Staff Members & Volunteers

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

Editor
Graphic Design
Brian A. Ridder
thenorthview@hotmail.com

Assistant Editors
Chuck Hart
chuck838792hart@yahoo.com
Diana Wolfe
atdsw@uaa.alaska.edu

Copy Editor
Liz Fullerton

Advertising
Jim Mohr
JMohr1@aol.com

Identity Board
Victor Carlson
Pete Gregson
Chuck Hart
Steve Kendall
Jim Mohr
Wendy Parsons
Victoria Shaver
Scott Turner
Diana Wolfe

Contributors
Talmadge Bailey
Pete Gregson
Chuck Hart
Al Kaneta
Teresa McPherson
Ruth Mitchell
Frank Tano
Diana Wolfe
Christian Grantham
Laura Goss
Jim Henry
Jen Kohout
Jeniffer Miller
Ron Swartz
Deb Thompson
Work In Progress
by Brian A. Ridder

Before moving to Anchorage it never occurred to me to be in the closet at work (or anywhere else). First of all, my mouth is way too big for such a thing, and living in large urban centers I didn’t even know somebody who was in the closet, at work or otherwise. Besides, when you make eight bucks an hour, believe me, nobody cares.

Anchorage gave me my first exposure to the queer closet. I now know many people who occupy varying stages of being in and out of the closet. Most are out in their personal lives but in while at work. I have a friend who is closeted at the office because he works for fundamental Christians, another stays in the closet for fear of social rejection, and another is afraid of his superior’s reaction to his HIV status.

I’ve always envied people who seemingly have made all the right choices when it comes to work and building a career. I’ve never had the same foresight. I’ve made the worst decisions possible, decisions based on dreamy hopefulness and not calculated realities. My fine arts degree has turned out to be a twenty-five thousand dollar carnival ride. I can’t even say the word professional without choking, and I still make eight bucks an hour.

Not that I haven’t had meaningful work experiences, mind you. Fifteen years in customer service has left me jaded, sure, but I can now communicate with just about anyone about just about anything. Waiting tables and bartending for so long means I know which wine to order with dinner and I can say Coca-Cola in every language on earth. I once worked for a company winding and packaging chainsaw-link for lumber companies. My hands were cut so many times I could no longer see the lines that had been there before, but it did produce great looking biceps. While a busboy I mastered the art of carrying trays loaded with dishes while drunk on scotch. I’ve been sexually harassed and learned that sometimes you don’t figure it out until it’s too late. While a janitor cleaning churches I learned to vacuum with my left hand and discovered that the Blood of Christ is actually Christian Brother’s Ruby Port.

Part of my problem is systemic. You see, capitalism is a form of violence and not being much of a hustler or fast-track, I’m not well suited for its laissez faire sensibilities. We live under an economy based on competition and then wonder why people don’t know how to cooperate. Capitalism makes us all opponents. As radical as it sounds, I believe it is the job of government, and not big business, to provide such things as affordable housing and health care. In my experience, the only people who feel differently are those who make more money than they deserve and in this country there’s a lot of them.

Capitalism is based on the private ownership of capital and since we can’t all own the capital, the fact is, that we can’t have wealth without poverty. I make eight bucks an hour so that someone else can write off their snow machines and postage stamps.

You don’t have to believe me, history will prove me right. We think that because communism has lost that capitalism has won. Neither system works, unless of course you still believe that people chose to be homeless and hungry. Some people still believe that it is a choice to be gay, can you believe that?

I didn’t chose to be gay, but here in Anchorage I chose to be out of the closet. I wear my earrings to job interviews in defiance and I go to work knowing that I can be myself. My three friends who are in the closet at work all have health care, drive nice vehicles, have money to travel, and pay their bills on time. All three make more money than I do - and they pay a high price for it.
Community Center Opens
With Success

Story by Jennifer Miller
Pictures by Jasyn Breece

On February 2nd, 2002 Alaska celebrated another victory on the road to acceptance of the GLBTA community. With the opening of the new Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage came hope, along with a desire for everyone to become more involved. With help from many volunteers, and coverage by Channel 11 news, as well as other local newscasters, the community center opened with a huge success.

The day started with Jan Richardson blessing the center for hope and prosperity. The entryway to the center was so packed with people that many were on their knees, and backed clear out the outside door. Immediately following the blessing was the ribbon cutting. Surrounded by rainbow flags, the ribbon (also a rainbow) was cut by Jim Mohr, and Laura Goss. As the ribbon was cut, the center was flooded with people.

With standing room only, Jim Mohr began his speech thanking the volunteers for their time and support, and Lisa Jamieson for writing the grant that made the center possible. Lisa has been a standing member of the community for many years and she believed that, “if we started a project like this, it would bring the community together.” And by the turn out at the opening, it did exactly that.

Many familiar and unfamiliar faces were in attendance. Most of Identity Inc. was there, along with the NorthView Staff, the community Center Staff, representatives from IMRU2 and UAA’s The Family, and even the very special guests CommonbonD. CommonbonD was kind enough to perform for the opening and then held a concert to raise money for the center that night.

Also in attendance was Rev. Guy Johnson from the Anchorage Church of Religious Science (NOT scientology). He believed the opening was a, “historical event I was glad to be a part of.” He shared the same opinion of many other members of the community, that there was no where in town to meet people but at the bars. The under 21 crowd, and the closeted had no where to seek help, knowledge, or friends. Now those people, and everyone, has a place where they are always welcome, and can always seek refuge.

Throughout the day, many people came and left, and there was even a surprising number of Allies in attendance. Some people, before the opening, worried about how the people of Anchorage would react. Would they be offended? Or try to shut us down? Despite the fear, the day continued with out confrontation.

Many people of different ages were there, including more teens that most people expected. Holly Black described the center as being, “A place for youth to go to find people they can relate to without criticism.” And Becca Hart found it to be, “a cool place that will bring people together.”

