Anchorage GLBT Community Center—It May Happen Soon

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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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DO WE NEED A COMMUNITY CENTER IN ANCHORAGE?

You may notice that this issue is a little lighter than usual. This is because we are giving our volunteer staff a much-needed month off from the rigors of putting together a full issue, and so we can bring you a supersize issue in April that is devoted entirely to summer: the activities, the things to do, Alaska trips, and favorite summer memories from our staff. So, if you have a favorite summer trip or hike you want to share, then please send it to us!

Something very exciting has happened in our community this past month. Thanks to the hard work of Troy Wolcuff and Lisa Jamieson, the Pride Foundation has approved a ten thousand dollar challenge grant in order for our community to open a GLBT community center. A challenge grant means that Identity—who is overseeing the project—must lead the community in raising an additional ten thousand dollars within the community to fund the community center project.

At one point, I was not in full favor of a community center for Anchorage, a sentiment I also held in Seattle and Houston, two other cities in which I lived and worked in the GLBT community. I felt rather strongly that the community would be better off devoting its time and resources to political and social activism rather than in creating yet another insular gathering place. I was of the high opinion that cities that could not muster their political base to effect real change had little business spending so much time and effort maintaining another social support system for GLBT persons. I was passionate in my fevered beliefs that GLBT communities needed to spend much more time promoting real change in the larger community and less time on themselves.

I've had the opportunity to be involved on both the local and national levels in the GLBT movement. I've seen the inner workings of a number of different local and national organizations up close and personal. As I've struggled how to best use my own time and leadership to affect real change for GLBT persons, I've come to accept that our failing as a national movement is not in our national organizations and our lack of agenda. Our failing as a national constituency and minority group is in working from the top down rather than from the bottom up. We have failed, quite miserably, in fact, to do what so many other minority groups in our country have done. We have failed to build our strength at the grass roots, at the community level.

African-Americans built their strength first from the churches in their communities, and then from local NAACP chapters which are active in every American town and city. Jews built their national muscle through local synagogues and later through their local community centers established in almost any town with a Jewish population. The women's movement was built on college campuses and in rural and urban centers. Asian groups and Hispanic groups are focused on real change on the community level in their neighborhoods rather than being led from a national level. The environmental movement is mostly about change at the local and regional level rather than national policy change. The reason the religious right remains so powerful in America is because they are community organizations first (mostly churches) and national organizations second. All of these groups have achieved their victories not from national leadership—although such leadership has been important in their movements—but from developing and rallying their base, community to community.

When we look at our strongest national organizations, what we find is a lack of leadership in building grass root movements in cities great and small across America. The Human Rights Campaign, our largest GLBT organization, recently announced their intentions to do just that. However, HRC has a tendency to go after the dollars in local communities to fund their national office, and have failed in building any sort of real community base in any city in America. The Gay and Lesbian Task Force tries to train community leaders; however, they fail to make any real investment of time and money at the local level. GLAAD is a media watchdog group, modeled after the Jewish ADL, and they do great work, but again are more interested in promoting their national agenda than in making a real difference locally. MCC, our gay church, has done a better job than any
Rules to Live By

✔ A person needs only two tools: WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn’t move and it should, use WD-40. If it moves and it shouldn’t, use the tape.
✔ Any and all compliments can be handled by simply saying “Thank you” – though it helps if you say it with a Southern accent.
✔ Some people are working backstage, some are playing or singing backup, some are on-stage performing, some are directing, some are in the audience as critics, and some are there to applaud. Know who and where you are.
✔ When baking, follow directions. When cooking, go by your own taste.
✔ Never continue dating anyone who is rude to the waiter.
✔ Good sex should involve laughter. Because it is funny, you know.
✔ If you tell a lie, don’t believe it deceives only the other person.
✔ The five most essential words for a healthy, vital relationship: “I apologize” and “you are right.”
✔ Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
✔ When you make a mistake, make amends immediately.
✔ It’s easier to eat crow while it’s still warm.
✔ If he or she says that you are too good for him – believe them.
✔ I’ve learned to pick my battles; I ask myself, “Will this matter one year from now? How about one month? One week? One day?”
✔ Never pass up an opportunity to pee.
✔ If you woke up breathing: congratulations! You have another chance!
✔ Living well really is the best revenge.
✔ Being miserable because of a bad or former relationship just proves... that the other person was right about you.
✔ Be really nice to your friends because you never know when you are going to need them to empty your bed pan and hold your hand.
✔ Work is good but it’s not that important.
✔ Never underestimate the kindness of your fellow man....
✔ You are the only person who can truly make you happy.
✔ And finally... Being happy doesn’t mean every thing’s perfect; it just means you’ve decided to see beyond the imperfections.▼

Identity’s SECOND SATURDAY WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES PRESENTS:

INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA
Presented by Trang Duong

Saturday, March 10, 1 - 4 pm
John Thomas Building, 3rd and Cordova
First floor conference room

This time is set aside for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folks to look at our internalized homophobia. How does it affect our daily lives and our relationships with each other? How do we experience it across color, gender, class, age? This is an interactive and fun workshop.

