And the United Methodist Church — the nation's second-largest Protestant group — has been grappling with it most publicly since last fall when the Rev. Jimmy Creech performed one. The Omaha pastor's action ultimately cost him his job. It also prompted the denomination's highest court to solidify its stance, ruling that subsequent violations would be classed as "chargeable offenses" — though no specific punishments were detailed.

The first cleric to subsequently violate the decision by conducting a same-sex ceremony last month is now under investigation by a regional church committee in Northern Illinois. If his case goes to a church trial and he is convicted, the Rev. Gregory Dell faces a range of punishments, from suspension or removal of his clergy credentials to "lesser penalties," according to the United Methodist News Service.

The clergy participating in the January ceremony — which may or may not take place in Sacramento — will likely be subjected to the same process. There is no question, though, that the event is unprecedented in scope and bound to attract national attention. "This represents a new public front of pastors and lay people who have long held these views (individually), but are now coming together," said Charley Lerrigo, who edits the California-Nevada edition of the United Methodist Review.

Fado first proposed a concurrently same-sex union to his congregation earlier this month, though he had no specific couples in mind at the time. For Barnett and Charlton, the decision to take part came easily. The two have been active in their church, as well as at the regional and national levels, for years. Barnett, a retired division chief for the state, is serving a four-year term as elected lay leader of the United Methodist Church's California Nevada Conference, which oversees 375 churches. Charlton sits on the conference's board of trustees.

The couple exchanged vows in 1983, choosing a seaside chapel in Mendocino for their private moment with God, Charlton says. But the controversy over same-sex unions has prompted them to go public. "We both feel very strongly about attitudes and images that people have of gay people, that society has," said Charlton, who is also retired. "We know from experience that it's wrong and we want to do what we can to change it."

News of the women's ceremony has again roused conservative United Methodist clergy. After the Omaha "holy union" last spring, several dozen ministers and lay people from the Central and Sacramento Valley threatened to quit the denomination. So far, an entire Fresno County church, an Oakdale pastor and some of his flock are the only ones who have.

The January event will draw many of the same opposing ministers, not so much as protesters but as "witnesses," Shepard said. "Unless the polity changes at the (national) church level, we have a right as evangelicals to charge whoever participates in that service as breaking church (law)," said Shepard, who believes homosexuals can be "transformed" by their belief in Jesus Christ.

Shepard and others have long been upset with the California-Nevada conference for aligning itself with the Reconciling Congregation Program, a national effort that encourages United Methodist churches and regional bodies to welcome people of all sexual orientations. The California-Nevada conference is one of just a handful of the 66 in the nation that have adopted the gay-friendly designation. Still, if Fado and the other pastors go forward with their January plans, Bishop Melvin Talbert said he'd have no choice but to take action against them.

"It saddens me," he said. "This is not the direction the church should be taking."

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200 Assies strip for charity

Two hundred naked men ran around a roundabout (a traffic circle) in Weipa, Queensland, Australia, November 2 to raise money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and other charities. Tropical Weipa is a small bauxite mining town.

The group also hopes to enter the Guinness Book of Records as the largest number of nude men ever to do a radio interview. Some 800 onlookers dropped about AU$2,000 (US$1,267) into plastic bags carried by the runners during the half-hour frenzy.

"There was a fantastic party mood with the runners and the spectators all dancing in the street," said Nigel Gould, founder and organizer of the annual event.
Crowds jeer anti-gay pastor

by Becky Beaupre

An outpouring of protest greeted an anti-gay minister and seven of his supporters at a Lake View church with 1,500 people clogging sidewalks, filling the air with strains of “Amazing Grace” and astonishing even those who organized the action.

“We had 800 yellow armbands and we ran out 45 minutes ago,” Robert Hogg, president of the Lakeview Action Coalition, said incredulously. “It’s extremely exciting for me. I’m very proud.” Despite several tense moments, there were no arrests. Police officers swarmed the area, surrounding the church with barricades.