The Community center will be open from Monday through Friday, 3pm-9pm, Saturday 12pm-9pm, and Sunday 12pm-6pm. Staffed completely by volunteers, the center hopes to be able to extend their hours as soon as more volunteers are available. Inside the center will not only be a place to meet people, but a place to watch movies, read, get information, and even find referrals for Gay Friendly professional services.

The Community Center shines as a light to all of us. It will help us grow as a community, share experiences, and stand up against those who are against us. No matter what, it stands as a symbol of pride, hope, and equality to us all. Rev. Guy Johnson is not afraid of what people think or say about the center, and he has good reason. “No vision worth having comes without opposition.” The community Center was a vision that, after years of preparation and organization, is finally being realized.

Jennifer Miller - 17, has lived in Alaska for 5 years, and is currently working on her Bachelors In Journalism at UAA.
Jasyn Breece - 19, was raised in Alaska.
Rev. Jan Richardson: Gives Her Blessing

Lisa Jamieson: From Grantwriter to Grand Opening

Crowd Favorites:
CommonBond's Marybeth DePompa and Ashland Miller

Moral Support:
Josh Siege and Pastor Karen Lipinczyk

Giving Thanks:
GLCCA Co-chairs Jim Mohr and Laura Goss
Poster Child
by Frank Tano

When I tell people I'm "out," they congratulate me. When I tell people where I live, they look at me like I am crazy. When I tell people that I am out at work, and then I tell them where I work, they wonder how I've managed to come through all of this alive. You see, I live in the Matsus Valley, Palmer to be precise. As you can imagine, living in a fairly rural area isn't the most common habitat for a gay, out male. I somehow make it work, I think mostly because no one knows what the rainbows on my license plate frame actually mean. Being out at work though, that's a completely different story.

I work at one of the largest retailers in the world. Due to it's origins in the southern United States, it's often viewed as a rather conservative place to work. Men are men, women are women and what they do with each other in the back room can be sold on the internet. It's a straight and happening place, so why did I decide to be out at work? While I must admit, being out is freeing, that wasn't the reason why I did it. I announced that I was gay, a fag, queer, an all around flaming homosexual in hopes that I would get fired. I hate my job but can't bring myself to quit. Unfortunately this seemingly conservative institution has an anti-harassment policy that includes homosexuality. Well doesn't that beat all? Why now do they choose to be progressive? Well, my plan for getting fired averted, at least I could be me and all would be well or so I thought. I hadn't planned on the ripple effect my orientation would cause or the position it would elevate me to. It didn't hit me till the day a timid coworker mustered the courage to ask me if I was gay. I replied, "Yes," which served as a cue for him to begin a speech on how I had opened his eyes and showed him that gays are normal people. By working with me, I have enriched his life in a way he never could have imagined. He did everything short of giving me a major award. It was then that I realized what I had become to those I worked with, I was their poster child for the homosexual community.

Oh the questions that I have been asked. How do you know you're gay? What are the best shoes to do drag in? Do all those lesbians making out get you hot? It's obvious that some people just don't get it and for some reason it has become my responsibility to teach them. I've done this mostly through impromptu workshops about G.L.B.T issues during our lunch breaks. Those who cared to listen are now versed on such subjects as the difference between Bears and Twinks, U-haul rental rates and how they fluctuate with the lesbian dating scene, and The Prostate: Why Anal Sex Feels Good.

I don't always play the role of Helpful Educator, however. There is the mischievous side of me that loves the opportunity to make people uncomfortable. Whether it's talking about the happenings at Mad Myrna's the night before or mentioning that I have to buy some snow pants for Fags on Sleds, I revel in the sea of unease that such statements can cause. I know I shouldn't mess with the conservatives, but I can't help it. It's so much fun.

I am not the only one dishing out surprises though. I have found that on a number of occasions, my coworkers have surprises for me. For the most part, the women have adopted me as one of their own. We can often be seen traveling in packs ogling the eye-candy that comes to the store or standing in the men's underwear aisle rating the different underwear models and debating on whether or not it's real or stuffed. The most surprising thing that happened though was the flow of support from my coworkers when I was in the early (and entirely panicked) stages of asking my boyfriend out on our first date. Everyone had all kinds of advice to give me and they didn't seem to care that I was asking another man out. For the first, but definitely not the last time in my life, I felt normal. I felt like everyone else.

Being out at work for me has been an extremely rewarding experience. I realize that I have been blessed with my situation and that my tales may not be the norm for some. I am fortunate and I hope that I am not alone. Of course if you hate your job and are looking for an excuse to leave, why not come on out and go down flaming.

People are pooh-poohing events where you only raise $5,000 or $10,000, saying it's as easy to throw an event where people pay $50 as $5. Not everyone can pay $150 for a ticket.

Marc Berkley
The Island
by Deborah A. Thompson

Imagine this...royal blue skies, midnight blue ocean waves that break aqua upon sandy beaches, tropical sun so bright with clarity that you must shade your eyes, the smell of plumeria and salt in the trade winds as they caress your face and body, and, a wet heat that cloaks your soul in knowing comfort. Yes! Yes! Yes!

Externally...you spend your days in T-shirts, shorts or swimwear—sucking up the heat, fragrances and sights. And, boy, are there sights! All day long hot babes prance and pose in their thong bikinis, teasing every eye that feasts. And you do feast. You can bet on that! As long as you don’t touch, all is well. At night, you’re sliding belly to belly upon cool linen sheets. Yeah, baby!

Internally...you relearn what it’s like to establish communications with the gods. As much as you hate to admit it, you need this. And here it’s a way of life—not just on Sundays. The old ways surround and entice you, creating awe and a hunger to be part of it all. Soon, your soul finds nourishment and is refreshed. Peace and contentment are yours.

Adrenaline Rushes (besides the bikinis)...you get to drive ‘exotic’ vehicles all over the island—everything from bicycles to Lamborghini. And let me tell you that straddling an 1100cc crotch rocket or a rumbling 1340cc Harley Low Rider is as exciting or more so than the Viper and Ferrari! But then, even the mopeds can be a total blast.