Trang Duong, a Vietnamese American lesbian, is a long-time community activist, organizing Take Back the Night for several years, and active within the GLBT community. She serves on the Advisory Board for the Immigration & Refugee Services Program and the Board of Directors of RAW (Radical Arts for Women). She currently works for the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association.

Suggested Donation: 12.00 (more if you can, less if you can’t)
All are welcome, regardless of ability to donate. All proceeds benefit the Pride Conference. Coffee and tea will be provided.
For more information, call Diana at 338-5909 or e-mail atdsw@iuau.alaska.edu
Fairbanks Women's Music Festival 2001
The Cris Williamson contract has been signed, sealed and delivered by Women's Fest organizers... Twin Bears Camp in Fairbanks is the place to be on 4th of July weekend for the Alaska women's community! There's only two 11-bunk cabins left for rent throughout the Festival, so if you want 'em, you better hurry up and get 'em from Dena Ivey at denabug@gci.net.

$10,000 Needs to be Raised for Community Center
A challenge grant was issued to Identity by the Pride Foundation to be used for a GLBT community center for Anchorage. In order to receive the $10,000 grant the community must raise an additional $10,000. Identity is challenging local GLBT groups to hold fundraisers for the community center and is asking local GLBT persons, businesses, and allies to make donations to the community center fund. Already the Imperial Court and YGMA have announced plans for spring fundraisers to help raise money for the community center. To donate money or to volunteer your group for a fundraiser, please call Identity at 258-4777 or email identity@identity.net

PrideFest Announces Web Site and Logo Winner
Michael Wilson is the winner of the logo contest for Anchorage PrideFest 2001. Also, the PrideFest web site is now online where you see Michael's winning design. You can visit it at www ancor agepride.com. The PrideFest logo contest was sponsored by Identity, and The Last Frontier Men's Club sponsors the PrideFest web site. Men's Club members Roger Crandy and Kirt Beckett built and maintain the web site.

Gay Youth Video Project
Matthew Arnold, Out North's new Media Arts Lab Coordinator, has begun working with Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Questioning, and Allied youth on creating video Public Service Announcements. This project is funded in part by The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund (U.S.) and a Cranium Fund grant. Teens interested in participating should contact matthew@outnorth.org

ACLU announces web site for safe schools
Local groups and individuals interested in making schools a safe place for gay youth can now visit the ACLU web site at http://www.aclu.org/issues/gay/ForLocalGayGroups.html. Groups in Anchorage fighting for safer schools include the Safe Schools Coalition, Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network, and PFLAG.

Strip Show Fundraiser planned for YGMA
YGMA will host a Male Strip Revue on Saturday March 31 at Mad Myrna's. Emcees will be Matt Grabowey and Celeste. The show will start at 9:00 and admission to the show is $5.00. Any men wishing to show off their assets are encouraged to sign-up. There will be two cash prizes based on audience applause and performers get to keep all their tips. Visit www.geocities.com/ anchorageygma or email anchorageygma@yahoo.com for more information.

Alaska Family Directory to Debut Soon
The Alaska Family Directory is a listing of Gay/Gay Friendly Businesses, Clubs and Organizations. The Alaska Family Directory will be available for free. The Directory is published by Alaska Bear Company and is distributed quarterly (January, April, July and October) with the first issue being out April 2001. Initially, the Directory will be available at Mad Myrna's, Stonewall'd, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, and Borders Books. Alaska Family Directory will also be available online. For more information or to advertise contact Bear at akbearco@alaska.com or call 277-2327.
The NorthView is a production of Identity, Inc and is paid for by your membership dues to Identity. It is also subsidized by our advertisers. Please take a moment to review the ads in this issue. These businesses that advertise with us deserve our support. Many of them continue to advertise because they want to show their support to the GLBT community, and this is the best way they know how to continually show GLBT Anchorage that they support us and our needs. Many of the advertisers are GLBT persons and some are not. We would ask that you please support those who support us, and let them know that you appreciate them advertising in the NorthView.

There are also two very important people who make the NorthView happen each month and who get little credit since they do not have a byline. One is Kim Acuna, owner of Rock Rose Media. Kim is responsible for the layout and production of the NorthView. The graphics, cover art, and design are all due to her incredible talents. She also shows immense patience with the Editor and the writing staff as they struggle to meet monthly deadlines. She is the reason the NorthView looks so good. You can visit her web site at kimacuna.com if you ever need her special design, layout, or production talents. She is also a gifted musician, to boot, who writes and sings her own songs.