The coalition worked with the Broadway United Methodist Church and its supporters to respond to the visit by the Rev. Fred Phelps, a Kansas minister protesting a gay marriage performed recently at the church. The marriage, one of 30 gay unions performed by the Rev. Gregory Dell, is being debated by Methodist authorities.

Dell’s supporters — a multiracial, multi-denominational group that included a long list of churches, synagogues and community groups from throughout the region — circled the church for several hours to protect members during two morning services.

Across the street, surrounded by Chicago police officers, stood Phelps and his group: his wife, son, daughter-in-law and four grandchildren. “You live this way, you’re going to die before long,” Phelps said of the gay community. Phelps extended his hostility to the media, telling one male reporter that he feared “violence by you fags.” His granddaughter, Jael Phelps, 13, echoed her family’s sentiment, saying “that church promotes the homosexual agenda, and homosexuality is an abomination.” The crowd responded by chanting, “Racist, sexist, anti-gay; born-again bigots go away.” By 11 a.m., Phelps had done just that, voluntarily leaving the neighborhood, escorted by police. “Everyone’s entitled to police protection,” Chicago Police Cmdr. Richard Guerrero said.

Afterward, Dell thanked participants, calling the protest a “victory for righteousness and a victory for hope.” He urged people to fight not only against people like Phelps, but also against “polite bigotry.” “The power of evil is real — we saw that today,” he said. “We cannot rest just because those whose expression of hate is more explicit have been driven from our neighborhood.”

Chicago Sun Times, 401 N. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 (fax 312-321-2120) (e-mail <letters@suntimes.com>
Further North in the Heart of Alaska

Holiday time! New starts, old friends, and the return of our beloved sun to the Greatland. Now we're on to the last half of winter, let's just see if spring gets here before an outbreak of cabin fever.

Challenge to all NorthView readers (and pass it on)

With Christmas arriving soon and gift giving in a frenzy, let's also remember those who are fighting to keep our community together so that we may keep sharing the holidays rather than reminiscing about those that can't be with us. Please make one present that will count in these times of funding reductions and increased costs by making at least $1 donation (you won't even miss it if you tried or as much as your heart tells you) to your local AIDS project. Alternatively you might telephone and ask what items you could pick up at the grocery or office supply store that they need and is not in the budget. Anchorage: 4As, 1057 Fireweed 263-2050. Fairbanks: IAA, 710 Third Avenue 452-4222. Juneau: Shanti, 463-5665, to name a few.

PFLAG Fairbanks

To provide more privacy for those wishing to attend support meetings, we are returning again to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship hall, 4448 Pikes Landing Road across from the Princess hotel. Gathering time is unchanged though, the third Sunday of the month at 4p.m. Board meetings are held the Tuesday before, 7p.m. with location announced via the PFLAG phone line, 45P-FLAG. Board meetings are open to all.

Into The Woods Bookshop will house our literature and videos to check out. We appreciate Connie's support and have enjoyed meeting there this past year.

Interior AIDS Association

There will be an official Names Project AIDS Quilt panel dedication on February 28 in the Great Hall at UAF. The dedication will start at 2:30 p.m. and will be followed by a special Fairbanks Symphony concert. The time to warm up the sewing machine is now, though. For information on making a panel for the AIDS Quilt, call I.A.A. at 452-4222 or come to the office at 710 3rd Avenue. Anonymous HIV testing is also available by appointment.

by Terry A. Fauth

Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse

Major remodel just finished! Now's the time to pop into Fairbanks' family friendly bookshop and gathering place to pick up a gift, browse, or sit in on the many activities going on. Mondays are jazz, Tuesdays are poetry, Wednesdays old time banjo & fiddling, Thursdays are the open forum Think! Again!, Fridays double bill with Genie Loser's folk harp followed by Celtic Jam, and Saturday Gwich'in Table. And if that is not enough, Chena Hot Strings may just show up too.