As you can tell, this job is special. I am one of two employees designated to drive and checkout the ‘exotics’ to a never-ending stream of colorful tourists. Plus, I get to take them out for personal pleasure with my sweetheart beside or behind me—both of us grinning like mad fools.

I am a rental manager and one of many islanders who relates to people, trying to make tourists’ dream vacations come true. We are the ‘wheels’ part of their dream. And there is nothing better than a smile returning at the end of the day, even if they did purchase it.

I love this job with a passion and I take pride in handling the vehicles with the utmost care. I even detail them with affection and attention so that we can get top rental dollar for them. In turn, this makes the owner happy. And when he’s happy, he blesses us with bonuses!

As a business, the company is straight, well, minus two old dykes. However, we are accepted considerably well. We even get off work every year for our traditional weekend Gay Pride Festival. Of course, we work all the other holidays as a tradeoff. But, what the hell.

Know what else I love about this job? That other lesbian in the company is my spouse. We work well together and have ever since the day we met. Throughout our 22-year union, all our employers have been delighted with our teamwork. To add spice and variety, some years she’s my boss and other years, I am hers. In totality, all the years have been immensely enjoyable.

So as you can see, my eleven-year island job was The Career I will always remember and adore. I learned new things, met people from all around the world, made money, partook of island ways and had lots of fun. More importantly, I shared it all with the love of my life. I couldn’t ask for more. And nowadays when my body aches with the Alaskan cold and my spirit gets depressed with the dreary gray, white and black colors of winter here, my mind slips back in time to a place that’s all mine...the Island.

Work Can Be Stressful
Enough On Its Own
by Chuck Hart

I love my job. I meet intelligent customers every day. Most of my co-workers are intelligent, literate, and friendly. I love being surrounded by books and art. What I love most is that I can be completely open and honest about being gay — if I choose to be. — I have never felt so free to be who I really am in any job I have had before working at This Bookstore.

Don’t get me wrong, there are all the usual giant corporate bureaucratic... procedures... to deal with. There are those challenging customers and coworkers at This Bookstore too. This Bookstore is not perfection. I detest my hours, my rate of pay, and my lack of benefits. However, I have never had an employer require that I watch a video outlining a non-discrimination clause that includes sexual orientation. Never before have I been given sheet of paper to keep with a list of names and phone numbers (including 800 numbers for out of state management) so that I could report “any perceived discrimination or harassment in my workplace based on sexual orientation” (as well as a laundry list of other minority categories). This training took place while I was on the clock before I could begin working “on the floor” with customers.

I have come out to my fellow employees at This Bookstore with no problems or negative reactions to date. I have found that several of my coworkers are gay. (For some, as yet, unknown reason we seem to have a shortage of lesbians.) Having worked where being known as gay would have gotten me fired; having worked where when I was outed I was harassed for the remaining nineteen months of my employment; and having worked where being out would have made no realistic difference, but was not official policy; I

Continued on next page...
appreciate the clearly stated GLBT friendly policy. I appreciate this Bookstore’s policy more everyday as I look back on my resume. Work can be stressful enough without adding the stress of hiding such a huge portion of one’s life as sexual identity.

Early in 2000 I was interviewed by Dan Woog for his book Gay Men Straight Jobs. (published September 16, 2001 by Alyson Press.) I was working at a lumberyard in Seward, Alaska. My family has had four generations working for this Alaskan chain (which is now owned by an outside privately held corporation). It was the first job in which I was out to everyone. I had been out to my friends at work for about eight months in 1998 when I was outed by a customer to the rest of the employees and management. Not choosing to come out to everyone was my choice, but my choice caused me more anguish when my sexuality became common knowledge. Dealing with people’s reactions was much easier than dealing with my fear of their reactions. Out of twenty co-workers/management I only encountered four negative reactions. Two of those were extreme, both in management. Thanks to my family’s history with the company I was able to go above the local level and keep my job.

Perhaps you have heard of the “glass ceiling”. I was now in a stainless steel cube. I could not transfer, was ineligible for promotion, and experienced a two year wage freeze. After I left the company to attend classes at UAA, I received numerous calls wondering how I did all that I had done in the time I had. Two people took over my duties. I was rehired to work at one of the Anchorage stores briefly in the Fall of 2000. The department manager said that my colleagues in Seward recommended me very highly. I received a raise in pay in my first thirty days. Then I was let go when one of the most virulently homophobic employees in my department noticed a rainbow sticker on my van.

Working for Alaska’s last Alaska based airline, MarkAir, I was transferred to Seattle where I worked with eight openly, positively, gay ticket agents. I had a strong desire to come out then, to myself, my family, and my employer. Mostly I was fearful of losing my three children, and for some irrational reason I was afraid of losing my chance at a station manager’s position back in Alaska. Looking back now I see the paralyzing power of fear. I will not give into fear again in my employment. I enjoy work too much now to ever go back in that work-closet. I don’t feel I have to discuss my sexuality with everyone I work with, but I won’t struggle to remember which people should hear “I am seeing someone” in stead of “I am seeing a great guy.” I was only good at that when I lied to everyone.

In and Out at Work
by Jim Henry

My boyfriend of 18 years and I have a pretty clear philosophy on this topic. If you remove any potential for gossip, you remove 90% of the chance for harassment. If a “rumor” starts that “Jim” is gay, everyone would simply say, “Duh, he brings his Boy Friend to all of the company events.” Does everyone support me being out and proud. No, but who cares? I excel in my job, I’m open and honest to everyone in my company, and I’m respectful of others regardless of their beliefs (i.e. religion). I treat them the way I want to be treated. In my 25 years of work, and 18 of those being very out, I’ve had one incident of gay harassment.

In this particular case, it didn’t even dawn on me that this guy hated me because I was gay. It wasn’t until he threatened me with physical violence and called me a faggot that I got the picture. I thought he hated me cause I can be an asshole at times. As soon as those words parted his mouth, I was in the HR director’s office and within the week, he was gone, I was still there.

