Building Our Community
Defining, Understanding, and Living Within Our Community

In this issue:

More on our Community Center  Identity Update
Connecting the Dots  The Power of Pronouns  The Martha In All of Us

and more...
NorthView Staff Members & Volunteers

The NorthView continues to seek volunteers to write articles, columns, reviews, and stories, and to help with layout, editing, and distribution.

We hope to serve the community by focusing more on community news, increasing circulation and ad revenue, and continue helping to serve as a community-wide resource.

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What is Community?

It is a funny word, community. It refers to so many different parts of our world. In the classic definition, community is a place where we live, and it invokes thoughts of neighbors and towns and a civic obligation to be a good member of the broader community. Yet, it is also a word that is more personal. For many of us, community refers to those around us who are closest to us: our friends, our family, our lovers and partners. It is synonymous with those with whom we choose to surround ourselves.

In GLBT circles, community is more. It refers to our GLBT brothers and sisters and our bonding together to create groups and places where we feel safe to be and to express who we are. It is often a very spiritual word for us. Yet, as we fight and work so hard to build viable GLBT communities, we also fight just as hard to be fully accepted in the broader communities in which we live and work and play. It is almost a paradox, one that most minority groups face: our struggle is for integration and equality in a community which does not accept us, yet at the same time we tightly weave our own insular gay communities that shuts us off from the larger community around us.

It is our fear of not being accepted in the community that often drives us. We fight for equal rights and inclusion so that we can be part of the whole. We want desperately to be seen as normal and contributing members of society. We want the freedom to live in any community in which we want to live without any stigmatization because of being gay or lesbian. We want to be just like any other neighbor or cowoker or friend.

Yet as much as we struggle for inclusion in the larger community, it is important that we not forget the GLBT community in which we live. I have to remind myself of that from time to time. As we come out in greater and greater numbers, it becomes easier to live just like everyone else—a good job, a loving partner and family, a home in the suburbs, PTA and civic boards, the kit and caboodle of the American Dream. Especially in large urban areas, we can be just another Joe citizen of the community where we live, another square of a crazy quilt of diversity that now makes up most American cities.

Yet, our unique GLBT community will always be important. No matter how much we assimilate into the melting pot, we will always have a need for those places where we can be queer without having to feel as if we were ambassadors from Mars. We need a place where we can join together to monitor our fight for equality. We need to be around those who understand us and who will validate our uniqueness in the world.

It is my hope that as it becomes easier and easier to be queer that we do not forget our GLBT communities. We cannot be insular, and we will never gain the rights we crave unless we are willing to be part of the mainstream, to be one of them. But, we will always have need of that safe place, and of a sustained collective will and power that will enable us to protect ourselves and the rights we have so grudgingly won.

We need community, both in the larger and the narrower context. If we are to succeed, we need to be not only a part of our city and our neighborhoods, but also of our GLBT community. It is difficult, balancing the two, understanding our place in each of them and how and where they intersect and merge. Yet, it is a challenge we must meet, for in doing so, we free ourselves to be both individuals and part of the whole.

Our issue this month deals with community. Our writers have done a good job exploring this theme, touching on so many parts of community. I think it will serve to give the readers a clearer understanding of what community means: how we build it, how we fit into it, and how it shapes our lives.

The Anchorage GLBT community is not perfect. We lack some of the national organizations that are active in many cities. We fight among ourselves. Our GLBT businesses and nightlife seems to pale when compared to cities of similar size. Our base of activists seems small. We must contend with a larger community that is much more conservative than we would like.

Yet, it's our community. It is the only place where we can make a difference and find or build community at this moment in our lives. I would urge each of you to check out the variety of groups listed in our community pages and get involved. If you can't find the type of group or activity you want to be involved with, start it. The NorthView will certainly help you get out the word. Recently, a group of four men saw a need for social and peer group interaction away from the bar for young men, and they started Anchorage Young Gay Men's Association by listing the group in the NorthView and passing out flyers at Myrna's and The Raven. In just a month, the group grew to over 70 members. After the Pride Conference, a group of GLBT parents decided to start a GLBT parents group and using the same advertising strategies have had a successful first meeting. There is no need for the community not to be inclusive of your needs and interests. Make it reflect yourself. It is your community.
The Community Center
by Troy Wolcoff

In last month’s issue of the Northview, I had a short article about my work with Identity as an intern for the Community Center project. This month I want to share with you exciting developments and issue an invitation to work with us to make a GLBT Community Center a reality for Alaska. First, I want to introduce myself to members of the community whom I do not yet know.

I was born and raised in Anchorage and have lived here most of my life. My family roots are a complicated blend of Alaska Native and European traders. Somehow, every aunt has a different story as to how my great-grandmother Moe had Aleut/Japanese babies, or married a Russian fisherman. Like many Alaska Natives, I have many, many aunts, uncles, and cousins—most of who still live here.

Growing up in Anchorage (Eagle River really), I had a very hard time accepting my sexuality. I went to a fundamentalist church three times a week (I have 8 ordained ministers in my mother’s family), and I hated school, where I was called names, because even the principal affectations. Before I had any idea what that meant. Really, my first introduction to the gay community was at the Wave. When I turned 21, my friend William insisted we do three things: go shopping, go drinking and go out! Of course, I had no idea what to expect, and frankly, the first year I went out was nerve wracking. Like most young gay men, I had spent so many years not expecting to fit in that it became a self-fulfilling prophecy. Somehow, I’ve been able to get through all that and really just enjoy going out to see friends and have a great time dancing all night long...although the recovery time from the weekend fun seems to get longer with every passing year.

When I was younger, I wanted to flee to the urban gay metropolis of Seattle, to be gay and fabulous. Now I have so many wonderful friends and projects here, I find the idea of leaving to be painful. In the last two years, I have become involved in the Family, and I recently became a facilitator with IMRU2. Both of these groups are doing great work with young people in our community.

This summer, as I was planning my fall semester at UAA, I began to hear from new board members about Identity talk of a community center project. After some deliberation, I decided to dedicate a year of work to studying the feasibility of such a project. I have used the same resources and assisted with the submission of the seed grant proposal to help Identity expand services. I have looked through materials from other centers, gone through tons of e-mail sites, and most importantly, I think, I have been able to talk with a broad swath of the community.

In the course of my internship with Identity in the past 3 months, I have had so many people tell me that they are amazed at the renaissance of ideas, energy, and possibilities for Anchorage. In November, I was given the opportunity to attend the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force annual conference called Creating Change 2000. This was an amazing experience for me. It was affirming to spend a week with people who were so vibrant in their own communities. From this conference, I only took a new sense of pride, but also new skills and connections as well.

One of the great pleasures in being an Alaskan is how people in the lower 48 react when they hear where you’re from. I was constantly asked, “What is it like to be gay in Alaska?” Grant funding sources asked me to please make sure that we applied for funding because they received few or no requests from Alaska. I want to impress on you that everyone from the Outside was optimistic and offered technical support with grant applications and any other information. As I come to the midway of my work with Identity, I am pleased to tell you that progress has been made. On December 12, 2000 Identity board members Lisa Jamieson, Victor Carlson, and I had a telephone interview with the Gill Foundation, and we will know the results of their decision in January of 2001. Furthermore, we are attempting to have the Gill Foundation's professional trainers come to Alaska to help Identity and other allied non-profit corporations with fundraising, event planning, business planning, and a whole host of related programs. This will ensure that our community volunteers are well-trained and able to work like professionals.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to each of you for a community wide meeting to be held at 2 p.m. on January 20, 2001 at the John Thomas building on 3rd and Cordova in downtown Anchorage. I plan to give a short presentation on successful community centers and give current information on the Identity project. Most importantly, this will be an opportunity for us to get together and discuss what we want and how we can achieve it. I believe Anchorage has a great need for a safe space where we can gather to be who we are without fear. I believe this not only possible, but that 2001 is the year we can make it happen.
Identity to Sponsor Fruit Bowl 2: THE SECOND HELPING

Identity to Sponsor Fruit Bowl 2: The Second Helping—Identity, as a followup to the very successful 2000 Alaska Pride Conference, is sponsoring a series of workshops for the community. The first one will be Fruit Bowl 2: The Second Helping. Fruit Bowl was one of the more popular workshops during the October Pride Conference. The workshop features representatives from a cross-section of the GLBT community who will speak and answer questions about themselves and their lives. It is a great opportunity to challenge assumptions about gender and sexuality in parts of the community and the GLBT scene with which one may not be familiar: transsexuals, bisexuals, leather folk, those who practice bondage and S&M, and others. Talking to one another in a respectful and supportive atmosphere is one way to build tolerance and acceptance of differences WITHIN our community. The workshop will be held on January 13 from 1:00-4:00 in the John Thomas Building at 3rd and Cordova. Suggested donation $12 - More if you can, less if you can’t. All proceeds benefit the Pride Conference 2001. All are encouraged to attend, regardless of payment. Coffee and tea will be provided. Call workshops coordinator Diana Wolfe at 338-5909 or email her at adsw@iuu.alaska.edu for more information.