The other is Chris Pearson, who along with his partner Jack Darnell, owns Stonewall’d, our own local GLBT gift and card shop. Chris is in charge of our advertising, and he puts in many hours each month in advertising sales for the NorthView. He does this on a completely volunteer basis, and he gets no pay or commission. Like Kim, he believes mightily in the NorthView and its role in our community. Also, it is not well-known, but Chris and Jack allow every GLBT group and business in town to leave flyers and business cards in their store, and they serve as the sales location for tickets to most GLBT events, which they do for FREE. Not many businesses would do this. Just more reasons to support Stonewall’d.

It is easy to give credit to the Editor and to the writers for the success of a publication. However, the NorthView would not exist without the support of Identity and our faithful advertisers and without the work of Kim Acuna and Chris Pearson. So, thanks guys. Your time and your support makes a real difference in the lives of GLBT Alaskans. ▼
other organization in creating real community and building community; however, they carry a stigma most GLBT persons, myself included, can't get around. We don't believe in the Christian God, and we blame much of our social woes in the GLBT community on organized religion. So, that makes us unwilling to allow MCC to serve as our preeminent community-building organization. That leaves PLAG, the best overall model of building community chapters rather than a monolithic national organization. Yet PLAG stands for parents and friends, and they serve our families, friends, and loved ones. They are not gay-led and gay-directed, and in the end, in spite of the very necessary work PFLAG does, shouldn't we be the ones to build our own futures and communities, rather than leaving it up to our moms and dads?

As I survey the landscape, I can only conclude that unless we seriously create change in local communities, then we will ultimately fail to achieve real change over the next five-to-ten years. We are learning to shape the national debate and to label our foes as hate mongers (and boy has that done wonders), but if we are to be effective as national players over the long haul, then we must start doing a better job of building a base, of creating grass-roots.

That is why I fully support community centers in all American cities, large and small. With a community center, we will not only gain a meeting space and a resource center; we will also hopefully gain a paid staff member who is responsible for organizing within the community and for helping create a base of support. We will gain a way to mobilize the community for rallies and to apply pressure on our lawmakers. We will have volunteers and a board of directors responsible for bridging the gap and reaching out to all community groups and community members. We will have a manner in which to help the national organizations reach out to community members and to build the type of grass-roots support they need to achieve real change on the national level.

Of course, there are those who will squabble over the purpose, the oversight, and the use of our local community center. However, it is time for all of us to realize that to truly make a difference in Anchorage and Alaska, we need to have a stronger local presence and much stronger local organization. We need a staff person and volunteers working in a community center to serve both as a resource and as an organizing tool. We need a place that will serve the needs of both our youth and our elderly. If we had such a resource then we would find that we would have a better community.

Our last community center failed. However, with the promise of external funding and hopefully a paid staff member, then a community center should and would work. As Identity takes the lead on this project, they must show a real willingness to make the project inclusive of the entire community. They must present us with leaders who have the foresight to reach out across the spectrum of the community and to involve everyone. They need the involvement of the Imperial Court as much as PFLAG. They need to reach out to The Last Frontier Men's Club as much as they reach out to MCC. They need to involve both RAW and Out North. They need the involvement of business leaders such as Allison Mendel and Jean Craciun as much as they need the involvement of Jeff Wood and Larry Kaiser. They don't just need Lisa Jamieson, Victoria Shaver, Jim Mohr, and Vic Carlson. They need Kent and Eve, Michael French, John Garrison, and Krista. They need both Pastor Jan Richardson and Rosie Rotten. They need an entire community in order to build a real and viable community center.

I hope that our community, all of our community, rallies around this idea of a community center. I hope visionary leaders step forward to help the Identity Board lead the charge, leaders who are not concerned with past pettiness and who are concerned with total inclusiveness and with fostering cooperation and community. I hope every one of us gives of our time and money. And I challenge every single group in our community to help raise the ten thousand dollars we need to raise in challenge money. This cannot be done solely by Identity. It must be done as a community.

Do we need a community center? You bet we do. America needs more community centers, more local activism, and more grass roots. It is now up to us, each one of us, to make it happen.
Celebration of Change is an annual performance event showcasing the talent of the Alaska women's community.

The performance will be **Saturday April 14, 7:00 p.m.** at the UAA Arts Building, Room 150. Ticket prices will be $15.00 in advance and $20.00 at the door. We expect this year's performance to sell out, as seating is limited at this venue. Tickets go on sale March 15 at Stonewall'd and Metro Music & Books. We are suggesting you purchase your tickets in advance to insure your attendance at this event. If you live outside of Anchorage you can purchase your tickets by mail. Address checks to: R.A.W. and send to Celebration c/o R.A.W. at P.O. Box 244436, Anchorage, AK 99524. Guest housing may be arranged for out of town visitors.

The logo pictured above was on last year's T-shirts and they were a wonderful success. They are being redesigned for this year and are sure to be a hit. We will also be selling a few of last years limited edition shirts, so if you have been wanting the shirt off of your friend's back—here is your chance to get your own. We expect the prices to be somewhere between $15 - $20, and we will have long and short sleeves.