Why? Cause I did my job great (promoted on that job 3x, employee of the year 2x in 5 years). Simple as that. I honestly think MOST people don’t care if you are gay, bi, or a virgin. I NEVER hide my sexuality, but in my work, my sexuality is NOT an issue. Most folks wouldn’t know I’m gay unless I tell them, which if the conversation comes up (i.e. what does your wife do?), I tell them.

It is a NON ISSUE. Makes my life 100% easier.

Just my thoughts.

A lot of what passes for depression these days is nothing more than a body saying that it needs work.

Geoffrey Norman
Work

by Ruth Mitchell

This word conjures up such a diversity of times past. For some it is their lifelong career that they have sustained themselves with through much effort and dedication. For some it is only the reference to the daily grind, which permits them their existence.

For others it may be a means to an end—be it independence, wealth or power.

For yet others like myself perhaps, there are many fond memories of activities and time shared with loved ones. My thoughts take me back to my youth and the war years when my father was gone and my mother, along with my older brothers, held jobs to provide the necessities as well as support the war effort. I recall being about five years old when my eldest brother, at the wise old age of ten, was a grocery delivery boy as well as stocking and cleaning for the pub across the street from our home and my eight year old brother was a bicycle courier for many of the local businesses while my sister and I tended the house and my baby brother. My mother was usually gone, from sunrise to sunset, with her factory job and was always spent upon arriving home.

As fireworks were a common entertainment during the war years, my great uncle who owned the fireworks company employed some of the family youth. But my mother was adamant that my brothers not work there. So instead, my brothers worked at granddad’s local ice plant as soon as they were physically strong enough. It was safer and the pay was better.

Back then we walked everywhere—two miles to school, a mile to the local library (my favorite hangout), blocks to the ballpark and local outdoor swimming pool—except for our regular Saturday afternoon matinee for the war updates and current films. On Saturdays, Mom treated us to a ride on the city bus to downtown (maybe that’s why my heart goes a-twitter when I see my spouse in her bus driver’s uniform).

I think my basic working resourcefulness was motivated by the coal bin. My sister and I spent the majority of our time at home. And since my mother did not like coming home to a cold house, it was up to us to keep the furnace going in the winter. When the coal supply ran low ‘someone’ had to go into the bin and shovel the coal closer to the furnace for easier access to feeding the fire. This was the most disliked chore of my youth. I experienced claustrophobic sensation at the very thought of the coal bin. My first effort at bartering was due to this phobia. I was willing to do any other task in exchange. As a result, I have always appreciated what a little bit of effort can accomplish. However tough life seemed then, I found that I enjoyed working and producing good results.

After I had become an adult and acquired my own place in the scheme of things, I still turned to hard work for a sense of satisfaction. Working the soil, growing things—whether for pleasure or need—there’s nothing more rewarding than to see the first new shoots poking up through the earth.

My very first entrepreneur attempt was a three-acre produce garden. With two small children and ten acres of rich land and nothing else to do, I put my love of gardening to a profitable use. Placing my girls in their wagon with jugs of water, sandwiches and toys, we headed out to the acreage with our two young Dobies romping along beside. We spent many hours planting, tilling, watering, and weeding. Finally after carrying hundreds of buckets of water from our well, weeks of sunshine and toil we plucked and picked our vegetables and melons by the bushel. Each weekend as the crops ripened, the girls and I would load up the wagon with bags and bundles of luscious fresh food, walking the quarter mile to the nearest intersection of our country lane, to sell the fruits of our labor. So, my garden was truly a labor of love.

Our early morning hours were filled with berry picking—blackberries, raspberries, and (my special delight) my strawberry patch. Many afternoons, we took walks in the woods, played in the creek and just generally had fun, feeling that an afternoon of relaxation had been well earned.

Since then I’ve performed work where I was required to give my every effort and other jobs where nothing much was expected of me. I have found that the more demanding the task, the more rewarding. For me, the work I exert the least effort with becomes an emotional stumbling block.

So if a person is fortunate, work can provide the fates an opportunity to grant you ample time to learn from your mistakes, strengthen your resolve, and walk a bit more assuredly through life as you do so.

I don’t want to achieve immortality through my work, I want to achieve it through not dying.

Woody Allen
Gay Cops Make Career of Helping People, Holding Others Accountable
by Ron Swartz

Some gay men choose law enforcement as a profession because of the daily adventure and challenge. Or it may be for the positive contribution to the community they live in—on a sense of giving a needed service by using their training and aptitudes. For others it may be a thrill in solving crimes, or satisfying a need for command, control, or respect. The half pay pension after just 20 years is an enticement too. But "the police" are sometimes held at arm's length in off-duty social circles. And out gay cops are sometimes held apart from their police peers. So there can be a life of seeing oneself in a doubly deviant identity!

Young men and women considering a career in policing often express similar concerns. One is that isolation from the close-knit 'police family'. There are few professions that have such a strong sense of us-against-them, especially at 2am! Closeted queer police folks are always fearful of being outed, as in most job paths. And the conservative, paramilitary style of police departments and their administrations can lead to concerns for being dismissed once homosexuality is discovered or proclaimed. Luckily for me, I have bosses who embrace diversity. A deputy chief recently even offered to support me if I wanted to start a gay police organization in Anchorage!

Gay men and women on the force can feel a conflict between their professional worth as a cop, and their moral worth as a person. In law enforcement, these two are essentially bound together. Because of a lifetime of brainwashing from the media, family, prior police reactions to the queer community, and police reactions to other gay cops, a young officer may feel esteem issues regarding their morality. Officers who happen to be gay and 'out' are often worried about getting unpleasant assignments, or for their personal safety. Will that homophobic partner in the other cruiser in your zone come to your aid as quickly as he might for a fellow straight cop? For me, they do. They even have invited my boyfriend and I to their homes for dinner, when I was partnered.

