City of Pride

You've undoubtedly heard all about the Mayor's City of Lights Program. I'm here to suggest our own version.

The City of Lights program is designed to lift people's spirits in a city otherwise caught in Winter's dark and icy grip. By participating in the City of Lights program people are also able to have an increased sense of participation and belonging within the community. We could enjoy similar benefits from our own City of Pride program.

Like the City of Lights program, our program would be on a voluntary basis and require no taxpayer assistance. Our program might not lift the spirits of persons like Jerry P. and Loren L., but it would certainly lift the spirits of people like you and me!

Some people were already decorating with lights before the mayor's program. Likewise some of us are already displaying rainbow banners and other symbols of gay solidarity. All we need is to amplify those efforts in the same way that City of Lights motivated people to join in the winter decorating effort.

What should our program look like? The theme should be based on the widely recognized pride rainbow and pink triangles. We could include these symbols on any or all of the following: our homes, our cars, our trucks & other conveyances, our clothes, our pets, and ourselves. The stuff is definitely available. The less brazen might want to start with a rainbow windsock. Be careful, the windsocks are popular with many people so you might be mistaken for an ordinary heterosexual. Don't be shy get something really gay! Bumper stickers come in a wide variety; from basic rainbow flags to the popular “celebrate diversity” and “family car” designs. Likewise, buttons and fashion accessories are available to suit nearly every taste. I've seen everything from rings set with rainbow stones to anodized metal bracelets with rainbow links. There are even rainbow collars and leashes for the family pooch. Imagine some of the things we might see if some of us got overly motivated! Rainbow flower beds or pink plastic flamingoes wearing pride streamers around their necks might be seen about town.

Notes for the shopping impaired: So you think you don't know where to get your pride banners? Other than lack of money, there are no excuses. There are many choices of where to shop for your signs of pride. If you're willing to make a little extra effort you can try local merchants. For example, I just found a rather gay looking banner for St. Patrick's day complete with red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple background stripes. It looks kind of like an ordinary pride flag, but with a large pot of gold with shamrocks dominating the middle - found in the kite shop in the mall downtown. There is also at least one local entrepreneur selling a range of items including flags and jewelry. Can't show any favoritism here, but she is normally at the major gay happenings around town. Other choices include catalog shopping and the Internet. My favorite catalog is Northern Sun Merchandising which also features feminist and environmental awareness items. Some catalog retailers are also online. If shopping online try “Don't panic” and “Alternative Creations.” One final option is to remember to do your pride shopping while on business or vacation trips to the lower 48. Seattle has several fun stores on Broadway including “The Pink Zone.” In fact almost every large city will have one gay/lesbian bookstore with a selection of cards, gifts, and pride items.

Think about it. If you feel good when you see someone else's pride flag or if traffic seems a little less burdensome after seeing someone else's bumper sticker, don't you owe the same to others? I know I like knowing I'm not the only lavender citizen on the road and appreciate it when I see your "Hate is not a family value" bumper sticker. My new stickers are going on right after the first car-washing this spring!

Gays remembered at camp

For the first time, gays were remembered during annual holocaust services at Germany's Sachsenhausen concentration camp January 26. Gay segments of the events included a wreath-laying, lectures and a performance by the Berlin gay men's choir.

It is believed that up to 10,000 homosexuals were killed by the Nazis and that up to 90,000 others were imprisoned. More than 1,000 were housed at Sachsenhausen due to its proximity to Berlin, which had a thriving gay subculture prior to the rise of National Socialism.

Sachsenhausen's gay inmates were marked with a pink triangle and forced to work in back-breaking brick-making factories because "hard work will make you masculine."

"There were different groups of victims, but all were victims and all should be commemorated in the same way," said Sachsenhausen memorial spokesman Horst Seferens.
Two out of three Alaskans do not believe in America. This is the message from November 3, when 68% of voters approved Ballot Measure 2, which puts discrimination into the Alaska Constitution. I refuse to believe that this was out of malice. Rather, it was the result of ignorance compounded with religious bias—misconceptions about homosexuality, lack of personal acquaintance with gay people, and sketchy notions about our state and federal constitutions, all covered by a veneer of rigid, albeit naive, religiosity.

Never mind that the Declaration of Independence says that we all have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Never mind that the mission of the U.S. Constitution is to “secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.” Never mind that the Alaska State Constitution guarantees that “All persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law.” Never mind that this is, and always has been, a secular nation. Never mind that the U.S. Constitution forbids any law “respecting an establishment of religion” and that it names no deity or religion. Voters ignored all this and succumbed to a religious argument.

The argument boils down to this. “The State must uphold what the Bible teaches. You gays choose to be gay. The Bible says being gay is a sin. Since you choose to be sinful, the State must deny you full rights of citizenship.”

Those two out of three Alaskans who believe that homosexuality is sinful ‘prove’ their point by citing half a dozen passages in the Old and New Testaments. They forget, or never knew, that Biblical scholars have seriously questioned whether these passages do indeed constitute a general condemnation of contemporary homosexuality. Textual study of various translations of ancient Biblical texts leaves the intent of their authors open to question, and the cultural context of the authors makes arguable their pertinence to present-day America. Two out of three Alaskans just ignore the scholars, point to isolated verses, and repeat a mantra, “God says right here that being gay is a sin. It’s in God’s words in black and white! (And you are choosing to be sinful!)”

The operative word in the argument is “choose,” but the issue of choice is beside the point. Regardless of whether or not gay people choose their sexual orientation, the State has no business in enforcing religious views about it. Gay or lesbian people should not be penalized because some religious bigots disapprove of them and use the power of the state to enforce their bigotry.

Choice is not the issue; homosexuality is not the issue. The issue, rather, is whether the U.S. is a secular nation and Alaska a secular state, where constitutions guarantee equal rights for all. The issues are also equality, privacy, and personal religious freedom for all. Yes, that includes lesbians and gays. The challenges now are how to get this point across to two out of three Alaskans and how to undo the damage they did on November 3.

Fred Hillman is a retired physician in Anchorage. He participated in the No On 2 campaign.

GLSEN leader to visit

John Spear, National Field Director of GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network), will be visiting Alaska the first weekend in March. He intends to stop in Anchorage and Fairbanks. His schedule is not yet definite, but for current information contact Fred at 562-7161 or Madeline at 561-4222. John is a knowledgeable and engaging speaker on gay and lesbian issues in public schools. His purpose is to increase his knowledge of Alaska and to share experiences of GLSEN chapters elsewhere.

I’d just like to say, as the campaign chairman of The American Foundation for AIDS Research, you are a phenomenon. That makes you the only person cured of AIDS!”

— Sharon Stone harshly responds to a man claiming to be cured of HIV at a recent taping of The Roseanne Show.
RAW will fund creative projects

by Gretchen Legler

What's this I hear about a radical lesbian guitar opera? Wanna put on a play? Wanna make a video? Wanna put on a lesbian-feminist poetry slam? How about a lesbian guitar opera? Wanna do it, but don't have the money? RAW really wants to help you.

RAW (Radical Arts For Women), is a nonprofit arts group supporting and promoting artistic events and projects by, for and about lesbians and feminists. RAW funds art projects that in some way combine feminist vision with creativity and hopefulness — in other words, we think art can be a tool for social change, as well as entertainment and enjoyment. Projects that RAW will consider funding include photography, plastic arts (sculpture), dance, music, the written word, visual arts, performance arts — just about anything.

RAW grew out of the organization formerly known as THE 15%, the group that for years and years and years faithfully brought you Celebration of Change, the annual lesbian/feminist talent and art fest. But after years and years of the same hard work, many of those involved in 15% sought change, so RAW was born. RAW is a group that instead of putting on the shows itself, grants money to women in the community who have creative projects that they want to see come to reality.

For instance, RAW is funding this year's Performance Formerly Known As Celebration. RAW funded last year's as well. Several years ago RAW funded the creation and exhibition of a feminist-oriented show of paintings by area artist Kaye Goodrich. RAW has also had local women artists apply for money and assistance in producing plays, photo shows and more. RAW even bought a nice new sound system so that all of you out there who want to stand up and sing or read or play music can have quality equipment to do it.

The key is this — RAW won't do it for you, but it will help you buy your film, hire your lighting tech, find a venue, etc.

What RAW's dedicated board of directors (Trang Duong, Carol Annie Lovejoy, Gretchen Legler, Kim Wyatt and Anne Lazenby) really wants to do is light a creative fire in the women's community in Anchorage. We have the money, you bring us the ideas.

You can get more information about RAW by writing to us at PO Box 244436, Anchorage, AK 99524, or calling the RAW Hotline at 566-3783. And, if you'd like to serve on the RAW Board or be involved in RAW in other ways, please let us know.

I've never hidden anything [re: being gay], but that apparently is not enough. I'm really not political, and I worry that if I set myself up as some sort of model that I can't live up to it, or am not well-enough informed to live up to that position, whatever position they apply to you. But then this whole thing with Matthew Shepard happened, and it was like somebody slapped me awake. At this point it's selfish not to do whatever you can. People seem to like me. I get a warmth from them. I make them laugh. If I do this story and say I'm a gay person, it might make it easier for somebody else. So it seems stupid not to.

— Actor Nathan Lane to The Advocate, February 2.
Thousands to declare “equality begins at home”

WASHINGTON, DC — In the 30th anniversary year of the Stonewall rebellion — the birth of the modern gay rights movement — thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people will launch an unprecedented national week of action for equality. Equality Begins at Home, slated for the week of March 21 - 27, is a major initiative to push state lawmakers to support a platform of equality. Planning for these by local activists is well under way.

From Montana to Maine, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people will come out and speak up in simultaneous events nationwide, most of which will take place at state capitols. These actions will, among other things, build support for laws that counter hate violence, ban employment discrimination, provide for safe schools for all students, ensure the right to adopt and become foster parents, and address health issues including HIV/AIDS.

Equality Begins at Home is coordinated by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and organized by the Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Statewide Political Organizations. As part of its coordinating efforts, the Task Force provided Federation member groups $5,000 each to support their Equality Begins at Home organizing efforts and hired a national coordinator for the event. Dozens of national organizations have signed on in support of this week of action.

“Equality Begins at Home is not an end point but a beginning point. We are going to make our statewide organizations stronger, mobilize more people, register more voters, and demand greater accountability from our state legislators and policy makers,” stated Kerry Lobel, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director. “It is this organizing at the state level that will ultimately counter the hostility and gridlock we have come to know from our nation’s capital,” she added.

Never before in the history of the gay rights movement has there been a coordinated political campaign of actions in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Equality Begins at Home represents a new phase of the movement — a focus on state organizing and legislatures. The vast majority of debates and decisions about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality occur in state legislatures. Equality Begins at Home will bolster the infrastructure of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movement within the states — where the heart of the struggle for equality lies — and lead to greater success in the overall struggle for equality.

Each state organization will develop events to highlight priority issues:

In California, activists will focus on defeating an anti-gay ballot measure to be put before voters next year. Events will include a rally and youth lobby day.

In New Hampshire, activists will hold a rally at the state capitol to focus attention on the need to repeal a state law banning gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people from adopting children.

In Nebraska, organizers will target workplace discrimination. They will hold a lobby day and circulate a “Workplace Fairness Petition” to business owners throughout the state.

“The battleground for equality has moved to the states, and so have we,” said Paula Ettelbrick, Equality Begins at Home national coordinator. “We are throwing down the gauntlet and demanding that state officials resist the right wing’s efforts to deny us our basic rights as citizens,” Ettelbrick added.

Equality Begins at Home is part of a campaign to counter the growing muscle of the right wing and its anti-gay attacks. In the last few years, the right has passed dozens of anti-gay laws in dozens of states. In addition, 1998 was one of the most vicious years in recent memory. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott likened homosexuality to kleptomania and sex addiction. Congress introduced a number of mean-spirited anti-gay measures. Right-wing groups launched a major advertising campaign attacking gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. In addition, voters approved anti-gay ballot measures in Alaska; Hawaii; Fayetteville, Arkansas; Fort Collins, Colorado; and Ogunquit, Maine.

“Our demands are simple and in line with basic American values: the right to be free, to have a family, to hold a job, and to participate fully as citizens. It’s exactly what every American wants and deserves,” said Gina Reiss, co-chair of the Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Statewide Political Organizations and executive director of New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition.

For a calendar of events or for more information, please view our web site at <http://www.equalitybeginsat-home.org> or contact NGLTF communications director Tracey Conaty at (202) 332-6483 ext. 3303 or Federation co-chair Gina Reiss at (732) 828-6772.
Simon Says

Out in the country: A gay teacher confronts prejudice in rural California by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

"Come out, come out, wherever you are," is the mantra of gay activism. But most of the people who proclaim this doctrine live in large cities. For gay people living in rural areas, or who move to rural areas, coming out can present extraordinary problems. Here's how one gay man ran into trouble in Bakersfield, an agricultural town in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Jim Merrick, a sixty-one-year-old science teacher, was born in a dairy-farming area of Southern California, but spent much of his adult life teaching at U.S. military bases overseas. "I grew up in the 'fifties when the only option was to get married," he told me recently. "I married my best girlfriend, Nancy, when I was eighteen, and we had four children within the next six years. We had as happy a marriage as any two people can have, except that I knew inside I was gay. I kept it completely hidden. I was going to a Baptist church and I considered it my big sin."

In 1982 Merrick came out to his wife, and with her acquiescence began to develop gay friends. In 1994 Merrick took early retirement and moved with Nancy to Bakersfield, to be near his parents. He took a job at the Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School, twelve miles out of town among the alfalfa and cotton fields. Very soon after the move, Merrick met Norm Prigge, a retired philosophy professor at Cal State Bakersfield, and the two men moved in together, while Nancy moved into a house that she and Jim had bought nearby. "We're still married and she's still one of my closest friends," Merrick said.

Merrick was well-liked as a teacher, and his life continued uneventfully until the spring of 1998, when he attended a meeting of the Kern County Human Relations Commission. The Commission's by-laws mention sexual orientation as one of the categories of human diversity that are entitled to respect. Thus Merrick was very surprised to hear one of the Commission members, the Rev. Douglas Hearn, denounce gay people as sick and therefore unsuitable to be teachers. Merrick wrote to a local newspaper about the matter and also filed a complaint with the county. During the summer the matter became a focus of debate in the community.

When school started again in the fall, Merrick found that he was losing students. With the permission of the school principal, more and more of the children were sitting out his classes in the school library. Challenged about this, the principal, Ernie Unruh, said that he was merely acquiescing to the wishes of the children's parents. "Although I hadn't officially come out at that point," Merrick told me, "the perception among some parents was that I was gay, and that was the reason they wanted their kids out of my class. There were no complaints about my teaching."

