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Identity NorthView

Identity NorthView is a monthly publication of Identity, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual identity. The NorthView is published as a community service and the views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the directors, officers or members of Identity, Inc.

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

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Editorial

by Talmadge Bailey

Organized Response Needed
It is a new year and the snow is beautiful among the trees which I can see from my window. Consequently, I really wanted to write about something pleasant and uplifting. Unfortunately, a new ugliness is afoot in this part of Alaska.

The new ugliness takes the form of anti-gay commercial announcements on KCFM. These announcements repetitiously claim “It’s not about hate, it’s about hope.” There seems to be a whole series with this theme. The ones I’ve seen promote the ideas that AIDS is caused by homosexuality and can be prevented by converting homosexuals to Christian heterosexuality. The announcements also imply hate crimes against homosexuals are not encouraged by right-wing Christian rhetoric.

The facts do not support any of these claims or implications. There is no credible evidence of even one person’s sexual orientation being changed through “ex-gay ministries” or any other method. In fact various bodies in the medical establishment recently made official statements saying things like homosexuality is not a disease, homosexuality does not need to be corrected, basic sexual orientation cannot be changed, and attempts to change a person’s sexual orientation may be harmful.

The AIDS epidemic may have started with homosexuals, but it certainly has not limited itself to homosexuals. In some American cities the fastest growing group of HIV infected people are heterosexual women.

Right-wing groups also want to distance themselves from violence against gays. These right-wing groups are simply in a state of denial. If you ask me, they all need a mandatory twelve-step program to help them become ex-hypocrites. Anti-gay rhetoric from the right wing clearly creates a social climate in which some feel justified in committing violent acts against lesbians and gays.

We need a well-organized and local response to these anti-gay announcements on so-called Christian Family Television. At a minimum I would like to see letters to the editor, and press releases by local and statewide groups. Even better would be a press conference with prepared statements followed by a question and answer period. KCFM’s lies need to be publicly challenged. Otherwise the lies will be seen as the truth and Anchorage will end up with continued oppression and perhaps even its own anti-gay murder. Please do your part to refute the lies today!

I’d be a lesbian, that’s for sure. Anne Heche or Ellen DeGeneres. Good for them. The love they have for each other is what’s important.

— Actor Antonio Sabato, Jr., asked by Australia’s Outrage in the November issue, “if you had been born a woman, who would you be?”

Canadian Olympian comes out

Canadian Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Tewksbury came out of the closet December 15 in an appearance at Toronto’s Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and in media interviews.

He made the decision to declare his sexuality after losing a six-figure contract as a motivational speaker for an unnamed financial institution which complained he already was “too openly gay.”

“This corporate catalyst ... made me realize it’s time to share my whole story, which is still motivating and still exciting,” Tewksbury said. “One door closed, but thousands more have opened. I have already been approached by two more companies to speak.

“When I was growing up I used to stand in front of mirrors and think about killing myself because I was gay,” Tewksbury stated. “And that’s still the number-one motivation behind teen suicide. That little part of me remained locked up for 30 years, and finally at 30, I am free of that. I am open to who I am. I’ve never felt freer, better, more whole as a human being than in the last couple of days.

“I’m coming screaming out of the closet — I’m a great, screaming queen and I’m glad to be that way.”

Tewksbury won three Olympic medals and set seven world records.

Cape Town courts pink money

Cape Town, South Africa, wants your gay money.

“Cape Town is the gay capital of Africa and we hope that some day it will become the gay capital of the world,” says Sheryl Ozinsky, manager of Cape Town Tourism.

“We are going all out to attract the pink rand [South Africa’s currency] to Cape Town. We believe it not only has economic benefits, but gay people also make an exciting and refreshing contribution to the city at large.”

The tourism agency has published an official gay map showing gay bars, accommodations, massage parlors, retail outlets and the rest.
Winning the debate

I had planned to follow up last month's fairness theme with ideas to counter the bug-a-boos of gay adoption. However, current events demand immediate attention. Yup, we need to explore the gay angle on the impeachment proceedings.

As a second-class lavender citizen I cannot support censure of the President, much less impeachment. Many people have given reasons why this impeachment proceeding should be ended quickly. A typical reason says an increasingly strained world economy needs the undivided attention of the President and Congress. A common theme of most arguments against impeachment is that it will distract government from more important issues. Most then suggest censure as a reasonable and quick alternative to removing the President from office. I say censure is too much, and if you read further you'll see why.

It is clear that President Clinton lied about sex. The question is whether or not it is okay to lie about sex. We're all taught lying is bad, yet an overwhelming majority of Americans don't believe lying about sex is sufficient reason for impeachment. A surprising number can't even say why they believe this. It's more of a gut reaction than a reason. Well, I think the reason is easy. Society teaches us to lie about sex from the time we are children. Like "little white lies," some lies are acceptable and even expected. We all know this at a "gut-level" but nobody says it.

The first lie most of us hear is about sex. We ask "where did I come from?" The socially acceptable answer we get: "The stork brought you." This lie is told because sex must be denied and its easier than telling the truth. If people were honest about sex, they would say "Mommy and Daddy aren't comfortable discussing that with you now, ask again when we're good and drunk."

Later we hear more lies about sex. Masturbation will cause you to go crazy, blind, and grow hair on your palms. Nice people do not masturbate. Masturbation does not happen. Masturbation does not exist. Society, especially conservatives, cling tenaciously to these beliefs — at least publicly. What's the penalty for not lying about masturbation? Ask Joycelyn Elders, she knows. As Surgeon General she had a bad habit of not lying about sex. She told the truth about the connection between AIDS and sex. Social conservatives didn't like the truth. Then in late 1994 she suggested telling the truth about masturbation. Punishment was swift and sure. Her reward for honesty: the title of former Surgeon General. Fails to lie about sex, loses job. I'll bet this lesson was not lost on the President.

This was not the President's first lesson regarding the necessity of lying about sex. On the campaign trail he promised to lift the ban on gays in the military. Immediately upon taking office he was faced with the reality of the situation. Social conservatives would not allow the ban to be lifted. The result was a compromise under which some people are required to lie about sex as a condition of employment. This is the promised gay angle on the impeachment proceedings. Social conservatives want to punish one person for lying about sex, saying nobody is above the law. Yet these same social conservatives demand gays lie about sex in order to keep their jobs in the military. Are gays then below the law?

What lesson was in this for the then-new President and Commander in Chief? Republicans agree: if you want to keep your job, you must lie about sex. You must always deny having the "wrong" kind of sex. I don't see any other possible message President Clinton could have gotten! I think Congress sent the commander in Chief a mandate to lie about sex when they created "don't ask, don't tell."

In the debate your opposition may try to say "Don't ask, Don't tell" is not a mandate to lie. Remember it is, in fact, nothing less. People are not allowed to be asexual in the military. Gays and lesbians must be seen carousing and seeking dates of the expected gender. Otherwise investigations are sure to follow.

Once again we have uncovered hypocrisy. It is clearly hypocritical to demand absolute honesty from one group (U.S. Presidents) while demanding another group (gay and lesbian service members) lie about the very same subject (sex). My logical conclusion: The impeachment mob needs to sit down and shut up until such time as lesbians and gays are allowed and expected to tell the truth.

Next month: the bug-a-boos of gay adoption.
WASHINGTON — The board of trustees of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) passed a resolution at their quarterly meeting in Denver, that condemns the practice of “reparative therapy.” The APA’s rebuke reaffirmed the scientific and mental health community’s long standing objection to this practice which attempts to convert homosexuals to heterosexuals. The APA’s resolution, which passed unanimously, was spurred by a million-dollar ad campaign by religious political groups who urged people who are gay or lesbian to seek to change their sexual orientation through “reparative therapy.”

The APA’s statement stressed that “reparative therapy” is not benign and often has deleterious effects. The statement said “reparative therapy” practitioners often mislead patients and are motivated by personal prejudices.

According to the resolution:

“The potential risks of ‘reparative therapy’ are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient. Many patients who have undergone ‘reparative therapy’ relate that they were inaccurately told that homosexuals are lonely, unhappy individuals who never achieve acceptance or satisfaction. The possibility that the person might achieve happiness and satisfying interpersonal relationships as a gay man or lesbian is not presented, nor are alternative approaches to dealing with the effects of societal stigmatization discussed ... the APA opposes any psychiatric treatment, such as ‘reparative’ or ‘conversion’ therapy which is based on the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based on a prior assumption that the patient should change his/her sexual orientation.”

The American Psychiatric Association was the first mental health organization to remove homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1973. In August 1997, the American Psychological Association overwhelmingly passed a resolution at its convention that asserted that there is no sound scientific evidence on the efficacy of “reparative therapy,” which seeks to “cure” homosexuals.

This past summer, 18 far-right organizations, including the Christian Coalition and the Family Research Council, started the “Truth In Love” campaign in which full-page ads were purchased in several major newspapers with the message that gays can change. In October, these organizations followed up their print campaign by launching a television ad campaign with the tag-line, “It’s not about hate, it’s about hope.”

Contradicting her denial that their campaign is politically motivated, campaign architect Janet Folger told the New York Times that she wanted to “strike at the assumption that homosexuality is an immutable trait and that gay people therefore don’t need protection under anti-discrimination laws.”

In response, the Human Rights Campaign started the “Ray of Light Project” which aims to highlight the abuses of so-called “ex-gay” ministries and “reparative” therapy by telling the stories of those who were involved.

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.

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3309 Spenard Road
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Feel the shame

by Dawn Kenny

My partner of three years and I were at a party last weekend and were involved in various conversations in a group of women. Someone said she was interested in the woman “over there.” We all gazed across the room in appreciation. Scathingly someone quickly informed us, “she is bi.”


My partner would rather I not comment. As a member of a community who always speaks about tolerance, acceptance, and understanding I get a bit frustrated at such remarks and acts of shaming. Especially about bisexuality. I am a self-identified bisexual and I cannot remain silent. I feel I must say something. I shared my views that night and wrote this after a similar experience at the party above. And so goes my rant...

Bisexuality is a whole, fluid identity. Do not assume that bisexuality is binary or duogamous in nature: that we have “two” sides or that we must be involved simultaneously with both genders to be fulfilled human beings. In fact, don’t assume that there are only two genders. Do not mistake our fluidity for confusion, irresponsibility, or an inability to commit. Do not equate promiscuity, infidelity or unsafe sexual behavior with bisexuality. Those are human traits that cross ALL sexual orientations. Nothing should be assumed about anyone’s sexuality — including your own.

Anything That Moves says this:... “The commonly accepted definition of bisexuality is sexual attraction to more than one gender. However, this rather stringent definition is not the whole story. Many people who exhibit bisexual behavior do not consider themselves bisexual, while individuals who identify themselves as bi may not exhibit bisexual behavior. Due to the wide spectrum of behaviors associated with bisexuality, personal choice of identity must be respected.”

Bisexuals are sometimes seen as “fence sitters” that can’t commit to one orientation or another. The gay and lesbian communities often see bisexuality as a way for people to maintain a heterosexual status while actually being homosexual. Straight people often view bisexuals as sexually promiscuous and blame bisexuals for the spread of HIV outside of the gay community. These views are ignorant, kept alive by films, the media and society in general. Bisexuality is less visible than other sexual orientations, and, as a result most of these myths are not countered by known, out, role models. Often historical and public figures that are bisexual are claimed by the gay or straight communities as their own and, therefore the invisibility continues.”

Over the last decade, bisexuals are becoming more vocal about their presence in the gay community. For example, in the 1993 March on Washington, bisexual activists succeeded in getting the name changed to “March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.” This new vigor for bisexual activism has led to the inclusion of bisexual issues within the charters of many national gay and lesbian groups.”

Here in Alaska, bis are becoming more vocal too. A woman at the Pride Conference in Anchorage (October 98) said something like “I find it more difficult to ‘come out’ as bisexual to my gay friends than to ‘come out’ to my straight friends.” I find this a sad reality in our community. We expect tolerance and acceptance but do not always practice what we preach. And that, my friend, is a shame.

Bi Reading List:
— Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out. Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu, editors. 1991.
— Anything That Moves. Quarterly Periodical Published by the Bay Area Bisexual Network (BABB).

Dawn Kenny is new to Alaska and thinks the NorthView and KK titles should not be exclusive in stating “gay and lesbian” or “lesbian” only in its news journal titles. You can e-mail her at: <DKinAK@hotmail.com>. 
Strange bedfellows: the fragile alliance of lesbians and gay men

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Gay and lesbian this, lesbian and gay that — these days, it's hard to find a queer organization that doesn't make a point of including both of the principal queer sexes in its name — and often a bunch of lesser-known sexes too. We're all sexual minorities, after all, so we're a community, right?

Maybe, maybe not. Sometimes, to tell the truth, it seems like there's nothing holding gays and lesbians together except political expediency, and that we'll kiss each other goodbye the instant we think no one's looking any more. So let's see what gays and lesbians do and don't have in common, starting with the differences.

First, gay men are sexually attracted to men, lesbians to women. Obvious though that difference is, it gets swept under the carpet by words like gay, queer, or homosexual. Think about heterosexual men and women — sexual attraction is the glue that holds them together. But sexual attraction separates gays and lesbians, for the most part. If you don't believe that, come to West Hollywood on a Saturday night.

Sexual style keeps us apart too. Yes, it's a stereotype, but on average gay men are much more interested in casual, outdoor, kinky, extramarital, and pornographic sex than are lesbians. In general, lesbians are seen as flouting convention only by reason of who they love; gay men flout convention with every gory detail of their sex lives. No wonder some lesbians accuse gay men of sabotaging the whole queer enterprise by their public deviance, while some gay men accuse lesbians of taking the sex out of homosexuality.

Lesbians and gay men have different theories of their origins. According to surveys by the Advocate, the great majority of all gay men claim they were born gay, while lesbians have a wide range of theories: family dynamics, particular women they met, even free choice, in addition to being "born lesbian." Because of these differences in their view of themselves, gays and lesbians don't quite feel like family.