Sunday the 20th is Solstice! Come join the festivities. Winter hours are until midnight every night, and until 2:00 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays, closed Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Community notes

December 31 will host Glamour's New Year Bash, January 10 is the Klondykes, Queens & Company's annual meeting, and January 22 is the Duke's Aloha at Club G. The third Wednesday of the month is the Fairbanks GLSEN meeting at the FEA offices on South Cushman at 5:00 p.m. To be updated via e-mail, get on the list.<http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/fairbankspride> will get you the news, and your chance to put in your two cents if you want. More information on this or other can also be received by e-mailing <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>.

Something different in the air

Tune into KSUA 91.5 FM for some refreshing views and music. Saturdays are Homo-phonic radio from noon 'til three, and Wednesdays at 8:00 is Dames on the Dial. Stay informed on community happenings, when AGLA meets next, or what is going on out at Club G for the week.

Community potluck

Another Solstice celebration to attend, although this one is outdoors, and you're encouraged to bring a warm dish to pass! Eric will be holding this month's potluck in the Goldstream Valley just outside of town on Saturday December 19. Call Terry at 457-6469 for directions for this or any upcoming potluck or to host.

I was a little worried about the [gay] bed scene, where we were lying together. Since I've done that role and since it took its turn at Sundance, a ton of doors have opened up for me. I've done some projects that have all been straight roles. I just finished up a TNT original Western where I was riding horses and shooting guns and all that kind of stuff. I don't think you can get more hetero than that.

— Actor Brad Rowe on his role in the new gay film Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss, to the Associated Press.
Purchasing a home can be an intimidating process – unless you have the right women on your side. We have the experience and the resources to turn your dream house into a home.

Call anytime. One of us is always ready to give you a helping hand.
The Directory

The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay, (B)isexual and (A)lle indicate the business or service ownership. In some instances you might encounter employees who are unaware of The Directory and its significance. Don't be offended: enlighten. All listings are in Anchorage unless indicated. Submit changes to <tommars@alaska.net> or telephone 258-4777.

Accounting & Bookkeeping Services:
(L) Tammy S. Ackerman, CPA, 235-066 (Homer)
(L) KT Creative, Katie, 278-9174

Advertising:
(L) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see A's page)
(L) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(L) Interior AIDS Association (Fairbanks) 452-4222
(L) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(L) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gail Charles-Abbot, 278-5019

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

Alternative Medicine/Health:
(A) Hope, 561-2330
(A) Gatekey, Ketki/Jaimiti, 561-7327
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 279-6583
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0583
(A) Tea Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

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

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

Bakery & Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1080, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9119
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

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

Bed & Breakfasts, Accommodations:
(A) Ah, Rose Marie, 302 Cowles, Fairbanks, John, 456-2040
(A) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2533
(A) Cheney Lake B&B, Mary/Jenetta, 337-4391
(G) Crabtree Guest House (Fairbanks), Phil/Bobby, 907-451-6501
(A) Fairbanks Hotel, (Fairbanks) Doris Lundin, 888-326-4685
(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567
(A) Island Watch, Eileen (Homer), 907-235-2265 (see ad)
(A) Regina's, 276-9404
(L) Rose-Beth's B&B, Anchorage, Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G/A) Sauerdough Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946.
(L) Skyline B&B (Homer), Lisa, 907-235-3832.
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Sudie, 907-586-2410.

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

Churches:
see Spiritual

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

College and Boarding School Selection:
(A) Tom Croke, 277-7004 or (717) 888-8652

Computer Consultants, Graphics & Desktop Publishing:
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4275
(L) Angie, 337-0253
(L) Communication Art, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 278-6682
(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 562-9814
(G) gra.f£x, Lucian, 561-5856
(L) Hellek & Assoc., Terry, 278-3839
(L) Mac Doctor, Candy, 337-2011
(G) Mad Dog Graphix, Michael, 276-5062
(G) Mark Mathis, 338-3357, <mmathis@alaska.net>
(L) TechLink, LeMiel, 276-6862.