After a lifetime of keeping a low profile, Merrick now felt summoned to battle. "There must be 60-80 kids in that school who are gay or lesbian," he said. "What must it be like for them to see a teacher having kids taken out of his class because people think he's evil or that he'll hurt children?" Merrick filed a complaint with the California State Labor Board, saying that the school discriminated against him because of his sexual orientation, and he also filed a complaint with the school board. On January 11 the board rejected his complaint. Both the California Teachers' Association and Lambda Legal Defense have taken up Merrick's cause, threatening to file a suit against the school board if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily. Thus the controversy is building toward some kind of climax in the coming months.

Another gay teacher, who is a friend of Merrick but is not himself completely out of the closet, told me that gay people who move to rural areas often have a different experience than those who were brought up there. "I think that they often don't see the discrimination," he said. "Only slowly does it dawn on them that they can't do the things they did in, say, Hollywood. People like myself who've lived here their entire lives, we know what the rules are, we've learned to live with them. It's analogous to a wild animal put in a cage versus one that's lived in a zoo its entire life."

Merrick refuses to offer any blanket condemnation of small-town attitudes. "I've received tremendous support from the gay community in Bakersfield," he says, "and from many straight people too. I know that fifteen kids have been pulled out of my classes, but 165 kids are still there. It's just not as conservative here as people say, otherwise there wouldn't be any kids left."

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>.

It can be pretty sexy [when women come on to me]. I mean, c'mon — everyone is sort of bisexual. It's not a big deal. I've thought about it, when relationships don't work out with guys and you think, "God, this woman friend is so wonderful. It would be so much easier." But really, it's going to be the same damn problems.

— Actress Lucy Liu, the ice queen Ling on Ally McBeal, to Details magazine, February issue.
Where in the World?

by Bob De Loach

Departure city does count
A Recent survey has shown that the city from which you depart can make a lot of difference in the price you pay for your airline tickets. The 5 highest and lowest are listed below:

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<th>City</th>
<th>Avg. Fare</th>
<th>Avg. Dist.</th>
<th>Cost/Mi.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Greensboro</td>
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<td>510 mi.</td>
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Millennium Trips & Tours
Just today, 2/1/99, I had occasion to check on hotel rooms in Las Vegas for the period 12/25/99 to 1/3/2000 and I had as much sticker shock as the client! Of all the hotels I called the lowest room rate for that period was at Circus Circus in their low rise building (which can normally be booked under $35 per night) and the price was $399 per night. That with a minimum of 4 nights and the total amount to be prepaid in full within 30 days of booking. In their tower the price is $600 a night. A check at Treasure Island, Luxor, and Excalibur all resulted in a minimum of $600 per night with 4 nights required and non-refundable after 9/30/99. What does this mean? Well, if you plan to be somewhere special with someone special at the stroke of midnight 12/31/99, you had better plan NOW.

David's Trips & Tours
Millennium Luxurious Fantasies
12/26 - 1/11 — South Africa & Botswana, $6,500 per person without air.
12/26 — 1/9 — Morocco, The Finest of Imperial Cities Tour, $7,000 per person without air.
12/28 or 12/29 - 1/4 New Orleans, 4 nights minimum, $1,500 without air.

12/29 - 1/3 - Budapest, double occupancy, $1,800 per person without air.

Palm Springs White Party
Celebrating its 10th year, this legendary party will happen on April 1 - 5. Various lodging and party specials are planned.

Disney's Animal Kingdom
Well lover and I spent a very full day at Disney's newest attraction in Florida in mid January. The weather was great and the park is in keeping with the quality of the other Disney parks. There is a good bit of walking to be done, but it is well worth the effort. Thousands of plants and animals from all over the world are present in natural settings, just like in the wild. Having been on an African safari, I'd say that this experience is about as close as you are likely to get without doing one yourself. Added to that some really spectacular Broadway type reviews, like The Lion King and Journey to Extinction, you have some first rate entertainment. In the evening we went to Pleasure Island; we highly recommend it. There are a wide variety of adult-oriented night clubs which can satisfy a range of tastes.

Puerto Rico — no no
We have been to Puerto Rico before, but this trip served to remind me again why I don't go back more often. The drivers seem to have a death wish, passing on the right, pulling into the turning lane only to cut back in front of you, and running red lights a full 15 seconds after they have turned. Add to that the fact that they are not particularly fond of Americans. The prices in the stores are more than in Anchorage on many items, and less than 100 miles away on many other Caribbean islands the beaches are far more beautiful. I can't bring myself to recommend the U. S. island possession.

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.

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Pork & Mushroom Supreme
6 pork cutlets or chops
1 can cream of mushroom soup
3/4 pint sour cream (1 1/2 cups)
2 tbl thyme
1 can French-fried onion rings
1/4 cup white wine (optional)
1 small can mushroom pieces (optional)

Pound cutlets or chops flat. Brown pork in a little oil in frying pan. Place in deep casserole. Mix half of the can of onion rings into one can of mushroom soup and sour cream. Spread over all the meat in casserole dish, then sprinkle thyme. Add remaining onion rings over top to finish.

Place in 350 degree oven uncovered and bake for 45 minutes. Increase heat after 30 minutes. Serve hot.

Serves four.

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.

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GLSEN attends Alaska NEA assembly

Thanks to board members of both the Fairbanks and Anchorage chapters, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) had a presence at the annual statewide Delegate Assembly of the NEA (National Education Association), held recently in Anchorage. The co-chair of the Fairbanks chapter gave a presentation to the Human Rights Committee of the NEA, outlining the plight of gay, lesbian, and transgender students in school systems across the state.

A display table offered informational reprints and brochures, including the results of a survey of antidiscrimination policies of all 53 Alaskan districts. While the piles of materials steadily dwindled surreptitiously, few teachers signed the mailing list or stopped to chat. This must be a measure of how fearful teachers in this state are about showing even the slightest interest in gay issues. Unfortunately, in the absence of strong and tested anti-discrimination laws, such paranoia is not only justifiable, but even essential to the job security and economic well-being of teachers.

The NEA has strong antidiscrimination policies in place, both nationally and in Alaska, but a paradox surfaced in the voting of the delegates. A general statement of support for gay and lesbian students and teachers was passed by a large majority on voice vote. However, a resolution to distribute information about gay issues to local chapters was defeated by a two-to-one margin.

Comments in the lengthy debate showed that gay issues in public schools is largely a taboo subject. Many teachers appeared to be woefully uninformed and sometimes misinformed, and many seemed to be unwilling to talk about it in their own schools. Nevertheless, one person commented that recent court rulings elsewhere have cost several school districts large sums when districts failed to enforce their anti-harassment policies, and students suffered as a result. Unfortunately, such costly legal penalties may be one way in which school boards and administrations, as well as teachers, are made aware of their responsibilities toward gay and lesbian students.

Fred Hillman is a board member of GLSEN Alaska.
SACRAMENTO, CA (AP) — With tears and a kiss, two women exchanged promises in a "holy union" ceremony blessed by more than 90 United Methodist ministers in a dramatic mass defiance of a church law against same-sex marriages. "I promise to love you the rest of my life," a tearful Ellie Charlton, 63, told Jeanne Barnett, 68, a retired state unemployment administrator.

Behind them on the stage, the ministers lined up on risers and chanted a blessing that could cost them their jobs: "O God, our maker, we gladly proclaim to the world that Jeanne and Ellie are loving partners together for life."

"If anyone wants to file charges against us, this is what the charges are for, praying this prayer," said the Rev. Donald Fado, pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in suburban Sacramento, the organizer of the ceremony that was part church service and part civil rights demonstration. "In our church, unfortunately, I'm allowed to come into their home and bless their house, bless their car, bless their tractor and even bless their dog, but I am not allowed to bless them," Fado said.

More than 1,000 clergy, lay leaders, gay men, lesbians and other supporters filled the Sacramento Convention Center for the ceremony, which featured folk songs, dancing and poetry. "I hope you can see there's a lot of love for us," Charlton said after the ceremony. "The closet is dark and damp and un-

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

by Talmadge Bailey

The bug-a-boos of gay adoption

Successfully debating the merits of gay adoption is very difficult. Even relatively moderate and open minded people are unwilling to accept the notion of adoption by same-sex couples. Then there is the reich-wing, which has a vested interest in defining gay and parenthood in mutually exclusive terms. Winning this debate will be an uphill battle.

A starting point is to gain acceptance of gay adoption where the child is the natural offspring of one partner or the other. Many same-sex couples are raising children who resulted from failed heterosexual marriages. What compassionate human would deny such a child the benefits associated with legal recognition of a second parent? The child clearly benefits from the adoption by the second parent. Formal adoption offers stabilizing influences as well as potential healthcare and other benefits offered to the second parent’s lawful family.

Formalizing the relationship of stepparent and step-child is common among heterosexual couples entering into second or subsequent marriages. If the debate moves in this direction, you will find yourself arguing the merits of same-sex marriage. That is fine. Just as the child benefits from the stabilizing influence of a formal adoption, the child will benefit from the stabilizing influence of parents bound by a formal marriage contract.

Gaining any level of acceptance will be difficult. Many gay or lesbian parents are raising their natural children with the help of same-sex partners, yet are cautious about seeking legal recognition. This caution is due largely to the threat of renewed custody battles initiated by former spouses and grandparents. Courts have proven very receptive to arguments claiming the child will be harmed by the same-sex relationship of his or her natural parent. In one of the more notorious examples of gay-hostile court actions Mary Ward saw custody of her daughter awarded to the father. He was a convicted murderer and perpetrator of domestic violence, she a lesbian. In a shameless display of prejudice the judge claimed the child would suffer more harm at the hands of her lesbian mother than by living with a convicted murderer and accused child molester. The caution of gay parents is obviously well justified.

The biggest bug-a-boos surrounding adoption by same-sex couples have been created by the reich-wing. The right wing religious-industrial complex constantly reinforces the notion of homosexuals recruiting in lieu of reproducing. Doing so is not only profitable, but increases the right-wing power-base. Another reason for perpetuating the lie is that this is easier than examining inconsistencies in the chosen system of beliefs. The presence of non-evil gays and lesbians would force a difficult reexamination of these chosen beliefs — better to define gay and lesbians as intrinsically evil.

Middle America has also been led to believe all gay men are child molesters. Counter first with the fact virtually all child-molestation is perpetrated by men — most in fact by heterosexual men. In a majority of cases the perpetrator is even known to the young female victim, being either family or a friend of the family. In view of this fact all children would be much safer from child molestation if they were removed from heterosexual families and placed in lesbian households. Or horror of horrors: what if all young women were placed with gay men? They would be safe from molestation. As small children they would be dressed as dolls and would be raised to be incredibly fashion conscious, viscously witty, and highly independent women. That leads us to the real objection to same-sex couples raising children — legally adopted or not. The real objection has to do with enforcement of rigid gender roles. If the objection were something else, lesbians would be allowed to adopt because studies show children growing up in lesbian households grow up just as healthy and balanced as anyone else. In fact, some studies even suggest children reared in lesbian households grow up with superior people skills. Unfortunately, they are perceived as less likely to adhere to the roles demanded of their gender. Look at the terms used to describe those who will not adhere to rigidly defined gender roles: gender-outlaw, gender-treacherous, sissy-boy, etc. Notice there are no positive terms for people who don’t fit. Even terms like “tomboy” have a negative connotation.

Once again equality and fairness are at odds with the gender roles demanded by the majority. Opponents of gay adoption say children need role models of both genders. What they really mean is children must be guided only toward the role dictated by their genitals. Women must act like ladies. Men must be strong. Females must seek a man to submit to. Males must procure and dominate females. Like same-sex marriage, the issue of gay adoption can’t be dealt with independently. It is part of a larger debate about the allowable roles of not only lesbians and gays, but the freedom of all men and women.
As a holiday gift, my friend, Julianne, gave me a copy of her favorite book, *Tell Me No Lies*. The book is the personification of the mythical lie of what a man-woman relationship is supposed to be.

Being raised in the South, I grew up having similar expectations of relationship. In 1961, I married and would remain married to the same man for over twenty-five years. My culture taught me to expect to be taken care of, and to be protected by my mate. “Head over heels in love” I gave my partner every ounce of my love and trust — unconditionally. Actually, the longer and the more I depended upon my partner the more he resented it.

The way I cleaned house never passed his scrutiny. A meal always had some factor that kept it from being perfect. If he gave me a list of five things to do, I would fall short because I didn’t do the sixth thing that needed to be done that he remembered after he left for work, but didn’t call and tell me about. For instance, my husband thought I would look better thinner. I lost weight and exercised until “you could not pinch and inch” in fact, I could not be pinched my body was so firm, but I was not thin enough. He thought that I wasn’t glamorous enough. I had a make over, dyed my hair and bought tighter sexier clothes. He thought that I still looked too ladylike and refined. My experience living with that man is that whatever I did was not good enough and I could not measure up to his yardstick. No matter what I gave, gave up, or did, it was never quite good enough. This struggle is a horrible, futile memory.

The truth of the matter is that my husband never measured up to my expectations. He was supposed to love me, protect me and take care of me and I had the myth of relationships in my head. Like his generation my husband was raised not to show his emotions as a man. Subsequently, he recognized “being emotionally unavailable” as a problem and struggled to feel and express his feelings. This man never quite got the hang of it.

Then there was another issue of no matter how well I explained something, there was some part of it he didn’t understand or was not conscious about. Once he told me that the more time I spent explaining a situation the more he thought that I was “trying to put one over on him” or lying which makes the title of the book, *Tell Me No Lies* a most unpleasant memory. Sure I’ve told a fib or two during my lifetime, but I don’t like to lie and don’t make a habit of it.

Then one day it was as if someone drew a line in the sand. I could not live like that for one more minute. I walked out of the house with my car keys and was gone — mentally, emotionally, physically. Spiritually, I’ve want some kind of resolution. My former husband is dead. He died in 1983. I’ve asked that his spirit come to me in my meditation or a dream to have those few sweet moments when everything is revealed, explained, and unconditional love prevails. I have had dreams about my former husband, and the situation between us is always unresolved when I wake up, and I have decided to give up asking for that resolution.

Looking back, I feel embarrassed and ashamed. What was I thinking? I can’t believe I spent so much time and effort in a situation there was no hope of resolving. I thought my partner loved and cherished the real me. Stupid me! Now, I have the “real thing.” The partner that I have does love me. She is so good to me.

These days, instead of being patient and long suffering, I extract myself from “no win” situations pretty damned fast or confront them head on, because I can’t deal with it one minute longer. My line in the sand is drawn very quickly these days. There are some good things about being older and the wiser.

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

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**Club fined for trany discrimination**

A gay bar in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, was fined $2,000 (US$1,311) January 13 for banning a male pre-operative transsexual from the women’s restroom after female patrons objected to his presence.

The transsexual, Tawney Sheridan, had male genitalia when the incident occurred in 1995. She has since undergone a sex-change operation and is living in Oregon with her new husband.