Lesbians are far more likely to be mothers than gay men are to be fathers: the percentages are 67 percent and 27 percent respectively, according to a national random-sample study conducted in 1993 by Yankelovich Partners. And nothing changes your worldview and your priorities more than having kids.

Sex between men is tainted by AIDS; sex between women is not. Gay men had to deal with the onslaught of AIDS, not just as a disease, but as an accusation. Lesbians responded, not by joining the finger pointing, but by enlisting in the war against AIDS. That's the main reason why gays and lesbians are as close as they are, right now. But how long is that going to last? Are gay men going to return the favor?

Most lesbians feel part of the society of women; few gay men feel part of the society of men. That imbalance comes about because most homophobia, whether directed against lesbians or gay men, is expressed by men. So gay men have a harder time "belonging" to their biological sex than do lesbians. It constantly surprises gay men how some lesbians submerge their lesbian identity in women's causes. Just last month, I read an article on women's health issues, written for a national magazine by a lesbian acquaintance of mine, which didn't once mention the word lesbian! Lesbian feminism is often just plain feminism, which leaves gay men perplexed.

What are the things that tie gays and lesbians together? First and foremost, of course, comes the shared experience of discrimination, and the shared resolve to overcome it by social and political action. The political alliance between gays and lesbians has been enormously profitable to both. Yet as society becomes gradually more comfortable with gay people, the alliance is starting to crumble. Some lesbians in particular feel that they will remain second-class citizens in the gay community unless they stake out a separate political identity.

More durable, I think, is the shared role that lesbians and gay men (and all other queer sexes) play as pathfinders in the gender jungle. This is a cultural, even artistic role, more than a political one. Anyone who has dealings with queer teenagers these days knows the degree of affectional, physical, and even sexual intimacy that exists between many gay and lesbian youths. Strange bedfellows, indeed.

Part of this will go away when these youths grow older. But part, I'm convinced, will endure. For by making the world a safer place for the next generation of queers, we have also given them permission to cross some of the old boundaries. Not all gays and lesbians will be comfortable in this new space, but those that do will set the sexual agenda for the next century.

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well known for his research on the "gay brain." He is author of The Sexual Brain, City of Friends (with Elisabeth Nonas), Queer Science, and the novel Albrick's Gold. He can be reached via his website at <http://members.aol.com/slevay>.
Where in the World?

by Bob De Loach

The gay millennium


Above and Beyond Tours

Kevin Kailey at Above and Beyond has always had a leg up in the gay travel arena. Starting with Midsummer Melbourne, January 22-26; Carnival in Rio, February 11-18; and Carnival in Sitges during the same period. Best of the South Pacific and New Zealand Adventure both take place February 12-19. The special escorted Party! Party! package February 19-March 1 includes all of the Hero party and the Sydney Mardi Gras blowout celebration. Continuing throughout the year are Ski Austria, February 27-March 6; Queens Day Amsterdam, April 28-May 3; Queens Day Sydney, June 4-8; Best of South Africa, October 15-27; Italian Opera Tour, August 20-27; Exotic Thailand, July 31-August 8; and many more adventures before the greatest set of millennium parties Millennium Fiji, Paris, and Sydney all between December 21 and January 4, 2000.

Off to the Virgin Islands

Loverboy and I are off to the warmer climes as you read this with stops in San Juan, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and a stop to visit Disney's new Animal Kingdom in Orlando. Will report on that trip on our return. In the meantime we both would like to wish all of you our very best wishes for a really great year in 1999!!

Your car companies rates

Out and About has again rated the major car rental companies for their same-sex driver policies, as well as employee benefits for their gay employees. Their outreach to the gay community was also a factor in their targetting of advertising in the gay community. The first poll was in 1995 and the latest was last fall. The marks of major companies are below for your consideration:

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Calendar

2/01-2/13 New Zealand 12 Day Gay Link
2/04-2/13 Panama Canal, RSVP
2/06-2/21 Kenya &Tanzania, Family Abroad
2/08-2/13 Men's Body Electric Kalani Eco-resort
2/12-2/22 Ancient Egypt, Family Abroad
2/13-2/18 Caribbean Cruise, RSVP
2/13-2/18 Veracruz Celebration, Fiesta Gay Mexico
2/14-2/21 London & Paris, Family Abroad
2/17-2/22 Hero Party Auckland, Men on Vacation
2/18-2/27 Costa Rica/Panama, RSVP
2/18-3/5 Australia Adventure, Alyson Adventures
2/20-2/27 Big Sky Gay Ski Tour Out West
2/20-2/27 Caribbean Passage, Venture Out
2/20-2/27 Caribbean Whale Cruise, Spirit Journeys
2/21-3/01 Sydney Mardi Gras, Above & Beyond, Family Abroad, Men on Vacations & Atlantis
2/26-2/28 Ski Daze Big Bear, Ski Events
2/27-3/06 Gay Ski Week in Austria, Ski Events
2/27-4/14 South Africa, David's Trips & Tours

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

I believe that if you truly, truly love your children, you need to supply condoms in a place in your home, at a quantity that makes it a non-judgmental situation for them to have them. I mean, put 200 condoms in a box in some place in the house where everybody isn't all the time, so that your kids can take them. If they want to make water balloons out of them, great. If they want to carry them so they feel tough, great. If they want to give them to their friends, even better.

Classical Cooking

Buffalo Chicken Wings

(Affiliated to be the original version from Buffalo, New York)

Buffalo Chicken Wings
12 chicken wings, separated at the joint
Vegetable oil
Salt and pepper to taste
4 tablespoons butter
1 bottle Frank’s Louisiana Hot Sauce (don’t substitute)
1 tablespoon white vinegar

Blue Cheese Dressing
1 cup mayonnaise
3 tablespoons minced onion
1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic
1/2 cup minced parsley
1/2 cup sour cream
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon white vinegar
1/3 cup crumbled blue cheese
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and preheat oil in deep fryer to 375 degrees. Reserve wing-tips for stock. Fry wings for 8 minutes. Transfer to a tray with paper towels and let drain. Season with salt and pepper.
Melt butter in a saucepan. Add hot sauce, salt and pepper. Toss wings in sauce. Roast in oven for 15 to 30 minutes.
In a bowl mix together mayonnaise, onion, garlic, parsley, sour cream, lemon juice, vinegar and blue cheese. Transfer to serving bowl. Arrange wings on serving platter. Garnish with flat leaf parsley. Serve with dressing.
Yield: 4 servings

Al Kaneta is a misplaced Hawaiian who loves Alaska, retirement, travel and cooking...not necessarily in that order. Any complaints? Contact Julia Childs or The Frugal Gourmet.

Tutu compares anti-gay discrimination to apartheid

In an appearance at the PeaceJam Youth Conference in Denver November 15, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 67, compared discrimination against gays to apartheid, reported the Rocky Mountain News.

When asked by a conference attendee which injustice he most wants to reverse, Tutu said, “Will you give me two?”

He then called on world leaders to forgive the debts of developing nations and said persecution of gays is as wrong as apartheid because gayness is no more of a choice than race.

“For me it’s a matter of human rights and a deeply theological issue,” he said. “I believe they [gays] are as much God’s children as anyone...I can’t be part of a scheme for clobbering them.”

I think there’s an element of hypocrisy when people denounce the president because he lied about his private sexual affairs. Some of the people who are now attacking the president for lying about sex are some of the people who criticized me for telling the truth about it.

Stargazer Commentary

by Barbara J. Soule

My spiritual life includes the concept of karma, which is related to cause and effect. "For every action there is a reaction." If you've been around for a while you get to see how karma can work in a life time. For instance, treat your lover badly and then leave her, in your next relationship or in a relationship down the line somewhere you will wake up one day to discover that your girlfriend treated you like dirt, and then she left you. I'm old enough to have lived though more than a handful of relationships, and a couple of the scenarios are the exact opposites of one another. I do my best these days to treat my honey well, and she treats me well. Gandy says she has a few disasters in her past, too.

The person with whom I have more karma issues than I'd like to have is my mother. She will be eighty years old this October. Mother has multiple health and actual physical problems. She keeps saying, "Take care of yourself now, don't do what I did." What I haven't told her is that I've been taking good long looks at how she's lived her life and have been doing the exact opposite for most of the last thirty years. As much as I shudder to say this, my mother, whom I love dearly, is an example of what not to do.

What do my mother and I being so much alike have to do with a spiritual life? A spiritual life is related to the issues a person faces in everyday living. What I do when I am not praying and meditating affects my positive or negative spiritual progress — another cause and effect relationship like karma. There is something called "family karma" that relates to inherited family issues. My health and my mother's health appear to have a conjunction and a similar progressive path. For instance, mother developed degenerative arthritis and diabetes in her forties. As a result, I became basically a vegetarian in my thirties and have neither health problem.

Mother's physical mirror for her health was my grandfather, George Wilbers. The only time that I know of that Mother looked in that mirror was to stop smoking cigarettes. By then, my grandfather had cancer and was dying. In my youth, it seemed as if everyone of that era smoked. The same people had respiratory problems as they aged. Several of my uncles died of lung cancer. My Grandfather had cancer of the esophagus before he was sixty-five. The actual way one dies from cancer of the esophagus is that one slowly bleed or hemorrhage to death. I adored my Grandpa Wilbers. Although his end came gracefully and peacefully, cancer is not the way I want to die.

As a kid, I hated my parents' smoking and never developed the habit. My first long-time woman lover was a smoker, and I developed a serious allergy to cigarette smoke. After someone came into the smoke-free office where I work, lit a cigarette behind me, sending me into anaphylactic shock, I took a homeopathic remedy to reduce my sensitivity. But, my reaction is still unpleasant enough. If someone lights up in the room with me, I leave quickly. I've wondered several times if my physical response is related to my extreme feelings.

One of the penalties to my mother for having smoked cigarettes for a number of years was a bout with breast cancer three years ago. Fortunately, the cancer was discovered early and a radical mastectomy was unnecessary. As a result, I do frequent self exams and get my mammogram each year — forewarned is forearmed.

My mother turns eighty this year and is scheduled to have two knee replacement surgeries. Mother and I weigh the same. As the new year begins, I've decided that my resolution for 1999 will be to change my life style further, lose weight and keep if off, so I don't have to have my knee joints replaced when I am an elderly woman with a limited income. I am making a personal commitment and a public statement. There are some kinds of karma I just don't want to deal with. Take good care of yourself in the coming year.

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

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Elizabeth

Elizabeth charts the beginning of the reign of Britain's Queen Elizabeth I (in a star-making role for Cate Blanchett) in the 16th Century. Elizabeth was a Protestant crowned at a time when it was heresy to be one in predominately Catholic England. The story focuses on two main things — Elizabeth's romantic life (she's passionately in love with a common man, but her advisers are trying desperately to marry her off to royalty) and how she had to assert herself against all the powers that wanted her either to fail (her own advisors and cabinet) or to be assassinated (the leaders of the Vatican). Elizabeth's transformation from naif to Queen is a powerful journey.

Grade: A

Kinsey Scale: 2 (Vincent Cassel plays Elizabeth's in-appropriate suitor, the comically foppish, cross-dressing, man-loving Duke d'Anjou. Eventually Elizabeth rebukes all relationships with men and is referred to as the Virgin Queen.)

Shakespeare in Love

Gwyneth Paltrow plays butch thespian Thomas Kent (actually the dazzling Lady Viola in drag) in this divine comedy about William Shakespeare's writer's block while working on his latest opus, Romeo and Ethel, a Pirate's Daughter. Joseph Fiennes plays the buff brooding bard who lacks inspiration until he lays eyes on Lady Viola, a theater lover and aspiring actor who is unfortunately betrothed to the evil Lord Wessex. British stage pro Tom Stoppard brings fabulous dialogue that is accessible to both Shakespeare devotees and laymen alike. A talented troupe of actors including openly gay Rupert Everett, Judi Dench, Geoffrey Rush, and Ben Affleck co-star. Stoppard, Paltrow, and director John Mrs. Brown Madden are likely to be receiving nominations from the Academy come Oscar time.

Grade: A

Kinsey Scale: 4 (This is the biggest cross-dressing comedy since Priscilla, Queen of the Desert and Fiennes is fine.)

Down In The Delta

"Soul Food" might give you indigestion, but Down In The Delta goes down nice and smooth. Dynamic performances by an exceptional ensemble cast (including Alfre Woodard, Al Freeman, Jr., Esther Rolle, Mpho Koaho, Loretta Devine, Mary Alice, and a surprisingly human Wesley Snipes) give this richly textured modern family saga roots — and a glow like a polished sterling silver candelabra that has been passed down from generation to generation. With a career-making move such as this, first-time director Maya Angelou has made the most beloved African-American movie of the year.

Grade: A-

Kinsey scale: 0 (The absence of anything remotely queer on-screen doesn't mean this story of a woman's re-birth won't have appeal to members of our community.)

The Faculty

You could call this latest re-telling of the pod people legend The Invasion of the Student Body Snatchers. Gay screenwriter Kevin Williamson's sci-fi-reference-laden script gives the cast of sexy Herrington High students (including Elijah Wood, Clea Duvall, Josh Hartnett, and In and Out's Shawn Hatosy), and succulent alien educators (notably Bebe Neuwirth and "T2"s Robert Patrick) lines that slice with paper-cutter-sharp wit. Director Robert Rodriguez keeps the action and other-worldly special effects moving at a good clip. But the otherwise handsome Hartnett really needs to lose his bad Halloween: H2O haircut.

Grade: B+

Kinsey scale: 2 (Lesbianism is used by one female character as a protection device. However, if your taste runs toward cute Tommy Hilfiger-wearing high schoolers, make sure to bring your hall pass.)