Closeted officers often choose not to participate in off-duty group get-togethers, or form an alliance with a trusted woman as a front-in order to 'pass' as heterosexual. When I was still in my closet, I felt a strong internal conflict between my honesty and integrity as a policeman, and the daily lie to my peers about my sexuality. I wouldn't take part in verbal gay-bashing around the stationhouse, but I wouldn't stand up against it either. It was tearing me apart, especially when I was feeling the joys or concerns that revolve around the dating scene. I couldn't discuss my reality.

When off-duty, declining invitations for social stuff with fellow officers can erode otherwise stable working relationships. And cruising non-conventional areas like adult bookstores, parks, and highway rest stops can be risky for a cop's career. Getting caught up in police surveillance or stings in these areas can be embarrassing, at least. We know that straight couples enjoy coming to Myrna's to dance—what would they assume if they saw a coworker dancing with another man? Once outed, a gay officer may never be able to get back his 'normal' status in the department. All he or she can do is demonstrate through deeds on the job that their deviant status should be considered unimportant.

As for gay cops on the dating scene, we sometimes interact with people we're attracted to off-duty by becoming closeted officers! Some (many?) gay men seek partners who project a macho image. What is more masculine than an officer's authority, militarist environment & demeanor, stable & trustworthy character, and uniform? There is also the aura of safety, of being a protector. But is that sexy guy who's attracted to you really seeing YOU? In the long term, the romantic notions of dating a policeman fade, and the reality of the actual man becomes apparent. So I have experienced a need to withhold information about my work when I am interested in having a man get to know ME. A young man I currently am very interested in has expressed concern about dating an officer, and the worry that would come with knowing I deal with armed and undesirable people. On the other side of the coin, if screwing is the only goal for the moment, being out as a cop has its benefits!

For law enforcement officers who are in a relationship, their partners must deal with inconvenient work schedules and long shifts due to emergencies, court appearances, investigations, and hearings. Cops learn soon after their academy training to be suspicious, so building trust in a relationship can take longer than in other partnerships. But the honesty, reliability, confidence and integrity of the average officer can help maintain a quality relationship. Besides, there's all that leather and those handcuffs to play with!

I don't want no shade.
I just want to get paid.
RuPaul
Doing What You Love
by Diana Wolfe

I do not work, at least in the conventional sense of the word. I am disabled, unable, incapacitated, impaired. I have a mental illness that at times makes it difficult to function. I cannot hold a job. People always want to know what I "do", as if what I do defines me. I guess in our world, descended from the Puritan work ethic and modernized into workaholism, what a person does helps people to label and place a value on one's life.

I am a writer. Currently, in spite of the crippling effects of mental disease, I am finishing my Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. I find that I can call myself a student and people can then think that I am doing something productive. But the question of what I do is always followed by, "what are you going to do when you graduate?" I find myself saying that I will be a writer but that does not seem to be a proper response. I feel defensive.

A little more than a month ago I swallowed several bottles of pills and attempted to kill myself. I almost succeeded. I woke on a respirator because I had stopped breathing. Over this past month, since then, I have done a lot of thinking about what I want out of life. It isn't so important anymore what people think I should or should not do. I know that to make my life worth living I must find my own dream, my own way of being in the world, and for me that is writing.

Since I was a small child all I have wanted was to read and write. When I was seven I chose a child's roll top desk over a pair of beautiful, real cowboy boots. As a young adult I began writing long essay-type letters and started a journal. I finished a degree in journalism in my late twenties and then began work on my graduate degree.

Writing hardly fits the idea of "work" because we place that word in the context of a negative. Perhaps for me, instead of "work" I like to think of my writing as a vocation. Some people are privileged to be working at what they love, and I guess that I am one of them.

Your Analysis
by Brian A. Ridder

I passed my destination several times before matching the address of the building to the one on the business card. As I rolled into the parking lot I was amazed that I had not located it earlier because it certainly stood out among the surrounding structures.

On the right, running the length of several blocks, was the Brewery. Easily six stories tall the Brewery was a perplexity of buildings stacked on top of each other; of walkways and overpasses, of smoke stacks and gigantic vats. Behind me and to the left were several warehouses, all painted similar shades of gray. The only way to distinguish them was by the different colored trucks that stood guard before their loading docks. The Brewery was a pale mustard color, but because it was late afternoon, its shadow gave it the same hue as the warehouses.

The building in front of me, however, was shining brightly in the sun. It was built with some kind of golden brick, or cement, and its windows were tinted a solid, flat black. It had the appearance of a treasure chest hidden among ordinary crates and boxes, as if it were in the cargo hold of a pirate ship. I knew it as the place I was looking for only by the numbers and street name above the main entrance.

Next to the front door a man leaned on a pair of crutches. He was older, with gray streaks in his hair and beard. He wore soiled workman's overalls and one foot was poorly bandaged. He seemed to be waiting for someone and did not look up as I searched the entrance for a sign with the office titles and numbers.

Upon finding no such sign, I entered through the tinted glass doors. Once inside I noticed there was no office listing, or even a lobby. I was simply faced with a long, tall hallway. The decor was fashionably modern, and there was an unusual silence. I could see an atrium of sorts with an elevator at its end and proceeded to walk the length of the hallway. There were no persons traveling the corridor, or even in the offices I viewed through the slim windows that accompanied each door. All of the doors had electronic locks, the kind that require a combination or magnetized identity card.

I reached the atrium, which was really only a circular hall connecting two more hallways directly to the left and to the right. There was a skylight above, and in the center was an elevator flanked by two gigantic palm plants.

Here, too, I found no sign listing the different offices. Nor did I witness any identifying markers beside the doors I had encountered. The two hallways on either side of me seemed identical to the one from which I just came so I decided to take the stairs which were impressively wide and made out of a dark green faux marble. Etched glass ran its length under the railway, which was brass.

At the top was an enormous lobby with the same circular dimensions as the atrium. On my right was a nondescriptive door, the first without an electronic lock, and directly in front of me was a circular receptionist desk with a man sitting inside speaking into an headset.