Volunteers are needed for organization, stage crew, dance setup, ushers, cleanup, publicity, and more. Performers are needed for comedy, music, dance, drama, and any other talents you may wish to express. The application deadline for performers is Thursday, March 15, 2001.

If you cannot afford a ticket, please get involved to make this performance happen. Volunteers and performers will receive one complimentary ticket each. For information on performing, volunteering, or guest housing call 566-3783 or email celebrationofchange@email.com Visit our Web site at http://members.nbcn.com/celebrationofchange/

**IDENTITY'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 24, 2001 at 6:30 PM**

*Unitarian Universalist Church on Turnagain*

Participate in the elections for new Board members. Hear about Identity's successes during the past year. Have an opportunity to discuss issues of concern to Identity and the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community.

Contact Identity at 258-4777 or identity@alaska.net for more information.

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**Gratitude**

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

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NorthView Wants Your Summer Ideas and Stories

NorthView will produce a special April issue entitled Summer. We are seeking contributors to submit articles and stories about their favorite places to go and things to do in Alaska during the summer or to recount some of their favorite Alaskan summer memories. To submit an article, story, or poem please send an email to NorthView Editor Pete Gregson at gregsonpete@hotmail.com. Your submission should be attached to the email as a Word document if possible. If using a Mac, copy the submission into the body of the email. Submissions for April must be submitted no later than March 10.

You Can Make
The Gay Community Center
A Reality.

Identity is forming committees to reestablish the Anchorage GLBT Community Center. To volunteer or for more information about what you can do to help make the Community Center a reality, please call 258-4777 or email: identity@alaska.net

Join the Identity Board

Seats will be available to join the Identity Board. If you are committed to and excited about creating community, planning events, and meeting new people, you are the ideal candidate for the job.

Elections will be held on April 24th at our annual membership meeting. It will be held at the Unitarian Church on Turnagain at 6:30 PM.

In order to get an application and be nominated for a position or for more information, contact Identity at 258-4777 or email us at identity@alaska.net

NorthView
GAYS IN THE BRITISH MILITARY: ASK, TELL, AND THEN MOVE ON

By SARAH LYALL

February 10, 2001

PLYMOUTH, England - For the last year it has been perfectly legal for Chief Petty Officer Rob Nunn, who is openly gay, to serve in the Royal Navy. But there have inevitably been awkward moments, like the time someone jokingly asked, using slang for homosexual, why he was "standing around like a poof.

"The senior guy who was there said, 'That's probably because he is one,'" recalled Petty Officer Nunn, 45, who in 1992 was discharged from the navy for being gay, but who re-enlisted last year after the military lifted its ban on gays. "I didn't mind - I'm not at all P.C. - but the guy was mortified. He spent the next month apologizing."

For many of the submariners stationed at his base in Cornwall, near Plymouth, Petty Officer Nunn is the first gay person they have ever knowingly met, and certainly the first in a navy uniform. But what is perhaps most surprising about his presence here is how little disruption it has caused, even among the aggressively heterosexual men he serves with.

"When you're locked in a tin for months and months at a time, you have to really get along, and it's easy to think gays would disrupt that," said Chief Petty Officer Andrew Reid, a friend of Petty Officer Nunn's. "We thought Bob would be a catalyst for trouble and discord. But since I met Bob, my whole outlook's changed. He's just a bloke like the rest of us."

It would be hard to overstate how surprising such a response has been in the British military, whose rationale until last year was much the same as that of the uneasy American "don't ask, don't tell" policy adopted under President Bill Clinton. The existence of openly gay personnel in the ranks, the argument went, would weaken morale and foment division by leading to gay cliques and provoking antigay prejudice and violence from heterosexuals.

"Homosexual behavior can cause offense, polarize relationships, induce ill discipline and, as a consequence, damage morale and unit effectiveness," the British Defense Ministry said then in its guidelines on the subject.

But contrary to most expectations, Petty Officer Nunn's experience seems to be the rule rather than the exception in Britain's newly inclusive military. Even the Defense Ministry, which fought hard to keep gays out, has acknowledged an unexpectedly smooth transition. In a report last fall, it said there had been "widespread acceptance of the new policy" and "no reported difficulties of note concerning homophobic behavior among service personnel.

"Before the lifting of the ban, many senior officials predicted that military performance would suffer," said Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara, which recently published a report about the British experience. "But we found that there has been no problem in terms of morale or discipline or recruitment."

Interviews with current and former members of the armed forces and with military officials and academic experts tell a similar story: at least so far, the presence of openly gay personnel has caused minimal disruption.

"At a personal level it's been absolutely fine," said Lt. Cdr. Michael Griffiths, 37, a Royal Navy warfare officer who is gay. "Among the people I'm living and working with, it does not appear to have caused any problem at all."