A Bug's Life

It's squish or be squished — actually, it's just be squished in A Bug's Life, the newest computer-animated entry from Disney-Pixar, makers of Toy Story. A zealous ant named Flik (Dave Foley) and a ragtag band of flea circus performers (including a male ladybug and a couple of French pillbugs) take on a gang of tyrannical grasshoppers led by the villainous Hopper (Kevin Spacey) in an attempt to save Flik's colony. A Bug's Life boasts a narrative similar to Antz, but this is a more effervescent, inventive, color-vibrant work, with an alarming degree of naturalism (the breezy, grassy backgrounds are remarkable) and clever insect jokes that make you squirm with glee. Even the action set-pieces dazzle — down to a breathtaking bug-fight with a bird that, from a bug's eye point of view, might as well be Godzilla. Wiggle, crawl, or fly, just make sure you get to A Bug's Life.

Grade: A

Kinsey Scale: 3 (Flik isn't gay, but he is an outcast in his ant world. Other gay nods abound, including the butch ladybug, a flamboyant Praying Mantis voiced by Jonathan Harris, and an effete Walking Stick voiced by Frasier's David Hyde Pierce.)

You guys kept me in beads for 30 years!
— Cher in a recent appearance at the London gay club Heaven.
Portland OR City Council passes gender identity protections

GAIN News Release

Portland's City Council unanimously approved a resolution to take specific steps to prohibit discrimination based on "gender identity" within its workforce. The resolution will start a process of expanded involvement by the City in creating protections in the public and private sectors. It states that "the City is in a position to demonstrate, through its own internal policies and procedures, the viability of a workplace which respects the rights of transgendered and transsexual people..."

Specific items of resolution include:
1) Directions to city agencies to include gender identity in non-discrimination guidelines for "employees as well as appropriate guidelines for use of City facilities";
2) A request to expand employment "mediation services to resolve discrimination claims based on gender identity";
3) Exploring employee health insurance options "which could cover necessary medical treatment for transgendered and transsexual people";
4) Exploring "whether the city EEO certification program can be expanded to include non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity."

For the purposes of this resolution, the definition of gender identity refers to "a person's actual or perceived sex, and includes a person's identity, appearance, or behavior, whether or not that identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth."

Gender identity is thus a universal human right, of great importance to individuals who may be considered "variant" from traditional gender stereotypes, including transsexual and transgendered people, who are particularly vulnerable to employment discrimination.

Other cities have made general statements of support for non-discrimination, but significantly, the City of Portland has made specific proposals to create a practical model workplace. Community leaders who testified expressed hope that this example of leadership on the part of the City will encourage expanded education and protections in private industry.

The resolution was endorsed by representatives of groups such as the Human Rights Campaign, Basic Rights Oregon, It's Time, America!, the Metropolitan Community Church, the Lesbian Community Project, Equity Foundation, Northwest Gender Alliance, TransPort, Phoenix Rising, and others.

Lori Buckwalter, Director of It's Time, Oregon!, an organization that promotes civil rights initiatives concerning gender identity, was involved in the work leading to this resolution. She states, in response to the City Council vote: "We are deeply grateful for the leadership role which the City has taken, and for the individual courage and compassion of the Mayor and Commissioners. The concern for the dignity of all the people of Portland, which we've come to expect from this City, is reaffirmed by this historic action. This initiative is supported by a wide range of sexual minority community leaders as well, and this is a sign of growing mutual respect within these communities."

Buckwalter continues, "There is still much to be done, to develop constructive trust relationships between those who have experienced gender identity discrimination, and public and private officials. Issues of employment and healthcare are primary, and this resolution creates a tangible prospect that we can cooperate to dispel decades of misunderstanding, and make a real difference in people's lives. Portland is now a place of unique opportunity to start this important work."

Gender Advocacy Internet News (GAIN), is a free Internet news service, brought to you courtesy of American Educational Gender Information Service and It's Time, America!

I'm coming screaming out of the closet — I'm a great, screaming queen and I'm glad to be that way.
— Canadian Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Tewksbury to the Calgary Sun, December 17.

Join Identity, Inc. at its celebrated Fourth Friday Potluck & Social. Bring soup, salad, entrée, devilled eggs, hors d'oeuvres, fruit, bread, dessert, chips, dip, pizza, etc. Identity provides tea, coffee, punch. Admission is free, but we cheerfully accept donations. If you would like to receive an e-mail or phone reminder, e-mail Steve at <A_G_B.@yahoo.com> or call 272-5608. 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, January 22 (not January 29)
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: Victoria Shaver tells about THE FAMILY at UAA
Young, Loud and Proud 99

An amazing, empowering, and awesome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth conference! The largest peer-run LGBTQ youth conference in the country!

The fourth YLP will take place in San Francisco on July 10-12. We expect 600 youth from across the country to attend this conference. YLP provides a space for LGBTQ youth to network, gain organizing skills, meet new people, and have lots of fun.

This year we will also be adding a special track with a variety of workshops for adult allies and youth service providers.

The conference is organized by the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC) with the support of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC) and the San Francisco Unified School District.

For more information and registration for YLP 99 check our web site at <www.incite.org> or call the YLP line at 415-703-6150 ext. 25.

Fred continues to be an embarrassment to our state. ... Ultimately this will be between Fred and God. But, I'd love to be there for the discussion.

— Kansas Gov. Bill Graves on Topeka Baptist preacher Fred Phelps, who picks homogeneous funerals (including Matthew Shepard's) with signs saying "God Hates Fags." His remarks appeared in the October 17 Topeka Capital-Journal.

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1st open lesbian joins Congress

WASHINGTON, DC — Victory Fund winner Tammy Baldwin made American political history when she was sworn into office as the United States Representative from Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District. An open lesbian, Baldwin is the first openly gay non-incumbent ever to serve in the U.S. Congress. [In related news, openly gay Mark Pocan, the Victory Fund-supported candidate for the Wisconsin State Assembly seat being vacated by Baldwin, was sworn into office Monday, January 4, in Madison, Wisconsin.]

"Tammy Baldwin's very presence on the floor of the House will have a phenomenal impact on breaking down antigay barriers across the country," says Victory Fund Executive Director Brian K. Bond. "Thanks to live televised coverage of Congress, millions of Americans will now see an extraordinary Congresswoman — who happens to be a lesbian — fighting for things they care about — like health care and education. And they, like the fairminded Wisconsinites who sent Tammy to Washington, will be able to move beyond the issue of sexual orientation and realize that good government comes from good leadership — which is exactly what Congresswoman Baldwin brings to the House."

The Victory Fund also hailed Tammy's place in history as an exceptional role model for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth. "Like all young people, gay kids need someone to look up to, something to aspire to and somewhere they can feel safe," says Victory Fund Political Director Kathleen DeBold. "The opening of Tammy Baldwin's Congressional Office has given them all three."

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is the only national organization whose sole mission is to increase the number of qualified openly gay and lesbian public officials.

There will be an organizational meeting on February 13th for Celebration 1999. Call Victoria 751-7234 or e-mail <asvls@uaa.alaska.edu> for time & place. Everyone encouraged to attend!! This will be the second meeting. Only one other person showed up to the first meeting. I can not do this alone folks. I need your help. Please call, e-mail, and come to show your support.

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Lesbian Notions

By Paula Martinac

For several weeks now, lesbians and gay men have been celebrating the overturn of Georgia's sodomy law, and it's easy to see why. Right-wing judges and lawyers have used this country's antiquated sodomy laws to deny lesbians and gay men basic civil rights — from child custody in Virginia to privacy in Texas to employment in Georgia. But the despicable way that the Georgia sodomy law was struck down — at the expense of a teenage girl — and the fact that our community has not questioned the specifics of the case make me both furious and sad.

Here are some of the facts behind Powell v. The State of Georgia, which you won't read about in the laudatory press releases issued by lesbian and gay organizations. A 17-year-old girl accused her 29-year-old uncle by marriage, Anthony San Juan Powell, of rape and aggravated sodomy. Powell was arrested and tried. Because there were no corroborating witnesses to the incident (there almost never are), everything came down to the girl's word against Powell's. Powell claimed that the sex, which took place in his apartment, was consensual because the girl didn't resist or say no, and 16 is the legal age of consent in Georgia. The girl, however, "wept and remained silent," according to the prosecution, because she was afraid that if she cried out or struggled Powell would hurt her. Silence and submission, in fact, are common survival techniques for rape victims.

Given the lack of evidence, the jury couldn't convict Powell of rape or forced sodomy beyond a reasonable doubt. But because Powell admitted to performing oral sex on his niece, the jurors took another route and convicted him of simple sodomy instead. My theory is that they didn't really believe his story about "consensual sex" but couldn't base a rape conviction on insubstantial evidence. Powell received a five-year sentence for sodomy and served 14 months in prison before his attorneys got the brilliant idea to attack the constitutionality of the state's sodomy law. Late in November, the Georgia Supreme Court struck down the law 6-1.

Lesbians and gay men are thrilled about this decision, because it rid us of the odious law that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld in Bowers v. Hardwick. That 1986 decision has become, according to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, "a notorious national symbol of anti-gay hostility and discrimination." Lambda, the legal eagles of lesbian and gay civil rights (whose attorneys, I should add, include several feminists), actually wrote an amicus brief for Powell. In its celebratory press release proclaiming Powell "a victory for the right to privacy," Lambda outlined the facts of the case in this unbelievable way: "Powell testified while being tried on a rape charge that the sex he had with a woman in his home was consensual and included oral sex." (emphasis added) There was no mention of her being his niece, no mention of her being a teenager.

I have a 17-year-old niece myself. She's a junior in high school, and, no matter how sophisticated she might consider herself, I would never dream of describing her as "a woman." In this country, because she was born female, my niece has a one-in-five chance of being raped in her lifetime. She has an even greater chance of being raped before she reaches the age of majority, and probably by someone she knows. Often sexual assault cases never even come to trial, because girls and women are justifiedly afraid to bring charges against their known assailants. When these cases do come to trial, it's often the rape victims themselves who end up on the defensive. It had to be a gutsy 17-year-old who tried to bring Powell to justice.

Perhaps because the facts of the matter make Powell such an offensive case, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force chose not to mention either the 17-year-old niece or the rape charge in its press release announcing the latest victory over sodomy laws. And the news reports I read about Powell in the gay and alternative press either passed quickly over the facts of the case or buried them toward the end of the articles.

Georgia's sodomy law may be gone, but there's still something terribly wrong with this picture. The lesbian and gay civil rights movement desired a certain end, a good end — the demolition of a particularly vile and oppressive law that has been used against our community. But in order to achieve that end, we allied ourselves with an alleged rapist. In celebrating Powell, we have made a sort of poster boy out of a man who may have forced himself on his teenage niece.

In this case, did the end really justify the means? I don't think so. By celebrating the "victory" of Powell, lesbians and gay men send the message that the rights of young girls simply don't matter when a "greater good" is at stake.

Friends of the Klondyke Kontakt

The KK has a new e-mail address <klondykekontact@hotmail.com>
On first loves

by Ken Lovering

There is an unforgettable scene in The Boys in the Band, in which the boys are challenged to phone the first straight man they ever loved and tell the object of their past affection of their longing. The scene is astonishing for the fear and dread with which the men meet the dare. It’s as if all the “gay shame” they felt when they were much younger is brought to the surface and their faces reveal a deep unresolved sadness.

Like many of us, when I first saw The Boys in the Band, I rejoiced that there was any celluloid representation of gay men at all. The manner in which we were portrayed hardly mattered. But we thankfully have far more optimistic stories to tell these days.

These days, my husband Paul is teasing me because an old friend of mine is in town and shame is the furthest thing from my heart. Len and I studied for our bachelor’s degrees together and were inseparable throughout college. He was one of my first true loves.

And he knows it.

He is engaged to marry a woman he met in his Ph.D. program in Pittsburgh and there was a time when such news would have devastated me. I always knew he was straight but I just couldn’t pull myself from his allure. Besides, I wasn’t operating rationally in college. If I’d met an available gay man, I’d have looked the other way. Len was straight; he was safe.

We were both competitive academic overachievers, so it makes sense that we first spoke to each other in the library. We were sharing our table with another classmate at the time (a late-blooming flowerchild whose favorite words seemed to be “cool” and “dude”). When it came time for dinner Len and I skillfully ditched him and laughed about it at the local Burger King.

My young gay brain did funny, incomprehensible things. Chomping my Whopper, I wanted Len to be gay but was also terrified of the prospect. There was no question about his beauty, and there was no question about his engaging and flirtatious manner. And there was no question about his interest in me — but what kind of interest was it? I couldn’t pin him down for sure, though I would try to do so over the next couple of years, painstakingly measuring his every action and word for a clue.

During that time, he would talk more openly about the women in our classes and he’d sometimes tell me about his sexual conquests.

Struggling with my own homophobia and self-loathing, I couldn’t tell him I was gay for fear of losing him. The friendship was obviously unhealthy and it’s likely that both of us played our part in making it so.

Still, we were best friends at the top of our class and remained highly competitive in our schoolwork. Whenever we parted, we would hug each other and I would hope that he didn’t find my weight too much to bear as I melted in his arms. Once, he played a joke on me in the stacks of the library and put his nose to mine, uttering some silliness that I never heard because my heart was beating so fast. (My god, I could have kissed him there!) And when he bought his motorcycle, I couldn’t wait to ride it with him. My arms around his waist, I would softly rest my helmeted head against his back and expect him to ask me what the hell I was doing — but it was always okay.

Much of his beauty lay in his patience, kindness, and concern. I came out to him after months of dodging questions about why I didn’t have a girlfriend. “You don’t talk much,” he once told me and I knew it was true. The friendship felt one-sided to him and he pushed me to be more open.

And he continued to tell me about his relationships with women, to such an extent that it was becoming increasingly painful for me simply to be around him. Something had to give.

I eventually did more than tell him I was gay: I told him I loved him. What were we to do?

He went with his first reaction. If it was hard for me to be around him, he said, he would understand.

His quick response enraged me and I told him so. He wanted the easy way out and I wasn’t going to let him take it. I thought I meant more to him than that, even as a friend. We both value this friendship. We both have to work at this.

The issue, I realized, wasn’t that I was gay. Len wasn’t homophobic — he was far too comfortable with his own sexuality to let someone else’s make him self-conscious and defensive. The issue was my love for him. That was the window through which we could both see ourselves coming out on the other side of our dilemma.