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

Computer Training:
(G) Seven Treasures Computing, Don, 562-9496
(A) Find It! Business Services (Macintosh), Larry, 279-4863

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Anchorage Center for Families, 276-4994 (handles all kinds of family issues.)
(A) Barton Sloan, LCSW, 563-5765
(A) Connie Judd, 562-1826 (see ad)
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)
(A) Jann, 248-9404
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795

Counseling:
(G/L) Standing Together Against Rape, 276-7279
(L) Tess Bensussen, LGW, 236-7019
(A) Tom Gormley, ANP, 565-2110

Deaf Support:
(A) Interpreter Referral Line, 277-3232 voice, 277-0735 TTY
(A) Deaf Rehabilitation Serv., 277-3456 voice, 258-2232 TTY

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

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

Drag Shows:
(G/L) The Wave, Anita, 561-WAVE

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

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

Entertainment:
(G) Art Services North, Darl Schaff, 561-2115
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(G) Cyrano's Film Gallery, 411 D Street, 561-0064.
(A) Syzygy/Magic Magic, 274-2599
(L) Women's Coffeehouse, Barbara Wish, 258-0499

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

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(A) Kathleen Madden, Waddell & Reed, 349-3559
(A) Catherine Smith, C.P.A., 562-2438
(A) Solutions Consulting, Laura, 243-3324

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

Florists/Greenhouses/Nurseries:
(G) Every Bloomin' Thing, Jerry, Malcom, 274-3158
(A) Mile 5.2 Greenhouse, Dale, 694-3978
(A) Tryck Nursery, Doug, 345-25705

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

Hairstyling...

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

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

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

House Cleaning:
  (L) Connie’s House Cleaning Service, Connie, 276-3147
  (A) Green Valley Cleaning, Tara, 345-4657
  (G) Silver Spoon Cleaning, Brent, 258-8028
  (A) Sweeping Lady, Janet, 276-7608

House Sitting:
  (L) Victoria, 751-7234

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nutritionists:
  (A) Hope, 561-2330

Newsletters/Newspapers:
  (A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924
  (A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7373 (see ad)
  (L) Klondyke Kontact (Alaska Women’s Cultural Center), 277-9763
  (GL) 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
  (L) Dr. Vicki, 345-1515

Photography:
  (L) Alaska Photographic & Supply, Linda, 345-5434
  (G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 566-0500 (see ad)

Political:
  (L) Cheni Ridge Veterinary Clinic (Fairbanks), 479-0001
  (L) Dr. Vicki, 345-1515

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

Recreation:
  (L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
  (L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail:
      274-9087
  (A) Flies by Iene (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) 892-1297.
  (G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770, 888-899-2770
  (A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez),
      907-389-2725

Religious Counseling:
  (G) Rick, 333-9640
  (A) Joyce, CMT, 562-1916
  (L) Spiril Services, Barbara, 337-2011

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

Social/Educational:
  (G) AGB Social Club, formerly Anch Garden Buddies, Steve
      272-5608
  (G) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Kristara, 277-5747 or e-mail
      <Kristara26@aol.com>
  (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 (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard
      Bess, 746-1089
  (A) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, Anchorage,
      welcomes all regardless of orientation, 333-5253
  (A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266
  (A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr.
      Paul, 486-5276
  (A) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, 4148 Pikes
      Landing Road, Richard Kemnitz, 457-9009
  (A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824
Directory

Spiritual...

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

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

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

Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(B) Golden Travel, Albert, 272-5802
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770 or 888-899-2770

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

CA to vote on gay marriage

Reuters News Service

SACRAMENTO - California voters will decide whether to limit the legal definition of marriage to a compact between a man and a woman under a measure that qualified for the state ballot in 2000.

California Secretary of State Bill Jones said the “Definition of Marriage” initiative, written by Republican state Sen. Pete Knight, had won a spot on the March 7, 2000, state primary ballot. The announcement came two weeks after voters in Alaska and Hawaii approved measures against gay marriage. Hawaii voters approved a ballot question allowing the state legislature to limit marriage to heterosexual couples, while Alaskans approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as existing only between a man and a woman.