BLACK AND BLUE BALL- THE LAST FRONTIER MEN’S CLUB

is hosting their annual Black and Blue Ball on January 27 at 7PM at Mad Myr纳斯. Tickets are $5.00 and can be purchased at the door or at Stonewall’d. Master of Ceremonies will be Mikey LaChoy, and the Ball will include the traditional Leather Fashion Show, a “Bearber” Shop Quartet, and (it is rumored) a special appearance by Her Most Imperial Majesty, Empress Eve, herself! The Ball also includes performances by past title holders and current applicants and voting for the Mr. Leather Alaska, Alaska Bear Cub, Mr. Alaska Levi, and Mr. Bear Alaska 2001 as well as a special slave auction. This is the seminal event of the year for the Last Frontier Men's Club, and it should not be missed! Applications for Mr. Alaska Leather, Mr. Bear Alaska, Mr. Alaska Levi, and Alaska Bear Cub as well as applications for the slave auction can be found at www.tlmfc.com or can be picked up at the coat check at Myr纳斯 on the weekends.

IMRU2 ANNOUNCES NEW MEETING PLACE

IMRU2, a support group for GLBTQA teens, now meets at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church on East 24th and Boniface in East Anchorage. They will continue to meet every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00. For more information, call 566-IMRU.

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP-A NEW PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

has been formed for GLBT parents and anyone else who is active in child rearing or who is thinking of being active in childrearing. The group meets on the second Sunday of every month from 2PM to 5PM. Meetings take place at 1428 Vallenarian Street which is three blocks north of Out North and five streets west of Costco on DeBarr and Braggard. The meetings include a potluck. Children and other family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Susan at 276-6574 or email sniman@pobox.alaska.net

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS FOR GLBT COMMUNITY

Anne Lazenby has announced the formation of an American Sign Language Class. The class will start in Mid-January and needs a minimum of eight students. Cost for the class will not exceed $100 for the class and $55 for the text. The class will meet on Saturdays from 11-12:30 in the Denali Towers and will run for ten weeks. Call Anne at 345-3818 or email at alazenby@gci.net.

FRONTRUNNERS IS SKI-FRONTRUNNERS IN WINTER MONTHS

An organization that meets twice weekly for running, walking, and skating, has announced their Winter skiing activities. The group will meet every Tuesday at 7PM at Hillside Park and every Saturday at 11PM at Kincaid Park for cross-country skiing. For more information call Peter at 337-3682 or visit the website at www.frontrunners.org.

PRIDEFEST ANNOUNCES WEB PAGE

Anchorage PrideFest 2001 will unveil their web page in January at www.anchoragepride.com. The web site will feature information on all PrideFest week activities as well as information on sponsors and sponsorships, entertainers, parade applications, vendor applications for the Festival, and volunteer information. As well, all entries for the logo contest (with a $200 prize) must be received by January 15. Call Jim at 786-1371 or email prideonthepark@yahoo.com for more information.

YGMA JANUARY ACTIVITIES

Anchorage Young Gay Men’s Association has scheduled several events in January. YGMA is a social and peer club designed for gay and bisexual men from 21-39. Activities for January will include their monthly Cock/Tail Reception on the third Thursday of the month, a peer Sex Ed workshop sponsored with the 4-As, a laser tag afternoon entitled “Militant Marys,” and their first monthly Amateur Male Strip Off fundraiser. For more information on YGMA or their activities contact them at 275-5900, anchorageyma@yahoo.com, or visit their web site at http://www.geocities.com/anchorageyma.
Involving Social Justice

It's hard to believe, but I did something unexpected right before I traveled the Alcan from California to Alaska. I chopped off my long wavy hair. Appalled, my well-meaning friends cautioned me about Alaska: with my new (badly trimmed) butch hair cut and my rainbow pride items, I would be subject to homophobic dangers in the Last Frontier. Images of violent beatings, hateful baiting, and stalking kept me from coming out when I first moved up here. I was truly afraid to be who I was, in a land where I knew very few people. The idea of getting involved in the "community" was in my mind tantamount to getting shot, not to mention the marginalization of also being Asian and progressive.

Audre Lorde said, "When I work in the service of my vision—it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid," and I try to live by that. I didn't want fear to hold me back. But there are many reasons for not getting involved in the GLBT community. It's scary to put yourself out there, no matter how big or small your efforts are. We, as GLBT folks, are constantly belittled, silenced, and ignored. Sometimes, I find it easier to throw up my hands in disgust and move on. The discouragement and sadness that often accompanies community activism can drain my energy and my spirit.

The more I looked around, scanning familiar and unknown faces in the GLBT community, I found the lack of color within our community—especially those who are politically active—glaringly apparent and a total turn-off. It gets very old when I am the only person of color in a meeting or gathering. I don't want to be tokenized, nor do I want to represent all people of color. It would be just as ridiculous to ask you to represent the face of GLBT America. I struggled for a while with my sense of intense isolation about being a person of color in the GLBT community and in Alaska. What I realized is this: a true sense of belonging comes from within one's soul. But when we work together, get involved, donate money, or spare some precious time to get to know someone new, we may transcend our isolation as individuals and know what true community can be.

While I still believe that more people of color need to be visible in the GLBT community, I knew that my efforts needed to support this cause now, instead of later. Something else gnawed at me. It would not quiet and let me live life uninvolved. One of the many bumper stickers on my car reads, "No one is free when others are oppressed." Social justice has always been important to me. Always asking "why" has not made me popular many times. Yet, I burn when someone is wronged, and unfairness strikes a deep chord in me. It probably started when I was born and my parents had wanted me to be a boy because girls don't matter as much in Vietnamese culture, a value that is shared worldwide.

That's why I remain involved. Ultimately, only social justice may figuratively "straighten" the crooked state of affairs today. I believe that every person has a role in the stage on which social justice plays. Whether you are in the limelight in front of the microphones, behind the scenes, or financially producing the event, we can all contribute to social justice. I try to be as out as I can. I try to give as much money as I can afford to GLBT organizations. And I try to remember that there's more to fear than a bad dyke haircut. Like knowing that you could have made a difference, but were afraid to even try.
Community Involvement

EXPANDS

Community Awareness

by Chuck Hart

Seward is a small town. Small towns have rich stereotypes to live up to, and nasty ones to live down. In summer, Seward is in Anchorage’s back yard. In winter, Seward is located just this side of Mars. Seward was my home for three years. The more involved I am in the community, the more I fit in.

Seward is where I came to terms with my sexuality. Seward is home to some of my best friends: both gay and straight. Most of Seward’s gay population is closeted even today. I was only the second out gay year-round resident of Seward in 13 years. Now there are a few more people who are out.

In Seward the pace of life is much slower. Most people you meet are genuinely relaxed. People have the time to say hello to one another. If you get a “How are you?” be ready to answer, be heard, and be remembered. This was essential to my recovery from years of physical and emotional abuse. Before and after coming out, the people of Seward helped show me I was worth knowing.

Seward is where I was inducted into the Pioneers of Alaska (Igloo #9). The two membership requirements are thirty years residence in Alaska and being voted in by the members. They invited me to join after I publicly came out. I helped at Pioneers meetings in a variety of ways and was warmly accepted.