And Claire Clarke, an air force electronics technician who is straight, said the presence of an openly gay man in her unit had not been an issue, except perhaps to stifle traditional military jokes about the feebleness of others.

"People think they have to be a little more careful with jokes, with ribbing someone by saying, 'Oh, you big girl's blouse.'" Technicians Clarke said, using a British term for wimp.

"For the first week or so people edited what they said around Andy, but then it became obvious that he didn't mind if we said, 'Oh, you great big girl,'" she added. "I would lift things and say, 'I'm more of a man than you are.' He'd take them as the lighthearted jokes they were."

The government never kept count of how many people were discharged when its ban was in place, but campaigners for gay rights estimate that, as many as 4,000 people have been forced to leave over the years. (There are now about 205,000 people serving in the British armed forces.)

Before the policy changed, people suspected of being gay were often investigated in elaborate operations that could include surveillance, interviews with friends and acquaintances, interrogations and searches of personal items.

See MOVE ON, continued page 12

The NorthView Needs You

The NorthView is seeking artists to submit drawings and origial cover art as well as submissions of illustrations and comix strips.

Writers are asked to submit original fiction or poetry or to write for the spring issue's theme of "Summer in Alaska, outdoor adventure & activities".

Submit!
(by the 10th of each month for the next month's issue)

Please submit work electronically to: gregsonpete@hotmail.com or ldentity@alaska.net
KFC Crispy Fried Chicken

1 WHOLE FRYING CHICKEN, CUT UP
6 TO 8 CUPS VEGETABLE OIL

MARINADE:
4 CUPS WATER
1 TABLESPOON SALT
1/2 TEASPOON MSG

COATING:
1 EGG, BEATEN
1 CUP MILK
2 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
2 1/2 TEASPOONS SALT
3/4 TEASPOON PEPPER
3/4 TEASPOON MSG

Trim any excess skin and fat from the chicken pieces. Preheat the oil in a deep-fryer to 350 degrees. Combine the water, salt and MSG for the marinade in a large bowl. Add the chicken to the bowl and let it sit for 20 minutes. Turn the chicken a couple times as it marinates.

Combine the beaten egg and milk in a medium bowl. In another medium bowl, combine the remaining coating ingredients (flour, salt, pepper and MSG).

When the chicken has marinated, transfer each piece to paper towels so that excess liquid can drain off. Working with one piece at a time, first coat the chicken with the dry flour mixture, then the egg and milk mixture, and then back into the flour. Be sure that each piece is coated very generously. Stack the chicken on a plate or cookie sheet until each piece has been coated.

Drop the chicken, one piece at a time into the hot oil. Fry half of the chicken at a time (4 pieces) for 12-15 minutes, or until it is golden brown. You should be sure to stir the chicken around halfway through the cooking time so that each piece cooks evenly.

Remove the chicken to a rack or towels to drain for about 5 minutes before eating.

Serves 3-4 (8 pieces of chicken).

Anchorage PrideFest 2001: Under the Midnight Sun

The PrideFest scheduled for June 20-24 needs volunteers to help plan the events and to help during the actual PrideFest celebration. Committees include Parade Committee, Publicity, Vendors and Marketplace, Entertainment, and more. Volunteers are needed for a wide range of tasks and responsibilities.

The PrideFest is also asking local GLBT and Allied groups to sponsor a PrideFest activity during PrideFest week. They are also looking for local businesses who want to help sponsor PrideFest.

This year will be the most exciting PrideFest ever and will include a downtown parade. Help make Pride the biggest GLBT celebration in Anchorage.

Visit the PrideFest website at anchoragepride.com or email prideonthepark@yahoo.com to volunteer or for more information.

IDENTITY, INC.'S FOURTH FRIDAY POTLUCK

All community members and allies are invited to Identity's Fourth Friday Potluck, held on the fourth Friday of every month, at the Anchorage Unitarian Fellowship. We are a diverse bunch of friendly people, who welcome newcomers. It's an opportunity to meet new people and eat things you otherwise might not. Please come!

March Feature:
Discussion of spirituality, religion and how, if ever, the two intersect for LGBT's.
Bring your beliefs, open mind, and something delicious to eat. Children and allies are welcome.

We are adding a new element to the 4th Friday Potlucks: A periodicals swap. Please bring your old Advocates, Out, Curves, and other magazines (please- no porno, there may be children and/or the faint of heart present). After you read them, bring them back for more recycling. We can exchange mags among us, and any left unclaimed will be passed on to the Family.

As usual, Food Faries can bring canned food and non perishable items to be donated to the 4A's. If you have questions, suggestions, or requests for a presenter or program for subsequent potlucks, please send it to Lisa at lina@ak.net or call the Idenity Helpline at 258-4777.
MOVE ON, continued from page 10

"Targeting and uncovering homosexuality was a large part of what the military did," said Edmund Hall, a broadcaster who wrote "We Can't Even March Straight: Homosexuality in the British Armed Forces," after being discharged from the navy in 1988 for saying he was gay.