Knight submitted more than 677,000 signatures in support of placing the proposal on the ballot, of which 482,044 were judged valid or projected to be valid under a random sampling technique. To qualify for the ballot, the measure required 433,269 valid signatures of registered voters.

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Club Notes

Anchorage unless otherwise indicated

AA
Gay Joyous & Free, see on-going calendar.
Midnight Sun, 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. 3555.

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 @ y a h o o . c o m >.

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 258-6292 or 276-6292. 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 Lauri 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
KISU 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 <akglb_youth@hotmail.com> website:<http://cewolf.alaska.edu/~abam/>.

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. 279-3001.

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.
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 Wednesday, 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 gay and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-LGBT communitities. Potluck Social meets 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. Contact Empress Kristara at 277-5747. You may e-mail her at <Kristara26@aol.com> or write P.O. Box 104023, Anchorage 99510-4023.

IMRUG

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

Interior AIDS Association (IAA) Fairbanks

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

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)

Sunday services at 2pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, 258-5266.

Last Frontier Men’s Club

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

Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club

is a social group open to anyone gay, lesbian, or ally. Look for upcoming events in the Calendar, or call Eric at 277-3236.

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 45F-PFLAG for more information.

Juneau meets the 1st Saturday of every month at 10:30am at Mendenhall Mall Library. Phone 907-463-4203.

Anchorage holds meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. For information call voice mail 566-1813.

Shanti of Juneau

offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS prevention and educational information. Office: 222 Seward, Suite 200; mail: P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437).

SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous)

12-step meeting: Tues., Thurs., Sat. Check ongoing calender for times and locations, 566-1133

Southwest Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA)

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

Support Group, Soldotna

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

Women’s Coffeehouse

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday of each month. Contact the new Coffeehouse organizer, Barbara Wish, at 258-9499 for time and location of events.
Cyberlust

Submit changes to <TornAndAl@alaska.net>

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): <http://www.alaskanais.org>
AGB: A monthly men's social club. <A_G_B@yahoo.com>
AGLAA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc. <bfgala@aurora.alaska.edu>
Burleson, Laura: <lsleb@aurora.alaska.edu>
Capri Cinema, Rand Thornley: <filmgallery@compuserve.com>
Carter, Dan: Gay activist. Dandelion, Equal. <alaskadan@aol.com>
Cheney B&B: <Cheneybb@alaska.net>
Childs, Lucian: graphic artist <lucian@alaskana.com> <http://www.alaskana.com/lfx/>
Cracum, Jean: <jcracum@eracum.alaska.net>
Family, The <asvs@usa.alaska.edu>
<http://cowolf.alaska.edu/~abfam/>
Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquitoonet.com>
Freedman, F. Kenneth: <fkenn@servcom.com>
Gay & Lesbian National Hotline: <www.glhn.org>
Haase, Michael: <michaelh@servcomalaska.net>
Hernandez, Gabriel: <gabesinbad.net>
Hillman, Fred: <fhillman@alaska.net>
Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>
IAD - Interior AIDS Association. Fairbanks <iia@polarnet.com> website: <http://www2.polarnet.com/~iia>  
Identity: <http://www.alaska.net/~identity>  
Imperial Court of Alaska (ICOA): See link at <http://www.mosquitoonet.com/~qnetak>
Into The Woods Bookstore: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polarnet.com> website: <http://www2.polarnet.com/~woods>
Jamieson Lisa: <lisaj57@hotmail.com>
Klondyke Contact: <klondykecontact@hotmail.com>
Kohout, Jen: <jenny@alaska.net>
KT Creative: <ktcreative@alaska.net>
Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <FMC@Micronet.net>
Lovering, Ken: <kpaplove@uno.com>
Mautner Project is for lesbians with cancer and their families <http://www.mautnerproject.org>
Naff, Don: <domnaff@alaska.net>
OPAL: <a_opal@hotmail.com>
Out North: <outnorth@artwire.org>
Parsons, Greg <gp@act.com>
PFLAG: Fhks. website <http://www.mosquitoonet.com/~pflag> e-mail <pflag@mosquitoonet.com> Anch. website <http://www.alaska.net/~identity/pflag.htm> e-mail <schlitter@micronet.net>
Pinney, Pete: <ffp@aurora.alaska.edu>
Q Net AK, Alaska's Gay & Lesbian Information Source: website <http://www.mosquitoonet.com/~qnetak> e-mail <qnetak@mosquitoonet.com>
Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>
Sauerdough Lodging: <suites@ptialaska.net>
SEAGLA: <http://ptialaska.net/~seagla>
Seveson, Kim: Anchorage Daily News <kkeverson@pop.adn.com>
Shanti of Juneau: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~shanti>
Soule, Barbara & Bonham, Candy: <souls@alaska.net>
Thornley, Rand: Capri Cinema <film@comuserve.com>
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel <triangle@servcom.com>
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks: <rkemnitz@mosquitoonet.com> <www.mosquitoonet.com/~uuff>
Vann, Beth: <bethv007@aol.com>
Walton, Eric: <fsebw@aurora.alaska.edu>
Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net>