I was elected to a minor office this year. I represented the Pioneers of Alaska in the Fourth of July festivities by driving the Grand Marshall’s car at the parade.

Seward is where I had the marvelous opportunity of working with scientists from around the world at the Alaska Sea Life Center. This is where I first came out publicly. I worked long and hard hours as a volunteer doing everything from leading tours of visiting press corps, to maintaining the touch tank exhibit, to cleaning nesting boxes used by pigeon guillemot chicks, to helping tube feed orphaned seal pups. Inadvertently I helped other volunteers see that working with a gay man is not as icky as working with bird poop.

Seward is where I learned of the Unitarian Universalists and their practice of welcoming GLBT people into their congregation. I was never pressured to join. The Seward UU presented a series of Cultural Diversity and Awareness Forums in the winter of 1999-2000. In March, Seward UU presented the “Sexual Minorities Forum”. Speaking at this forum was easier than my involvement in the community and the acceptance I had received there. Mim Chapman, Fred Hillman, Jackie Buckley, and Trang Duong swooped down from Anchorage and took me under their wings, helping me through the forum. I was nervous on two counts, a little on so publicly coming out, but mostly that it was my first speech in English in over 20 years. Afterwards, I had a lot of positive feedback, and even stronger ties to this community.

My children came to visit this summer after a six-month separation. People all over Seward welcomed them warmly. Many people told my children of my contributions of time and effort to the community. My children saw that even though everyone knows dad is gay, dad is liked. They also learned the value of giving back to your community. My children had an idea in their minds that resembled, “If Dad chooses the gay lifestyle, he will be an outcast.” If all I got out of the time serving my community was my children’s awareness that being gay doesn’t have to mean being an outcast then that would make it all worthwhile.

Would I recommend community involvement? Wholeheartedly! I would recommend being involved both in the GLBT community and the geographic one as well. The more we are in the community, the more difficult it is for some to raise fears about us. This is a slow process, but it is such a marvelous foundation for support outside the GLBT ranks. We will never be the majority in Anchorage, but if we have a lot of the majority on our side, we can do more, and be safer. And I have received more in serving than I gave. I am rich in terrific friendships, memories, and trivial pursuit answers.

In Anchorage, my involvement is limited by various time pressures, college, a long-term hospitalized daughter, and a job search. I am only able to squeeze out an article a month, but I feel somehow connected in that way.▼
Through the years I’ve heard mixed reviews of the Los Angeles/Hollywood Coronation Ball. So, when Empress XXX of Los Angeles, Karina, asked if I would entertain at her stepping down, I decided to check out the big gay ball myself. The weekend of Thanksgiving got off to a great start when I was greeted at the airport by the Emperor of Long Beach, California. A few hours later, we were on our way to my hotel, then on to the infamous Garment District. My four-day adventure began with a stroll down 9th and Santee in the Garment District, which was overflowing with shopping atmosphere. From the purple, gold and green lame’ to the myriad beads, shoes and dresses, it looked like a drag queen’s closet. Throw in whiffs of freshly cut mango wafting through the sensuous 70-degree climate, and you have yourself true Californian shopping.

All the ingredients for a great weekend were there except for a decent number of visiting monarchs to enjoy them. As each day passed, I kept hoping I’d see more friends arrive, but it never happened. Nevertheless, the Imperial Court of All of Alaska came home with The Best Entrance Award. Aahh… The pageantry. The elegance. The spectacle. On Saturday, Empress XXX, Karina, and Emperor Robert of Los Angeles/Hollywood ended their reign as regal representatives, officially stepping down at the court’s premier social event of the year as they passed down the scepter to the newly elected royalty.

“Kristara In the Raw and the Legends Extraordinaire” at Club Galaxy, Fairbanks was a hit. The club was packed with customers. The show was the bomb. Thanks to Reyna, Misty Dawn, Xasha, and Shante for helping me put on a fabulous show. Fairbanks, we will be back.

The cold winter of Alaska is not cooperating with my Christmas shopping. Well, I’ll be honest. I still have three pastel-dyed eggs from Easter in my ‘fridge, have yet to mail the Mother’s Day card I bought in June, and the Christmas decorations are still packed away in the basement. I keep telling myself that I have to have a boyfriend for the holidays. Someone to hold me and to buy me stuff. Someone to be with on cold winter nights and to buy me stuff. Someone to buy me stuff. Someone to buy me stuff. Someone to buy me stuff. Since that person did not come running to my door, I took the liberty of reversing the role once again. I have decided to be a good Mary and to start giving rather than receiving. Ahh, the feeling of satisfaction. I have gone to each shopping mall and grabbed a name off the angel tree. I love shopping for cute little dresses and little pink purses for the girls and loud musical instruments for the boys (or is that the other way around?). If your neighborhood girls started to act prissy with their pink purses and gloves – think of me. If the boys upstairs from your apartment kept you up all night with their loud musical instruments think of Christmas and the wonderful joy of giving.

Twenty more days till my Kosovo man comes home to Alaska. I have been preparing myself for this encounter. I’ve been religiously hitting the health club to flatten my bulging tummy, tanning my not so perfect color, and hitting the shopping malls to find dresses to wear for each day he is in town. As for my Greek god Corinthius, he has gone back to the confused stage again. I have been there and done that and no more for me. My Greek god - it was fun while it lasted.

This holiday lets keep it real! There is nothing more precious than giving someone a piece of your heart. Remember this year, you are not alone-you have me, the fabulous Kristara.

Visit Kristara’s web page at:
http://albums.photopoint.com/jl/AlbnumIndex

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Kristara is the current host of the Friday Diva Show at Mad Myrna’s and is Empress XVII and XXVI of the Imperial Court of All Alaska. She is currently single and never leaves the house without wearing clean underwear.
A New Identity for Identity?

by Lisa Jamieson

Identity has been changing, growing and re-defining its role in the community. As one of the Co-Chairs, I'm offering this unofficial and informal year-end report to the NorthView readers and Identity members on the changes and achievements of Identity, Inc. in the past nine months.

Over the past few months, there has been a great deal of activity from the Identity Board. We are putting greater emphasis on being a service organization for the GLBT community and our allies. Here are some of our volunteers and Board members’ recent accomplishments:

- Successfully organized the Pride Picnic in June, and a month of PRIDE activities in October, including Unity in Our Community, and Alaska Pride Conference 2000: Turning Diversity into Community. This was done with more participation and input from other community groups than ever before.
- We have more than doubled our membership, and we plan to continue to expand and include more diversity within the organization.
- The NorthView has returned: bigger, better, and consistently published each month.

About a year ago, I started attending Identity Board meetings, because I hoped identity would sponsor the Community Center grant proposal I was writing. I attended most meetings for several months, and was encouraged to run for the Board. I did, and joined the Board in June 2000, along with Victor Carlson, Victoria Shaver, Jo Hansen, and Stephanie Butler. In June, Tim Brobst chaired a successful Pride Picnic, which included a raffle by Jo Hansen. Jean Craciun began a membership drive.

Since that time, there have been many personnel changes on the Board. Jean Craciun, Jo Hansen, Stephanie Butler, Tim Brobst, and Bill Wilkes have left the Board. Jim Mohr and Doug Frank have joined, and most recently, Hugh Brown III. Stalwart Steve Kendall has remained through all this transition, our reliable (and patient) secretary.

See, NEW IDENTITY page 13
What's in a pronoun? Sometimes, everything. Those harmless little words that help us refer to others in our community have power. His, hers, she, he, him: tiny words that say a lot.

Recently, a couple we know back east traveled to San Francisco for gender reassignment surgery. “Mark” is an attractive female-to-male transsexual who easily passed as male prior to chest surgery. But his partner inadvertently used a female pronoun to the man Mark had been talking to during the flight. In one second he was ousted, and the stranger who minutes before assumed him to be a biological male instantly knew otherwise.

Getting pronouns right in the pre-operative days is tough. I've been there. It's easy to slip. But my point is, pronouns matter. Pronouns have power. Our choice of pronouns can say to a transsexual person, “I respect your truth. I believe you are who you say you are.”