B. J.’s Lounge owner Bruce Winkler said he may appeal the ruling which was handed down by the B. C. Human Rights Tribunal. “It declared open season for any guy who wants to throw on a dress and go look at women in the washroom,” he said.

But according to the tribunal: “Transsexuals in transition who are living as members of the desired sex should be considered to be members of that sex.”

Sheridan commented to Reuters: “I didn’t really expect any other result because B. C. is so accepting of different lifestyles.”
**A Civil Action**

Civil trials are about negotiation, perseverance and (especially) money. None of these things lend themselves particularly well to celluloid, as *A Civil Action* demonstrates. The film stars John Travolta as ambulance-chasing attorney Jan Schlichtmann and the case which (we're reminded over and over) helped him finally learn to care about people. Travolta goes for broke in his pursuit of two polluting mega-corporations for the deaths of several children in a New England town where the drinking water always “smelled funny.” Director Stephen Zaillian (*Searching for Bobby Fischer*) elicits terrific performances from a cast which includes Robert Duvall, Stephen Fry (*Wilde*) and the delightfully flappable William H. Macy, but his more than twenty “dramatic” close-ups of glasses of water become increasingly hard to swallow.

Grade: B-

Kinsey scale: 0 (No same-sex action here.)

**Patch Adams**

This film would be unbearable if Robin Williams wasn’t so damn funny. A manipulative failure whose turning point is — get this — when a butterfly lands on the main character’s shirt, *Patch Adams* follows the struggles of a first-year medical student and former mental patient who yearns to bring humor and warmth to the doctor-patient relationship. Brace yourself for several dozen variations of the same conversation (“These patients need a Doctor!”; “No, they need a Friend!”) broken only by the brilliant improvisational comedy of a true master. Some marketing genius should turn Williams’s *Patch Adams* one-liners into a half-hour “concert” videotape and spare us the holism lectures and pseudo-spirituality. Now that would be heart-warming.

Grade: D+

Kinsey Scale: 0 (A few gay jokes, but coming from Nathan Lane’s Birdcage husband, they don’t sting.)

**You’ve Got Mail**

This cyber boy-meets-girl tale reunites *Sleepless in Seattle* cute couple Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan with director Nora Ephron. As booksellers on opposite ends of the industry, Hanks and Ryan have an antagonistic relationship. As anonymous smitten e-mail pals, they fill a void in each other’s life. Parker Posey, as Hanks’s girlfriend who “makes coffee nervous,” and Greg Kinnear, as Ryan’s techno-phobic writer-boyfriend head up the floundering supporting cast (which includes Jean Stapleton and Dabney Coleman). In the end, *You’ve Got Mail* is less a two hour ad for AOL than it is an unconvincing diatribe against evil superstores and corporate greed.

Grade: C

Kinsey scale: 0 (The idea of Coleman’s much younger girlfriend leaving him for their son’s nanny is played strictly for laughs.)

**The Prince of Egypt**

Jaw-dropping animation and a terrific vocal cast fail to compensate for poor pacing in this too-serious retelling of the Exodus story. The first DreamWorks animated musical (and the first to have Jeffrey Katzenberg’s full attention since 1994) features Val Kilmer and Ralph Fiennes as brothers Rameses and Moses — one destined to lead an empire, the other destined to lead his people out of Egypt. Other standout voices include Jeff Goldblum as an Uncle Tommish Aaron and Patrick Stewart as the elder Pharaoh. The film stretches the limits of animation with a stunning burning bush, ten plagues, and parting of the Red Sea, but ultimately the film lacks the heart and humor that made Katzenberg’s *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion King* so outstanding.

Grade: B

Kinsey scale: 1 (Steve Martin and Martin Short supply the voices for the mcing magicians Hotep and Hoy.)

**Former Ottawa mayor had female partner**

The mayor of Ottawa, Canada, from 1951-1956 and 1960-1964 was apparently gay. The late Charlotte Whitton’s secret life was revealed January 7 when staffers at the National Archives opened a box of her personal papers that she had ordered sealed until now. It contained love letters to and from her live-in companion, Margaret Grier — including letters Whitton continued to write to Grier for two years after Grier’s death in 1947.

“Oh! Mardie, Marcie, how can I go on,” Whitton wrote in one missive three week’s after Grier’s death. “We must just go on being with each other. ... Ours wasn’t love, it was a knitting together of mind and spirit: it was something given to few of God.”

Whitton was the first woman mayor of a large Canadian city. Among her most memorable words: “Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought of half so good. Luckily, it’s not difficult.”

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we have always been...we shall always be.
The aftermath: Picking up the pieces of Valentines Day

by Randy Sindelar

This is the time of year when the majority of us "Re-
view the Relationship."

March is approaching and since there is nothing else to
do, we analyze "THE GIFT" of Valentine's Day which, to
us, defined out relationship. Was it romantic? Too much,
too little? Did you drop hints or expect the person to read
your mind? Taking a tip from Cosmo, which we all know
is the expert of True Love, test yourself on how you rate
in the Love Department.

Cupid's Quiz
- Did they take you out to a fabulous dinner and give
you just the right flowers, or did they say it was great to
be so comfortable with someone that you didn't have to
do anything special, then hand you a Pringle and channel
surf?
- Did they buy you an extravagant present that took your
breath away? Did they charge it to your credit card?
- Was their surprise a homemade dinner for two with all
their secret recipes? Was the surprise Tuna Balls Italiano,
stuffed onions, and peanut butter and Fluff cake for des-
sert?
- Was the Cardinal Sin committed by putting the card
you spent hours picking out on the mantel next to the pic-
ture of their ex-lover?
- When they gave your flowers, did you have to explain
you didn't have a vase for them as you had never received
anything so small before, and had to use an eyedropper?
- Were you regaled with tales of how economically
smart it is to shop at gas station parking lots, and no one
really knows the difference between diamonds and cubic
zirconium anyway?
- During dinner, did you find yourself having thoughts
of your ex-lover? I mean, stealing your furniture, kicking
your cat, and swearing at your mother in the nursing
home wasn't really ALL that bad. At least it showed per-
sonality.
- Did they have your first condom bronzed and put on a
chain?
- During sex, did you remember you had been meaning
to line your kitchen cabinets and really should make a
point of it soon?
- If this is a new love, did they remark how great it was
to have someone to share the evening with, since their
wife is out of town anyway?
- Was their idea of proclaiming their undying love to
spray paint a huge red heart on your garage?
- When you were walking out of a jewelry store that af-
ternoon, did you bump into their ex, who burst into
laughter, clutched their sides, and wished you Good
Luck?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, hope-
fully you are happily single again. Or weighing the pro's
and con's of Prozac vs. Xanax. Take heart, it is March
when everyone else is bored and looking to cuddle so you
won't be alone long.

Just hope you don't meet someone when your birthday
is coming up.

Messages for Randy Sindelar may be left at
<Sincor@aol.com>.

Sylvia L. Short
Attorney and Counsellor at Law

Don't forget your friends!
Remember, there are lots of us.
Let's work together for the good of all of us!

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Join Identity, Inc. at its celebrated Fourth
Friday Potluck & Social. Bring soup, salad,
entree, deviled eggs, hors d'oeuvres, fruit, bread,
dessert, chips, dip, pizza, etc. Identity provides
tea, coffee, punch. Admission is free, but we
cheerfully accept donations. If you would like to
receive an e-mail or phone reminder, e-mail Steve
at 81_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, February 26

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: Double feature! Alaska Native Health
Board followed by Margo Borland's research into
domestic abuse in lesbian relationships.
Book review of *My Brother*

by Lesléa Newman

*My Brother*
by Jamaica Kincaid
The Noonday Press, 1998 (paperback)
198 pages, $10.00
ISBN# 0-374-52562-5

The plot of *My Brother* is simple, and we've heard it all before: brother (or lover, friend, uncle, father, cousin) contracts HIV and dies of AIDS. Yet, as Alice Walker once said, "The end is nothing. The journey is all." And Jamaica Kincaid takes the reader on an unforgettable journey through this short, wrenching memoir.

To open a book written by Jamaica Kincaid is to enter a world so electrically intense, it practically takes your breath away. In *My Brother*, for example, Kincaid's mother gives birth on the first page, and holds another child who dies in her arm on the second page. And there are 196 pages to go.

Every sentence of *My Brother* reminds readers that they are no longer in twentieth century America. Consider the following: "I heard my brother cry his first cry and then there was some discussion of what to do with his afterbirth, but I don't know now what was decided to do with all of it; only that a small piece of it was dried and pinned to the inside of his clothes like a talisman to protect him from evil spirits." (page 5)

Kincaid lives in both worlds: she has lived in the United States for many years and currently makes her home with her husband and children in Vermont. But part of her still inhabits the world she grew up in: the island of Antigua where her family still resides; her mother, whom she frequently cuts off all communication with, and her siblings, including her brother Devon, whom the title of the book refers to, and who died of AIDS. For any reader who faces the challenge of bridging two worlds (in my case the conservative Jewish community in which I grew up and the g/l/b/t community in which I now live) the situation Kincaid finds herself in will be achingly familiar.

Though Kincaid is a family member, she is also a stranger. She no longer looks like the members of her family, nor does she speak like them. The following refers to Kincaid's brother:

"I had lived away from my home for so long that I no longer readily understood the kind of English he spoke and always had to have him repeat himself to me; and I no longer spoke the kind of English he spoke, and when I said anything to him, he would look at me and sometimes just laugh at me outright." (page 8)

Yet Kincaid does not exactly fit in with the people of her adopted homeland either. Again, speaking about her brother:

"His skin was a deep black color, I noticed that because I live in a place where no one is of his complexion, except for me, and I am not really of his complexion, I am only of his complexion in the way of race." (page 9)

It is precisely because Kincaid has left the fold that her family turns to her for help, for she is the only person they know who has the power to bring Devon the wonder drug, AZT from the USA. And though "you can't go home again," Kincaid chooses to do just that in order to make peace with her brother before he dies. The way she, and other members of her family change as the result of Devon's illness and death is the heart of this memoir. And though there is much pain here, the story is told in such lush, poetic language, the book is a joy to read. Here is death in all its messiness, its ugliness and its inconvenience, but here also is life, with its complications, its yearnings and its love. *My Brother* is a vital contribution to AIDS literature, penned by one of the most powerful writers publishing today.

Lesléa Newman is the author of *Still Life with Buddy*, a novel told in 50 poems about the passionate friendship between a lesbian and a gay man living with AIDS.

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You're a great big wonderful lesbian, you great big wonderful lesbian you.
— Horizons Community Services ad campaign appearing on public-transit vehicles and elsewhere around Chicago.
Lesbian Notions

by Paula Martina

Paula Martina is the author of seven books. Her latest is The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage. She can be reached at <LNcolumn@aol.com>.

Every so often, lesbian and gay political chitchat turns to the question, “Why doesn’t our movement have a Martin Luther King?” It’s kind of a sad question, one that’s full of longing to have the lesbian and gay movement be recognized by a majority of people as socially and politically significant. The question suggests that if we only had a great national leader, then we’d be taken seriously and could claim our place in the history books. Was Harvey Milk that potential leader? Was Urvashi Vaid, before she left the top post at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force? The problem with the question is that its implied goal — unity — is probably unattainable.

But maybe we’re asking the wrong question. Instead of asking why our movement hasn’t produced a national leader with King’s profile or why we’re so lacking in “unity,” maybe we should take another look at what lessons we can learn from the black civil rights movement of which he is a symbol.

First of all, there’s a misperception out there among many white lesbians and gays that the black civil rights movement was a coherent, unified set of actions, with King securely at its helm throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The media certainly fostered that idea, and the image of King at the 1963 March on Washington delivering his unforgettable “I Have a Dream” speech is indelibly etched in most Americans’ minds. With that picture as the model, it would seem that, by comparison, the lesbian and gay movement is indeed a fractured muddle with only tennis players and TV stars to speak for it.

What many of us forget or never learned is that the black civil rights movement, like the lesbian and gay movement it helped to inspire, was composed of an assortment of groups and individuals with varying and often conflicting agendas. King, whose adherence to nonviolence made him particularly attractive and non-threatening to liberal whites, often came under criticism within his own movement. At one time or another, groups as diverse as the NAACP, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and African-American businessmen expressed strong dissatisfaction with King’s actions. Later at odds with King’s methods were Malcolm X’s “by any means necessary” doctrine and groups like the Black Panthers, a wing of the movement that many blacks and whites alike dismissed as too radical or “fringe.”

The civil rights movement had other internal problems, like sexism, homophobia, and classism. While women performed much of the local work registering voters, they rarely held positions of power or influence at the national level. Bayard Rustin, architect of the March on Washington, was made publicly invisible because he was a gay man and therefore was considered a political liability. Many African-American working-class people were hesitant to sign on to a movement that they perceived as having middle-class goals, while some educated blacks were embarrassed by the “unlettered” preachers of the black Baptist churches.

There’s a further misperception that the black civil rights movement proceeded up, up, up to victory — enjoying stunning legal and judicial triumphs like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Supreme Court’s Loving v. Virginia decision in 1967. But, in fact, there were many setbacks along the way to these successes, including a dramatic increase in racially inspired violence by whites as segregation was eroded. And many of the social programs set up during Lyndon Johnson’s administration have been chipped away by more conservative presidents and lawmakers, injuring the gains of the civil rights movement.

There are a lot of parallels with the lesbian and gay movement. So what can we learn from all this? Certainly, we’ve learned much already. For example, that voter registration can create political clout. That nothing can be achieved without supportive politicians, but that laws and judicial decisions alone don’t produce social change. That to be effective, a movement must offer something to a wide range of its people. That it must also have strong allies on the outside.

But there’s also the lesson that “unity” is an elusive thing. It looks good when the media depict it on the television news or in the photo spreads of national magazines, but it is rarely really achievable. What is more attainable and probably more desirable is coalition — different groups of people recognizing that, though they may have different immediate goals, their desires to change society are basically in sync.

On one of my online mailing lists recently, I was pleased to see the Black Radical Congress (BRC) doing outreach to feminists and g/l/b/t people, among other progressive groups, in an attempt to “better fight for the needs of the masses of Black people.” I wish the lesbian and gay movement would make a similar effort. One big lesson we could learn from the civil rights movement is that social change is an ongoing process that isn’t independent or one charismatic leader, but on a loose, sometimes messy array of people.

As for “Ex-Gays” Who Feel You Can Walk Away From Your Sexuality: You always could. It’s called the closet.
— Village Voice columnist Michael Musto, December 30.

Friends of the Klondyke Kontakt

The KK has a new e-mail address
<klondykekontakt@hotmail.com>
Ah, youth!

by Ken Lovering

We were uncomfortable with the whole idea of this weekend getaway. My husband Paul hadn't seen his friend Michael in well over a year, so we couldn't very well turn down the invitation. Besides, despite our hesitation, Paul was hoping for reconnection with his friend and it would give us a chance to meet Michael's new boyfriend, Chad.