Despite the hard-line stance - and despite a 1996 survey in which a majority of personnel said they did not want to serve with gays - it was clear by the mid-1990s that change was in the air. In 1998, four highly decorated gays who had sued the government after being discharged won their case when the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the antigay policy violated the fundamental right to privacy.

The government officially scrapped the ban in January 2000, bringing its policy on gays in line with that of most NATO countries, including France, Germany and Canada.

In contrast, the policy fashioned for the American military under President Clinton was not so much a lifting of the ban as a studied and often stilted avoidance of the issue. Gays are allowed to serve, as long as they keep their sexual orientation secret and do not engage in homosexual acts.

In practice, the policy has been confusing and difficult to enforce. Advocates for gay men and lesbians in uniform have complained that there is still widespread harassment in the ranks and, in the worst cases, violence. In response to the 1999 lynchings of a gay couple suspected of being gay, the American military ordered new training to explain the policy more clearly to personnel.

Since Britain lifted the ban, its military says, there have been no reported incidents of harassment.

In announcing the changes here, the military issued a new code of conduct that applies to heterosexual as well as homosexual relationships. It stresses that harassment will not be tolerated, but also emphasizes that sexuality is a private matter and that offensive or overly demonstrative behavior is inappropriate in the armed forces.

The new code is meant to make it clear that the service role is all important, said a senior military official. "The criterion we use is, has the behavior of the person brought the service into disrepute?" he said.

As far as gays go, "our policy is that it's not an issue," he said, adding: "Officially, whatever side a person bats for, it's all the same. But people have to respect other people's orientation and be discreet."

If the United States policy is "don't ask, don't tell," said Christopher Dandeker, who heads the war studies department at Kings College London, Britain's can be described as "don't fear it, don't flaunt it."

"The crucial thing for gay personnel is that they have to be service personnel first and gay second," said Professor Dandeker, who teaches military sociology. "The team comes first. They are not to let their own sexual identity undermine the service identity."

The real test, he said, will come when more people enter the service and undergo training as openly gay personnel, and when gays come out in army combat units and other traditionally macho areas. "Just because there are no problems now does not mean there are none to come," he said.

And even in the newly relaxed climate, it seems that relatively few gays have publicly come out so far. Others have come out only to select groups of friends.

"Even though the ban's been lifted, some people aren't entirely happy about it," said a Lesbian who is a captain in the Royal Army and who asked that her name not be used because she has not come out fully at work. She has some 100 people under her command, she said, but has revealed her sexuality only to a handful of people she trusts - including, recently, her commanding officer.

"The other day, she asked me what my boyfriend does," the captain said. "I said, I don't exactly have a boyfriend, but I've been seeing someone for four years now. She was very polite about it, not nasty or overly inquisitive, and she said, 'Well, whatever makes you happy.'"

It helps, experts say, that people who have come out so far are already well established in their careers and respected by their colleagues.

Petty Officer Nunn, who has spent more than 20 years in the navy - during which he got married, had a child and left his wife after he realized he was gay - certainly fits that description. But even he takes care not to flaunt his sexuality, and has not yet introduced his partner to his friends.

"My private life has never been embroiled in my working life," he said. "If I'm asked, I'll answer, but I don't walk around with a big flag saying, I'm gay."

That's not to say that his friends don't tease him mercilessly - and that he doesn't tease them back - in classic naval humor that involves homing in on one another's vulnerable spots and pummeling them into the ground.

At Christmas, for instance, each person in the mess gives a gift, after drawing the recipient's name out of a hat. This year, Petty Officer Nunn got a tiara and a fairy wand. "The mess was determined to get me to say 'fairy lights,'" he recalled, using the usual British term for Christmas lights. "But I kept saying 'sparkly lights' and 'bright lights.'"

By the same token, his friend Petty Officer Reid, whose wife recently left him, got a pack of condoms and a book of pickup lines.

Petty Officer Nunn's friends ask him questions about what it is like to be gay, of course. But mostly they marvel that a gay man can be so similar to them, joining so enthusiastically in their pointed humor and hard-drinking weekend social life.

"Most people would think of a homosexual as an effete person," said Chief Petty Officer Nigel Crocker. "But he's not, and that's why he's so accepted."