Pronouns can also hurt. When a transsexual person has the courage to come out to his or her friends, a change of pronouns usually follows. Of course, this takes time. But eventually it's great if those friends make the switch. And very painful if they don't.

When my partner was in Portland for chest surgery last year, we had great nurses who showed immense respect and sensitivity with their transsexual patients. But one nurse used female pronouns several times, so I gently asked her to use male pronouns with my partner. I didn't want him waking from this extremely painful procedure with a flat male chest at last, only to hear himself referred to as “she.”

That was in March of 2000. Fast forward to December. My partner again underwent surgery, this time to remove female plumbing for both transition and conventional medical reasons. I told a dear friend of mine he was having this surgery and why, and she asked if this meant he would like to be referred to as male. I gently said yes, that would be very appropriate. Kindness creates allies.

Pronouns take time. But when we realize what they mean to the brave transsexual people in our community, it's worth the effort to get them right. And very appreciated.

When my partner first asked me to use male rather than female pronouns, it was difficult. But I had a wonderful mentor and confidante at the time, a mature transsexual woman whom I first met professionally and who later became part of our support system. I boasted to her one day (long ago!) that I had learned to speak without pronouns, so I wouldn't slip and use the wrong ones. She agreed that was one way to deal with it, but that it required such effort.

“I prefer to get it right,” she said very gently.

Thank you to all our dear friends and allies who have worked hard over the past year to “get it right.”

Sincerely,
Teresa and Danny
The never-ending election is over, and for many in the GLBT community, we have a President we would rather not have. Yet, in the spirit of Americans everywhere, we cannot help but hope for the best over the next four years, and we wish our new President well. It will be interesting to see how our country is governed from the middle now that those on the left and the right have lost much of their clout. We hope that GLBT rights will find a purchase on the political shores and that Dick and Mary Cheney might help win over George W. Bush to our cause. We will see.

The quotes below are offered as a tongue-in-cheek look at the next President. Hopefully, regardless of your political views, you will chuckle over them and then join in wishing our new President and our country a great four years.

Here is a list of actual George W. Bush quotes.

"If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure."

"Republicans understand the importance of bondage between a mother and child."

"Welcome to Mrs. Bush, and my fellow astronauts."

"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history. I mean in this century's history. But we all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century."

"I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy - but that could change."

"Verbosity leads to unclear, inarticulate things."

"I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future."

"The future will be better tomorrow."

"We're going to have the best educated American people in the world."

"People that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history."

"I stand by all the misstatements that I've made."

"We have a firm commitment to NATO, we are a part of NATO. We have a firm commitment to Europe. We are a part of Europe."

"Public speaking is very easy."

"I am not part of the problem. I am a Republican."

"A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls."

"For NASA, space is still a high priority."

"Quite frankly, teachers are the only profession that teach our children."

"The American people would not want to know of any misquotes that George Bush may or may not make."

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."

"[It's] time for the human race to enter the solar system." ▼

Gratitude

n: 1 the state of being grateful: 2 a feeling of thankfulness and appreciation

To all my clients & friends, with gratitude, I thank all of you for entrusting me with the buying and selling of your home. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Rona Mason • Homes Unlimited • 279-8877 • ronasak.net
Specializing in your happiness...
The Martha in all of us...

by Dawn

W

clew! The summer has finally ended and life is beginning to slow down. For many, all the hiking, biking, backpacking, kayaking, sports events, road trips, yard sailing, bar-b-ques, and Pride events have caused us to neglect our homes. Some of you, myself included, were probably so busy you forgot what your house looked like or what street you lived on--much less how clean it was or what condition it was in.

Now that winter has arrived much of life is moving indoors, when we aren't cross country skiing, snow shoeing the trails, or sledding with the dogs, that is. The winter slows things down enough that there is just enough time to stop and take a look around the house before inviting half the community over for a holiday get together or to watch a movie. Perhaps you forgot about the scratch you put on the wall at the beginning of the summer when you were setting up your tent indoors to check its condition. The grease marks in the kitchen from when you were preparing food for the bar-b-que over at a friend's house can be pretty subtle at first. In the hustle and bustle of the summer, you might not have noticed the build up of dirt smudges on the doormat or working in the garden or hiking with Fido in the mud. Maybe the color you chose five years ago is no longer in style or the standard off white is getting a little boring. Whether it is for general maintenance or just for a change, we all at some point think about painting a single room, or if you are real ambitious, the entire house. Two days before a holiday dinner is no time to realize that the heat marks on the walls that reach from the basement heaters to the ceiling are going to clash with the rest of the décor in the dining room.

One thing many of us tend to think about when we pick a color for the living room, kitchen or our bedroom, is the effect the color is going to have on us and our guests. There is much more to it than picking out a shade of our favorite color to go on the walls. Ever wonder why many restaurants incorporate red into their décor? Or why the color green is commonly used in hospitals and why vivid colors are used in children's play areas? Believe it or not, there is a psychology of color. Color effects us emotionally and physically. Colors can change our moods, feelings, energy levels and appetite.

Color Warm-Up
Colors in the red, orange and yellow families are referred to as "warm" colors since they evoke images associated with heat, like fire or sunshine. As a result, they make us feel warm in a psychological sense.

Red
This powerful color increases blood pressure and heart rate. It often produces feelings of intimacy, energy, passion and sexuality. It also stimulates the appetite and is often used in restaurants and is an excellent choice for dining rooms in the home.

Orange
Like red, orange warms a room but in a less dramatic and passionate way. The mood and attitude of orange is more friendly than fiery; more welcoming than seductive. Orange works well in living rooms and family rooms and is also a good choice for children's bedrooms.

Yellow
Yellow grabs attention and catches the eye like no other color, hence the use of yellow highlighters in offices. In poorly lit foyers and hallways, yellow shows the way. In their bedrooms, elderly people report that yellow lifts their mood. But bright yellow can be too strong and may actually cause anxiety in infants, young children and the elderly.

Color Cool-Out
Blues, greens, violets and their intermediates are considered cool colors because of their references to pastoral landscapes and ocean vistas. When we look at these colors they elicit feelings of peace, tranquility and relaxation.

Blue
Soothing blue is an ideal bedroom color choice for adults and children. But that same blue that lulls us to sleep also suppresses our appetites, possibly because there are very few naturally blue foods. Put blue to bed, but try and keep it out of the dining room.

Green
As the dominant color in nature, we are at home with green anywhere in the house. Light greens work well in baths and living rooms; mid-range greens are a great accent for kitchens and dining rooms. The calming effect of green makes it popular in hospitals, schools and work environments.

Violet
Despite the favorable response violet elicits in children, many adults dislike purples, with rosier shades of violet being somewhat more appealing. Children's bedrooms and play areas may be good places to experiment with this color family.

Copyright 2000 Quality Paint Institute.

A little more food for thought if you plan on painting the inside of your home this winter. Vivid colors stimulate activity. Passage of time can be under or overestimated depending on the color of the room. A red room can cause time to be perceived as passing more slowly while blue or green can make time seem to speed up. Colors at the warm end of the spectrum catch our attention faster than cool colors. Light bright colors open up and expand a room while darker cooler colors contract a room.

Well, I don't know about you, but I have some colors to pick and a house to paint. So, until next time...Happy Painting.
NEW IDENTITY continued from page 9

After many years of dedicated service by Candy Bonham as Helpline coordinator, the responsibility for coordinating the Identity Helpline was assumed by Victoria Shaver. Volunteers answer this telephone line, seven days a week in the evening. Victoria has implemented a newsletter for volunteers, increased training, and has recruited more volunteers. The Helpline continues to need responsible volunteers, who are willing and able to commit to one or two evenings a month to answer questions, make referrals, and listen. The Helpline is unquestionably the most valuable community service that Identity provides. It is truly a lifeline for many people who may have no other way to get information about the GLBT community.