We continued to study together. Our competition heightened and I became more talkative than ever.
Over time, our love for each other matured out of its restlessness.

On Graduation Day, I looked for him at the gymnasium. Christ, would he be late as usual? While I searched for him, a professor found me and told me I'd be carrying the flag for the College of Liberal Arts during procession.

"Second highest grade-point-average in the college," he said.

"Oh," I said, "who was the first?" Len had beat me after all, I thought.

"John Gray. He'll be giving the commencement speech."

If it hadn't been for John Gray, I would have given that speech, but that's not what this essay is about.

When Len appeared, I told him the news and milked it. "How much do you think I beat you by?" I said, merciless in my gloating. We laughed.

As flag-carrier, I had to transport the gold-fringed banner adorned with our school colors from one ceremony in the city to another. Len joined me for the drive; I popped the sunroof of my Honda and he held fast to the pole as we drove along the river. The flag flapped in the wind, simultaneously announcing our departure and our arrival. We were two bold knights then, preparing for the next leg of our journeys, bound by the stunning realization that we could do whatever we wanted to do, that we could be whoever we wanted to be.
Predicting the future (in bite-sized pieces)

I'm a believer in signs. I think that there's a lot in life that portends something else later on down the road. The trick, of course, is to figure out what the universe is trying to tell you. Sometimes the universe helps out in that regard and the sign is obvious. For example, you are running late for work, you rush out the door, your hair is wet from the shower, your arms are filled with clothes in need of dry cleaning, your jogging shoes and your day planner. You fling yourself inside your car and immediately notice that it is listing precariously to the right. Putting your keen auto-mechanic skills to work, you quickly determine that you have a flat tire. In this instance, the universe is telling you to take the day off, go back inside and finish your half-eaten bowl of Cheerios. Unless, of course, you have no vacation days left and/or an important teleconference at 10:00. In which case, the universe is reminding you that despite all your best efforts, you are not in control.

Other signs are more subtle and require a bit of interpretation. An example. You are jogging down the coastal trail early one morning. Suddenly, off to your right about 50 yards, you spot a huge eagle sitting on a log lodged in the inlet mud. You stop for a better look then realize that it really two eagles engaging in what looks a lot like what eagles would do if they were having sex. This is a bit of a dilemma. Do you interpret the sign literally, immediately run home and hope that your partner has not left for work? Or do you silently promise to renew your subscription to Ms. and spend the rest of your run pondering the power dynamics in relationships between male and female eagles?

With the advent of the new year, I have spent some time and energy pondering what I hope to accomplish in the next 365 days. There is the standard goal of losing five pounds. And even some new resolutions unrelated to sugar consumption, like learning to play the guitar and traveling the world. Something tells me, however, that despite all my carefully-considered plans, the new year is going to be filled with unexpected challenges. The primary purpose of which will be to keep me focused on the moment. And humble. And by the end of the year, I suspect that rather than losing five pounds, mastering the guitar or traveling the world, I'll be just a little more present. If not, I'll at least know more about Berber carpets and stain-removal.

How do I know this? Signs, of course.

It is New Years Day. I am standing at crowded brunch gathering of well-behaved lesbians, eating a plate of pancakes swimming in raspberry syrup, while I listen to the harrowing tales of a friend's Golden Retriever who spent the evening at the vet after eating rat poison. After taking in the part about the induced vomiting, I stab at a piece of pancake. Suddenly, the soggy Chinette plate slips in my hand and all its raspberry-colored contents head for the new white carpet... in slow motion. After helping the extremely gracious hostess clean up the mess, I slink off to the back room where the ex-jocks sit glued to the Citrus Bowl, completely oblivious to my social faux pas. There I pretend to watch football while pondering what the universe is trying to tell me and whether I can sneak out the front door without anyone noticing.

From the experience, I predict that during 1999 I will attract a lot of attention. Not all of it good. But like any good problem solver, I have updated my 1999 New Year's resolutions in response. I will remember to laugh at myself, I will try to forgive guests who spill things on my carpet, and I will pay more attention to my food.

When she isn't busy spilling things at potlucks, Jen Kohout skis, writes and works in Anchorage, Alaska.
Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

Homo-schaech-ual
Johnathon Schaech, the gorgeous former Chippendales dancer who played bisexual Xavier in Gregg Araki's film The Doom Generation is going gay again. The Houdini hunk is set to star in Who's on First? a romantic comedy about a young man who pretends to be gay so he can rent a room from his dream woman. Meanwhile, his lovely landlord keeps setting him up with other men. Sounds like the film rights to Three's Company were unavailable. Sadly, Schaech seems to be only gay for pay. While the Welcome to Woop Woop star claims to be comfortable playing gay characters because he has gay people in his family, he lives in heterosexual bliss with curvaceous TV siren Christina Applegate.

A gay Oscar?
With Gods and Monsters winning the National Board of Review vote for Best Picture and openly gay actor Ian McKellen (who portrays gay director James Whale in the film) being named Best Actor by the Board and the LA Film Critics, it may be a gay old time at the 71st annual Academy Awards next March. Tinseltown is also buzzing about Gwyneth Paltrow's cross-dressing turn in Shakespeare In Love. This wouldn't be the first time a transvestite was nominated for an Oscar, though. At the 1982 awards both Dustin (Tootsie) Hoffman and Julie (Victor/Victoria) Andrews were nominated for top awards, but neither won. And Jack Lemmon was nominated for his cross-dressing role in Some Like it Hot in 1959. The Academy Award nominations will be announced on ABC on February 9, 1999.

The vaginas are coming
Any dyke who's ever wanted to hear Kate Winslet, Melanie Griffith, and Calista Flockhart talk about their vaginas should buy a plane ticket to London ASAP. Eve Ensler's Obie Award-winning one-woman show The Vagina Monologues (inspired by hundreds of interviews the playwright had with women about their genitalia) will play at the Old Vic Theatre in the West End for Valentine's Day. Monologue topics range from a dramatic recollection of rape to a funny account of a woman who looks at her vagina for the first time in a "vagina workshop." The show was a smash in New York last year when Winona Ryder and Kathy Najimy spoke up in the performance pieces, which Ensler wrote with the intention of freeing women from stigmas of their vaginas and become more comfortable with their own sexuality.

Nathan Lane's honeymoon
With Encore! Encore! all but canceled! canceled! Nathan Lane is looking elsewhere for work, turning back to the big screen for his next paycheck. He has committed to star as comedian Jackie Gleason in a biopic entitled The Great One. Gleason is best known as The Honeymooners star Ralph Kramden, but the movie is going to focus on darker aspects of the funnyman's life. Lane is also polishing his dancing shoes. He's negotiating to co-star in Kenneth Branagh's musical adaptation of William Shakespeare's Love's Labours Lost, which will be done '30s musical style complete with Fred-and-Ginger-like numbers and songs reminiscent of Cole Porter and Irving Berlin. Alicia Silverstone is inked to star.

The presidents of South Park
South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone are looking for a new job — kind of. The wacky duo are lobbying to become co-presidents of the Comedy Central cable network. Doug Herzog, the former network president responsible for airing animated episodes that deal with gay themes from lipstick lesbians to homosexual dogs (remember Big Gay All's Big Gay Boat Ride?), has left his post to go run the Fox network. Parker and Stone flew to New York to meet with network executives for the job. While the pair seem like unlikely "suits", they arguably have more to do with Comedy Central's success than anyone else, since South Park is the cable network's highest-rated original series. In the meantime, a headhunter has been put on retainer to seek out other qualified candidates, though the South Park creators haven't been eliminated from the running. A new president is not expected to be named until early next year.

Bowie is still hungry
David Bowie, the enduring bisexual icon of the glam music scene, is moving to the small screen. Bowie, who starred in 1983's vampire classic The Hunger will host Showtime's second season of their erotic-horror television anthology based on the movie, replacing last year's host Terence Stamp (Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert). Stamp fans need not worry, however. You'll be able to see Terence on the big screen next Memorial Day, in the highly anticipated Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace.

Romeo San Vicente, who will help Johnathon Schaech's Houdini get out of his straight jacket any time, can be reached at <RomeoDeep@aol.com>.

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A Couple of guys

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DON'T BOTHER. THEY LEFT BEFORE WE DID.

SO WHERE'D THEY GO?

THEY GOT IN THAT CAR WITH THE 'CELEBRATE DIVERSITY' BUMPER STICKER.

hm... maybe HATE is a family value.
The Amazon Trail

Frozen Out

by Lee Lynch

Our pipes are frozen. I spent an hour out in the nineteen degree backyard with a hair dryer. The pump guy said forget it, things would thaw later. It's three hours later and one degree warmer. This isn't supposed to happen on the Oregon coast.

I came in to defrost, kept my toasty fedora on, made a cup of decaf tea and picked up the paper. "Strategy Aims to Block Same-Sex Benefits." Oh, thank you, just what I needed. It was only last week that the Oregon Court of Appeals decided domestic partner benefits were long overdue and that we gays are definitely a distinct class of people who have been discriminated against.

To add insult to injury on this day when even the waterfalls have turned into ice sculptures, it's not the Oregon Citizen's Alliance which has turned on us. Lon Mabon and his hate-mongering hench-crew didn't have to lift a finger. They've scared the legislators so badly two state representatives are doing their dirty work by introducing three separate anti-gay measures for inclusion on the next ballot.

Is this the form the next onslaught will take in other states as well? Will politicians elected to represent the people turn against the people to take away our rights? Perhaps these two Republicans are feeling so powerful after branding our president with a scarlet letter that they can't resist the temptation to squash more victims of radical right wrath. Is this further revenge because Bill Clinton can see that gay people are human, but they cannot? Or do they think they'll stay in office this way? Ha! Come next election, let's show them what we the people want because, surprise, conservatives, the president's popularity ratings went up ten points as soon as you impeached him! Americans can be rough on one another, but some still understand the concept of fairness.

Unlike the weather. I just got this e-mail from a cold friend in the next town: "I've been hanging blankets over doorways out in the laundry room, covering vents under the house, positioning heaters and heat lamps, dripping the faucets, feeding the pets extra, monitoring the outside water dishes for the birds, heating rice bags for the foot of the bed, and keeping the wood box full and the tea kettle on. If there's anything else, I don't know what it is."

It's a tempest in a teapot — gays get some rights acknowledged, a little judicial protection, and one of the legislators who's referring ballot initiatives whines, "I believe that marriage and family are at the heart of our social institutions and social structures. It's extremely important to maintain and protect them." Protect them from whom? Abracadabra! I sign up for insurance and your wife runs off with another man and three out of your seven kids come out. Right.

What do these legislators want? First, voters would get to approve the definition of "traditional marriage" as a union between man and woman. Of course, that definition exists in state statute and was even acknowledged in this recent Oregon court decision, but who's counting? The strategy is to trick the voters into saying yes to a no-brainer for heterosexuals so the voters will say yes to the next two.

Second is an initiative to nix the dreaded peril of government employment benefits to same-sex partners. Note here that we're no longer talking about any unmarried couple, only same-sex couples, many of whom would marry in a flash but for the above definition of marriage. And note too that all this is designed to elicit a yes vote from anyone with a fear of additional taxes.

Just to cover all the bases, the third initiative would give largely undereducated voters the power to make sure government employees can be mistreated and fired for being gay.

The bright side of all this is that gay people no longer have to carry the burden of fighting the radical right by ourselves. We've been trying to tell the country for years that radical conservatives might pull a stunt like tossing out a president because they loathe his slightly liberal leanings. We've been telling them that the right was interfering with the judicial process to impose its untenable values on everyone. And we are being heard. One Oregon Democratic legislator responded to these threatened initiatives by saying, "We certainly will take on the responsibility of protecting the human rights of everyone in this state."

Lover trekked through the snow to assemble a little pump house of reflective material. I put a rickety wooden lean-to over that and a lamp inside to heat the pipe. Tonight's going to be another freezer. But we'll have water again one of these days. And we've all — Lover, our friend in the next town, me — learned how to take care of ourselves when the elements are against us. We'll be okay.

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My Queer Life

When you wish upon a star

by Michael Thomas Ford

The end of a year is always a little depressing for me. See, I'm a bit of a pop culture junkie, and inevitably as the new year rolls around I start seeing reports about all of the celebrities who died during the previous twelve months. I've generally noted each death throughout the year as they happened, but run together collectively they become even more unsettling. As clip after clip flashes on the screen showing the most memorable contributions of each of the deceased, I feel a whole row of doors slamming shut at once.

The problem is that we're running out of stars. I mean real stars, people like Bette Davis and Marlene Dietrich and Cary Grant. Stars who electrified audiences and made Hollywood seem like the most magical place on earth. As each one twinkles out, it seems that life becomes just the tiniest bit less exciting.

Perhaps this is a form of depression peculiar to gay men. After all, we are the societal custodians of all things fabulous and artificial, right? We embrace the love stories and melodramas of the silver screen with open arms, finding in the lives of our stars the lives we maybe wish we had ourselves. Even the launching of our modern gay rights movement was in no small way contributed to by the untimely death of one of our greatest film icons, Judy Garland. Perhaps seeing her unable to stay in the world made us decide to change it for ourselves.

All right, so maybe pining after dead celebrities is a little shallow. There are, of course, more important things to worry about. But I can't help but feel that the death of true stardom is something to be lamented, particularly by gay culture. I remember vividly the night a friend in New York took me to a screening of What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? at the now-defunct Theater 80, a revival house that showed nothing but classics. The place was filled to capacity with gay men. Half of the audience played the Joan Crawford role, speaking her lines with perfection, while the other took up the Bette Davis part, complete with mannerisms. No, we weren't changing the world that night. But we had a great time, and it became an annual event for my friends and I, sort of the gay version of going to a Messiah sing-along at holiday time.