"Simmons, Kraft, Ballard... thank you... Simmons, Kraft, Ballard... thank you."
I approached the desk and the man looked up without speaking. "My name is Brian. I have an appointment."
Your Analysis, cont’d.

"You’re here for your analysis," he said as if it were obvious.

"Yes," I replied and was given a clipboard with an information slip to fill out. I was told I could have a seat while filling in the information.

To the left of the reception desk, about thirty feet away were two cushioned chairs, and across from them was the elevator. I walked the distance to the chairs, which were a putrid mint green and dirty from over-use. There was no table and so I put the clipboard on my lap to complete the questions.

"Simmons, Kraft, Ballard, how may I help you? . . . thank you . . . Simmons, Kraft, Ballard . . . thank you," the man continued.

Shortly, the doors to the elevator opened. A woman, casually dressed in a tee-shirt and colored vest stepped out holding a large sports water-bottle. She shuffled her feet like the elderly sometimes do, and her sandals made a flip-flop sound as she made her way to the desk.

The man stood as she entered the circular station, he pointed to me and made a quick comment and then left, taking the stairs. He, too, was dressed casually in shirt with no tie and corduroy slacks. Besides the comment about me the two receptionists did not speak to each other, and the woman promptly sat down, put on the headset and began, "Simmons, Kraft, Ballard, how may I help you? . . . thank you . . . Simmons, Kraft, Ballard . . . thank you."

I finished the questionnaire and returned it to the woman who simply thanked me and turned away. Again I walked the distance to the chairs and sat down. The questionnaire asked me only which company had sent me, my address, my age, and my social security number. I had been looking for a job for several weeks, and there were plenty of them, but at the same time there was plenty of competition. The company that had sent me was ready to hire me and was graciously offering five dollars an hour for the privilege of selling their discount merchandise.

A young man came out from the door beside the reception desk and walked over to me. He was my age, tall, very handsome, and well built. I imagined a medical student getting by on a football scholarship. Of the three people I encountered, he was dressed the most casually. He wore jeans and a tee shirt which showed off his form nicely, and was probably meant to.

As if he didn’t know he said, "May I help you?"

"I was sent by the personnel office . . . ."

"Here for your analysis?" he interrupted.

"Yes," I said and followed him behind the door he came out of.

Amazingly there were no people here either. The hall-

way was dark and forked into another. Several doors were slightly open, but all of the rooms were dark. There was one light on at the junction where we turned the corner and entered one of the rooms. It was like a high-tech broom closet. No larger than twenty feet by ten, the walls were lined with shelves full of medical supplies and equipment. There was a second door, and beside that an enormous plastic keg and a smaller two-drawer file cabinet. There were two standard office chairs where we sat.

The man used one end of the file cabinet to complete some paperwork. I thought perhaps he was a student intern, sent to do the dirty work. His mouth was dry and he spoke softly. He was nervous and avoided eye contact. It is not easy for men to share such intimate circumstances and his voice cracked as he explained the procedure. From one of the drawers he produced a plastic bottle and handed it to me.

I nodded my understanding and went into the next room. This room was the same size as the first, but with half the number of shelves. In the far corner was a small sink and toilet. There was no fan. The bottle looked unusually large, and I was expected to fill it. I had waited all morning to relieve myself, but was unsure if it would be enough. The toilet was filthy so I used a paper towel to lift the lid. I was glad I did because the bottle was full in no time.

After I was finished I set the bottle by the sink and tightly replaced the cap. In order to clean my hands, I bent to turn on the faucet. There was no water. I wiped my hands and the bottle with a paper towel, then returned to the first room. I gave my sample to the man and sat down. I noticed he handled it without gloves while he labeled it and placed it in a plastic bag which he sealed. We were both silent. My signature was required once more, the man pointing to the line without speaking. As we left I said that I could find my way out even though he made no effort to show me. We departed without word.

I came out into the lobby which was as empty as I found it. I glanced toward the receptionist. Although she was looking up, she did not acknowledge me. I could hear her all the way down the steps.

"Simmons, Kraft, Ballard . . . thank you . . . ."

What could a bodily fluid possibly say about my ability to function on the job? Of course, the company which was planning to hire me wasn’t as concerned with my mental integrity as they were about certain aspects of my lifestyle. The company just wanted to make sure I wasn’t going to be chronically late, or be so mentally fogged I might drop some of their cheaply produced, yet precious merchandise. If they wanted an indication of personal pressures that might limit one’s capacity to work, they might as well be testing for parenthood. I wondered if the people at Simmons, Kraft, Ballard had to submit to such testing. It seemed a scary possibility that they were the kind of workers (robots?) that employers
were looking for. What's more, at five dollars an hour I would barely make rent, let alone support a drug habit.

This last thought made me laugh, and I promptly put the experience out of my mind and continued my search for work. A couple of days later I received a phone call from a woman who, after confirming my identity, put me on hold. Several minutes later a man came on the phone.

"This is Doctor Hunt," he said abruptly.

"Yes?"

"I have the results of your analysis."

"Oh," I managed.

"You tested positive," he stated.

"And?" I said.

"You tested positive," he repeated. Another silence.

"Well, it's my understanding that a positive result automatically disqualifies me from employment."

"Right."

"So . . . ?" I wondered out loud.

"What should I tell the personnel office?" he asked.

Was I expected to explain myself? Throw myself at the mercy of the court? Defend my lifestyle? For five dollars an hour?

"Tell them to party on, man."

Several weeks later I found myself passing through the Industrial District. By this time I had found a job, and had long since thought anything about Simmons, Kraft, Ballard. But as I saw the Brewery approaching I was reminded of the gold building with the black windows, and I slowed down as I passed it. For the first time I spotted the building's sign at the entrance of the parking lot. No wonder I hadn't noticed it earlier because it was almost entirely covered with ivy and there were only two words left visible but they said it all. The sign simply read, "Industrial Complex." K

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I do want to get rich but I never want to do what there is to get rich.