The NorthView came back to life, thanks to the talents of Kim Acuna, who has been doing the design and layout, and Pete Gregson, who assumed the role of Editor in October of this year. The NorthView is now coming out monthly, has a staff of writers, and has been including articles and view points from all parts of the community. It is again a community newspaper of which we can be proud. Chris Pearson, the volunteer in charge of advertising, is working to increase the ad avenue of the NorthView, so that it can be more widely distributed.

Troy Wolcott, a Human Services student at UAA, has joined Identity as an intern. Troy has been researching and compiling historical information, researching grants, and assisted with a recent grant application to the Gill Foundation. He also worked extensively on the Pride Conference, and attended Creating Change, a national conference that included a pre-conference institute about Community Centers. Troy has reported on this conference in the NorthView, and will continue to share with the community the information he has learned. We hope to learn the outcome of our grant proposal in January. If it is successful, we plan to open a Community Resource Center this spring, where GLBT resources can be found and groups can meet.

Jim Mohr, new to Anchorage and the Identity Board, has taken a number of important jobs, including Treasurer and Publications Chair. He is Co-Chair for Anchorage PrideFest 2001, and is looking for a woman to co-chair that event.

The strength of Identity is its members. We hope that you will consider being a part of our vital community services. The NorthView can always use more articles, art, and folks to help with the nitty-gritty stuff, like folding, stapling and mailing. A pressing need for the Helpline is someone to update and improve the resource manual, which volunteers use to make referrals. Co-Chairs are being sought for next year’s Pride Conference. We are also seeking more Board members. We welcome volunteers and hope that you will come participate in the great changes that are taking place within Identity. ▼
Who We Are

The Coalition for Safe Schools in Anchorage [CSSA] is a group of local citizens who are affiliated with two national organizations that are leading the crusade for safe schools-Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays [PFLAG] and the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network [GLSEN]. This fall PFLAG and GLSEN are collaborating in a national campaign “From Our House to the Schoolhouse: Families & Educators Partnering for Safe Schools.”

Our Concern

All school violence begins with name-calling. The Anchorage School District's present anti-harassment policy specifies several personal attributes that are protected against discrimination: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and physical appearance. Sexual harassment is listed in the policy, but sexual orientation is not. The policy thus omits one group that may number as many as ten percent of the student population-those who are perceived as not being heterosexual, regardless of whether or not they are. Yet students hear abusive epithets, such as “fag, dyke, and queer,” many times a day, directed at males who appear effeminate, or females who appear masculine, or those who openly self-identify as gay or lesbian.

Urgency of the Problem

In the absence of sexual orientation in the policy, teachers and administrators are in a no-win bind. The law now requires them to address name-calling and holds them personally accountable, yet policy does not support them. Moreover, most educators have had little, if any, training in how to cope with verbal harassment that is based on perceived sexuality.

Recent court decisions and federal regulations have increased the urgency of the problem:

- The U.S. Supreme Court in Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education has ruled that school employees who are indifferent to complaints of peer-to-peer sexual harassment are liable.
- In Nabozny v. Podlesny, the Seventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that all persons in public education are protected under the Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause. Nabozny cost the Ashland, Wisconsin school district nearly $1,000,000.
- The Office of Civil Rights [OCR] of the U.S. Department of Education states that schools must adopt guidelines about sexual harassment that include sexual orientation.

- The Code of Ethics of the State of Alaska Professional Teaching Standards [20 AAC 10.020] includes sexual orientation in its list of grounds for prohibiting harassment or discrimination by teachers of either students or colleagues, and moreover, states that an educator “…shall make reasonable effort to assure that a student is protected from harassment or discrimination on these grounds.” In other words, teachers are required to prevent harassment and discrimination, as well as refraining from doing so themselves.

Recommendations

- add “sexual orientation” to the anti-harassment policy;
- enhance training programs to reduce malicious harassment to a minimum in order to make schools safe for all, regardless of perceptions. Training should include both social and legal implications for students, teachers, administrators, school staff, and parents;
- institute programs to monitor how well anti-harassment policies are being followed.

How Can We Help?

The national PFLAG and GLSEN organizations have resources available for training programs for school staff. Our local members are available to help implement programs and to provide support to staff, students, and parents.

Co-Chairs: Jane Schilliger and Fred Hillman
POBox 203231, Anchorage, AK 99520
Tel: 566-1813 or 562-7161
<schilliger@micronet.net>
Classic Cooking

with Al Kaneta

“Al Kaneta is a misplaced Hawaiian who loves Alaska, retirement, travel and cooking...not necessarily in that order.

Smothered Pork Chops and Cheese Grits

Cheese Grits:
6 cups chicken stock
1 cup grits (Quick Grits)
1/4 pound unsalted butter
1 cup cheddar cheese

In two quart sauce pan, bring chicken stock to a rapid boil. Add grits whisking continuously for approximately 3 minutes. Make sure that the grits do not develop lumps. Reduce heat to low. Cook grits for approximately 5 minutes. Add butter and cheese. Mix well. Remove sauce pan from heat. Keep warm to serve with the pork chops.

Smothered Pork Chops:
1 1/4 cup vegetable oil
4 (6-ounce) center cut pork chops with bone
Salt and pepper to taste
1 cup plus 4 tablespoons flour for dredging and the gravy
4 cups chicken stock (warm)
1 large onion, thinly sliced

Place a large cast iron skillet on medium heat. Add vegetable oil. Season pork chops with salt and pepper. Dredge pork chops in seasoned flour. When oil is hot, approximately 325 degrees, place pork chops in skillet. Cook pork chops on each side approximately 5 minutes. Be careful not to burn. Remove pork chops from skillet and set aside. Pour fat from skillet leaving about 4 tablespoons of oil. Do not scrape skillet. Return skillet to heat. Add 4 tablespoon of flour to oil stirring occasionally, allowing flour to brown. Add warm chicken stock. Whisk chicken stock, and flour mixture carefully to prevent lumps. Return pork chops to skillet. Add onions. Cover and simmer on low 25 to 30 minutes or until pork chops are tender.

To assemble the dish, remove pork chops from pan and plate one with the cheese grits. Spoon some of the pan gravy and onions over the chops.
he better half and I are back - reluctantly - from Palm Springs, California, where we spent nine days in early November. I'm not sure where to begin to express what a great time we had!

We stayed at La Posada De Las Palmas, (Translation, "The Inn at the Palms" - La Posada for short) a very nice gay men's resort that is exquisite yet unpretentious. La Posada offers a large pool, wonderful hot tub with sunning area, a beautiful private garden, lots of extra amenities including a common living room with a fireplace and very nice people. Thom, the owner and host, obviously takes great pride in both his inn's reputation and in making guests happy. They have a website at www.laposada.com for anyone who might be visiting Palm Springs and looking for wonderful and surprisingly affordable accommodations.

So what did we do? We RELAXED! No schedules or rigid itinerary are needed. Yet there is plenty offered for gay travelers, from daytime indoor and outdoor events to a diverse nightlife club and bar scene in Palm Springs and neighboring Cathedral City. In Palm Springs, you can be as busy or as lazy as you want to be. And there are always people asking you to join them in what they are doing; hiking, shopping, going to a movie, etc. - like I said, this is an unpretentious crowd.

The highlight of the trip was the Palm Springs Pride 2000 weekend, which fell at the beginning of our trip. Our first day there we saw the Mr. Gay California All-American Contest, which was a real treat. They look beyond just looks into things like talent and personality, to find someone who can be a genuine role model for the gay community. The California winner will compete nationally, and the winner of the national competition will become Mr. Gay All-American, who will serve for a year as a role model, touring and teaching the gay community about issues that concern us, most notably AIDS education. And the proceeds from the competition benefit AIDS charities.

The rest of the Pride weekend consisted of a large festival at Palm Springs High Schools Angel Stadium, with live entertainment, lots of shopping and food booths, and much more. The festival also had an author's corner, where we were able to meet Bruce Vilanch and Patricia Nell Warren, as well as other talented gay writers and celebrities.