That's something that we don't get much of any more in this era of impersonal multiplexes and films noted more for their budgets than for their stories. The sad fact is, we just don't have any stars to replace Bette and Joan. None of Hollywood's current elite has real style. Tom Hanks may be affable, but I doubt he makes many of us fantasize about being stranded on a desert island with him the way Rock Hudson did. And while Garbo said as much by not speaking as most actresses did in their scene-chewing monologues, the best today's hot actresses like Demi Moore and Meg Ryan can do is try not to put us to sleep.

One of the things I am most proud of from this past year is that I did not see James Cameron's Titanic. As far as I'm concerned, this piece of dreck is the ultimate example of how dim Hollywood's star has become. Leonardo DiCaprio as a romantic hero? Kate Winslet as the heroine who needs to be taken down a few rungs so she sees how the other half lives? Please. Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert's mismatched lovers fighting across a screen of strung-up laundry beats out this floundering version any day, and without a billion dollars' worth of special effects. The 13-year-olds moaning over Leonardo and Kate when they've never seen Casablanca or The Philadelphia Story have no idea how cheated they really are.

Gay men searching for new icons to replace the ones we've lost are hard pressed to find anything worthy of...
adoration. We gave Madonna a chance, but she turned out to be more interested in self-promotion than in doing anything truly interesting. In forty years, when we turn on the television and hear that she's passed, we might feel some nostalgic pangs as we recall the first time we heard “Like A Virgin,” but will we really be crushed? And while I admit that staring at Ben Affleck for a few hours is a wonderful way to pass the time, I don't think there will be a rush of queer moviegoers lining up to see the re-release of Armageddon in 2048 because they recall it fondly as the movie that made them long to be in love.

When Lucille Ball died, I cried a little. When Myrna Loy died, I cried a lot. And yes, I felt a little silly doing it. I didn't know these women. They didn't know me. But they gave me something very special over the years. They made me laugh. They created characters and played out stories that I connected with. They helped me dream. And through them, I connected to other people who also loved them. No, it's not the same as taking someone's hand at Stonewall and standing up for gay rights. It's not the same feeling I got marching with thousands of other gay women and men to demand funding for AIDS research. But it was something very real, something uniquely queer, and I treasure it.

I hope young gay people will find their own stars. Maybe they don't need them in the way that people my age and older did. Maybe they don't feel that need to escape into worlds where things are a little more interesting. But I hope they do. I hope that they find their own icons and their own common reference points, the lines from movies that they repeat over and over and still find funny or moving or empowering. I hope that one day they can all sit in a darkened theater, the kind with a really big screen, holding hands with their dates and watching one of their favorite movies play while they recite all the lines together and laugh until it hurts.

What's “gay enough?” Will's certainly gay enough for my parents at the moment, but he's probably not gay enough for a lot of the gay community.”
— Eric McCormack, Will on NBC-TV's Will & Grace, to the Philadelphia Inquirer, November 9.
Understanding Drug Resistance

How does HIV become resistant to drugs? Researchers have recently worked out that HIV creates billions of new HIV viruses in the body every day. It does this by mainly infecting important immune system cells called T4 cells in order to reproduce. After HIV has infected a T4 cell, the T4 cell can't do its job. Instead of protecting the body from germs and bacteria, the T4 cells become virus producing machines. More HIV means fewer T4 cells and more damage to the immune system.

The goal of new combination treatments is to get the amount of virus in the body as low as possible. Treatments belong to different classes of drugs, but they all work by stopping parts of the virus so the virus can't make more of itself. Research has shown that using combinations of drugs in different classes in order to stop different parts of the virus from working is a better treatment strategy than using only one or two drugs.

One class of drugs called nucleoside analogs stop a part of the virus called the reverse transcriptase enzyme. Drugs in this class are AZT, ddC, dcl, 3TC and d4T. A second class of drugs called non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors also work at stopping reverse transcriptase. Drugs in this class are nevirapine and delavirdine. A third class of drugs are protease inhibitors which stop the protease enzyme part of the virus. Drugs in this class are crixivan, indinavir, saquinavir, ritonavir and nelfinavir. Researchers are working on new, possibly more effective drugs in these classes and other classes as well.

HIV does not always make perfect copies of itself. With billions of viruses being made every day, lots of small, random differences almost like mistakes can happen in any new virus that gets made. The differences are called mutations. Mutations can change the parts of the virus the anti-HIV drugs are meant to stop.

For example: A person may have a few viruses in their body that, by chance, have a mutation that stops HIV from working. AZT will still work against the HIV that hasn't mutated, but the mutated virus just keeps going, infecting more T4 cells and making more copies of itself. The new copies will also be resistant to HIV. Eventually, this AZT resistant HIV will be the only HIV in the body, and there will be just as much virus as there was before the person started taking AZT. AZT will no longer work for that person-- and any other person who gets infected with that particular strain of HIV. The same thing can happen to other anti-HIV drugs.

What can help stop drug resistance? What's important to know is that drug resistance doesn't happen because HIV is clever and works out how to get around the drug. Resistance mutations happen randomly - with billions of viruses being made in the body every day, there's a good chance that at least one new HIV virus will be drug resistant.

The good news is that new combinations of anti-HIV drugs can shut down HIV very effectively. A strong combination of anti-HIV drugs stops HIV from making billions of new viruses every day, and can reduce the amount of virus in the body to very little. The less HIV being made, the less chance of random mutations happening. The less mutations there are happening, the less chance that a drug resistant mutation will happen.

This is why researchers think that strong anti-HIV drugs like protease inhibitors need to be taken on schedule, and at the right dose. Researchers also recommend combinations of anti-HIV drugs for the same reason. Keeping HIV production in the body at a minimum lessens the chance of a drug resistant HIV virus being made. And if a drug resistant HIV virus doesn't get made, the anti-HIV drugs can keep working much longer.

Upcoming Events:

- AIDS 101 Training: Thursday, Jan. 13, Feb. 16 5:00pm - 6:00pm @ 4 A's
- Free HIV Testing: Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00pm @ 4A's
- Every Friday “Friday Lunch” for clients, friends and volunteers Noon @ 4 A's
Vermont could gain millions by allowing same-sex marriages

The State of Vermont would gain from $18.1 million to $22.8 million by allowing same-sex couples to marry, according to a new report by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS). The report, authored by economist M. V. Lee Badgett, Ph.D., compares the potential costs from added marriages to the likely economic benefits to the state. The national marriage spotlight has been on Vermont since last month when the State Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case challenging the prohibition of same-sex marriage.

"Policymakers across the United States have been concerned that letting same-sex couples marry would cost too much for the state and its businesses," stated Dr. Badgett. "But they forget that marriages also come with economic benefits for the state. In this case, for the State of Vermont, the benefits far outweigh the costs."

The report analyzes several economic benefits of allowing same-sex couples to marry, such as increased income tax revenues, lower state-provided family support, and a boost to tourism. On the other side of the equation, the state could face higher costs from increasing the number of marriages, including state employee benefits, family court costs, transfer taxes, and other unusual benefits of marriage.

Other studies have calculated that thousands of lesbians and gay men are likely to travel to the first state that allows marriages by same-sex couples. In Vermont, that influx of tourism could add as much as $40 million per year to the state’s businesses and workers. In that case, the state would gain $3.6 million per year in Rooms and Meals taxes.

Adding up the benefits and costs to the State’s budget in several scenarios demonstrates that the net impact is overwhelmingly positive. The State’s budget gains from $3.6 million to $5.6 million per year in revenues.


IGLSS is a nonprofit think tank. The IGLSS mission is to use scholarly research, analysis, and education to inform policy debates on issues related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

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Taking charge of debt may be worth its weight in gold

by Kathleen Madden

What's the difference between those who are rich and those who aren't? Author F. Scott Fitzgerald put it simply. He said "the rich are more careful about how they spend and invest their money.

Although this advice may seem elementary, a growing number of Americans are supporting their lifestyles by spending either their savings, their future paychecks, or both. The Federal Reserve Board says that, over the past year, the amount of consumer debt -- excluding mortgages -- has grown by $58 billion to $1.23 trillion, the highest consumer credit balance in the country's history. In the past decade, consumer spending has outpaced income by six percent. During this same time frame, savings rates have fallen from 5.4 percent of income to a minus .02 percent in September, 1998, the lowest rate in the past 40 years.

While these national trends give cause for concern, there is a brighter side. Smart consumers are finding a happy medium between spending today and saving for their financial future. How are they doing it? Through thoughtful planning which includes these four steps:
1) Establish a budget and realistic spending plan as a first step to developing a complete financial plan;
2) Develop a more comprehensive short- and long-term financial plan;
3) Establish a disciplined saving and investment plan that ad

dresses your current and future financial goals;
4) Take on debt sparingly.

A Midas or a miser approach to budgeting?

A successful spending plan begins with a common-sense approach. This means avoiding the extremes. A thoughtful spending plan doesn't mean denying yourself the comforts of life by saving every nickel you earn. To the contrary, the budgeting process can be viewed as the first component of a more basic comprehensive financial plan to meet today's spending needs and work towards tomorrow's financial security. In short, the financial planning process, including a budget, becomes a tool for helping you attain the lifestyle you desire now and in the future. After a budget is in place, track your spending to make sure you're on target.

Time for goal-tending

Once you know where you stand, develop a game plan that includes short- and long-term financial goals. For example, set a specific goal such as, "We will reduce debt by $2,000 this year" rather than saying "let's get out of debt." A qualified financial advisor can help you identify strategies for effective budgeting, then a comprehensive financial plan can be developed to meet your short- and long-term financial goals.
Pay yourself first

Paying yourself first means making regular saving and investing a top priority; to make it one of your monthly "bills" you pay to yourself. One simple strategy is to make monthly investment contributions by electronic transfer from checking accounts. The amount you save depends on your specific goals, and a financial advisor can help you determine the specific amounts needed for each particular financial goal. More important than the amount you pay to yourself, is establishing the habit of regular investing that can lead to a more secure financial future.

Buddy, can you spare me the debt?

The ability to borrow money is an important financial tool. But, the proliferation of new credit cards offers - 2.4 million each year - and the lure of home equity lines of credit, make it easy to be sucked into using debt unwisely. Each year, interest payments in the U. S. alone -- excluding mortgage interest -- siphon off nearly $60 billion of consumer income, money that otherwise could be building wealth for the future. With credit cards, the best advice is to avoid carrying a balance in order to avoid the 17 percent or higher interest charges. If paying off the balance isn't possible, pay more than the minimum amount due each month. This will more quickly reduce the principal amount you owe which will save on interest.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's plain remarks stand as an ageless lesson for the American consumer. Balancing what you spend and what you save is the first step toward achieving your short- and long-term financial goals.

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

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Gay dough

by Ronald Warren Deutsch

Your bank probably doesn't play disco. Gay and Lesbian Bank does, and it also knows how to play to its market.

Pending regulatory approval, the G&L Bank will begin operation next spring, offering a "comfortable place for gays and lesbians to bank," pledges chairman Steven Dunlap.

Dunlap is an entrepreneur who made his fortune developing novelty items such as Pet Ppees, a talking collar for cats and dogs, and Moonies, a suction-cupped doll that attaches to a car window and drops its pants on command.

He decided to go into the banking business when he met opposition from financial institutions over his plan to open a gay and lesbian resort in Florida. "They didn't want to have anything to do with a gay and lesbian business," Dunlap recalls. But rather than simply open a few branches in gay communities around the country, the Pensacola, Florida-based, full-service bank will conduct almost all its business online and through ATM machines. The bank will set up kiosks in cities and areas that serve gays and lesbians and also offer waivers to monthly ATM charges.

Gay Financial Network cites statistics claiming that while 38 percent of all US computer users are online, 62 percent of gay and lesbian computer owners are online. GFN estimates that the tangible assets of the gay and lesbian community in the United States exceeds US$800 billion, with 31 percent of the group earning over $50,000 annually. Dunlap sees a strong market waiting to be tapped. Dunlap said that explaining his design for an Internet bank to regulators has been more difficult than proposing a gay and lesbian financial institution.

He cites the popularity of direct deposit services as one indicator that people don't miss face-to-face banking. A bond courier service will be available for business deposits. In-person or not, Dunlap says G&L will offer excellent customer service.

"We're putting our bank branch right in people's homes and offices. There's a level of intimacy we hope to deliver through email," he said. "We want people to know there's somebody listening, and all emails are answered personally."

"I think what they're doing is great," said Jeff Newman, president of the Gay Financial Network. "They've taken the time to explore how to do it the right way," by researching their market and exploring the applicable technology.

According to Nicole Vanderbilt, a senior analyst at Jupiter Communications, the biggest challenge to online-only banks such as NetBank and CompuBank is in convincing potential customers of the benefits of changing their banks and banking habits. "But if there's a clear incentive to change relationships, then it might be a viable one," she says, adding that a gay and lesbian institution does seem to offer such incentives.

"There are several issues that are unique for the gay and lesbian community," Newman points out, and G&L will offer services that speak to those issues. In some parts of the country, same-sex partners who open joint accounts risk bank officials digging into their personal affairs. And legal protections involving wills and property can be sensitive topics to discuss in areas unsympathetic toward gays.

But Dunlap knows there's more to winning customers than having "gay" and "lesbian" in the bank's name. "The gay and lesbian community won't bank with us just because," Dunlap said. "We need to be a premiere bank offering premiere services."

The Last Big Thing

Those weary of pretentious band names and bad stand-up comics’ references to ’70s sit-coms should feel vindicated by Dan Zukovic’s sly, ingeniously self-referential pop diatribe The Last Big Thing. The title refers to the name of a fictional publication headed by disgruntled cultural apocalyptic Simon Geist (yes, as in “zeit” — one of Zukovic’s few lapses). In fact, the magazine is a front; it allows Geist to set up interviews with artistic poseurs — actors in soaps, models, etc. — and to vent his spleen at the decline in taste and aesthetics.

Zukovic’s rants are often brilliant and hilarious, and they’re delivered with an insinuating drawl that’s kind of like Jack Nicholson imitating Alan Alda. His gift for metaphor is keen too: the film’s central motif is a trash barrel that distorts the reflection of Zukovic’s face into a likeness of Edward Munch’s The Scream. The story, involving his impassive relationship with a disturbed woman who wants to start her own magazine titled Geist Has Fallen, is a sometimes creaky vehicle. But overall, The Last Big Thing surges on a tidal wave of exuberant bile. It deserves to be seen, if only for Geist’s funny foray into music videos.