Calendar

December

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

Friday, 25:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF, Program: Christmas Caroling.
A Orphan & Waif Holiday Dinner, noon. For information call Judy @ 522-7494. Must RSVP by Dec. 21.

Thursday, 31:
A Gayla @ Capri Cinema, begins 9:45pm.
A OPAL Party @ O'Malleys on the Green, Anne @ 349-1758 for more info.
F Glamour's New Year Bash.

January

Saturday, 2:
J PFLAG, 10:30am, Mendenhall Mall Library.
A G/L Two Step, 7:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.

Sunday, 10:
A G/L, 1pm, AUUF.

Sunday, 17:
F PFLAG, 4-5:30pm, Into the Woods Bookstore.

Tuesday, 19:
A PFLAG, 7-9pm, AUUF.

Wednesday, 20:
F GLSEN, 5pm, FFA on S. Cushman.

Friday, 22:
F Duke's Aloha @ Club G.

Despite the way things turned out [AIDS], I'm still proud of those days [when I got my start singing at the gay bathhouses in New York City]. I feel like I was at the forefront of the gay liberation movement, and I hope I did my part to help it move forward. So, I kind of wear the label of "Bathhouse Betty" with pride.

— Singer/actress Bette Midler to the Houston Voice, October 23.
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, AUUF, 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.

**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 IMRUI2 5:30-7:30 pm, first and third at Q Cafe, 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.
F GLSEN, 5pm, FEA on S. Cushman, every 3rd Mon.

**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

**Skating champ outed**
Canadian figure-skating champion and Olympic silver medallist Brian Orser was outed November 18 when a 10-month-old, $300,000 (USS195,000) palimony suit by ex-lover Craig Leask became public knowledge.

Leask, 35, says Orser, 36, cheated on him, kicked him out of their house, stole his property and killed their dogs. The five-year relationship ended in mid-1997.

“This is very upsetting to me and my family,” Orser told reporters. “This came as a total shock and obviously it’s very serious.”

In a court affidavit filed in an attempt to keep the suit secret, Orser said he had never publicly acknowledged “my gyness” and feared his career would be “irreparably harmed” if the court records were not sealed.

“I earn almost all of my annual income from skating in professional ice shows,” he said. “It is highly likely if these allegations were made public that I would not be invited to return to a number of major ice shows. I have always been viewed as a role model for young skaters. I believe these allegations could do serious damage to my reputation and ability to earn a livelihood.”

Justice Susan Lang rejected Orser’s request, saying, “One anticipates that in today’s society such a disclosure would not attract any public stigma let alone one sufficient to override the important principle of the public right of access to court documents.”
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