And the Pride parade was something unbelievable. I had never been to a gay pride parade before, and couldn't help but be moved by the outpouring of support. The parade began in style with a very enthusiastic group of lesbian motorcyclists, and went on to represent a wide range of California's gay community. Even the California Highway Patrol and a local desert cities fire department participated with entries. And the very supportive mayor and city council of Palm Springs rode in the parade as well. During one point a large American flag was carried down the parade route, and hundreds upon hundreds of people walked up and put donations into the center to benefit local charities. No word on how much was donated, but it was noted by a regular parade attendee that the previous year, folks along the parade route had donated $27,000! Incredible!

Then, as the parade wrapped up, there was the protest. Inevitable, right? Wrong. A little out of the ordinary in this progressive city. A group of six Fred Phelps-esque protesters stood in front of Saks Fifth Avenue, (NOT representing the department store chain) and were cordoned off by Caltrans saw-horses and yellow police tape - and a contingent of Palm Springs police officers. One protestor spoke through a bullhorn in an almost bored monotone about how we sinners are all going to hell. Another large biker type actually tried baiting the crowd, and got a response he wasn't expecting when a drag queen in a purple dress and body length cape walked by, rolling a small wheeled suitcase up the parade route with her.

See, PALM SPRINGS page 19
Lessons in Perspective
(a few thoughts about community)
by Jen Kobout

There’s really no point in looking down. At 35,000 feet over southern Manitoba, there’s not a lot to see even when there isn’t a dense mat of gray clouds between you and the ground. I look anyway because it gives me space to think—an opportunity to explore some internal terrain.

I’ve made this trip a couple dozen times now. Taken the long flight back to Alaska after visiting with family and friends on the East Coast. During my first years in Anchorage, I dreaded this final leg of the journey back. Flying away from familiar US place names, across a checkerboard of farms, then over miles of rock and snow and ice, I felt as if I was returning to self-imposed exile at some northern outpost. Now I sit in my cramped window seat with the excitement of someone who’s returning home. Same Northwest flight number, different perspective.

When I moved to Alaska ten years ago, I had one friend in Anchorage. She picked me up at the airport, gave me shelter for a couple nights, and then left the state a week after I arrived. It was no reflection on the place, she told me, it was just that she had an attractive job opportunity in Denver. Weeks later, oppressed by cold winds and overcast skies, I began to wonder if she’d been less that honest with me. It was only September and autumn was well underway. With the advance of darkness, I craved meaningful social interaction. Fleeting exchanges with fellow herbivores at the Carrs salad bar every evening after work no longer satisfied my hunger to connect with people.

Okay...it wasn’t just any people I wanted to connect with, it was people of the lesbian persuasion. Heck, I would have happily settled for an extroverted gay man. I’d spent most of my adolescence thinking that I was the only lesbian on the planet and now that I knew the truth, I never wanted to be that alone again. I gave up on the salad bar and began to actively seek out the lesbian community. And in my quest it emerged like Avalon from the mist. Thanks to the Women’s bookstore, the NorthView, the HelpLine, the Lesbian Connection, and my own “gaydar” skills, I found a healthy and vibrant community. Linda Steiner was producing lesbian singers and comedians, and Celebration was selling out. I got involved with Identity, the HelpLine, and the Alaska Pride Conference. These activities and a Jerry Prevo-led gay-bashing fiasco offered me plenty of opportunities to bond with the lesbian, bi, gay, trans community...so much so that I needed a break.

Watching the waves of clouds pass beneath the shiny aluminum wing, I think about change and perspective, about where I was ten years ago and where I am now. I feel more appreciative of the GLBT community and less needy. I’m glad that community-building opportunities like Identity and the Alaska Pride Conference exist, and I will continue to support them, just not with the same single-minded purpose. I sense a slowly evolving acceptance of our community by mainstream society and as a result, find myself with the energy to consider broader issues. By looking beyond my own battles, I’ve been embarrassed to discover that I’ve expected my

See, PERSPECTIVE page 19
Remembering Our Soldiers

While the poem below is an adaptation of a standard Christmas poem, I felt it was an important reminder to all of us of the important work done by our American men and women in uniform. In Anchorage, there are so many soldiers in our GLBT community who are unsure of how to be involved in our community while at the same time honoring their commitment to country. They walk an incredibly hard road, and I feel it is incumbent on all of us to thank our GLBT brothers and sisters in the military every chance we get. For not only do they serve with honor and distinction, but they also do so for a country and a government that tells them they must be ashamed of who they are and not live their lives fully and openly. They willingly make a decision to lay down their lives for a country that refuses to recognize them. That is courage. Moreover, it is the ultimate dedication to honoring community.

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
HE LIVED ALL ALONE,
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF
PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY
WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,
AND TO SEE JUST WHO
IN THIS HOME DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT,
A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS,
NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE,
JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES
OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES,
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,
A SOBER THOUGHT
RUSHED THROUGH MY HEART AND MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT,
IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER,
ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING,
SILENT, ALONE,
CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE,
HIS ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER,
NOT HOW I PICTURED
A PLACE OF A CHRISTMAS SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO OF WHOM I'D
JUST READ?
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO, THE
FLOOR FOR A BED?
I REALIZED THE FAMILIES
THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS
WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD,
THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE
A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM
EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS,
LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER
HOW MANY LAY ALONE,
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE
IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT
BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE,
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES
AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED

AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,
"SANTA DON'T CRY,
THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;"

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,
MY COUNTRY. MY CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER
AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP,
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT,
I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS,
SO SILENT AND STILL,
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED
FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE
ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT,
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOR
SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER,
WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA,
IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, AND ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH,
AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT.
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND,
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

"From A Soldier..."

SPAWN OF FAT GIRL!

Editors Max Airborne and Sondra Solovay are seeking original art, comics, rants, smut, etc. for a book relevant to the lives and issues of fat dykes, queers & trannies, as well as our friends, admirers and allies of all sizes. We are preserving our history and creating culture we want to live with. Join us! Deadline: April 1, 2001 (no foolin').

For guidelines: http://www.lustydevil.com/spawn/

Contact: spawnoffatgirl@hotmail.com or Spawn of Fat Girl c/o Sondra Solovay
2625 Alcatraz Ave. PMB 261, Berkeley, CA 94705.
neighbors to accept and respect my orientation, but haven’t done such a great job of respecting their unique gifts, like a different racial background or ethnic heritage different than my own.

When I think about community now, I envision an enormous circle of people linking arms as they surround a small group of wealthy, straight, white men. Inspired by jet lag, dehydration, and popping ears, I imagine a proverbial rainbow doughnut of progressive peoples singing a Libby Roderick song. It’s an energizing image, but the reality is that my priorities have changed. When I wasn’t looking, I acquired a house, a partner, and a desire to have more meaningful relationships with the people closest to me. All this requires energy, which I’m happy to give. It just doesn’t leave me much time to attend meetings.

When the credits begin rolling on the aisle television screen, the elderly gentleman in the seat next to me takes off his earphones and notices me looking out the window. He asks about the view. I tell him that he’s not missing anything, there’s really not much to see. Then looking back out across the brilliant blue horizon rising above the gray, I realize that’s not true at all.

Fruit Bowl 2: The Second Helping

A followup to the successful Alaska Pride Conference 2000, Identity is sponsoring a series of workshops for the community. The first workshop will be Fruit Bowl 2: The Second Helping featuring representatives from a cross-section of the GLBT community who will speak and answer questions about themselves and their lifestyles. Learn about our community and the GLBT lifestyles that some may not be familiar with. Please join us!

Saturday, January 13, 2001
1:00-4:00 p.m.
John Thomas Building
3rd and Cordova

Suggested donation is $12
Scholarships will be available
All proceeds will fund Alaska Pride Conference 2001. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Information:
Diana Wolfe - Workshop Coordinator
338-5909 or atdsw@uaa.alaska.edu

Palm Springs, Continued from page 16

“WHAT IS THAT? WHAT IS THAT?” yelled the biker. When she realized that she was being baited, the drag queen slowed her walking and began waving and blowing kisses to those around her.