— Peter Keough

Happiness

Boxoffice Magazine ****1/2

As he did in his 1996 Sundance fest grand prize winner Welcome to the Dollhouse, writer-director Todd Solondz has created a superb black comedy that exposes the lewd behavior and nefarious impulses bubbling beneath placid surfaces in suburban America. This time his work is considerably darker — so much so that some will undoubtedly be repulsed by its revelations and put off by its tone. But the controversy, plus critical raves, could generate buzz and make Happiness a surprise hit.

The story interweaves incidents in the lives of three sisters: Joy (Jane Adams), who is romantically unfulfilled and professionally adrift; Helen (Lara Flynn Boyle), a glamorous, best-selling author who considers herself a fraud; and Trish (Cynthia Stevenson), the suburban housewife who thinks she has it all. Gradually, crosscutting between different vignettes, Solondz reveals key details of his characters’ twisted lives and psyches. Trish’s husband (Dylan Baker), a psychiatrist, is also a pedophile with an appetite for boys. Helen’s neighbor (Philip Seymour Hoffman) is a sex pervert who fantasizes about raping her. Joy’s two romantic relationships end badly — one in a suicide, the other with a robbery.

What is so remarkable here is that Solondz sustains the delicate balance of comedy and repulsion throughout. It’s a fine line to walk and one which he could have easily overstepped had he gone too far in either direction. But everything works on at least two levels: Seemingly funny incidents and dialogue are in fact creepily tragic, while disgusting behavior carries an almost irresistible undercurrent of humor. Though it’s a bit long at well over two hours, the film is never dull. Exquisitely acted and shot in bold, bright hues that serve as an ironic counterpoint to the murky goings-on, Happiness leaves viewers feeling disturbed, amazed, and fascinated.

— Lael Loewenstein

Coming Attractions:
1/22 Without Limits
1/22 Monument Avenue
1/22 Mean Streets (25th Anniversary)
  1/29 The Alarmist
  2/05 Shadrach
2/12 Nights Of Cabiria (Tentative)
2/12 Underground (Tentative)
  2/19 Slam (Tentative)
  Feb: Affliction
All dates subject to change

Student Discount Day — Wednesdays, only $3 with school I.D.

Film Discussion Group — in the process of changing dates; watch for announcement. Visit our website at <http://fpc.hollywood.com>, e-mail us at <filmgallery@compuserve.com>.

E-mail made easy

via Rex Wockner

There a site on the Internet that will let you send an e-mail to every congressman and senator that has an e-mail address... all in one fell swoop (no need to develop a list, group, address book, etc). The address is:

<http://www.bitsnet.com/agca/anti-gun_email.htm>
Travel group condemns Jamaica's decision on homosexuality

The Jamaican government, according to its Ministry of Justice, has officially refused to grant basic human rights protections for its gay and lesbian citizens and visitors, despite calls and formal objections from local and international groups, including the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association and The Independent Jamaican Council for Human Rights.

The Jamaican decision comes on the heels of a very public protest staged by local church leaders in March in opposition to a performance by the pop vocal group The Village People. Church leaders said that performance highlighted "a behavior repugnant to the majority of people in this country." Prior to the March incident, Jamaica gained international attention in the summer of 1997, when prison inmates killed 16 fellow prisoners believed to be gay.

According to IGLTA Executive Director Agustin Merlo, speaking on behalf of his global board of directors, "The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association strongly condemns Jamaican authorities for failing to ensure the safety, welfare and comfort of gays and lesbians living on and visiting the island nation. We call on the government of Jamaica to ensure the safety of gay and lesbian citizens and tourists to Jamaica. The nation appears to be a leader in the region's emerging homophobia that has already shown its ugly face in the Cayman Islands and Costa Rica. That is a tragedy."

"The mission of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association is to expand the choices and travel opportunities for lesbian and gay consumers. Our members work very hard not only to offer quality and value, but also to make sure that the gay and lesbian travel experience is both rewarding and safe. We can only achieve this if governments, tourism authorities, and the private sector work together to end the climate that spawns these kinds of decisions."

"IGLTA stands with our members and with all of the travel sector to insist that this decision by the Jamaican government ultimately be reversed, and that steps are immediately taken to ensure that the nation's human rights protections are extended to gays and lesbians. If Jamaica is unwilling or unprepared to welcome gay and lesbian tourists to their shores, then IGLTA is prepared to warn all of our member companies and associations that our tourist dollars are no longer welcome in that country."

The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association is committed to professional excellence in promoting travel opportunities, services, products and above all, choices for gay and lesbian consumers. Contact Agustin Merlo, Executive Director, phone: 954-776-2626 or e-mail <amerlo@iglta.org>.
Past Out

How gay was the Renaissance?

The Renaissance (Western history roughly between 1400 and 1650), was a time of exploration and great artistic endeavor in Europe, marked by a revival of interest in classical civilizations. A closer look at that age suggests that the Renaissance was also an era buzzing with homosexual activity.

Scholars have found considerable evidence of same-sex relations between adult men and between men and boys in Renaissance Europe, and much of this evidence comes from church and court records. Sodomy was both a religious and a criminal offense, subject to severe punishment by church and state. As part of Henry VIII’s religious reformation, in 1533 the English government took over from the church the prosecution of “sodomites,” making anal intercourse (“buggery”) a felony punishable by hanging. Ireland followed suit in 1634. In the mid-16th century, Geneva, Switzerland, instituted several gruesome punishments for sodomy, including beheading and drowning. Under a 15th-century Florentine body called Uffiziali di Notte (Officers of the Night), designed to sniff out and prosecute homosexuals, the great artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci was twice charged with sodomy and twice exonerated for lack of evidence.

Many men of the Renaissance, especially those of the upper class, would probably be called bisexual today. According to custom, noblemen married and procreated to carry on their titles, but they kept young pages and attendants on the side as sexual play things — a model taken from classical times. In the all-male world of the clergy, intergenerational same-sex relations were also common. Two popes, Paul II and Julius II, were both notorious for seducing young men. (The latter was a benefactor of Michelangelo, who himself is said to have had same-sex attractions he doesn’t seem to have acted on.) In the artisan class, too, homosexual relations often occurred between craftsmen and their apprentices, though historians have also found evidence of sexual relationships between adult working-class men.

The theater was another all-male province; young men and boys played all the female roles. As a consequence, same-sex relations between older and younger actors abounded, and acting itself became a dishonorable profession. In his play, *Poetaster*, Ben Jonson noted the horror a father experienced when he realized his son was going to be an actor: “What? Shall I have my son... an ingle (‘boy favorite’) for players?”

In addition, two canonical English playwrights of the Renaissance period, William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe, are often claimed today as gay. While there is no evidence to answer the question whether Shakespeare himself had sex with men, 126 of his 154 sonnets rhapsodized about the beauty of an unnamed young man and were published only after his death. A number of his plays either had homoerotic content (for example, *Troilus and Cressida*) or employed gender-bending comedy (*Twelfth Night*).

Marlowe, Shakespeare’s contemporary, wrote the homoerotic play, *Edward II*, in which he sympathetically chronicled the love of King Edward for his favorite, Gaveston. Edward’s tragedy was the clash of his need to fulfill his role as king and husband and his powerful love for another man. In his personal life as well as his writings, Marlowe left clues about his sexuality: “All they that love not Tobacco & Boies [are] fools,” he reputedly said.

Same-sex relations between women during the Renaissance are much harder to pin down. Women had few outside social contacts and were dependent on men for economic survival. Also, few women (except nuns) were literate and could not document their experiences. In a highly sex-segregated society, it seems likely that intimate attachments between women would have formed, and the lives of some famous women point to this possibility. Queen Christina of Sweden, for example, was romantically attached to one of her ladies-in-waiting and abjured rather than marry a man. Juana Inés de la Cruz, a Mexican noblewoman, became a nun to get an education and to avoid marriage. As Sor Juana, she had a passionate relationship with the wife of the governor of Mexico.

Some male writers discussed lesbian sex in their work, most likely to titillate other men. In doing so, they inadvertently left records that sex between women was not unheard of. The 16th-century writer, Pierre de Bourdeille, Seigneur de Brantôme, waxed poetic about love-making between women, which he labeled “donna con donna.” For him as for other men, lesbian sex was merely prelude or preparation for the real thing — male-female intercourse.

The work of one female writer of the Renaissance, Katherine Phillips, has survived. Phillips is sometimes called “the English Sappho.” Her poems were published posthumously in the 1660s, and over half of them addressed her love for specific women. Phillips called her relationships “innocent” romantic friendships, but the comparison of her love for women with the love of a bridegroom suggests something deeper.

Men and women of the Renaissance cannot be called “gay” or “lesbian” by today’s standards. Homosexuality was an act or a behavior, rather than an identity or culture. Still, literary and historical research shows that same-sex relations were an established fact in Europe hundreds of years before the word “homosexual” was ever coined.
Oregon court: recognize same sex partners

PORTLAND, OR — In one of the most sweeping gay rights decisions ever, an Oregon appeals court has said that government is constitutionally required to recognize same-sex domestic partnerships, says the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.

Another part of the ruling, issued by a three-judge panel of the state Court of Appeals, appears to ban any employment discrimination against lesbians and gay men, including discrimination by private employers who make Oregon the 11th state to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, and first to require that government provide benefits to partners of lesbian and gay employees.

In one fell swoop, the Court held that the equal protection section of the state Constitution requires equal treatment for lesbian and gay couples — something no other court has said — and held that the state's law against employment discrimination based on sex protects lesbians and gay men — also something no other court has said,” said Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU’s Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. “Not a bad day's work.”

The ACLU of Oregon, which has been working throughout the case as a “friend of the court” on behalf of three lesbian couples who sought domestic partnership benefits from employers at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU), said that the ruling had potentially far-reaching implications.

“The decision will require all public agencies in the state to provide benefits to domestic partners,” said Dave Fidanque, Executive Director of the ACLU of Oregon. “In addition, it suggests that any time the state extends a special privilege to a married couple, it should provide the same privilege to gay couples who are not permitted to marry.”

In ruling that OHSU has to provide benefits to lesbian and gay couples, the court concluded that any discrimination against lesbians and gay men is “suspect” and should be looked at closely by courts. Both that ruling and the employment ruling could have implications outside Oregon.

“Every state Constitution has an equal protection clause, and every state has a law against sex discrimination,” said Coles. “While they are not all identical, we are going to do our best to make this the start of a trend,” he said.

The case arose in 1992, when three lesbian couples employed at OHSU challenged the state's health insurance policy which denied benefits for domestic partners. A trial court found that the insurance provisions were discriminatory and violated the state constitution. This ruling upholds that decision.

Fidanque said that for Oregon, the decision “completely changes the legal landscape of employment law and represents a tremendous victory for all Oregonians who have worked hard to provide legal protection on the basis of sexual orientation for all Oregon workers.”

Two other states, New York and Vermont, voluntarily provide domestic partnership benefits to lesbian and gay couples, as do scores of cities, counties, and increasing numbers of major corporations. Ten other states and the District of Columbia have laws protecting lesbians and gay men against workplace discrimination: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

The case is Tanner v. OHSU. The ACLU co-operating attorney on the case is Lynn R. Nakamoto. Contact: Emily Whitfield, ACLU National Office (212) 549-2566 or 2666 David Fidanque, ACLU of Oregon (503) 277-3186.

Outed skater was always butch

“Although I’m a gay person, I'm definitely a man on the ice,” said Canadian figure-skating champ Brian Orser, who told the Ottawa Sun December 2.

“That's as simple as it is: I'm a man on the ice and I'm a man off the ice. Because I'm 'outed' doesn't mean I'm going to be a different person.”

Orser, who won two Olympic silver medals, was forced from the closet November 18 when court documents from a paternity suit became public knowledge.

Canadian skating champ Elvis Stojko seconded Orser's unusual comments. “Brian never skated soft,” Stojko told the Sun. “He was masculine in his skating. He never flaunted it on the ice. He skated male, and I respect that a lot.”

“I believe in that, because so many people can end up bashing the sport. We have some very colorful characters, like [gay U.S. skating champ] Rudy [Galindo] who's also a great friend, but we can't have it all like that,” Stojko said.

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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
"Gay wealth" myth debunked

GLAAD News Release

A report released on December 3 debunks the widely cited figures regarding the relative wealth of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community. “The Myth of Affluence Among Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans” was issued jointly by the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS).

The author, M. V. Lee Badgett, Ph.D., is a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and is executive director of IGLSS. “The evidence from many different scientifically sound data sources point to the same clear conclusion: gay, lesbian and bisexual people do not earn more than heterosexual people, either as individuals or as couples.” She went on to state, “Some [gay, lesbian and bisexual] people are poor, some are rich, and most are in the middle, just as heterosexual people are. Now that we have credible data, we can stop relying on flawed studies that were designed to find high income gay people.”

For more information about the report, or to request a copy of the study, contact Tracey Conaty (NGLTF Director of Communications) at (202) 332-6483, or via pager at (800) 757-6476. The report is also available online at <http://www.nngltf.org>.

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.

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

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If I'm going to be remembered in America as the guy that got caught playing with himself in the toilet, then I want people to know my take on it. ... I saw this guy cruising, an undercover cop who was basically pretending to cruise. He was very cute; he wasn't Karl Malden. I didn't get out of my car until everyone left the park. Then I followed him in. [Then] there was like a SWAT team! Once they got their man, eight of them jumped out of nowhere. I heard one officer say, "Did you get one?" I'm not a fish. With the shit that goes on in this town, it's unbelievable that tax money pays for this. ... There were reports in the papers about me being led away crying. Not true. I wasn't thinking, "I'm ruined." I was absolutely furious. It was clearly entrapment, not an accident. ... The minute it happened, I knew it would be massive news and hugely embarrassing. But within a day, after the anger died down, I started to see how funny it was. I had helicopters flying around my house because I got my willy out. It pushed something of monumental importance off the front pages. You really start to understand how crazy the media are.