Gertrude Stein

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Elmer “Al” Kaneta
1926 - 2002

In Memorial
by Ron Swartz

Al Kaneta was born October 2nd, 1926 in Honolulu Hawaii. One of 4 children, Al's family were typical "locals"... meaning a family of mixed ancestry. His parents were of Japanese, Portuguese, German, and English decent, among others. As was the Hawaiian tradition, Al (as the first-born child) was given to his grandparents. The idea was to fill the grandparents' "empty nest" when their last child left home. He went through Kamehameha School, a boarding school sponsored by the Bishop Estate which was created by Hawaii's last princess.

There he enjoyed singing with the Glee Club, and graduated from their ROTC program Class of 1945. One memorable experience came when the students looked down onto Pearl Harbor from their lofty mountain location of the school and saw great plumes of dark smoke. They thought it was a military training exercise, until they heard on the radio that the Japanese had attacked the harbor. In time, the school was taken over for the convalescence of injured soldiers. Al and his family were fearful that they might be locked away in an internment camp, as had been done with families of Japanese ancestry in California. However government officials quickly realized they would have to intern over half the population of the islands; therefore no one was interned in Hawaii.

Mr. Kaneta served in the U.S. Army for a year and a half on Hawaii, before going to Washington University in St. Louis under the G.I. bill for another year. He then did some civilian work with the Army in Okinawa Japan, then returned to his commercial art studies at Mexico City College. While visiting a friend in Oakland California during the Christmas break, he found a more attractive art school, California College of Arts and Crafts, and quickly moved to California.

While at the California College of Arts and Crafts, Al met a student by the name of Geraldine, who grew up in Connecticut. By 1952 they married. Soon they had their first son, Brian. After a year, they moved to Hawaii, where Al began working in retail store display as a manager. In 1956 son Kevin was born, and soon they moved to Portland Oregon, where his son Robin was born in 1959. There he continued his career in the Display field, working for Sears and similar department stores.

In 1964 Al's father died in Honolulu. While there for the funeral, Al found a job in retail at a higher rate of pay, and soon the family was packing their bags and returning to Hawaii. In 1974 an electrical short circuit burned their house to the ground, and they chose to rebuild on the same lot.

Around that time, Al spent almost a year in New Jersey working for an old boss. While there, he had exposure to Broadway plays and musicals and found he enjoyed them. Soon he was back in Hawaii, and legally separated from his wife. Al moved in with some friends, one of which he had gone to boarding school with, and discovered his love of cooking. There were even occasions when he and his pals would cook for luaus attended by more than 200 people! During this time, he also rose to the status of lodge Master for the Society of Masons.

In 1981 Al met Tom Rachal of Anchorage, while Tom was vacationing in Waikiki. Seven weeks later the two were living together in Tom's condominium townhouse in Anchorage. This was Al's first same-sex relationship. Al began working for the city's Parks and Recreation department, and later for the Commission on Planning and Development. He retired in 1988.

The two would frequent gay bars like the Raven, The Village, and Jade Room... but as older men, they didn't feel especially welcomed. Their introduction to the gay & lesbian community came through friends in the Anchorage Garden Buddies social group. The two began networking within the community, and in short time they were giving many volunteer hours helping Identity, Inc. rebuild itself and thrive.

Al found that he had a real passion for travel. During my interview with him in late January, I found that he had visited more than 25 countries around the world! He had always enjoyed cooking, and had published many of his favorite recipes in NorthView for many years. He also spent many hours being creative with computer art and graphics software. He also had an extensive collection of movies on video, and has been a regular customer in Anchorage's theaters. Al was also an active member of Ushering in the Arts at the Anchorage Center for the Performing Arts.

Early on February 17, 2002 Al succumbed to the affects of small cell lung cancer, which spread and became tumors in his brain and liver. He had requested that any memorial contributions be sent to the Hospice of Anchorage (500 West Int’l Airport Road. Anchorage, 99518). A memorial potluck is being planned for a Saturday in March. Watch the Yahoo newsgroups for details.
In looking back over more than 7 1/2 decades, Al told me he felt he had "lived a full, rich life." If he had it to do over again, he proudly claimed that he would do it the same way. He said he couldn't ask for anything more.
Can any of us?

Editor's note: The following recipe was to be Al's column for this month and I understand that Al's partner, Tom Rachel, is from Louisiana, so perhaps it is appropriate to include it. Al will be missed but not forgotten.

**Classic Cooking with Al Kaneta**

**Seafood Gumbo**
A Louisiana Specialty

1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup bacon drippings
1 heaping tablespoon file
2 cloves garlic, finely minced
2 cups chopped celery
1 cup chopped bell pepper
1 cup chopped green onions, tops and bottoms
1 cup chopped white onions
6 cups chicken stock
6 cups hot water
Salt, black and red pepper to taste
3 pounds raw shrimp
1 pound crab meat
2 pints oysters and juice
3 tablespoons file

Make a roux of flour and bacon drippings in a heavy iron pot. Cook over medium heat and stir constantly until a rich brown color. The darker the color the better the flavor. Be careful, though, as it will burn quickly and must be thrown away. Add 1 heaping tablespoon of file right before you remove roux from heat, stirring constantly until roux and file are well blended. To the roux and file mixture, add garlic, bell pepper, celery and onions. Cook over low heat for 10 to 12 minutes, stirring often until greens are wilted. Add chicken stock and hot water. Season to taste with salt, black and red pepper. Simmer slowly for about one hour. Add shrimp and crab meat; simmer slowly about 30 minutes. Add oysters and juice and cook about 10 to 15 minutes longer. Add 3 tablespoons file and serve over hot rice. File can also be sprinkled lightly over the mixture once in your bowl.

A variation on this same recipe is not to use seafood at all. Instead, boil a large chicken until the meat can be taken from the bones. Use the stock for the recipe above. Chop the chicken meat into bite size pieces and add back to the mixture at the same point of the menu where the seafood would be added.
Naked Insight

by Jen Kohout

Sitting nude in the semi-darkness is not the best time to discuss aging but having left my fleece shirt and pants on the frozen bench just outside the sauna door, I have no choice. Karen has raised the subject and I’m trapped, forced to ponder aging as beads of sweat collect in the folds of my stomach. At least I’m not alone.