Chad was two-thirds the age of we three thirty-somethings. He was nineteen, to be precise: still wet behind the ears, flip-burgers-at-Micky-D’s, dot-his-i’s-with-a-big-ol’-circle nineteen. A few months earlier, when Michael and Chad had set up an e-mail account, Chad began sending Paul and me messages asking “How u 2 doing?” And he signed his boring notes about his daily routine “Love, Chad.” If there had been a heart symbol on his keyboard, I'm sure he would've used it.

His electronic adolescent cryptics and premature affection were both endearing and disconcerting; we didn't know what to make of them. On the one hand, they seemed an honest yet awkward greeting; by osmosis, we were now his friends and, since he had no preconception of who we were, he was naturally inclined to make the kind of small talk he made with friends his own age. On the other hand, he seemed a sweet boy with a new toy, passing a note during math class for the sake of the note itself and more concerned about making social connections than about the quality and depth. He seemed to float on the surface of substance and self-concept, never diving into the murkiness to snatch a pearl of meaning.

But, I thought, that's all typical of adolescents. Developmentally, he's probably doing okay.

Paul and I knew, if nothing else, it would be an interesting weekend.

When Paul rang the bell of their beachside condominium building, an unfamiliar voice answered and buzzed us inside. As we walked down the fourth-floor hall, a boy came toward us — a Chris-O’Donnell beautiful boy who might have stepped out of an underwear ad (literally, because he wore nothing but boxers and a loose T-shirt). He merely said “Hi,” and we weren't even sure he was Chad. Who, after all, would wear only his underwear to welcome guests who he’d never previously met?

We greeted each other monosyllabically and awaited Michael’s return from work in their living room. The balcony window looked out at disarranged patio furniture and a rain-soaked seascape.

Chad had been watching a rerun of Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman before we arrived and he continued doing so, folding his lovely limber legs to his chest in a plush rocker and blankly picking at his toenails. Paul and I asked questions that were greeted with a polite smile and an answer of not more than a few words. A far cry from those endearing e-mails. He offered us nothing, innocently unaware of his role as host.

Still, Paul and I soon fell into the “My-God-I’m-not-supposed-to-look-at-other-men (boys!)” stance, characterized by sidelong glances at Chad in his underwear and unbearable feelings of guilt. I felt a sudden, unprecedented kinship with Walt Whitman.

Paul headed to the kitchen to look for wine.

That evening at dinner, the waitress delivered our three mixed drinks and one soft drink, and Michael — much heavier and balder than I remembered — got to talking about Chad. “He dropped out of high school,” he was saying, like a disappointed parent, as Chad chewed on his straw.

Paul chimed in. This was his territory: he’s a Safe-Schools Trainer for the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, a national organization which strives to make schools a safe place for gay & lesbian youth and teachers. He asked Chad if he knew he was gay when he was in high school and if his teachers and friends supported him.

Chad seemed surprised by the questions. “Yeah,” he said to both. “It’s just that I was always having sex. I couldn’t get my work done,” he laughed. His mere presence carried a distracting, almost intentional innuendo.

“ Incredible, I tell ya,” Michael said, and he preached the importance of a diploma. He was turning increasingly reproachful, but it seemed odd that he should be so critical of decisions Chad had made before they'd even met. He wasn’t making any effort to understand why gay and lesbian youth might drop out of high school.

I gave it a shot.

“A lot of gay kids might drop out because they’re confused about who they are,” I said. “They also have family and self-esteem issues to deal with that just don’t allow them to concentrate. They get scared of failing, so they drop out.”
“No,” Chad said. “I knew who I was. I just wanted to have sex all the time. That was my priority.”

“Oh,” I said. Where to go with that?

I considered another analysis, another explanation to give this kid some credit and give Michael another way of seeing Chad’s situation. The thing was, though, I believed the boy.

Chad wanted to get his GED, Michael added, and go on to college which, for some reason, exasperated Michael even more. “And tell them why you want to go to college,” Michael said, bringing his hand down hard on the table, as if fed up with the boy’s foolish dreams.

Chad stared at his soda, and said “study business.”

“What’s wrong with that?” I couldn’t help being defensive.

Michael raised a finger to his, as if to say “Wait, I’m not done with my line of questioning,” Then he chided some more, “Tell them why business.”

Chad played with the table cloth, mute.

“Fine, I’ll tell them,” Michael said. “He wants to wear a suit! He told me that’s the only reason he wants to go to business school!”

I was going to come to Chad’s defense, but I knew it would be wasted energy. I had discovered the nature of their relationship. The badger and the badgered. The parent and the parented. This was what they needed from each other and I had no intention of asking or exploring why.

I thought two things during the ensuing silence:

The next time Paul and I escape for a few days, it will be just the two of us.

And, you know, the kid would look drop-dead gorgeous in a suit.
NEW YORK (CBS) — Nearly half the Class of 2000 report that many students in their high schools are preju-
diced against homosexuals, and a third say gay and
lesbian students are abused verbally and otherwise at
school.
Overall, 11th-graders appear slightly more tolerant
than adults of gay relations. But, regarding homosexuals,
boys are much less tolerant than girls.

Reports of intolerance, but support for
anti-discrimination laws
There is more prejudice against gays in the Class of
2000 than there is racial prejudice. According to these
11th-graders, gay students face a lot more prejudice in
today's high schools than African-American students do.
Nearly half say a lot of students in their school are preju-
diced against gays, compared with only 10 percent who
say this about prejudice against blacks.
A third of all high school juniors report gays and lesbi-
ans in their schools are made fun of or even abused by
other students. Nearly a quarter say homosexuals are gen-
erally treated the same as others. But for those who actu-
ally know gay or lesbian students in their grade (49
percent of respondents), awareness of abuse is much
higher. A total of 53 percent of those who know gay stu-
dents say these students are subject to abuse at school.
And 28 percent of Class of 2000 members (more boys
than girls) admit to making anti-gay remarks themselves.
While more than half of these high school juniors think
it is necessary to have laws to protect homosexuals from
discrimination in hiring and promotion, that's less than
the 64 percent who think such laws are necessary in pro-
tecting racial minorities in these cases.

Beliefs about homosexuality
By more than two to one, 11th-graders say homosexual
relations between adults are morally wrong and not okay.
Half say they don’t care much either way.
For many in the Class of 2000, homosexuality seems to
be a matter of choice, not birth: 62 percent say it is some-
thing a person chooses to be, while 34 percent say it's
something gay people cannot change.

Knowing gays and lesbians
The percentage of Class of 2000 members who say they
know a gay student in their grade at school has risen sub-
stantially as these students head toward their senior year.
As ninth-graders, less than a quarter reported that they
knew someone in their grade at school who was gay or
lesbian. Now, almost half say they do.
Nearly a third of 11th-graders say they have a close
friend or family member who is gay, and 18 percent say
they know someone who has AIDS or has died from the
disease.

Differences between boys and girls
On nearly every question having to do with homosexu-
als, male and female members of the Class of 2000 differ.

First, girls are much more likely to report knowing some-
one who is gay or lesbian, having a gay friend, and know-
ing someone who has had AIDS.
And while nearly two-thirds of 11th-grade girls think
anti-discrimination laws are necessary to protect homo-
sexuals, almost half of boys say such laws are not neces-
sary.
Less than a third of Class of 2000 members admit that
they’ve made anti-gay remarks, but boys are more than
twice as likely to have made anti-gay remarks than girls.
Almost one out of three 11th-graders reports
having heard their parents make anti-gay remarks. Par-
ents' attitudes on homosexual matters clearly have a sig-
nificant influence on their children.

Those who report that their parents have made anti-
gay remarks are more than twice as likely as other teens
to have done so themselves: 59 percent of students who
have heard their parents make anti-homosexual remarks
say they themselves have, too.

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample
of 1,246 eleventh-graders by telephone December 4-12, 1998.
The error due to sampling could be plus or minus
three percentage points for results based on the entire sample.
The margin of error for sub-samples is higher.
Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

Rah rah for lesbians

Busty beauty Natasha Lyonne, who charmed the critics last year with her winsome performance as a buxom-but-toothless teen in The Slums of Beverly Hills will be strutting her pom-poms once again. The talented thespian is starring as a budding lesbian in the black comedy But I'm a Cheerleader which is currently in production in Los Angeles. In this independent film, Lyonne will play a teenager whose parents suspect she's gay, and send her to a "homosexual rehab center" to set her straight (as if). Instead, in not-so-classic girl-meets-girl fashion, she hooks up with another adolescent dyke, played by The Faculty's Clea Duvall. Thankfully, romance ensues. Campy co-stars include RuPaul and John Waters regular Mink Stole.

Kiss Me, Guido I'm a television star!

Paramount Network TV and the producers of the 1997 popular gay film Kiss Me, Guido are hoping to make a television series based on the comedy about a Bronx pizza-maker-cum-actor and his GWM roomie. Paramount acquired the film at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival and is talking to original screenwriter Tony Vitale about working on the pilot. Joanathan Axelrod and James Widdoes who work on the ABC sitcom Brother's Keeper will executive produce the new show. No word yet if any of the original cast will continue their roles in the small screen version. But fans of Nick Scotti, who portrayed Italian stallion Frankie in the pic, can find him on the big screen this summer, playing a disco devotee in Detroit Rock City.

The gayest guy on Dawson's Creek

Teen heartthrob Joshua Jackson, who plays teacher-bedding ladies' man Pacey on the WB's Dawson's Creek is going to show his nelly side in his next film. Cruel Intentions, which is set to open in early March, is a modern-day retelling of Les Liaisons Dangereuses. Jackson, who already bared his buns in the notorious locker room scene of last year's Apt Pupil, will play a gay drug dealer in the $11 million movie. If that's not a queer enough reason to go see this flick, keep in mind that Buffy star Sarah Michelle Gellar will be getting some Sapphic action in the drama. If that cast isn't aesthetically pleasing enough to lure you to the theater, note that also co-starring in the teen flick are real-life couple Reese Witherspoon and hottie Ryan Phillippe.

Amen for Showtime

Director / poet extraordinaire Maya Angelou (Down In the Delta) is teaming up with Showtime Networks to make a film adaptation of gay writer James Baldwin's 1964 play The Amen Corner. The story centers on a charismatic female preacher in Harlem whose roguish jazz musician husband returns home to die, putting her standing in the church in jeopardy. Angelou hopes to start production early this year. To Wong Foo's Wesley Snipes is producing the project.

Drew cares about gays

Drew Carey, whose eponymous ABC sitcom features a recurring transvestite character, has championed yet another gay cause. He recently lent a helping hand to raise money for the Trevor Line, a suicide-prevention line for gay teens. Noticeably absent from the event was fellow Trevor Line booster and former gay teen herself, Ellen DeGeneres (not to mention her other half, Anne Heche). The reason? Most likely Ms. DeGeneres knew Drew would be there, and after dissing him in her recent Los Angeles Times Magazine interview, talking about what a pain-in-the-derriere Mr. Carey is, Ellen most likely decided to lay low for a while. During the event's auction, Drew purchased a Victorian formal gown. This doesn't mean he's a trannie-in-training, as the dress was a diminutive size six.

Cumming on the big screen

Cabaret star and Tony winner Alan Cumming has been commuting from the Kit Kat Klub to work on some feature films. First up is Urban Folk Tales, a black comedy about a man and his lover who are assaulted and seek revenge on the perpetrator of the hate crime. Object of My Affection's Tim Daly and Josh Hamilton co-star. Also forthCumming is Titus, directed by Julie Taymor (who is best known for her direction of The Lion King on Broadway). The film is based on Titus Andronicus, Shakespeare's tragic tale about the cycle of violence in the world. Cumming is "thrilled" to be co-starring with Anthony Hopkins in the film, which is being shot in Rome. After production wraps, Cumming will be returning to the Kit Kat Klub.

Romeo San Vicente, who thinks all cheerleaders ought to be lesbians, can be reached at <RomeoDeep@aol.com>.

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A Couple of guys

Let's see Black olives, Omigosh! Aren't you Eric Parker?

Uh, yeah, but, Derrick, it's him! The Naked Gun from 'Fun With Dick and James.'

We loved that play. You were terrific! A beautiful body, and so moving. That last scene just tore us up!

Thank you so much. I pour my heart and soul into that show every night.

My boyfriend thinks everyone just likes it for the nudity. It's so nice to know that's not true—that I've really touched someone out there in the audience with my craft.

What a ham! What a beefcake!
The Amazon Trail

**Name that dyke!**

I intensely dislike my birth name. As a kid growing up in an apartment building my mother would lean out our window and sing this three-syllable name. The other kids took to chanting it in the kind of mean sing-song voices that torment children the world over. Of course, as a small person I didn’t know this and took it personally. To this day the name grates on me like chalk on a blackboard.

Consequently, I had various nicknames as a kid ranging from Eeler to Grasshopper. Easy to deduce from these that I was a nervous child who seldom sat still and that I had tomboy tendencies, running and leaping being specialties of mine.

But the nickname that stuck, that was assigned to me at high school graduation by my girl, was Lee, a resoundingly proper traditionally lesbian moniker I’ve been proud to bear.

We all have our name stories. It amazes me how many people stay with their given names. Could they express who we are when often chosen prior to birth? Do we grow into names like Felicity and George? My mother thought the name she chose would grace a beauty contest winner. Instead my face, I’m assured, is fit to grace lesbian tombs. If a parent names a son Henry, is the infant expected to take on kingly trappings or be dubbed Hank and wield a baseball bat?? What of all the boys children named Dustin these days — is theater the expectation or another Tootsie? Why in the world name a boy Gore if he’s likely to become an intellectual not a warrior?

How did the name Jennifer become so popular? And Jason? Is there a parental underground that passes on these trendy noms du jour? A generation before me there was a lovely popular song called Laura. Ye gads! Lauras littered the playgrounds for decades! Thank goodness books aren’t used much as a name resource or there would be Scarlett women everywhere and bashful embarrassed geeks named Rhett.

Men seem to savor their masculine identifiers. I’ve noticed that fully 65% of gay men are named Bruce, and that the other 35% are satisfied with variations on Robert: Bob, Rob, Bobby, Robbie, Roberto, Robin, Rupert, and Rab. Of course, these numbers do not include drag names which are among the most outrageous, narcissistic, radical and hysterical of all name changes. Holly Woodlawn, Divine and Candy Darling indeed!

But dykes! Old gay women seemed to love the name Leslie, femme or butch. Radclyffe Hall liked to be called John, as if her own name were not quite enough. More commonly a lesbian will be satisfied with derivatives. Gerry for the butchy Geraldine, Terri for the femme Theresa. Phil and Jo, Matty and Val are names that translate well into statements of independence from conventional femininity. Micky, Carrie, Vi, Lil and Ev wouldn’t be caught dead (except at work or family-of-origin dinners) as Michelle, Carolyn, Vivian, Lillian and Evelyn.