— Pop singer George Michael to USA Today, December 3.
Court slaps military

Washington, D.C. — Former Navy Petty Officer Jim Turner received a Christmas present two days early this year: a decision from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia that the Navy’s decision to uphold his discharge under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue” was “arbitrary and capricious” in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act. The decision marks the first time that a court has held that a military service branch has violated administrative law in its review of a “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue” case. Along with the case of Master Chief Petty Officer Timothy McVeigh, the decision also marks the second time this year that a federal court has ruled against the Navy for its handling of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue” cases.

District Judge Paul L. Friedman ruled December 23, 1998 that the Navy erred when a Deputy Assistant Secretary gave “absolutely no indication of the grounds” on which she refused to accept a majority finding by the civilian Board for Correction of Naval Records. The Board earlier had held that the Navy’s discharge of Turner under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue” suffered from numerous procedural and substantive failings (including the apparent undue influence of the lead Navy witness by Turner’s command) and could not stand. Judge Friedman remanded the case to the Secretary of the Navy for further proceedings, ruling that “the Secretary … may conclude on his re-evaluation of the evidence and arguments presented that the Deputy Assistant Secretary Heath’s rubber stamp ruling cannot in fact be sustained.” The court noted “recent indications that [the Navy’s lead witness] might wish to recant his testimony” as well as other concerns with the record.

“We welcome the court’s decision,” said C. Dixon Osburn, Co-Executive Director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an independent legal aid and watchdog organization for those harmed by “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue.” “We have asked the Navy time and again to give sailors a fair hearing under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue” rather than rush to judgment. The Navy has failed that standard repeatedly, forcing sailors to seek redress in court. The case of Master Chief Petty Officer Tim McVeigh was one example. This is another. We simply ask the Navy to act in good faith.”

“I feel vindicated,” said Turner, now living in Connecticut. “I was railroaded out of the Navy after an exemplary seven-year career. Because of the rampant fear of homosexuality in my command, no one in the Navy wanted to look seriously at the allegations against me or the known unreliability of the people making the charges. I am grateful that the court has held the Navy accountable.”

“This is a big victory,” said Allan Moore, Turner’s lawyer and a leading expert on the military’s policy at Covington & Burling, a Washington, D.C. based law firm. “It is extremely difficult to show that the military acted in an ‘arbitrary and capricious’ manner, and the fact that we won under this tough legal standard underscores the seriousness of what the Navy has done wrong here. This court, like most courts, gave extreme deference to the Navy’s right to govern its own internal affairs, but I think it acknowledged that the record in this case stinks, to put it mildly, and in the most respectful way possible, it has ordered the Secretary to re-examine the matter. The test will be whether the Navy fulfills that command in the ‘second chance’ that the court has now given it or risks the court’s ire and further litigation by trying to dress up and rubber stamp the same result in more palatable clothing.”

The decision by the district court culminates a four-year battle by Turner to clear his name. A 1998 sailor of the year, Turner’s fortunes changed while serving on the USS Antietam in the Persian Gulf. In April 1994, three men accused Turner of soliciting homosexual conduct. Turner denied the allegations. Two weeks later, however, an administrative discharge board recommended that Turner receive an other than honorable discharge, even while acknowledging that one of Turner’s accusers was not credible and that there was no evidence for several of the charges.

Turner petitioned to the Board for Correction of Naval Records which ruled 2-1 that Turner’s discharge was “based on suspicion and rumor and not on credible evidence” in violation of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue.” The board also found it “extremely disturbing that an individual can be found guilty … without a modicum of corroborative evidence.” The Board recommended to the Secretary of the Navy that Turner’s discharge be voided and that his record be corrected to show that he served until the expiration of his enlistment and then was honorably discharged. Principal Deputy Secretary of the Navy Karen S. Heath, having been designated to review the matter by the Secretary of the Navy, rejected the majority’s findings without explanation.

Contact Danny Reed, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (202) 328-3244.

The Women’s Coffeehouse needs a new goddess to govern & arrange the March, April, and May coffeehouse’s cause Barbara Wish is off to sunny places and Victoria will be swamped with Celebration. If you could or would consider hosting all or even just one of the wondrous coffeehouse gatherings (on the second Saturday of each month) then please call or contact Victoria at 751-7234 or e-mail <asvls@uaa.alaska.edu>.
Gay advocacy groups join forces online

by Janet Kornblum

In a move that shows just how crucial the Net has become for political and social activists, gay and lesbian media watchdog group GLAAD will absorb Digital Queers, a grass-roots advocacy organization for both gays and lesbians in high tech and gay nonprofit organizations.

While many organizations use the Net to congregate and communicate, the gay and lesbian community in particular has found a refuge in the online world since the Internet's inception. Besides allowing people who live long distances from one another to communicate quickly and cheaply, the online world offers another feature that is particularly attractive to gays and lesbians who haven't come "out" to their families, coworkers, and neighbors -- relative anonymity.

For gay and lesbian groups, that advantage has become crucial. Dozens of businesses -- from web sites such as PlanetOut to Gay.com and the Gay Financial Network -- have been established solely to serve the growing numbers of gays and lesbians going online.

GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, increasingly has focused on the Net as a means of communicating with the gay community. It also has gotten involved in Net-centric free-speech cases, such as that of a sailor whom the U.S. Navy ordered discharged after investigators found evidence on America Online that led them to believe he was gay.

Digital Queers, on the other hand, has been involved in Net issues since before the dawn of the web, focusing for years on gays and lesbians working in the high-tech industry, as well as gay and lesbian organizations, that need help becoming more tech-savvy.

The merging of the two groups was a natural next step, said Joan Garry, executive director of GLAAD. Once that process is complete, Digital Queers (DQ) officially will become a program of GLAAD. "It's kind of a natural and organic extension of work that GLAAD has already been doing," Garry said.

"We've really been playing in the cyber sandbox for quite a few years in a sophisticated way.

"GLAAD's work is about recognizing the cultural influences around us," she added. "Media is very much at the top of the list, and the Internet is new media. I think it is part of our culture. How we are represented is critical. If filtering software renders us invisible to people who need us, that's something we need to work on.

"If the past year has really taught me anything," she said, "it's that we need more people standing with us -- engaged with us in our work. We need more voices. We need more people. I think the Internet is one of the key ways we can engage new voices. It's an extremely powerful way to mobilize members and, more importantly, to bring new members to us."

Garry added that, along with making Digital Queers a part of GLAAD, GLAAD is expanding its own use of technology by creating its own intranet.

CNET News, December 28, 1998
Fairbanksan

Further North in the Heart of Alaska

by Terry A. Fauth

Finally winter in the interior with temperatures at 30 below or so, still a warm season compared to other years. At least this month’s potluck will be indoors.

January Potluck

Pat Cahill and Barbara Niles will be hosting the January Community Potluck on the 24th from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pat will be making a pot of “Gumbo Z’Herbs” and would like others to bring their favorite Cajun or New Orleans style dish. BYOB. Smoking is allowed except in the lower floor. To get there... take Chena Pump Road past Chena Campground and head up the hill. After you pass Rosie Creek on the left the first road on the Right is Anella. The second road on the right is Edby. Turn on the third road, Heather. Take the first left on Heather (Han's Way, no sign) and go down the road for .9 mile. 1434 is the house number (large and gray on the left); there will be some sort of a sign. You don't need 4-wheel drive and there is plenty of parking.

Interior Aids Association

Gay Men's Advisory Council: The I.A.A. is looking for a few good men to meet twice a month for three months. The council will help plan the gay men’s programs for the next year. We need input! If you see a need in the community that is not being met or have an idea for a fun event let us know. Program proposals will be taken from January 15 to February 15. Call 452-4222 and ask for Pat. Make a difference! Become active!!

Home Party Hosts: I.A.A. is looking for hosts for three small weekly parties. Each party will be one to 1-1/2 hours long and include information of sexual knowledge, updated information on STDs, skills building and eroticizing safer sex. Knowledge is power. Be informed!!! Call 452-4222.

Quilt: 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. 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.

PFLAG Fairbanks

PFLAG Fairbanks President needs help! Nancy Kailing, president of PFLAG Fairbanks, is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Community Psychology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her thesis, a requirement for this degree, is a research study to explore people's activism for lesbian and gay civil rights. She is asking all members of PFLAG throughout Alaska to assist with this research.

Anyone interested in gay rights, whether a member of PFLAG or not, is encouraged to participate by completing an anonymous survey provided by the researcher. The survey takes around 15 minutes to complete. The information provided may help lesbian/gay supportive organizations to design programs and emphasize activities that increase the pace at which lesbians and gays are accepted into society.

PFLAG Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Palmer/Wasilla and National will receive a report of the results of Nancy's research. PFLAGs in Alaska will be sending the survey out during the month of January. You can help with this research by returning the survey promptly. Nancy would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this study. Please write <kailing@mosquitonet.com> or P.O. Box 84680, Fairbanks, AK 99708. You may also call her at (907) 479-4944. If you know of other people who would complete a survey, she would be happy to send them one.

Monthly meetings: Workshop on second Tuesday of the month, call 45P-FLAG for time and location. Support meeting on the third Sunday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 4448 Pikes Landing Road, across from the Princess Hotel at 4:00 p.m.

Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse

Big Events: January 31 is Blue Moon Day, and February 2 is Oimec (an earth day celebration without the groundhogs popping out all over...).

Weekly Events: Monday Jazz at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday Poetry at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday Old Time Banjo and Fiddle at 8:30 p.m., Thursday Think Again! At 7:30 p.m., Friday Celtic Jam at 8:30 p.m., and Saturday Gwich'in Table at 2:00 p.m. Call Connie for more information, or to set up a meeting. Winter hours until midnight and 2:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights.

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Photos from Klondykes, Queens & Company Christmas Show
Marine comes out

When he became the embodiment of undercover gays in the military by having his picture on the cover of the New York Times Magazine last summer, Rich Merritt, 31, was a Marine Corps captain still living half in the shadows.

On the magazine's front, Merritt stands at attention in uniform — an off-kilter, white-gloved salute covers his face. Inside he told of his 12 years as a gay Marine but insisted on remaining anonymous. Now, three months into his retirement from the Marine Corps, Merritt is stepping forward. In the December 21 issue of The Advocate, a national magazine addressing gay issues, the Huntington Beach man reveals he was the Marine who skirted the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy.

Although the magazine piece is a sort of debut for Merritt, the truth is that while he was in the military, many people already believed him to be gay. Also, military officials had pinpointed him as the subject of the New York Times article even before the June 28 story was published, he said.

"They figured out how many captains are at Camp Pendleton, how many had served as aides to generals and some other things — it wasn't that hard," Merritt said.

A lieutenant who worked for him approached Merritt with the article in hand and said there had been rumors about him for years.

Prepared for the worst, Merritt had removed all traces of gay references — books, pictures and other items — from his apartment. In his wallet he kept a yellow scrap of paper with the names and numbers of his lawyer and the journalists involved in the story, all in code.

"That's how paranoid I was," he said.

His anonymity in the article saved his career. Because he was not identified by name, his superior told him, military lawyers determined he had not actually declared himself to be gay and therefore could not be asked directly.

Nonetheless, the fractured life he had lived — pretending to have girlfriends, making homophobic jokes, returning to base after visiting gay bars — was too stressful to continue. "It is not enough not to be gay in the Marines, you have to be straight," he said, explaining the cover-ups. "There's no such thing as neutral."

Believing in the Marine Corps' emphasis on honesty and integrity, Merritt decided he could fulfill the mandate only by leaving.

He still believes gays have the right to serve openly.

Being a Marine is belonging to something larger than yourself, he said. It is natural for everyone to yearn for the meaning and structure offered by the corps. And while gay people might give up some freedoms to belong, he said, everyone in the military gives up significant personal freedom.

In a way, life in the military helped him recognize his homosexuality.

He joined the Marine reserves to pay for college, but the new experience awakened him to new beliefs and new ways of living, he said. It weakened his ties to fundamentalism, challenged racial assumptions from his conservative Southern upbringing and led him to the truth about his sexual orientation.

As for the hostility and censure sure to follow his loss of anonymity?

"Four or five years ago, I wouldn't have been able to deal with it," he said. "But now I believe people have a right to believe what they want to believe — even if they believe I don't have the right to exist."

"As a Marine I was willing to die for people to have that freedom."

Los Angeles Times, December 18, 1998

New protein makes AIDS virus cells attack themselves

WASHINGTON — (AFP) — Researchers have found a protein that causes cells infected with the AIDS virus to attack themselves, a process that could be used on other diseases such as cancer, according to a study appearing in the journal Nature Medicine.

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) uses a protein called a protease to reproduce itself. A range of protease inhibitors are now used to treat HIV block reproduction. But mutations of the virus' protease can render the medications useless. And they can also react with the patient's own proteases and become toxic.

A team headed by Adila Vocero-Akbari at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri, has developed a way to destroy the HIV protease, not just render it harmless. The method involves creating a new protein. Vocero-Akbari first chose a protein that could penetrate the cell's membrane, then attached to it two pieces of a human enzyme called caspase-3 that when activated prompts the cell to attack itself.

The process starts when the proteins get close to HIV-infected cells, penetrate their membrane and are attacked by the virus. The attacks free caspase-3 enzymes, killing the cell. In just a few hours, all the infected cells die while the healthy ones survive because they lack the virus' protease — which is necessary to activate the killer caspase-3.

"This novel method of introducing cytotoxic proteins into HIV-infected cells is a therapeutic approach that could complement antiviral drugs that are currently in clinical use," said Lee Ratner, one of the study's authors.

"This Trojan-horse approach should be applicable to many other infectious diseases such as hepatitis C, malaria and herpes," said researcher Stephen Dowdy. "We also hope that future modifications will allow us to selectively kill cancer cells," he wrote.
The Directory

The designations of (L)esbian, (G)ay, (B)isexual and (A)llly 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 <TomAndAI@alaska.net> or telephone 258-4777.