A couple of young children near her called out “Hi!” and waved back, which brought raucous applause from the bystanders. A short time later a male couple began making out directly in front of the protest area, which brought livid shouts from the biker, but by then the clapping, whistling, whoops and catcalls of the bystanders made him hard to hear. A short monotone-filled time later the police told the protestors that they had to clear the parade route so they could reopen the highway, and they began rolling up their banners. At this point the biker made his worst mistake yet by saying very loud that “I’m so disgusted, I’m going home!” This brought a full two minutes of some of the loudest clapping and applause yet, and even he seemed caught off guard, and was silent after that.

Palm Springs is a must-see for gay travelers to California. Diversity is key there, and options range from lesbian owned or oriented restaurants, clubs and resorts to famous and not so famous gay men’s resorts and clubs.

There is also an active interest in leather in Palm Springs and the surrounding Coachella Valley, with many events spread throughout the year. Whatever your tastes, you’ll find plenty to do in Palm Springs.

Michael Haase and his partner Michael Klügel live in Anchorage. They founded and moderate Alaska Gay Discussion, a statewide LGBTQ discussion list and website available at www.egroups.com/groups/alaskagaydiscussion

Editor’s Note: This June a parade will be part of Anchorage PrideFest 2001. To volunteer to help with the parade or PrideFest, email prideonthepark@yahoo.com or call 332-0362.
IF I AM AN ACTIVIST THIS MIGHT BE WHY
by Mark Schubauer

It happened long, long ago before there was AIDS—
(though many were getting infected)—
months after the Cotton Bowl “Fighting Irish upset Texas”
hours after Valentine’s Day.

Struggling with a chair and a rope around his broad shoulders—a plaid, wool scarf.
Decisively up the eight stairs of the old house on East Broadway the skeleton key unlocked the attic.

He had tried this before scaled the golden dome that one time climbing down not coming out.

This time he was unstoppable fueled by the way he felt our love.
Fingering the note nestled in his blue jeans pushing aside cobwebs the tormented boy, pulled gently on the strand that hung from the fixture. Light revealed note: “i love you- i hate life.”

Standing on chair he reached up, Tied rope ’round rafter perfect knot -fit nose his beautiful, long neck Ready, set,

(ec’mon now give in) GO- and the chair sprawls.

His dangling corpse—silence Fear of tarnish on the golden luster Oh holy college whisper inaudibly.
Now go call our lady who must weep on cue uninvited audience in the dark.

In those ancient times, just after Nixon’s resignation, and way before the Papal apology, shame induced paralysis and under those primitive circumstances, we lived with their diagnosis: “this hanging is from natural causes.”

There are two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle.
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)
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<td><strong>IMRT Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;5:30-7 pm&lt;br&gt;Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Boniface &amp; E. 24th&lt;br&gt;566-IMRT (every Wed.)</td>
<td><strong>Line Dancing</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mad Myrna's Lessons 7 pm.&lt;br&gt;<strong>every Thurs.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fronrunners:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Meet at Kincaid&lt;br&gt;11:00 am. (every Sat.)</td>
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<td><strong>MCC Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;2:00 p.m. Immanuel Presbyterian Church&lt;br&gt;2311 Pembroke (every Sun.)</td>
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<td><strong>GLSEN Mtg.</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 pm&lt;br&gt;John Thomas Bldg.&lt;br&gt;3rd &amp; Cordova</td>
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<td><strong>Fronrunners:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Meet at Hillside&lt;br&gt;7:00 pm (every Tues.)</td>
<td><strong>DEADLINE</strong> for articles, ads, and event listings for the next NorthView</td>
<td><strong>Friday Night Diva's at Myrna's</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00 pm (weekly)</td>
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<td><strong>TLFMC Second Sunday Potluck</strong>&lt;br&gt;5:00pm MadMyrnas</td>
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<td><strong>YGMA Monthly Reception</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 pm&lt;br&gt;2710 Cutwater Cir.&lt;br&gt;Call 275-5900 for info</td>
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<td><strong>CFLAG</strong>&lt;br&gt;7:00 p.m. AUUF, 3201 Turnagain St.&lt;br&gt;Call 566-1813 for a recorded message.&lt;br&gt;&lt;b&gt;Identity Board Meeting&lt;/b&gt;&lt;br&gt;6:30 pm&lt;br&gt;277-3662</td>
<td><strong>Identity, Inc. 4th Friday Potluck</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:30 pm, AUUF&lt;br&gt;3201 Turnagain St.</td>
<td><strong>Black &amp; Blue Ball</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 pm&lt;br&gt;Mad Myrna's&lt;br&gt;55 Admiss.</td>
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NorthView
AGB is a monthly potluck for gay and bisexual men. For more information please contact A_G_B_@yahoo.com or 272-5608.

AKPRIDE is working to build a community center in Anchorage. If you are interested in doing the work to make the community center happen, or donating funds, contact us c/o Identity, Inc. 258-4777 or identity@alaska.net

Alaskans for Civil Rights (ACR)  
A locally organized and operated statewide political organization dedicated to obtaining full civil rights for lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, polyamorous, and intersexual people in all aspects of personal and public life. P.O. Box 240751, Anchorage, Alaska, 99524 (907)786-ACR1 AlaskansforCivilRights@yahoo.com

Alaskan Aids Assistance Association (Four A’s)  
Mission is to be a key collaborator within the state of Alaska in the provision of supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and in the elimination of HIV infection and its stigma. They have many services that cater specifically to women.
1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste 102 293-2050. Statewide: 1-800-478-AIDS

Alaska Gay/Lesbian Association (UAL student organization) - c/o Student Activities Box 4/Wood Center/University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99775. (907) 474-1136 <bagla@ual.edu>. Web site <http://www.uaf.edu/agla>.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Gay, Joyous, & Free  
Open AA meeting Mondays and Thursdays 7pm - 8pm @ Universal Unitarian Church at 3201 Turnagain St.

Anchorage Gay Men’s Association (YGMA)  
A social group for men in their twenties and thirties, activities will include monthly meetings, chat groups, social events, outdoor activities, and community events that spur conversation and awareness on issues relating to the GLBT community. www.geocities.com/anachorageygma. To be put on their email list, email anchorageygma@yahoo.com or call 275-5900.

Arctic Bears  
First Friday of every month. Fairbanks 479-8680

Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus  
Open to all women, meets 7pm at Elmer’s Restaurant, New Seward and Fireweed, on the first Wednesday of each month.

Aquarian Foundation:  
Services Wednesday 8pm and Sunday 11am, 8500 Lavento Drive, Anchorage. 349-9955

Breakeven Productions:  
Has been bringing up LGBTQ performers from around the country since 1987. For more information about upcoming events or Breakeven productions, call 277-5630 or akpups@alaska.net

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP
At the Pride Conference 2000, a handful of parents met to discuss issues about kids, about being gay, lesbian, trans, bi, with kids...and life in general. Just being in the same space at the same time with some of the same issues is a comforting experience. It was really helpful for new parents to talk with parents who have walked the path. So, it was decided to jump start a PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP again, GLBT folks and children and food...2nd Sunday of the month at 1428 Valarian Street, Anchorage. (Near the Costco at Bradaw and Debarr). The bike trail is close so if you want to bring your dog it will have to hang outside or in your car until its time for walking. No cats, hamsters, lizards, or mice family, thanks. Folks thinking about being parents, foster parents, aunts and uncles are also invited. Tell a friend.

Bruin Brotherhood of Alaska  
- A Levi, Leather, Bear club. 1441 E 12th #2, Anchorage. Alaska 99501. Contact Dan at 258-2629 or 275-6947, meets the third Saturday at 7pm.

Celebration of Change  
A performance of women artists for women. If you would like to perform or volunteer, please call Victoria at 275-8763 for more information.

Committee for Equality  
Box 34202, Juneau, AK, 99803 or e-mail bsara@gci.net

EQUAL, Inc. - Keeps the community informed about political and legal events which have an effect on the GLBT community, 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. In Anchorage call Dan Carter at 274-9226 or e-mail at AlaskaDan@aol.com in Fairbanks call Laura Burleson at 479-7348

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

The Family (UAU Student Club)  
The Family hosts discussion groups, potlucks, and various other social, political, and awareness activities. You DO NOT have to be a UAA student to attend and many who do attend UAA are non-traditional students. 258-4777 or e-mail <uua_the_family@yahoo.com>.