Some people on the base still don't know about Petty Nunn's sexuality. But when they ask questions, his friends are first to defend him. "We're quite a close-knit group, so nobody would be able to say anything negative to us," said Petty Office Reid. "If we were out and someone said, 'Bob Nunn's a big poof; we'd say, 'He is, but so what?'"
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<td>Line Dancing</td>
<td>UAA GLBTA Social Club</td>
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<td>Mad Myrna's Lessons 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>MCC Service 2:00 p.m. Immanuel Presbyterian Church 2311 Pembroke (every Sun.)</td>
<td>Frontrunners: Meet at Hillside 7:00 p.m. (every Tues.)</td>
<td>IMRU2 Meeting 5:30-7 p.m. 845 K St, Office of Mendel &amp; Assoc. 566-IMRU (every Wed.)</td>
<td>Friday Night Diva's at Myrna's 9:00 p.m. (weekly)</td>
<td>Two-Stepping Lessons 7:30 p.m. Dancing 8:00 p.m. Pioneer Schoolhouse 3rd &amp; Eagle</td>
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<td>White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism Services: 11 am 1047 L Street 258-1851 (every Sun.)</td>
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<td>Karokee 8:30 p.m. Mad Myrna's (every Wed. &amp; Thurs.)</td>
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<td>Internal Homophobia Workshop 1-4 p.m. John Thomas Bldg. 3rd and Cordova</td>
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<td>TLFMC Second Sunday Potluck 5:00 p.m. Mad Myrna's</td>
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<td>YGMA Monthly Reception 7 p.m. <a href="http://www.geocity.com">www.geocity.com</a> anchoragedgma for info</td>
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<td>Parents Support Group 2-5 p.m. 1426 Valarian 276-6574 (every 2nd Sunday)</td>
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<td>Celebration of Change Planning Meeting 3 p.m. Trang's House Potluck, 566-3783 or email: <a href="mailto:celebrationgan@gmail.com">celebrationgan@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Buddhist Lecture Series 7:00 p.m. Mondays thru May 7 Inlet View Community School 258-1851 or <a href="http://www.alaska.net">www.alaska.net</a></td>
<td>PFLAG 7:00 p.m. AUFF, 3201 Turnagain St. Call 566-1813 for a recorded message.</td>
<td>Identity Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. 332-0362</td>
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NorthView
**NEW!**

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

- Partially furnished room for rent in a large, comfortable condo. $350.00 per month includes utilities except phone plus a housekeeper twice a month. Non-smoker, non-drinker desired who likes cats. Please call Shirley at 337-3708.

**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 intersexed people in all aspects of personal and public life. P.O. Box 240751, Anchorage, Alaska, 99524 (907) 566-481-ACR 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 102 263-2050. Statewide: 1-800-478-AIDS

**Alaska Gay/Lesbian Association (UAA student organization)**
- c/o Student Activities Box 4/Wood Center/University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99775. (907) 474-1136 fbglis@uaf.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 Young Gay Men’s Association (YGMA)**
A social group for men in their twenties and thirties, activities will include monthly receptions, chat groups, social events, outdoor activities, and community events that spur conversation and awareness on issues relating to the GLBT community. www.geocities.com/anchorageymga. To be put on their email list, email anchorageymga@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 LaViento Drive, Anchorage. 349-9955

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

**Bruin Brotherhood of Alaska**
- A Levi, Leather, Bear club. 1441 E. 12th #2, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Contact Dan at 258-2629 or 276-6947, 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 566-3783 or celebrationofchange@earthlink.net 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@icm.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 (UAA 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 that do attend UAA are non-traditional students. 258-4777 or e-mail: the_family@yahoo.com

**Feminist Sing-A-Long**
Women only
Third Saturday of every month, call 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/Skiers**
Meets in the winter for X-country skiing (skates and classical) on Tues. At 7pm at Hillside and Sat. at 11am at Kincaid. All levels welcome, from beginners to advanced. Call Peter: 337-3682. Email: anchoragefronrunners@hotmail.com or Website: http://www.frontrunners.org/clubs/anchorage

**Gay and Lesbian HelpLine**
Sponsored by Identity, Inc., this information and referral line is answered daily from 6:00pm to 11:00pm. The HelpLine 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 a part of this service or if you need information, please call 258-4777 or toll free (in Alaska, outside Anchorage) 1-888-901-8907.
White Lotus Center
FOR SHIN BUDDHISM AND BUDDHIST STUDIES

Rev. Yuho van Parijs presiding
Sunday Services 11:00 am

1047 L Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-258-1851
www.akshin.net

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) Anchorage:
Membership is confidential. We welcome educators and non-educators
who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public
schools. For meeting times or more information call Fred, 562-7161
or thillman@alaska.net. 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 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
social is held on the 4th Friday of each month at the AUU, 3201 Turna-
gain. Doors open at 6:30pm, 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
many causes. P.O. Box 104032 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-4032. Con-
tact Kent - cleanco@alaska.net or 230-7049

IMRU2
Anchorage gay youth group for ages 12-18. 566-4678(IMRU).
Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 pm at 845 K street on the Park Strip (Mendel
&Associates Office)

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/bi/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 LOMCMCC@efo.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 Myra's (530 E. 5th Avenue) and at 6pm 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
troughout the summer which are open to the entire community. Check
website for an updated list of events at www.lffmc.com/calendar.htm.
P.O. Box 202054 Anchorage, Alaska 99520-2054, (907) 337-6593.
web: www.lffmc.com e-mail: info@lffmc.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
mtlf@alaska.net

OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) & Travel 50 Two groups
for women over 50. rosebethlevine@hotmail.com or 688-2662.