Then there are the last name takers: Kennedys who become Kellys, Murphyhs who turn to Murphys, a Claudia Jaurez who prefers to be called CJ.

Didn’t most of us, gay or not at the time, try on different names in adolescence? Pamela Elizabeth Merrifield, Jock Stone, Grace Veil, Leonardo Van Gogh. I remember mine but would be mortified to share it. We all probably wrote it on notebooks and dreamed it on imaginary marquees. Some danced under that name, or astounded the world with our legal prowess. Others leapt higher than basketball hoops, ran more fleetly than Mercury, considered the name Babe Mercury. Ha! We thought no one would ever know!

What are we called today? I know a young woman struggling to transition from Andrea to Andy. Many watched the late and much loved proprietor of Mother Kali’s Books decide in her seventies to return to her younger nickname Izzy. It fit. West coast women have a custom of choosing names from nature: Branch or Meadow, Cloud or Juniper. How very many old gay names could have been of this vein, but were not: Dusty, Sandy, Rusty, Dell, Rocky.

I am so lucky. Writers can name their characters. The more characters the more joy in finding them names. I remember coming up with Frenchy Tommeeau on a bus ride home from work in New Haven. I worked with a very feminine young woman named Frenchie and the name caught my fancy. Yet when I named an earlier character, Annie Heaphy, I was taking revenge on a homophbic therapist by using his dog’s name! An ex chose the torch singer name Tallulah Mimosa. Lover and I worked out the name Jasmine because the character’s mom wanted a pretty daughter and I slapped on the last name of Jones because Jasmine had turned out plain. Can you tell this is one of the fun parts, for me, of being a writer?

The name may not make the woman or the man, but as any gay male or lesbian Tom, Dick or Harry will say, sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.

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My Queer Life

Growing pains

by Michael Thomas Ford

I am a grown up. I know this because this morning for breakfast I ate half a bag of Reese’s miniature peanut butter cups. If I were a child, someone would have probably stopped me.

But this was clearly an act of rebellion. I don’t always feel like a grown up. In fact, most of the time I sit around waiting for someone to tell me what to do next, as if the bell ending recess rang but I can’t remember where my classroom is. I keep hoping a hall monitor will happen along and point me in the right direction.

Some people take to the whole grown up thing with ease. They get jobs and plan for their futures. They have cocktails with friends, take vacations, and follow the financial news. These people frighten me. Sometimes I sit on the subway and look at them with their briefcases and stylish clothes, wondering how they got that way. Clearly we all started out on the same road. But at some point they took the exit leading to adulthood while I, apparently, was too busy trying to find a really good station on the radio and missed my turn.

It’s not that I don’t do the requisite adult things. I pay my bills every month. I have a credit card. I have a car. But sometimes I still find myself sitting in front of the television set thinking, “You really should turn that off and go outside to play.” And on more than one occasion I have had to remind myself that no one is forcing me to get up at six every morning. But I do it anyway, urged on by some kind of groundless fear that if I continue to sleep someone is sure to give me hell for it.

When my parents were the age I am now, they had a house and three children. I have the dog, but it’s hardly the same thing. For one, his toys cost less, and he doesn’t demand being taken to a Spice Girls concert because all his friends are going. I wonder if my father used to stand in front of the mirror in the morning and wonder when everyone would figure out that underneath the suit and tie he wore to work he was really still 13 years old. Because that’s what I do. Not that I own a suit or tie or have a real job. I sit at home in my boxer shorts and write. But I still worry that one day there will be a knock on the door and some official-looking person will announce in a loud voice that the jig is up and I have to go back with the other kids.

When I was 12, I used to look at my sisters’ college friends and think they were very grown-up. Then, when I was in college, I looked at people who had graduated and started their lives and thought that they were very grown-up. A few years later, toiling in a real job, I started getting suspicious. The height of the adulthood bar kept rising, and it seemed as if I would never clear it.

Finally, I gave up. I assumed myself that I am never going to be one of those truly grown-up people who knows what he’s doing. And that’s fine. That’s why the world has people like Dan Rather and Oprah. They figure it all out and break it to the rest of us in terms we can understand. Thanks to them, I really don’t need to be able to talk about health plans and politics with any sense of assuredness. I can just sit around playing with blocks until Oprah and Dan fill me in.

A couple of months back I spoke to a group of third graders at a local elementary school about what it’s like being a writer. During the question-and-answer period, I looked around at all the shiny little faces staring at me. Choosing one, I asked an eager little girl what she wanted to know.

“How old are you?” she asked.

“I’m 30,” I answered, having just endured that birthday.

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All around me, eyes went wide. The children stared as if I were a newly-discovered relic pulled from the desert sands of Arizona or something.

“That’s so old,” said one boy.

“You’re older than my mom,” added another, disbeliefing.

Things went on in this way for some time. The children wanted to know how someone as clearly aged as I was could write books, let alone walk to their school without the aid of a cane.

When I left that day, the teacher accompanied me to the doors of the school. “You should never tell them how old you are,” she said. “It’s like throwing raw meat to coyotes. I just tell them I knew God when he was a boy. That shuts them up. Except for the ones who want to know whether or not he was a good kickball player.”

But I know how those kids feel. They look at me and wonder what their lives will be like a billion years later when they too turn 30. I’m sure they have all kinds of plans about being models and football stars, of having nice clothes and nice cars and big houses. Next time I’ll tell them the truth.

“You still won’t know what you want to be when you grow up,” I’ll say. “You’ll wonder why everyone else has great jobs and wonderful relationships and dogs who like to sleep on the floor, because probably you haven’t won that Oscar yet and your significant other really isn’t that good in bed and your dog likes to throw up on your shoes. You might luck out and make a lot of money, but chances are you’ll be eating spaghetti and shopping at Wal-Mart while you try to pay off student loans and those credit cards bills you rang up when you were 23 and thought it would all take care of itself.”

Probably they will just stare at me for a few moments, wondering if I’ve succumbed to some hideous form of mental illness brought on by my advanced age. And then I’ll feel bad for ruining their lives.

“Okay,” I’ll tell them gently. “It’s not all that bad. The good news is, you can eat peanut butter cups for breakfast.” That should give anyone hope.

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African Americans At Risk!

February is African American History month. At the Four A’s, we celebrate the achievements of prominent African Americans who contributed to American and Alaskan history. More importantly, though, we must address the continued crisis of HIV/AIDS in this particular community.

In Alaska, African Americans make up 4.5% of the population but also represent 7% of the AIDS cases. This is a disproportionate amount which must be considered as we all work to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Also, a recent announcement by New York scientists at the 6th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections stated that, “About 20 percent of African Americans carry a genetic mutation that puts them at six times greater risk than whites of being infected with HIV once they’re exposed to the disease.” The new gene mutation was announced by Dr. Leon Kostrikis and John Moore of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in Manhattan. In an interview, Moore said the defect is related to a cell receptor - called cCR5 - that’s used as an entryway for HIV.

Although some Caucasians have mutations that protect them from infection by eliminating their cCR5 receptors, the beneficial mutation has not been seen in people of African descent. Sadly, Moore said, the reverse has now been determined: About 20 percent of African-descendant Americans carry the 356-T mutation, which somehow (the biological details are yet undetermined) manipulates their cCR5 receptors in a way that makes them highly vulnerable to HIV.

Such medical research emphasizes the need for even more prevention efforts. If research does show that African Americans are at greater risk for HIV, than the need to change the behaviors which lead to exposure becomes all the more urgent. At the Four A’s, we will be discussing this issue at a conference entitled “This is Our Life: Big Picture, Personal Choices” on Saturday, February 20, 1999. The event will be held at the Northway Mall: Glenn Highway and Airport Heights Road from 10AM-4PM. Please join us! For more information call Hugh Brown III at 263-2054.

Upcoming Events:
- African-American Conference, Saturday February 20, Northway Mall
- AIDS 101 Training: Thursday, 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
Lambda's work with older gay people

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF), the nation's oldest and largest legal organization dedicated to the full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV and AIDS, is expanding its litigation and advocacy efforts on behalf of older lesbians and gay men. Specifically, we are looking for potential cases, advocacy opportunities, or areas for policy reform that will have an impact on homophobia and ageism targeted at older lesbians and gay men. Examples include:

- Housing discrimination based upon sexual orientation or HIV status in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or retirement communities
- Verbal, physical or psychological abuse targeted at older lesbians and gay men
- Older gay people who are denied access to or experience discrimination in health care based upon their sexual orientation or HIV status
- Sexual orientation or HIV-related discrimination against older gay people by businesses, community groups, volunteer programs, or other forms of public accommodations
- Older gay people who experience censorship of gay speech or forced invisibility

If you are aware of any incidents of discrimination involving older lesbians or gay men, or have any thoughts, insights, anecdotes, or advice about Lambda's work with older members of the gay community, contact Doni Gewirtzman, Staff Attorney (pending admission to the New York State bar), at (212) 809-8585 x242 or <DGLLDEF@aol.com>.

Gay group sues Canadian government

The organization Foundation for Equal Families sued the Canadian government January 7 demanding it change 58 laws that define a spouse as someone of the opposite sex. The group says the laws are discriminatory and conflict with court rulings that have granted same-sex partners spousal rights. Among the laws targeted are ones dealing with social-security benefits, pensions, income taxes and immigration.

"We are dealing here, in this case, solely ... with principles that have already been clearly established by the courts," said the foundation's lawyer, David Corbett. "The legislature hasn't been listening. We're going to ask the courts to speak again, loudly and finally."
Tales from the shoebox

by Kathleen Madden

Organizing taxes a good time to review finances
Sometime between New Year’s Eve and the first robin of spring come TAXES! As April 15 draws closer, shoeboxes (and other “high-tech” devices for saving receipts) appear from closets and, through “forced” organization, taxpayers get a clear look at their finances for the year just ended. The IRS needs the information; but you can really use it. Collecting and organizing information for tax purposes makes tax time a great time for an overall financial “check-up.”

In a perfect world, tax time wouldn’t be the only time you think about your current and future finances. But filing returns brings together much of the information you need to analyze where you are, financially, and what you can do to help get you where you want to go.

Last year’s income is a principal focus of tax preparation — and a fundamental “given” in any financial plan. Understanding how much you earned is basic to analyzing an even more important financial reality — what you did with what you earned. Did you save what you needed to last year? If last year’s income was an increase over the previous year, how did you use that money to improve your financial situation? If your income increased, did you “up” your savings and investing at the same rate? And did you “up” it enough to keep pace with inflation? These are key considerations if planning for long-term financial needs, such as retirement funding, is to stay on track.

Tax records will show the income you received from your personal investments. Ask yourself if these investments are performing according to your plan... but keep your answer in the proper context, too. Examining a single, 12-month period of performance typically may not be the appropriate way to gauge a long-term investment. Also, consider the investment’s overall objectives, and you might find that it still fits with your investment strategy — even if performance during the past year was less than anticipated. What effect did taxes have on your returns? The answers to these and other questions help determine if your investments are still positions according to your short- and long-term goals.

Analyzing “interest paid” is easy at tax time because the amount is right in front of you. And it’s crucially important. Mortgage interest payments are usually deductible and, in most cases, are home equity interest payments. But interest paid on consumer and revolving debt, such as credit cards, is not deductible. Because “consumer debt” offers no tax advantage and is, in fact, often a stumbling block to achieving financial goals, using increased salary or savings income to reduce or eliminate such debt may be advisable — especially if a review of our debt payment for the year shows it as a major monthly expense.

Tax time usually is a less-than-pleasant reminder of the tax burden we bear. The amounts are right there, on W2s, and rare is the individual who doesn’t wonder how else that big, lump tax sum might have been used. But the effects of taxes often can be lessened by repositioning your savings and investments to benefit from various tax-advantaged investment strategies. Many retirement funding vehicles offer tax-deferred growth; and municipal bonds, for instance, offer tax-free income.

Tax time also provides the information you need to examine your major categories of expenses. Were your unusually high medical bills, credit card payments or home repair expenses a statistical “blip,” or the first sign of a trend you need to account for in your monthly budget? Such expenses can rapidly derail a budget or an annual financial plan if cash reserves aren’t available to cover “the unexpected.” If you’re depending too much on credit, this can be the time to plan on allocating the appropriate cash reserves to eliminate the dependence on debt spending. Ask yourself if your income is used proactively in appropriate savings and investments, or reactively for expenses.

Income, interest, investments, taxes, expenses — whatever else occurred with your personal finances during the past year, one thing’s certain: you’re now one year closer to “the future.” One year closer to paying for the kids’ college; one year closer to your own retirement.
Are you on track? You’ve collected all the records necessary to prepare your taxes or share with a tax advisor; one year’s “shapshot” worth of very valuable information.

This is a good time to share this information with a financial services professional, too, someone who can help develop a **long-term approach** that goes well beyond your current tax situation to take your **overall personal financial planning to a much higher level**.

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>.

**Let out the secret: violence in lesbian relationships**

**Invitation to participate in research project**

Once thought to be a rare occurrence, abuse and violence within lesbian couples occurs at rates similar to those of heterosexuals. Previous research finds the prevalence of domestic violence among lesbian couples is approximately 25 to 30 percent. The reluctance to discuss this issue has been significant, both within mainstream society and the lesbian community.

Society’s prevailing assumption of heterosexuality and the misunderstanding toward those who do not conform, have impaired the quality of the interaction between healthcare providers and their lesbian clients. Lesbian women have difficulty portraying themselves as experiencing abuse and/or violence in the context of their partnered relationships. This phenomenon is often hidden from the eyes of crisis workers, health care professionals, society, and even the lesbian community. Some women who partner with women experience domestic violence in their relationships, but are unable to access services or crisis intervention sensitive to their situation.

Previous research on domestic abuse has focused on the heterosexual population, despite the assertion that 4 to 10 percent of the population is homosexual. Abuse of all types among lesbian couples has largely been ignored by family violence researchers.

This descriptive study takes a step toward describing the experience of lesbian abuse through the voices of those who have experienced this phenomenon. This study will explore abuse and/or violence within lesbian relationships. If you have been involved in an abusive lesbian relationship in the past, and are 18 or older, you are invited to participate in a confidential interview with this researcher. Your candid description will be a step toward the acknowledgement and recognition of this phenomenon impacting lesbian women’s health. As a nurse researcher, I am interested in learning about your experience so as to add to knowledge based, caring and culturally appropriate health care for lesbian women.

Participants are invited to contact me via e-mail or telephone to arrange to meet at a time and place of their choice. My e-mail address is <mmb4mam@alaska.net> and my telephone number is (907) 522-4546.

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NOW EXITING WITHOUT TESTICLES!
Inspiring 15-year-old plunges into activism

by T. T. Nhu

While other 15-year-old boys may be thinking about sex, Ryan Hughes goes to meetings about it — meetings that would stultify the average teenager.