Feminist Sing-a-Long (women only)  
Third Saturday of every month, Carol and Fran at 333-0871 or <bestinterests@gci.net>. Non-singers and children are more than welcome. Potluck starts at 6:30pm and singing at 7:30pm.

Frontrunners/Skiiers  
Meets in the winter for X-country skiing (skate and classical) on Tues. 7pm at Hillside and Sat. at 11am at Kincaid. All levels welcome, from beginners to advanced! Call Peter: 337-5662, Email: anchoragefrontrunners@hotmail.com or Website: http://www.frontrunners.org/clubs/anchorage

Gay and Lesbian Help Line  
Sponsored by Identity, Inc., this information and referral line is answered daily from 8:00am to 11:00pm. The Help Line is staffed by volunteers and provides information and referrals to businesses, professionals and service providers that are supportive of the goals and objectives of Identity, Inc. If you would like to be part of this service or if you need information, please call 258-4777 or toll free (in Alaska, outside Anchorage) 1-888-901-9876.
GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) Anchorage: Membership is confidential. We welcome educators and non-educator allies who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public schools. For meeting times or more information call Fred, 562-7161 or <fhillman@alaska.net>. Fairbanks: Meets third Tuesday, 5pm, FEA offices on Cushman.

Identity, Inc.
Found to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthy ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity sponsors a statewide HelpLine, the northView, Pride on the Parkstrip, NCOD and other events. Potluck lunch is held the 1st Friday of each month at the AUF, 3201 Turnagain. Doors open at 6pm, dinner at 7pm, and program at 7:30pm. Call 258-4777 for more information, or visit the Identity web page at www.alaska.net/~identity.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA)
A social group that contributes to our community by being active in manyagues. P.O. Box 104032 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-4032. Contact: Kent - cleanco@alaska.net or 230-7049

IMRU
Anchorage gay youth group for ages 12-18. 566-4678(IMRU). Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 pm at the Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W. 4th Ave.

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 are interested in volunteering or need assistance, please call the IAA at 452-4222.

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)
A predominately gay/lesbian/trans Christian Church. Sunday services at 2:00pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke (just east of 24th Ave. & Boniface Pkwy) 258-5266 or email LOGMCC@alo.com

The Last Frontier Men's Club
Social club for the leather/bear community. Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month for a brief business meeting & potluck social at 5pm in the upstairs area of Mad Myrna's (530 E. 5th Avenue) and at 9pm on the 1st Friday of each month for our First Friday Fetish Night social at The Raven. In addition, we hold monthly movie and dinner nights on various dates throughout the month along with several campouts throughout the summer which are open to the entire community. Check website for an updated list of events at www.tffmc.com/calendar.htm. P.O. Box 202054 Anchorage, Alaska 99520-2054, (907) 337-6593. web: http://www.tffmc.com e-mail: info@tffmc.com

Mt McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club
A social group open to anyone gay, lesbian, or ally.

Northern Exposure Bowling League
Bowlers of all genders meet Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm, Park Lanes, Anchorage. Please call to confirm time and venue. 561-8744 milt@alaska.net

Gabriel
Haitystlist
Cosmetologist
Licensed Masseur
1310 East 8th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

272-9045

OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) & Travel 50 Two groups for women over 50. <rosebethlevy@hotmail.com> or 966-2962.

OPAL
A social organization open to all Lesbians. OPAL sponsors different events throughout the year and occasional potlucks. Anne at 345-3818 or opal@gci.net

Out North Contemporary Art House
Cutting edge art, theatre, film, educational programs and more. 1325 Primrose Anchorage AK 99508. Call voice mail: 279-8099 Box office: 279-8200, fax: 279-8100, or write: email@outnorth.org Online Calendar http://www.outnorth.org

Parents Support Group
2nd Sunday of the month 2-5pm Bring your kids. Bring a potluck snack. 1428 Valarian Street in Dyke heights... info 276-6574 or email: sniman@pobox.alaska.net

PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) of Anchorage holds its monthly meeting at 7:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship AUF, 3201 Turnagain Street. Call 566-1813 for a recorded message.
organizations, volunteer opportunities...

Pride-on-the-Parkstrip Planning Committee. This committee plans the annual Gay Pride festivities. Meetings start in November. Members are hoping for representation from as many local groups as possible. We are planning on attracting more corporate funding, having a parade, a larger vendor display, bringing up more entertainment, and planning more Pride Week activities. For more information call Jim at 332-0362 or email prideonthebearpark@yahoo.com.

RAW (Radical Arts for Women) - A non-profit group which support and promotes women in the arts. Grant funding available for artistic endeavors. 566-3783.

Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA): 12-step program meeting, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Call 566-1133 for meeting times and places.

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, Alaska 99802-2655. 463-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)

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 566-GAYS

S.T.O.P AIDS PROJECT - Center for Drug Problems Provides education and outreach specific to injection drug users and their sexual partners regarding HIV/AIDS prevention. Free anonymous HIV testing is provided on a walk-in basis, Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4pm. Anchorage. 278-5019

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

Two-Stepping: All ages & genders welcome. Smoke and alcohol free two-stepping held once a month from 7:30pm to 11:00pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse at 3rd & Eagle. Contact Katie for more info at 278-9174 or email kccreative@chugach.net.

Women's Music Fest - happens the weekend of July 4th. Contact Dena Ivy at <dixie@mosquitonet.com>. (907)456-2471 or (907)322-7950 or PO Box 80164 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Women's Ultimate Frisbee gathers Sunday mornings 10:30 am on the west end of the parkstrip. Interested frisbeeheads should contact Jen or Karen at 278-5179 for more info, or e-mail <Jenkout@akol.com>.

publications

Alaska Women Speak: a publication by Alaskan women on topics for Alaskan women. They can be reached at 696-0924

The Anchorage Press This is an alternative weekly paper that is not focused on the GLBT community but is friendly. They have a large personals section and can be contacted at 561-7737

The Klondyke Kontakt (The KK) This is a every-other-monthly newsletter by and for the lesbian community in Anchorage and dykes in the Bush. For more information e-mail at kk9@gci.net

The Perspective A newsletter published for the Southeast Alaskan. News, events, and all can be found in this publication. For more information contact SEAGLA at P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1452 or phone 566-GAYS

The Pink Ink: A newsletter published in Fairbanks for the Fairbanks GLBT community. For more information contact Interior Newsletter c/o IIAA. P.O. Box 71248, Fairbanks, AK 99707 (907)452-4222 or e-mail pinkink@akol.com

The NorthView: The monthly newsletter that Identity Inc. publishes and distributes to its membership. Contains local articles, and editorials. Writers, editors, graphic artists, cartoonists, people with opinions (who can write them down) folders and mailers are all needed to make this publication happen each month. Articles and ads can be sent to P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, Alaska 99520 for more information call (907)258-8777 in Anchorage or 1-888-901-9876 within Alaska.

Jill D. Hoelting

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Voice mail (907) 266-8600
Fax (907) 266-8655
Email jill@Hoelting.net

e-mail lists

FairbanksPride http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/fairbankspride
A mailing list for information concerning Fairbanks & Interior Alaska's GLBT community. Emphasizing in announcements, politics, information, etc.

AnchoragePride http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/anchoragepride
A mailing list for information concerning Anchorage & Southcentral Alaska's GLBT community. Primarily event announcements.

Alaska Gay Discussion http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/alaskagaydiscussion
This is an opportunity to discuss gay issues relevant to Alaska. Primarily an online discussion forum.

Alaska GLBT News
alaskaglbtnews@yahoo.com. A state-wide e-mail notification service distributing news and information about upcoming events of interest to the Alaska GLBT community. To receive these notices or to submit an item for distribution, contact alaskaglbtnews@yahoo.com

National and political GLBT news
Landmark case decisions and other newsworthy announcements from national organizations. To be placed on this list send an e-mail to bsara@gci.net

Girlz List
This is a list of the lesbians in the community, it has information on upcoming events, activities, socials, and other interesting items geared solely for the girls. You can get on this list by e-mailing aktrangster@hotmail.com