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 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:
scott@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 AUUF, 3201 Tur-
nagin 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 prideonthepark@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)

Southwest Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA): a non-profit volunteer organization that provides a support network for lesbian and gay people in Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter Perspectives. P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1452. Phone 566-GAYS

St.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.

Jill D. Hoeting REALTOR
311 C Street, Suite 100 - Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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 kdccreative@chugach.net.

Women's Music Fest - happens the weekend of July 4th. Contact Dena Ivy at denabug@goi.net. (907)456-2471 or (907)322-7950 or PO Box 89164 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 Jenkouf@aol.com

Pink Ink: A newsletter published in Fairbanks for the Fairbanks GLBT community. For more information contact Interior Newsletter c/o IAA, P.O. Box 71248, Fairbanks, AK 99707 (907)452-4222 or e-mail pinkink@alaska.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)258-4777 in Anchorage or 1-888-901-9576 within Alaska.

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

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

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

Alaska GLBT News
alaskaglitnews@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 alaskaglitnews@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, specials, and other interesting items geared solely for the girls. You can get on this list by e-mailing aktrangster@hotmail.com
Ongoing Events...

MONDAYS
(A) Gay, Joyous & Free, 7 pm, AA Meeting, AUUF, 320 Turnagain Street.
(A) Lesbian Social Group, reviews films & books, 1st, 3rd & 5th, inquire 868-2662.

TUESDAYS
(A) Righteous Babes Radio Show, 7 pm, KRUA-FM 88.1.
(A) SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 8 pm, 566-1133.
(A) PFLAG, 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 pm, AUUF.
(A) Frontrunners: Run or XC Ski; Hillside, 7-9 pm.
(F) 337-3503 or anchoragefrontrunners@hotmail.com.
(F) GLSEN, 5 pm, FEA on S. Cushman, every 3rd Tuesday.

WEDNESDAYS
(A) Free HIV test at 4 A’s, 2-4 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Ste.102, Loni 263-2050.
(J) Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
(F) ”Women’s Prerogative,” KTOO-FM, Wednesdays, 9-10 pm.
(D) Dinner on the Dial, KSUA-FM 91.5, 10 pm – midnight.
(G) GLSEN, second Wednesday, 7 pm.
(J) John Thomas Building 3rd & Cordova.
(I) IMRUI 5:30-7 pm Emmanuel Presbyterian Church.
(B) 24th 566-IMRUI, every Wednesday.

THURSDAYS
(A) SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 5:30 pm, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
(A) Friends and Family Support Group, 6:30 pm, call 4As, 263-2050.
(A) Gay, Joyous & Free, 7 pm, AA Meeting, AUUF, 3201 Turnagain.

FRIDAYS
(A) Lunch, 4As, noon-1 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102.
(A) Midnight Sun, Gay AA Meeting, 7:30 pm–9 pm, 3020 Minnesota (Z-Plaza) & Benson.
(A) THE FAMILY, 7., Campus Center Room 105.
(A) Identity Fourth Friday Potluck, 6:30 pm, AUUF.
(A) First Friday Fetish at the Raven, 9:00 pm.
(A) Over 40 Social Group, 2nd & 4th Fri. 7-9 pm 868-2662/338-2967.
(F) Free anonymous HIV testing, 3:30-5:30 pm, IAA offices, 710 3rd Avenue.
(F) Outlooks, KSUA-FM 91.5, 5:30 pm – 7 pm.
(F) Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd, 9 pm-3:30 am, 150 Farmer’s Loop.
(F) Arctic Bears meet first Friday, call 479-8680.
(J) Juneau Pride Chorus, 5:30-7:30 pm, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Marsha at 789-6167 for info.

SATURDAYS
(A) SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 12 noon, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
(A) Frontrunners: Run or XC Ski; meet at Kincaid, 11:00 am.
(F) PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Mendenhall Library conference room.
(A) Women’s Coffeehouse, 2nd Saturday, 751-7234 for information.
(F) Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd, 9 pm – 3:30 am, 150 Farmer’s Loop.

SUNDAYS
(A) Metropolitan Community Church Services, 2 pm Sunday at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke.
(A) White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, 11 am Sunday.
(A) 1047 L Street, 258-1851.
(F) PFLAG, third Sunday, 4-5:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 4448 Pike’s Landing Road.
(A) Northern Exposure bowling league, Park Lanes, 4:00 pm 561-8744 for more information.

LEGEND
(A) = ANCHORAGE, (F) = FAIRBANKS, (J) = JUNEAU

Identity Helpline Information and Referrals
Gay/Lesbian/Bl-Sexual/Transgender Community Resources
(907) 258-4777 (888) 901-9876
(Toll-Free) Statewide Alaska

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