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

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

AIDS:
(A) Alaskan AIDS Assistance Assoc., 263-2050 (see 4A's page)
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (free HIV testing), Stephanie, 257-4637
(A) Interior AIDS Association (Fairbanks) 452-4222
(A) Shanti of Juneau, 907-463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)
(A) S.T.O.P. AIDS Project, Gail Charles-Abbott, 278-5019

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

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

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

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

Bakery & Catering:
(G) Alaska Best Catering, Maurice, 338-1090, 337-1969
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191
(G) Silver Spoon Cleaning & Catering, Brent, 258-0828

Bars & Restaurants:
(G) Illusions, Brian, 277-9191
(G/L) Mad Myr's, 272-5927
(G/L) O'Brady's, 344-8033, 338-1080, 563-1080
(G/L) The Raven, 276-9672
(L/Q) The Wave, 561-WAVE

Bed & Breakfast, Accommodations:
(A) Ah, Rose Marie, 302 Cowies, 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, 888-329-4625
(A) Gallery Bed & Breakfast (Anchorage) Leslie Evans 274-2567
(A) Island Watch, Eileen, Homer, 907-235-2265 (see ad)
(A) Regina's, 276-4904
(L) Rose-Beth's B&B, (Anchorage) Rose Beth, 337-6779
(G/A) Sauerdough Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-8946.
(L) Skyline B&B (Homer), Lisa, 907-235-3832.
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/SuIde, 907-586-2410.

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

Churches:
see Spiritual

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

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, Watraud, 276-6682
(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 562-9814
(G) graF/x, Lucian, 561-5856
(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(L) Mac Doctor, Candy, 337-2011
(G) Mad Dog Graphx, Michael, 276-5062
(G) Mark Mathis, 338-3357, <mmathis@alaska.net>
(L) TechLink, LeMiel, 276-6662.

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

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

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Anchorage Center for Families, 276-4994 (handles all kinds of family issues.)
(A) Barton Sloan, LCSW, 563-5765
(A) Connie Judd, 562-1826 (see ad)
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)
(A) Jann, 248-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
(A) S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape), 276-7279
(L) Tess Bensussen, LCSW, 230-7619
(A) Tom Gormley, ANP, 566-2110

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entertainment:
(G) Art Services North, Darl Schaff, 561-2115
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(G) Cyrano's Film Gallery Cinema, 417 D Street, 561-0064.
(A) Syzygy/Music Magic, Linda, 274-2599
(L) Women's Coffeehouse, Barbara Wish, 258-0499

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

Financial, Insurance, Investments:
(A) Kathleen Madden, Waddell & Reed, 349-3595
(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, 345-2507S
Directory

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

Hair Styling:
(G) Gabriel, 272-9945
(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, 258-0828
(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) Ariel, 277-5222
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(L) Donna (NCMT), 243-0789
(G) Gabriel, 272-9045
(L) Leslie, 278-3346
(G) Terry (LMT) 240-6474

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

Music/Instruments:
(A) Oldtime Music Company, Marge, 561-6662 (see ad)

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

Naturopathic:
(A) Hope, 561-2330

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-0924
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(L) Klondyke Kontakt (Alaska Women's Cultural Center), 277-9763
(GL/VA) Identity, NorthView, 258-4777

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) Photos by Frank, Frank, 566-0600 (see ad)

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

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

Real Estate:
(G) Apollo Real Estate, Bob, 561-0661
(A) Bela Bodnar, RE/MAX, 244-4415 (see ad)
(L) Bronwyn Real Estate, 907-277-4744
(L) Century 21 (Missouri), Lucille, 417-745-6798 (w);
417-993-4302 (h)
(L) Christen, 349-0298
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 261-7663
(A) Rona Mason, Realtor, 242-8877 (cell) or 279-8877 (see ad)
(L) Waltraud Barron, 278-1981

Recreation:
(L) Alaska Women of the Wilderness, Rachel, 688-2226
(L) Equinox Wilderness Expeditions, Karen, voice mail: 274-9087
(A) Flies by Ilene (Eagle River), 907-694-6946
(A) Knik Glacier Tours; Palmer, Alaska; Tom Faussett, 745-1577
(L) McKinley Air Service, Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
(L) Puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 332-8221
(A) Stan Stevens Cruises, P. O. Box 1297, Valdez, AK 99680.
907) 835-4731, (800) 992-1297.
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770, 888-899-2770
(A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb,
907-389-2725

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

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

Social/Educational:
(G) AGB Social Club, formerly Anch Garden Buddies, Steve
272-5608
(G) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Kristala, 277-5747 or e-mail <Kristala26@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. Nanese Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737

(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard Bess, 746-1069
(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 Ksnnitz, 457-9009

...Spiritual
Directory

Spiritual...

(A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824

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

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

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

Theatre:
   (A) Out North Contemporary Art House, Gene/Jay, 279-8099
   (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, 272-5059
   (A) Kathleen L. McDonough, School Survival Skills, 274-5059

Wilde statue erected in London

A statue of scandalous gay author Oscar Wilde was unveiled in London’s Adelaide Street near Trafalgar Square November 30.

Wilde’s larger-than-life bronze head rises from a nine-foot block of black marble that is inscribed: “A Conversation with Oscar Wilde 1854-1900. We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.”

“The idea is that he is rising, talking, laughing, smoking from this sarcophagus and the passerby, should he or she choose to, can sit on the sarcophagus and have a conversation with him,” said sculptor Maggi Hambling. “It is actually completed when a member of the public, a passerby, chooses to sit down and have a chat with him.”

Attendees at the unveiling included Wilde’s grandson Merlin Holland and great-grandson Lucian Holland, actor Stephen Fry (who starred in the film Wilde) and gay culture Secretary Chris Smith.

“It is...a wonderful monument for the people of London and of England,” Fry said. “He is depicted with a cigarette which in his day was a symbol of a young man’s decadence and modernity and which is now a symbol of political incorrectness. Showing him smoking is yet again a big finger shoved in the face of society.”

Smith said: “He wrote like an angel, challenged prejudice, he took on the establishment and its perceptions. It’s due to Oscar Wilde in many ways that we today can celebrate a society that generally appreciates diversity.”

The $249,000 cost of the monument was raised by a group of writers, actors, academics, philanthropists and journalists.

Wilde died in exile in France after serving a debilitating jail sentence for engaging in gay sex.

Club Notes

Anchorage unless otherwise indicated

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

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

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

AGB Social Club
(formerly Anchorage Garden Buddies) a social group for gay and bisexual men looking for an alternative to the “bar scene.” For more information, call Steve 272-5060, or e-mail <a_u_b@yahoo.com>.

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

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

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

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

Fairbanks Gay Youth Group
Leave message on voice mail for info: 457-3524.

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

THE FAMILY
is UAA’s student club for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally students. Meets every Friday, 6pm, UAA Campus Center, Room 105. For more information, call Victoria at 751-7234 or e-mail <akgb@youngadults.com>
website: <http://owolf.alaska.edu/~abfam/>

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

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

Gay/Lebian Book Club
at Barnes and Noble on third Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Kim Meck, Community Relations Coordinator for B&N hosts this discussion group.
GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)
**Anchorage** meets the first Sunday each month, 1pm at AUUF. Membership is welcome. 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 lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communities. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of each month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Doors open at 5:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm; program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for program title.

**Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOA)**
Is a social and support group active in many causes: we 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.

**IMRU**
Gay youth group meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Q Cafe, 640 West 36th Avenue, 566-IMRU.

**Interior AIDS Association (IAA) Fairbanks**
Offers medical and dental program assistance, "buddies" (volunteers who help HIV & People Living With AIDS), meal delivery food supplement program, a lending library and counseling. 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, <tlfm@micronet.net> <http://www.webindigo.com/lfmc/>

**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 (276-3307).

**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 4SF-FLAG for more information.

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

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

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

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

**Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA)**
A non-profit volunteer organization that provides a support network for lesbian and gay people in Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter Perspective. P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1452. Phone 586-GAYS

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

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

No pressure, guys, but if you don't have one hell of an affair, I could lose my job.
Cyberlust

Submit changes to <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As): <http://www.alaskaanids.org>  
AGB: A monthly men's social club. <CA_G_B@yahoo.com>  
AGLA: AK Gay & Lesbian Assoc. <agsla@aurora.alaska.edu>  
Barseason, Laura: <fishe@aurora.alaska.edu>  
Capri Cinema, Randi Thorndyke: <filmgallery@compuserve.com>  
Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dandelion, Equal: <alaskadan@aol.com>  
Cheney B&B: <Cheneybb@alaska.net>  
Childs, Lucian: graphic artist <lucian@alaska.com> <http://www.alaska.com/gfx/>  
Crabtree, Phil, B&B, Fairbanks, <crabtreehome@geocities.com>, <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4169>  
Craclin, Jean: <jeraclin@craclin.alaska.net>  
Family, The <svsl@uaa.alaska.edu> <http://cwlol.fksl.ac.edu/~abfam/>  
Fauth, Terry: <akbear@mosquitonet.com>  
Freedman, F, Kenneth: <ken@servcom.com>  
Gay & Lesbian National Hotline: <http://www.glnh.org/>  
Haase, Michael: <michaelh@servcom.com>  
Hernandez, Gabriel: <gabe@sinbad.net>  
Hillman, Fred: <hillman@alaska.net>  
Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>  
IAA - Interior AIDS Assoc. Fairbanks <iaa@polarnet.com> website: <http://www2.polarnet.com/~iaa>  
Identity: <http://www.alaska.net/~identity>  
Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOA): see link at <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak>  
Into The Woods Bookshop: Connie, Fairbanks, AK, e-mail <woods@polarnet.com> <http://www2.polarnet.com/~woods>  
Jamieson, Lisa: <lisaj57@hotmail.com>  
Klondyke Contact: <klondykekontact@hotmail.com>  
Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@aol.com>  
KT Creative: <ktcreate@alaska.net>  
Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <PMC@Micronet.net>  
Lovering, Ken: <kplove@juno.com>  
Mautner Project is for lesbians with cancer and their families <http://www.mautnerproject.org>  
Naff, Don: <donnaff@alaska.net>  
OPAI: <a_opai@hotmail.com>  
Out North: <outnorth@artswire.org>  
Parsons, Greg <spanson@ptialaska.net>  
PFLAG: Fbls. website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~pflag> e-mail <pflag@mosquitonet.com>  
Also website <http://www.alaska.net/~identity/pflag.htm> e-mail <schmidt@micronet.com>  
Pinney, Pete: <fifppp@aurora.alaska.edu>  
Q Net AK, Alaska's Gay & Lesbian Information Source: website <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~qnetak> e-mail <qnetak@mosquitonet.com>  
Rachel, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>  
Sauerdough Lodging: <suites@ptialaska.net>  
SEAGLA: <http://ptialaska.net/~seagla>  
Severson, Kim: Anchorage Daily News <KSeverson@pop.adn.com>  
Shanti of Juneau: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~shanti>  
Soule, Barbara & Bonham, Candy: <soulebonham@alaska.net>  
Thornley, Randi: Capri Cinema: <filmgallery@compuserve.com>  
Triangle Tours, Lesbian/Gay travel <triangle@servcom.com>  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks: <fkminitz@mosquitonet.com> <http://www.mosquitonet.com/~uff>  
Vann, Beth: <Bethv007@aol.com>  
Walton, Eric: <fscbcw@aurora.alaska.edu>  
Wave, The: Lesbian/Gay bar & coffee house: <wave@alaska.net>  

Calendar

What you see is what we got...

January

HBO's "Out at Work" - check local listings

Sunday, 17:
F PFLAG, 4pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 4448 Pikes Landing Road.

Monday, 18:
F GLSEN, 5pm, FEA on S. Cushman.

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

Friday, 22:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF, Program: Victoria Shaver talks about THE FAMILY.

Sunday, 24:
F Community Potluck, 3-8pm, See “Further North” for directions.
A Helping Training, 6-8pm, AUUF. Contact Candy @ 337-2011 to sign up.

Friday, 31:
F Into the Woods, Blue Moon Day

February

Tuesday, 2:
F Oimec @ Into the Woods

Saturday, 6:
J PFLAG, 10:30am, Mendenhall Mall Library.
A G/L Two Step, 7:30pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse.

Sunday, 7:
A GLSEN, 1pm, AUUF.

Tuesday, 9:
F PFLAG Workshop, 45P-FLAG for time and location.

Saturday, 13:
A Womens Coffeehouse, 258-0499 for more info.
A Organizational meeting for Celebration 99. Victoria @ 751-7234 for time and location.

Tuesday, 15:
F GLSEN, 5pm, FEA on S. Cushman.

Sunday, 21:
F PFLAG, 4pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 4448 Pikes Landing Road.
On-Going Calendar Items

SUNDAYS
A Metropolitan Church Services, 2pm Sunday School, 9am, Metropolitan Church, 2311 W Fireweed Ln, 4-5:30pm, Into the Woods Radio, KSUA 91.5FM, noon-3pm exposure bowling league, Park lanes, 251-8744 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 IMRU2 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

My whole philosophy is that gay people have to claim the power that we already have. We have to say, “Guess what? We are equal citizens under the law because we are people; we are protected by the Constitution, as all people are; we are, on average, better educated, on average, better salaried; in a lot of ways our community is above average in how it operates.” And we have to say to people, rather than asking for rights, we have to say, “Guess what? We don’t have to ask your permission for who we love or we spend our lives with. We don’t need it. If you don’t like it, good.”
— Gay KABC-Los Angeles talk-radio host Al Rantel, to Frontiers magazine

Identity

We need to stop asking permission to exist! We do exist, this is it. You’ve really got me on a soap box now. I feel like we’re asking people to understand our lives. Well, they’ll never completely do that. What they need to do is to take our lives at face value. ... There’s a point where our community has to get to where we just start demanding... that our lives be valued.
— Gay actor Wilson Cruz (Ricky on My So-Called Life) in Milwaukee’s In Step.
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.

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