Ryan is a young activist who entered a culture war in Fremont (California) when he challenged the Christian Coalition over the right to include homosexuality as a topic in sensitivity workshops organized by the school district last year.

As a member of the Family Life Advisory Committee, the youth liaison for Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays, (PFLAG) and at least three committees at Irvington High School, including the Library Textbook Selection Committee, Ryan has a packed extracurricular schedule. And he can't even drive to the meetings yet.

Youthful awakenings

Ryan is precocious by any measure. His political awakening occurred about the time of his sexual awareness.

He came out in September 1997, shortly before his 14th birthday. Dealing with his sexuality was something he decided to tackle early on. “You have to be who you are, otherwise you’ll keep hating yourself and become depressed and suicidal,” he said. “I realized that because I would have problems with others, I had to deal first with who I was.” His father, Andy, who owns a small business in Fremont, said he “kind of knew” that his son was gay.

His mother was more perplexed and asked him how he could know at such a young age.

“How did you know you were straight?” he asked.

Coming to terms with himself, then his parents and friends (all of whom are straight) made a huge difference, Ryan said, enabling him to feel at ease with himself.

“Then everyone is comfortable with my being gay,” he said.

A lot of personal anguish was averted, and Ryan was able to plunge into what he terms “my mission to help others.” He’s been doing that since he was 10 when he went with his church to work in a Mexican orphanage. At 14, Ryan was tangling with conservatives in Fremont after comments from one of its chief spokeswomen that “next to abortion, homosexuality can be the downfall of our society.”

“Religion can be used to prop up prejudice and hatred,” Ryan observed, “but even if these people weren’t religious, they’d still be mean.”

Alarming surveys

He’s out and he’s happy, but he knows that many young gays suffer quietly. Ryan was alarmed by surveys that found homophobia to be rampant in schools. He began to speak at workshops organized by the Fremont school board and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) to make schools a safer place for young gays.

But speaking out wasn’t enough. Ryan figured that getting onto the Family Life Advisory Committee to change things from that level was more practical. A comprehensive sex education for junior high school students was vehemently contested by opponents, who pushed an “abstinence-only” education. Ryan calls this unrealistic.

Much of the work involves endless meetings, networking and making alliances with school board members.

“Most kids his age aren’t even aware of issues of individual freedom and censorship,” said former school board member Christie Vianson. “Ryan takes time to study, goes to meetings and works actively for what he believes in.

He’s motivated not only by his belief in justice but he actively wants to be part of the process.” Sexuality was only one of the struggles he’s been involved in. Last year, Ryan vigorously defended Native Son and Always Running — books that were about to be banned from school libraries because of their sexual content.

“Once a book is censored,” Ryan said, “then any book can be censored, and after all this progress, we’d be going backward.” For all his political astuteness, Ryan is still a typical teenager. He exudes friendliness and confidence but is still a little jittery about public appearances. Apryl Todd, the co-president of Irvington High School’s Gay/Straight Alliance, described him as “a 15-year-old gay superman who’s an in-your-face activist — full of hormones and comic books.” Ryan is the other co-president.

Ryan made some unusual decisions early in life. He joined the local Presbyterian church on his own, and asked his parents to send him to a Christian school in seventh grade. “I thought Christian school would be far more open-minded because Christians were supposed to love everyone. But it turned out to be 60 times more close-minded.” Ryan didn’t think there was anything wrong with him, but even so, he was tagged as a “gay-faggot.”

“Kids use this term as a general insult, but in my case, I knew there wasn’t anything wrong with me,” he said. Fortified by that realization that it was more their problem than his, Ryan returned to public school a few months later. “I knew that I was going to have problems no matter where I went, and I would have to deal with them rather than keep changing schools,” he said.
Gaining confidence

Although he was still occasionally harassed, he became more confident, and began to speak out on behalf of others who were unable to fight back.

During the most recent school board election, Ryan identified Guy Emanuele as a sympathetic and open-minded candidate. He became an enthusiastic volunteer and member of the steering committee of the successful campaign to elect Emanuele to the school board.

“This is a really impressive young man when you consider his age,” said Emanuele, the former superintendent of the New Haven Unified School district. “For an adolescent who also has to deal with peer pressure, tackling the issues he does is really courageous. He really knows what’s going on, not just on the school board, but a whole range of matters.”


Family Pride Coalition outraged at attack on lesbian parents

SAN DIEGO, CA -- In a statement just released, the Family Research Council’s Robert Knight has condemned Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign and her partner, Hilary Rosen, for the adoption of twins born on January 7. Referring to Ms. Rosen as Ms. Birch’s “sex partner,” Knight claims gay and lesbian parents are trying to make a “cultural statement.”

“Staying up all night with an infant, changing diapers, attending PTA meetings, cheering at little league games, helping a child with homework at night, making cookies for bake sales: Is that what Mr. Knight means by a ‘cultural statement?’” asks C. Ray Drew, Executive Director of the Family Pride Coalition (formerly Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International.)

“Most parents, whatever their sexual orientation, do all of these things and make a lifelong commitment to their children not for a cultural statement,” says Drew, “but because of a profound, unconditional love for them. I only wish that all parents would go through the same conscious, deliberate, love-filled planning that Elizabeth and Hilary have gone through before having children. They should be applauded.”

Contrary to Knight’s claim that there is a “mountain of social science that tells us that children have the best chance to thrive in married, mother- and-father-based families,” the American Psychological Association says “Not a single (peer-reviewed) study has found children of gay or lesbian parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents. Indeed, the evidence to date suggests that home environments provided by gay or lesbian parents are as likely as those provided by heterosexual parents to support and enable children’s psychosocial growth.”

Drew says, “Mr. Knight talks about family values in the context of children having Christian, heterosexual, married parents. I believe family values are about the love I feel for my child, the one that I would throw myself in front of a car to protect. I value the mutual respect my family feels for each other, knowing that we will be there for each other through everything. It’s about the pride I feel for my family, as I watch my child grow and mature.

It’s about the lifelong commitment I make to my son, regardless of what he does or who he becomes. LOVE makes a family. It’s that simple.”

Founded in 1979, The Family Pride Coalition supports and protects the families of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered parents through advocacy, education and direct service. For more information, contact the Coalition at 619.296.0199 or e-mail <Director@FamilyPride.org>.

Sleeping in the garage doesn’t make you an automobile.
— An unnamed ex-ex-gay to Denver’s West Word, December 31.

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Past Out

What is the history of gay bathhouses?

Batthouses were in existence as far back as ancient Greece and Rome and even then were sites of sexual encounters between men. But bathhouses specifically aimed at providing rendezvous space for gay men first appeared in the early decades of the 20th century.

Cities like New York and San Francisco created municipal bathhouses as a public health measure in the late 19th century, because overcrowding and lack of indoor plumbing had aggravated the spread of disease in poor neighborhoods. Though these baths were also meeting places for working-class homosexuals, the watchful eyes of the bathhouse personnel made it difficult for men to have sexual encounters there.

More conducive to sexual activity were private Turkish baths, which provided a higher level of safety and privacy for gay male sex than parks or tearooms. They were also places where men could make friends. Some baths were gay-friendly and welcomed the "patronage of pansies" as long as the police didn't become involved. Gay men might tip the staff to ignore their sexual goings-on. Sometimes, gay men would simply meet at a bathhouse and arrange a later assignation. In these establishments, there was often a particular time of day, a certain day of the week, or a specific room in the bathhouse that was especially gay.

In addition to gay-friendly baths were those that specifically catered to gay men. These businesses protected their gay customers by keeping out heterosexuals who might make a scene if propositioned. One such establishment was the Ariston, a bathhouse on West 55th Street in New York, which, as early as 1902, had an almost exclusively gay clientele. For a dollar, a man was given a sheet, a dressing room, and a smorgasbord of services and activities. Despite the fact that there were private rooms with cots, the dark public "cooling room" was in fact a hotbed of gay sexual encounters.

During World War II in San Francisco, Turkish baths provided an important way for servicemen on leave in the city to meet and have sex, since bars were off limits to soldiers and sailors; hotel rooms were hard to come by.

By 1950, almost all the bathhouses in New York and San Francisco were gay. But the increase in the number and visibility of these gay bathhouses also led to a McCarthy-era crackdown. The baths, along with other gay establishments like bars, became targets of police harassment. One San Francisco newspaper called the harassment a virtual "war on homosexuals."

Throughout the next two decades, gay bathhouses flourished. The Club Baths was a chain with a reputation for cleanliness and safety. Started in Cleveland in 1965, it quickly became a national network of 42 bathhouses with 500,000 card-carrying members (still one of the largest gay organizations in history).

With the coming of the AIDS epidemic, gay bathhouses were once again the focus of a crackdown. The baths were cited as public health hazards, despite the fact that many provided condoms and safer sex information to their patrons. The debate split the gay community, with some activists defending the bathhouses and others demanding they be closed. In 1985, New York Mayor Ed Koch, long considered a friend to the gay community, ordered the closing of the city's bathhouses. Similar closings took place in other cities, despite vigorous lobbying by many gay activists for their continued existence.

Friends of the Capri

by Rand Thomsley, General Manager

Art and independent film lovers will be happy to know that the Capri is not completely abandoning them.

Alternative films will continue for the time being as "premiere showcase attractions." These features will open each Friday and show nightly at the 8:00pm time slot, and we will usually offer a matinee performance of this film on Saturday and Sunday for the first showing of the day (usually around 12 noon). Note that with a very few exceptions, showcase attractions will run for one week only.

Admission for premiere showcase attractions will be $6.50, with a $3 student (school ID required) and senior citizen (62 and over) price available Sunday through Thursday. Premiere matinees will be $4.

With the hope of finding a broader audience base, the Capri will commence showing second run films at discounted prices following engagements in first run theatres. Admissions prices will vary due to clearance restrictions placed on such engagements by film distributors. For the most part we will offer these films for $2.50 for adults, $1.75 for children, students and senior citizens.

Occasionally the Capri will book in restored classics. Admission for classic films is $4 at all times, with a $3 child, student and senior citizen price.

I hope you will enjoy many of the films we are offering.

Thanks for supporting the Capri, Anchorage's only Alaskan owned cinema.
President asks Congress to pass ENDA and hate crimes bill

by Lou Chibbaro Jr.

President Bill Clinton became the first U.S. president to discuss gay issues in a State of the Union address when he asked Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Protection Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

The two bills, which died in Congress last year, are to be reintroduced into the new congressional session. The Hate Crimes Protection Act would make it a federal crime to physically injure someone based on his or her sexual orientation, gender, or disability. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, or ENDA, makes it illegal to engage in employment-related discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation.

Clinton mentioned ENDA and the hate crimes bill near the end of his 77-minute address and just minutes after he introduced famed African American civil rights legend Rosa Parks, who sat in a visitors' gallery above the House of Representatives chamber. Citing the nation's racial problems as a backdrop, the president said the "discrimination gap" has yet to be fully closed under the nation's existing civil rights laws.

"Discrimination or violence because of race or religion, ancestry or gender, disability or sexual orientation, is wrong and it ought to be illegal," Clinton said. "Therefore, I ask Congress to make the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Protection Act the law of the land."

Clinton's remarks about ENDA and the hate crimes bill drew a loud, standing ovation among nearly all Democratic members of the House and Senate and a near dead silence among House and Senate Republicans, who remained in their seats.

Throughout the president's speech, Democratic lawmakers responded repeatedly with enthusiastic applause and cheers while GOP lawmakers responded with subdued, quiet applause. When Clinton delivered his lines on ENDA and the hate crimes bill, noted some observers, most Republicans didn't respond at all. According to openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), all but about 12 Republicans sat motionless and in silence. "The difference between the two sides was striking," Frank said.

Network television cameras focused on Frank as he joined his Democratic colleagues in giving Clinton a standing ovation over Clinton's call for passage of ENDA and the hate crimes bill. Joining Frank, out of camera range, in cheering the president's remark was openly gay Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.).

"There was not even a tepid, polite applause [by Republicans]," said Richard Socarides, an openly gay assistant to the president, who said he watched the response by members of Congress from the House visitors' gallery. "The Republicans were the most silent on this issue."

Frank said the hostile response by GOP lawmakers confirmed something he and other House Democrats have long believed: ENDA has absolutely no chance of passing in the House as long as Republicans remain in the majority in that chamber. "It may be possible to get the hate crimes bill through the Judiciary Committee," Frank said. "At the time of the Matthew Shepard murder, [Rep. Henry] Hyde [R-Ill.] said he could support it." Hyde is the Judiciary Committee chairperson. Frank said he's hopeful that a strong push for the hate crimes bill could prompt enough Republican House members to join Democrats in voting for the bill.

Frank's pessimistic assessment about ENDA is similar to an assessment of that bill given last year by Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), the House minority leader. In an interview with the Blade in April, Gephardt said that House rules give the majority party full control over the flow of legislation. Republicans have held majority status in the House and Senate since 1995. "As long as they're in the majority," Gephardt said, referring to House Republicans, "I think it's safe to say that the chance of this coming up in any form that would allow it to pass is zero."

Socarides and Winnie Stachelberg, legislative director for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, said they are more optimistic over the prospects of ENDA passing within the next two years. "It will be difficult," Stachelberg said. "Do I think it will be dead on arrival? I do think it does have a chance."

"I feel we can get ENDA through the Senate this year," Socarides said. "We have to be strategic about it. We have to get a little lucky. But I think there's a possibility of moving the bill through one or both of the houses this time around."

Last year, at the end of the 105th Congress, ENDA had 157 co-sponsors in the House, 145 of whom were Democrats and 12 of whom were Republicans. Out of the 35 ENDA co-sponsors in the Senate, 32 were Democrats and three were Republicans. Out of the 169 House co-sponsors of the Hate Crimes Protection Act last year, 151 were Democrats and 18 were Republicans. In the Senate, out of the hate crime bill's 37 co-sponsors, 33 were Democrats and four were Republicans.

Washington Blade, January 22, 1999,

I've been very careful about how and when to introduce him [my new boyfriend] to [my adopted 4-year-old daughter] Tia, because I want things to be as stable as possible for her. She's very possessive of me. The other day I told her he might be spending the night sometime soon and when he did, he'd be staying with me in my bed. I asked her, "Is that OK with you?" And she thought about it and said, "As long as you both keep your clothes on."

— Gay, HIV-positive actor Michael Kearns to POZ magazine, February issue.
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.
Religious landlords can reject certain tenants

by Henry Weinstein

A sharply divided federal appeals court in San Francisco ruled that a landlord may refuse to rent to an unmarried couple if doing so would violate his or her religious scruples. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in a case from Alaska, but the ruling would also apply to several other western states and could override their state housing discrimination laws. The Alaska attorney general’s office said after the ruling that the state intends to ask a larger panel of the appeals court to re-examine the case.

The appeals court said that forbidding a landlord the freedom to discriminate in this fashion would violate the landlord’s constitutional right to free exercise of religious beliefs.

The sweeping decision was applauded by an attorney representing conservative Christian groups, who filed a brief in court supporting the landlords. “Today is a victory for people of religious conscience of any stripe,” said attorney Steven T. McFarland of the Center for Law & Religious Freedom in Annandale, VA. “I’m happy for religious citizens who now have a stronger handhold when they want to bring their religious convictions into the marketplace,” he added.

The ruling caused concern elsewhere.

“If the court allows for such an open-ended exemption to civil rights laws” for unmarried couples, the precedent is likely to be extended further, said San Francisco attorney Clyde J. Wadsworth, who had filed a court brief in the case on behalf of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, the nation’s leading gay civil rights law project. “Lesbian and gay couples will be swallowed up by that exception by landlords who claim a religious exemption,” Mr. Wadsworth said.

Unless overturned by the full appeals court or by the Supreme Court, the decision would be applicable in nine western states that fall under the 9th Circuit’s jurisdiction.

The court’s opinion acknowledged that the statutes at issue had a noble purpose — ending discrimination. But Judge Diarmuid O’Scaanaill of Portland, writing for the 2-1 majority, argued that an exemption had to be granted or the religious rights of the landlords would be violated.


When one has genuinely chosen a course for oneself it cannot be possible to hold another responsible for it.
— Germaine Greer

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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.

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If this is something you (or someone you know) are interested in doing, please contact Tom at 333-7504 or Shirley at 338-3708.
ATLANTA — Gay activists were joined by Jewish community leaders and others for a press conference at the Atlanta Jewish Federation Selig Center. The group objected to a decision by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust to delete two paragraphs about the treatment of homosexuals in Nazi concentration camps from a teacher's guide distributed to middle and high school teachers around the state.

Gays are still mentioned in about four passages that list the groups of people victimized by the Nazis, but the only two passages that dealt specifically with gays in concentration camps were removed because "it is not our place to put sexually graphic material into the schools," commission Chair Sylvia Wygoda told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, insisting that legislative funding for the guide had nothing to do with the decision.

The first deleted passage reads, "German male homosexuals were targeted and arrested because they would not breed the master race: they were an affront to the Nazi macho image." The second passage talks about gays being taunted, raped, beaten and worked to death for violating the law "by sexual act, by kissing, by embracing, by fantasy and thought." It also describes how some were "given an opportunity to recant by successfully completing sexual activity with a woman in the camp brothel." At the press conference, Harry Knox, executive director of the Georgia Equality Project, said that rather than being "sexually graphic," the passages merely spoke the truth.

"Children are talking about sex. In a state where children are beaten to death with the words queer and faggot ringing in their ears, I believe it's time for adults to enter the conversation," Knox said. "And when those children grow up to be adults with adolescent ideas unchallenged by adult experience, those children become adults who terrorize people whose sexuality they don't understand."

The law firm of Holland and Knight, which sponsored the publication, agreed to remove the passages in the Georgia addition but insisted, at its own expense, to restore the passages in guides that went to Florida and San Francisco. Wygoda said the commission considered the decision clear and non-controversial and hoped it would not divert attention "from the important message of the dangers of intolerance," according to the Journal-Constitution.

Rabbi Brett Isserow of The Temple made comparisons between the treatment of homosexuals by the Nazis and what he called "our legislators in many ways victimizing homosexuals today," particularly in suggestions that the sodomy law recently struck down by the Supreme Court would be reinstated by the General Assembly.

"The object of the exercise of the curriculum is to root out prejudice," Isserow said. "The paragraphs that were omitted have got to be reinstated. And not only that, but the pressures, the politics and everything else that resulted in their being dropped in the first place have got to change." At press time, the Holocaust commission had agreed to meet with representatives from the gay and Jewish communities to discuss the matter.

Etcetera magazine, Atlanta, Georgia

2,798 Dutch couples have registered

Just under 2,800 same-sex couples got hitched under The Netherlands' registered-partnership law in the first 10 months of its existence, reports the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics. The law, which took effect in January 1998, grants registered couples all rights of matrimony with the exception that procedures for adoption by same-sex couples have not been fully implemented.

There were 1,198 female pairs, 1,507 male and 1,291 opposite-sex pairs.

Meanwhile, The Netherlands is also on-track to become the first nation in the world to let same-sex couples marry under the regular marriage laws, with both the government and the parliament now having voiced support for the move.

Elsewhere, Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have partnership laws specifically for homosexuals. In general, they grant all rights of matrimony except access to adoption, artificial insemination and church weddings. Hungary recognizes a type of common-law gay marriage, withholding only the right to adoption.
Message from Empress XXVI

Greetings to all my friends.
I am glad to report that I am still having too much fun as your reigning Empress. As you all know, 1998 was an exceptional year for the Court System and myself. Following my crowning as Empress XXVI in September 1998, we took a great step forward unifying the community within our realm.
As working members, we are always concerned about the future of the organization and the charities we support. As a group, we strive to have an inclusive organization that includes anyone who is willing to give of themselves to help others. I would like to invite you to help the organization with your opinions and ideas.
As reigning and past Empress and like many past Monarchs before me, I worked hard to raise money for our charities. We tried to grow our numbers, but being a volunteer organization it is difficult in this day and time to get people to give of what little precious time they have with work and family and all. Did I accomplish everything I want to do? NO. Does any reign accomplish everything it wants to or should? NO. That is the limitations of an all volunteer organization. In our hearts we know we did accomplish most of our goals and most important we DID help. This is enough for me to continue to be a part of the organization.
We have had strong years where we were able to raise substantial money for our charities and we have had lean years where the money was not at the levels we would have liked. The important thing is that each year we do give to our charities and we do give an outlet to those that want to volunteer and help. You may choose to ignore what I have said or in some way downplay and dismiss its importance, but I have a request of you. I invite you to become a part of a group of dedicated individuals who work hard to accomplish the goals of a group with the hope that some day our service won’t be needed, but who will continue to work until that day comes. I invite you to use your given talents to help. I invite you to help with a function and see the good feeling you will have knowing you raised a $1 we didn’t have. I invite you to be just a person with the desire to help and be part of a solution. I can personally tell you that a little help given to others will give you a feeling of good I can’t put into words.

Mom: Matthew was not a saint

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- The mother of a gay Wyoming student whose beating death last fall re-ignited a debate on anti-hate crime laws, said she feared her son was being unfairly put on a pedestal, according to a Vanity Fair magazine interview.
The magazine also reported that Matthew Shepard, 21, tested positive after the attack for the virus that causes AIDS.

“He wasn’t a saint. He was just a young man in search of himself,” Judy Shepard said of her son, who was slain in Laramie, Wyoming, last October. In the interview, she said that she was disturbed that some sympathizers had compared her son with Jesus Christ. “You must understand, it’s like putting him on a pedestal that just won’t work. I’m concerned that if people find out that it’s not true, they’ll be disappointed or angry or hate him,” Shepard said.
Shepard said that her son had suffered periodic clinical depression and had been taking an antidepressant and an anti-anxiety drug. He had looked into living in an assisted-living home run by mental-health professionals, she said.
Shepard was pistol-whipped and left for dead, lashed to a fence like a scarecrow. He died five days later. The two men charged in his death, Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney, have pleaded not guilty. After Shepard’s death, the Justice Department launched various initiatives to crack down on people committing hate crimes.
The youth’s mother revealed that he suffered a series of violent incidents throughout his life, including a beating in Cody, Wyoming, by a bartender and being raped six times by a gang while on vacation in Morocco during his senior year in high school.
“He was never the same after Morocco,” his mother said. “And neither were we. We were always worried about his physical safety and his mental state. It seemed to him it was taking forever to feel safe.”
Vanity Fair reported that the student tested HIV-positive in the hospital after the October attack. It said that no one close to him knew he had the virus and they believe Matthew himself did not know he was infected.
Shepard said that since her son was raped in Morocco, he had been tested periodically for HIV and the results had been negative.

Reuters Limited, February 3, 1999
Fairbanksan

Further North in the Heart of Alaska

by Terry A. Fauth

Minus 50 weather finally hit the Interior. I guess we were just a bit too complacent to think that we were going to get off easy this winter. Much better to have this in February when spring is so close at hand, rather than November, and, now that March’s Ice Festival is so near. Maybe this year the ice will hold off melting until after the carvers are finished. So defrost those windows and start blow drying the door now (what? Your front door doesn’t freeze shut, trapping you?) to be ready to get out of the house soon!

Interior AIDS Association

There will be an official Names Project Panel Dedication for the AIDS Quilt. Bring your finished panel to the Great Hall at the University of Alaska at 2:00 pm on February 28. Following the dedication, at 4:00 pm the Fairbanks Symphony will perform John Corigliano’s “Of Rage and Remembrance,” which was written as a tribute to people with AIDS.

This year’s Snowshoe Softball Tournament will be on March 13 and 14. Call the IAA office at 452-4222 for more information.

PFLAG Fairbanks

Thanks to all of you who have sent the surveys back! I hope to have all the surveys returned and entered by the end of this month. I will send out reminders and another survey in a week. Please return the survey as soon as possible. I am sorry it is so long but I am hoping that the information I get will help in understanding activism for gay rights.

Meetings — Everyone is welcome to any meeting. Board/Workshop meetings are on the second Tuesday at 7:00 pm every month at Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse, and General/Support & Discussion meetings are held on the third Sunday at 4:00 pm every month at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall across from the Fairbanks Princess Hotel. February’s meeting will also be a potluck. Call 45P-FLAG for more information.

Community Potluck

Terry will host this month’s Community Potluck on February 27, a Saturday, starting at 5:00 pm. Theme for February is Comfort Foods, so bring along soups, Jell-O moulds (if you have to), casseroles (hot dishes to the Ole & Lena crowd), White Castle Hamburgers, or what have you. Location is 2828A Totem Drive (left side of the house, upstairs) or call 457-5469 for more information.

Parks Highway Express

It’s not too early to think about taking a trip once the snow releases us from its icy grip. Check out the new website of Parks Highway Express at <http://www.AlaskaShuttle.com>.

Fairbanks radio

Homophonic radio has moved again. Its new time is Fridays from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm Dames on the Dial is moving as well. Since it is hosted by performers that are normally at rehearsal from 7:00 to 10:00, we pushed it back to Wednesdays from 10:00 pm to midnight. Now you can hear all your standards, jazz, gospel, and local g/l/b/t/s news from your favorite ladies of the night. Both shows are carried by KSUA-FM 91.5, College, AK.

GLSEN Fairbanks

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network of Fairbanks (GLSEN) meeting date has been changed to the third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm starting in February. The meeting site (FEANEA in the Tesco Building on South Cushman) has NOT changed.

Into The Woods Bookshop & Coffeehouse

Just a few changes to this month’s line-up of activities at 3560 College Road. Genie Loser is back Friday nights at 6:30 pm with her folk harp, and then on to Celtic Jam. Mondays are Jazz, Wednesday is Old Time Banjo and Fiddle, Poetry has moved to Thursdays, and Saturdays are Gwich’in Table. Call Connie at 479-7701 to reserve meeting space, or information on these and other activities.

KDQ & Company

Klondykes, Queens, and Company are gearing up for their Spring Show. Show meetings and rehearsals will be starting soon. Call 458-0077 for details.

Fairbanks pride

News, views, gossip or what have you, delivered to you daily through the wonder of e-mail. Go to <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/fairbankspride> to sign up!

I declare you queen of the realm.
— Outgoing San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Barbara Kaufman presenting a tiara and feathered scepter to incoming President Tom Ammiano, who is gay, at Ammiano’s January 8 installation.

Ammiano responded with “We’re not in Kansas any more.”
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The Directory

The designations of (L)lesbian, (G)ay, (B)sexual and (A)lly 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 <TomAndAL@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., 263-2950 (see 4A's page)
(A) Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center: Free HIV testing Monday thru Friday. Call Sharon or Kris 257-4637/4638.
(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-Abbot, 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, Ketki/Jaimini, 561-7327
(L) Movement Options, Shari, 274-FLEX (3539)
(A) Rainbow Counseling, Maureen, 277-0582
(A) Tree Cutting Edge (Seward, AK), Connie, 907-224-8996
(A) The Ole Herb Shoppe, Constance, 522-4372

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

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

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

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

Bed & Breakfasts, Accommodations:
(A) Ah, Rose Marie, 302 Cowles, Fairbanks, John, 456-2040
(G) Aurora Winds, James/Bill, 346-2333
(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, 888-329-4685
(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) Saunderlod Lodging (Seward), Gordon, 907-224-9846.
(L) Skyline B&B (Homer), Lisa, 907-235-3832.
(L) Wandering Women (Juneau) Carol/Sudie 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 Booksheop (Fairbanks), Connie, 907-479-7701

Churches:
see Spiritual

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

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

Computer Consultants, Graphics & Desktop Publishing:
(A) Alaskan Support Consortium, Walter Erskine, 522-4275
(L) Angie, 337-0253
(L) Communication Art, Catherine, 563-5492
(L) CDA Services, Waltraud, 276-6662
(G) Ekstatic RAM, Robert Iris, 522-4275
(G) Greg Parsons, 562-9814
(G) gra./x, Lucian, 561-5856
(L) Helleck & Assoc., Terry, 276-3869
(L) Mac Doctor, Candy, 337-2011
(G) Mad Dog Graphix, Michael, 276-5062
(G) Mark Mathis, 338-3937, <mmathis@alaska.net>
(L) TechLink, LeMiel, 276-6862

Computer Supplies & Equipment:
(A) Frignd North, Tom, 561-6433 (see ad)

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

Counseling:
(G) Ability Design Associates, Doran, 562-9575
(A) Anchorage Center for Families, 276-4994 (handles all kinds of family issues.)
(A) Barton Sloan, LCSW, 563-5765
(A) Connie Judd, 562-1826 (see ad)
(G) F. Ken Freedman, 566-1708 (see ad)
(A) Jann, 249-9408
(A) Marion, 562-0012
(A) Psychological Services Center, 786-1795
(A) S.T.A.R.S.(Standing Together Against Rape), 276-7279
(L) Tess Bensussen, LCSW, 230-7019
(A) Tom Gormley, ANP, 566-2110

Deaf Support:
(A) Interpreter Referral Line, 277-3323 voice, 277-0735 TTY
(A) Deaf Rehabilitation Services, 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:
(L/G) The Wave, Anita, 561-WAVE

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

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

Entertainment:
(G) Art Services North, Darl Schaaff, 561-2115
(G) Capri Cinema, 561-0064 (see ad)
(G) 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, 349-3559
(A) Catherine Smith, C.P.A., 562-2438
(A) Solutions Consulting, Laura, 243-3324

Flooring:
(BA) 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, 694-9378
(A) Tryck Nursery, Doug, 345-25075
Directory

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

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

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

Helpline:
(G/L) Anchorage, Identity Helpline, 258-4777
(G/L) Fairbanks Lesbian/Gay Line, 907-456-8288
(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, 275-5222
(L) Beth (MT), Debbie (CMT), 566-0842
(G) Don, 338-8826
(L) Donna (CMT), 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, 561-6862 (see ad)

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

Nutraceutical:
(A) Hope, 561-2330

Newsletters/Newspapers:
(A) Alaska Women Speak, Mary Lee, 696-9024
(A) Anchorage Press, Nick, 561-7737 (see ad)
(L) Klon flage Kontact (Alaskas Women's Cultural Center), 277-9768

(GLA/identify NorthView, 258-4777
(GL) Perspective (SEAGLA In Juneau), 586-4297

Obstetrics & Gynecology:
(A) Barbara Norton, Certified Nurse Midwife, 561-5152
(A) Jane, 563-5151
(L) Mary Ross, Nurse Practitioner, 563-7222

Odd Jobs:
(L) Deb, 275-3018
(A) Service with a Smile, Liz, 274-5290

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

Photography:
(L) Alaska Photographic & Supply, Linda, 345-5434
(G) Fotos by Frank, Frank, 566-0600 (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, 562-3622 (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, 349-6928
(L) Dynamic Properties, Jill, 276-7663
(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), 907-694-9646
(A) Knik Glacier Tours; Palmer, Alaska; Tom Faussett,
745-1577
(L) McKinley Air Service, Lee Ann & Keli, 800-564-1765
(L) puffin Family Charters, Leslie, 278-3346
(G) Roy's Bikes, Roy, 333-8221
(A) Stan Stevens Cruises, P. O. Box 1297, Valdez, AK 99686,
(907) 835-4731, (800) 992-1297.
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770, 888-899-2770
(A) Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Charters (Valdez) Barb,
907-389-2725

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

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

Social/Educational:
(G) AGB Social Club, formerly Anch Garden Buddies, Steve
272-5608
(A) Imperial Court of All Alaska, Kristara, 277-5747 or e-mail
<Kristara26@isq.com>
(GL) Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA),
(Juneau) 907-586-4297

Social Research Design, Consultation, Evaluation:
(L) Susan E. Johnson, Ph.D., 272-4113

Spiritual:
(A) Aquarian Foundation, Rev. Patricia Brown, 349-9555
(A) Anchorage Church of Religious Science, Center for Positive
Living, Rev. Nancy Sweeney, 258-0010
(A) Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Art, 248-3737
(see ad)
(A) Church of the Covenant (Matanuska Valley), Pastor Howard
Bess, 746-1089
(A) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2411 Pembroke, Anchorage,
welcomes all regardless of orientation, 333-5253
(A) Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church, 258-5266
(A) St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church (Kodiak), Fr.
Paul, 486-5276
(A) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, 4148 Pikes
Landing Road, Richard Kemnitz, 457-9009
Diamond

Directory

(A) Unity Church of Anchorage, 346-2824
Student Organizations:
(G/L) Alaskan Gay and Lesbian Association (AGLA, Fairbanks) 
Pete, 907-749-7384 (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) IMR.U.2 (Youth Group), 566-4678
(A) PFLAG Anchorage, Voice mail 566-1813
(A) PFLAG Fairbanks, Nancy, 907-45P-FLAG
(A) PFLAG Juneau, 907-463-4203
Tattoos:
(A) Bitchin' Tats, Kathy, 561-3653
Theatre:
(A) Out North Contemporary Art House, Gene/Jay, 279-8099
Travel:
(G) Apollo Travel Agency, Bob, 561-0661 (see ad)
(B) Golden Travel, Albert, 272-5802
(G) Triangle Tours, Greg, 276-2770 or 888-899-2770
Tutoring:
(G) Gabriel, Spanish, 272-9045
(A) James, Biology, 248-6412
(L) Carolyn Lancaster, M.Ed., School Survival Skills, 274-5059
(A) Kathleen L. McDonough, School Survival Skills, 274-5059

French tennis pro comes out

French tennis pro Amelie Mauresmo, 19, came out of the closet January 28 after beating top-rated Lindsay Dav- enport at the Australian Open.

She leapt into the arms of girlfriend Sylvie Bourdon and later told reporters: “Looking up at Sylvie during the match was that little extra support that I needed. It gave me strength. Finding Sylvie and having such a good personal life now has made the difference in my tennis. It had been the missing part of my life.”

According to USA Today, Mauresmo met Bourdon five weeks ago through mutual friend and former French pro Isabelle Demengeot and moved from Paris into Bourdon’s house in St. Tropez.

Speaking to reporters in Australia, Bourdon said: “I am her lover, not her psychiatrist. But we talk and talk about the tennis pro that she feels more positive and confident about herself and her tennis. She wasn’t getting that kind of support, and it was affecting her on court. Now she has a good balance in her life and is happy.”

After losing to Mauresmo, Davenport told reporters: “She’s a very, very strong girl. A couple of times I thought I was playing a guy, the girl was hitting it so hard. She’s so strong in those shoulders. She hits the ball, you know, not like any other girl. She hits it so hard and with so much topspin. Women’s tennis is not usually played like that. The shoulders looked huge. I think that they must have grown.” Davenport later clarified that her remarks were not a comment on Mauresmo’s sexual orientation.

In a German-language press conference, champ Martina Hingis — who beat Mauresmo to win the tournament — wandered down the same path as Davenport, saying, “She is half man (Sie ist ein halber Mann).”

Club Notes

Anchorage unless otherwise indicated
AA
Gay Joyous & Free, see on-going calendar.
Midnight Suns, see on-going calendar.

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

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

AGB Social Club
(formerly Anchorage Garden Buddies) a social group for gay and bisexual men looking for an alternative to the “bar scene.” For more information, call Steve 272-5608, or e-mail <ag_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 276-6937. 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 gay community, to educate about community issues, to organize letter writing campaigns and other forms of political action, and to promote equal rights for all Alaskan citizens, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation. EQUAL is not a political action committee and does not endorse candidates.

Anchorage, call Dan Carter at 274-9226.
Fairbanks contact Laura Burleson at 907-479-7348 or e-mail <FSLEB@aurora.alaska.edu>

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

Fairbanks Radio
KSUA 91.5 “Homophonic Radio”, 5:30-7:30pm; Fridays.
Dames on the Dial, 10pm - midnight Wednesdays.

THE FAMILY
is UAA’s student club for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally students. Meets first Tuesday, 2:30pm AND every Friday, 6pm, UAA Campus Center, Room 105. For more information, call Victoria at 751-7234 or e-mail <aglb_youth@hotmail.com>

website: <http://www.ewolf.alaska.edu/~abfam/>

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

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

Gay/Lesbian Book Club
at Barnes and Noble on third Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Kim
Club Notes...continued

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 confidential. We welcome educators and non-educator allies who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public schools. For more information call Fred, 562-7161.

Fairbanks meets third Tuesday, 5pm, FEA offices on Cushman.

Identity, Inc.

 founded to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthful ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity builds bridges between different segments of the lesbian and gay communities as well as bridges between the gay/lesbian and non-gay/non-lesbian communities. Potluck Social is held on the 4th Friday of each month at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Doors open at 6:30pm; dinner at 7:00pm; program at 7:30pm. See the Calendar for program title.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA)

 is a social and support group active in many 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.

IMRU2

 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 support. If you’re interested in volunteering or need assistance, please call the IAA in Fairbanks at 452-4222.

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)

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

Last Frontier Men’s Club

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

Mt. McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club

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

Northern Exposure Bowling League

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

OPAL

 is a lesbian social organization with an open membership. They will be hosting a Christmas party, New Years Eve party and Valentine’s party. For more info or if you would like to volunteer, please e-mail <a_opal@hotmail.com> or call Anne at 349-1579.

Over 50’s Social Group

 a lesbian group sharing discussions of films, books and ideas. Meets second and fourth Mondays, 7-9 pm. For location, call Rose Beth (337-6779) or Lorraine (276-3337).

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)

Fairbanks meets the 3rd Sunday of every month from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at Into the Woods Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 3560 College Road, Fairbanks, Call 45P-FLAG for more information.

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

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

RAW (Radical Arts for Women) is a nonprofit arts group supporting and promoting artistic events and projects by, for and about lesbians and feminists. RAW funds art projects that in some way combine feminist vision with creativity and hopefulness. For more information, write to us at PO Box 244436, Anchorage, 99524 or call our Hotline at 566-3783.

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, Soldotna

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

Women’s Coffeehouse

 Mark your calendars for the second Saturday of each month. Contact the new Coffeehouse organizer, Victoria Shaver at 751-7224 for time and location of events.

Nuns cancelled

Only one day after announcing it, Sydney, Australia's Opera House cancelled a plan for the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to lead tours of the famed landmark during the gay Mardi Gras Festival. Opera House Trust head Michael Lynch said the Roman Catholic Church had expressed outrage at the announcement.

"At the time the tour was planned last year the Sydney Opera House did not foresee that some members of the community would be hurt or distressed by the tour. I apologize to the Catholic Church for any offense," Lynch said.

A spokesman for the Sisters replied: "Our main tenet is the expiation of stigmatic guilt. We don't set out to vilify Roman Catholic nuns. The Sisters are very disappointed by the cancellation of the tours."

The Opera House still will be the venue for the launch of Mardi Gras February 5. This year's parade is February 22. Festivities will wrap up February 27 with the famed Sleaze Ball.

Last year, Mardi Gras pumped AU$100 million (US$629,229) into the New South Wales economy.
Cyberlust

Submit changes to <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

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

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

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

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

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

Carter, Dan: Gay activist, Dendrillon, Equal: <alaskadan@aol.com>

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

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


Craciun, Jean: <jcraciun@craciun.alaska.net>

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

Faulch, Terry: <akbear@mosquito.net.com>

Freedman, F. Kenneth: <fkenned@servcom.com>

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

Haase, Michael: <michaelh@servcom.com>

Hernandez, Gabrielle: <ghebe@shinbad.net>

Hillman, Fred: <fhillman@alaska.net>

Hillman, Bronwyn: <bronwyn@alaska.net>

IAA - Interior AIDS Assoc. Fairbanks <iaa@polar.net.com> website: <http://www.2.polar.net.com/~iaa>

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

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOA): see link at <http://www.mosquito.net.com/~qnetak>

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

website <http://www.2.polar.net.com/~woods>

Jamieson, Lisa: <lisaj57@hotmail.com>

Klonklyke Kонтакт: <kklondykekontakt@hotmail.com>

Kohout, Jen: <jenkout@aol.com>

KT Creative: <ktcreative@alaska.net>

Last Frontier Men's Club: see club listing <FMC@Micronet.com>

Lovering, Ken: <kaplove@juno.com>

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

Naff, Don: <donnaaff@alaska.net>

OPAL: <a.opal@hotmail.com>

Out North: <outnorth@arswire.org>

Parsons, Greg: <gparsons@ptilaaska.net>

PFLAG: Fbs. website <http://www.mosquito.net.com/~pflag>

e-mail <pflag@mosquito.net.com>

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

e-mail <schiller@micronet.com>

Pinney, Pete: <f1ppp@aurora.alaska.edu>


e-mail <qnetak@mosquito.net.com>

Rachal, Tom: <TomAndAl@alaska.net>

Sauerdough Lodging: <suites@ptilaaska.net>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks: <rkemmitz@mosquito.net.com> <www.mosquito.net.com/~uuff>

Vann, Beth: <BethV007@aol.com>

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

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

Calendar

February

Friday, 26:
A Identity Potluck, 6:30pm, AUUF, Double Feature Program: News from the Alaska Native Health Board followed by Margo Borland's research into domestic abuse in lesbian relationships.

Saturday, 27:
F Community Potluck at Terry's, 5pm, 457-6469 for ich

Sunday, 28:
F Names Project AIDS Quilt Panel Dedication, 2:30pm, Great Hall, UAF.

March

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

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

Saturday, 13:
A Women's Coffeehouse, 751-7234 for more info.
A Halocon in Concert, 8pm, UAA Arts Bldg, Rm 4150, tickets available at Metro. 277-5630 for info.
F Snowshoe Softball. IAA, 452-4222 for information. Events runs thru Sunday th 14th.

Tuesday, 16:
A PFLAG, 7-9pm, AUUF, Annual Potluck 562-7161 for info.
F GLSEN, 5pm, FEA on S. Cushman.unday, 17:

Sunday, 21:
F PFLAG, 4pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 4448 Pikes Landing Road.

Celebration of Change is looking for a logo for this year's event - so you artists please submit a design. Free tickets and dinner at a local restaurant will be the prize for the chosen design. Deadline for entry is March 1. For details call Victoria at 751-7234 or e-mail her at <asvls@uaa.alaska.edu>.
On-Going Calendar Items

**SUNDAYS**

A Metropolitan Community Church Services, 2pm Sunday at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke.

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

A Northern Exposure bowling league, Park lanes, 561-8744 for more information.

A GLSEN, first Sunday, 1pm, AUUF.

**MONDAYS**

A Gay Bar, Anchorage, noon, Second Monday, 845 K St., 279-5001.

A Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, AUU, 3201 Turnagain.

A Over 50’s Social Group, 2nd and 4th from 7-9 pm Inquire 337-6779.

A Lesbian Social Group, reviews films & books. 1st, 3rd & 5th. Inquire 337-6779.

**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.

A THE FAMILY, 2:30pm, first Tuesday, Campus Center Room 105.

F GLSEN, 5pm, FEA on S. Cushman, every 3rd Tue.

**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, 10pm - midnight.

**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.

F Homophonic Radio, KSUA 91.5FM, 5:30pm - 7pm.

**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, 751-7234 for information.

**Legend**

A Anchorage, F Fairbanks, J Juneau

**Canada mulls gay equality**

Canada is expected to change dozens of laws that discriminate against same-sex couples, the *Globe and Mail* and *Reuters* reported January 20. The news comes on the heels of a lawsuit filed January 7 by the Foundation for Equal Families seeking revision of 58 laws that define "spouse" as someone of the opposite sex.

Among the laws targeted by both the lawsuit and government bureaucrats are ones dealing with social-security benefits, pensions, retirement plans, income taxes, bankruptcy, conflict-of-interest guidelines, insider trading, testimony against a spouse, and immigration.

She’s wonderful. She’s willful, funny, bright, curious and incredibly tough — she’ll have to be. Her father may be the only openly gay, openly HIV positive, over-40, single, white man in the country who has successfully adopted an African-American child. Her adoption was a major ordeal: It took two and a half years. I'm writing a book about it called *A Daddy of a Different Color*. It's about sexism, homophobia, racism, classism, ageism — all the isms that came into play during Tia's adoption.

— Actor Michael Kearns in February POZ magazine.
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