Or am I? It seems that my sauna-mates, Sally, Mari and Karen, have all found the aging process to be downright liberating. Each believes that as they have aged, they have gained valuable insights about life and relationships. Summarizing their comments, aging is about growing wise, centered, and peaceful.

As they talk, I make thoughtful “I’m listening” noises and keep my politically incorrect thoughts to myself. I’m distracted with the previously unnoticed roll of flesh around my mid-section, which is illuminated with a weak yellow glow thanks to a lone bulb in the hallway shining through the steamed Plexiglas window in the sauna door. Even if the unsightly bulge hadn’t made me nostalgic for my 20-year old stomach, I’d still balk at their “aging is great” propaganda.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m all for personal growth. At times, I’ve pursued self-awareness like a greyhound chasing a mechanical rabbit around a track. It’s just that I don’t think that self-knowledge and age are synonymous. In my mind, wisdom, centeredness and peacefulness flow from two factors – life experience and the degree to which I have my eyes open when I’m experiencing life.

Neither of these factors is necessarily tied to a calendar.

Aging, however, is intimately connected to the passage of time. Aging is about retirement plans, dying parents, and aching shoulders. It’s about reading stock quotes and obituaries on Sunday morning instead of the comics; about puzzling over the allure of pink hair, pierced body parts, and cigarettes; it’s about being called “Ma’am” at the grocery check out. I’m fine with personal growth; not-so-fine with aging. I want to be carded when I buy beer, to have time move so slowly that I’m bored, to think that there can be peace in the world, to remember how to spell without computer assistance.

Lounging in the steamy darkness that December evening with my friends, I think all these things but say nothing. After all, the conversation is really directed at Katie, who’s just experienced one of those decade milestones and is none too thrilled about the prospect of exiting her thirties. As she sits in the corner by the door, she too is quiet and I wonder what thoughts are going through her head.

It won’t be long before I’m in Katie’s place. And despite all the promised personal insight, I too am dreading the event. Sitting in the sauna, I make a mental note to invite to my birthday party only friends who also agonized at the prospect of turning 40. By comparison, maybe I’ll feel better. At the very least, they may have some useful tips for me. I imagine myself asking, “So Sue, how did you finally come to terms with entering your forties?” “Gosh, Jen, it was tough for awhile. Then one night I stayed up until 2 a.m. watching Saturday Night Live and eating Ben & Jerry’s Chunky Monkey ice cream and when I woke up the next day, I was at peace with my age.” My yearning for tight abdomen lines immediately forgotten, I decide that the imagined suggestion has potential.

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Kids Say the Queerest Things!
(this time) by Chuck Hart

Recently my 10 year old son, Chaz, and his Nazarene mother, (my ex-wife), moved back to Alaska. I helped them move from a motel to temporary housing a week after they arrived. My son and I took a load of toys and other valuables to my home. Our green arctic entry front door does not shut completely, nor does it swing easily as it drags on the green indoor outdoor carpeting. My hand were full of boxes of toys and Chaz had his hands full of grocery bags of more toys and books. It was snowing lightly. As I approached the door I turned around and bumped the door hard with my rear end knocking the door wide open in one bump. Chaz was impressed, said, "Wow, Dad, Cool!" I mistakenly thought that was the end of it.

I drove and Chaz talked nonstop about a variety of subjects all the way back to the motel. We loaded all the other baggage into the car to take to the temporary housing. As I pulled away from the curb Chaz yelled from the backseat to his mother, "Guess what, Mom! Dad can do special things with his butt!"

Even though it was physically painful not to laugh out loud, life with kids is sweet.
If you have a story like this, please email it to thenorthview@hotmail.com
Real World's Chris is H-O-T-HOT!

by Christian Grantham

Add me to the long list of gay guys who couldn't stop drooling over the Real World Chicago's Chris when MTV premiered the new season this month. I really blame having to endure MTV's latest cute, gay poster boy on all those lazy politically correct people who didn't stand up and carry the banner for the ugly gay Real Worlders, and let's be honest. There were a few.

Remember Norm? OK, Zach? Of course not! The reason is simple. All those people who were complaining that Abercrombie & Fitch didn't have their size or enough blacks or Asians in their catalogue failed to carry the banner for these "normal looking" gay guys. Now we're stuck with the hottest gay guy to hit MTV, and they are to blame! My boyfriend and I manage to force ourselves to watch, despite Chris's looks and charming personality. It's enough to make you sick, but honestly we both don't mind each other's high school infatuation so much. We're both wallowing in sin anyway.

Part of me doesn't mind that MTV executives have gone all out to woo us with Chris and the bisexual roommate, Anessa. It's a pretty clever move, considering the recent announcements by Showtime and MTV on the possibilities of an all-gay cable channel launching this year in the U.S. But did you hear the radio ads MTV put out for the premier? I think they said "gay" more than "MTV" and "Real World" put together.

If that's not testing the waters for backlash, how about recent reports that Christina Aguilera caused a lesbian bar brawl at Felt in Hollywood, or that Britney Spears was attacked by an overzealous lesbian when she attended the Cheetah nightclub in New York? Coincidence? Try again. These MTV darlings have agents prepping us for an all out pop assault on the gay market.

I say 'bring it on!' Pride Vision, Canada's all gay cable channel, recently ended its free preview and will announce the first subscription numbers later this month or early February. If the numbers indicate the level of support Pride Vision predicts, it will send yet another strong signal to America's cable giant Viacom that "Gay is Good."

Pride Vision's own research into providing programming to a U.S. market confirms preliminary findings at Viacom on a gay channel's viability. Showtime's Queer As Folk (QAF) has been reported as the network's saving grace this past year. MTV's gay programming to a much younger audience has received little, if any, negative reaction from the typical reactionaries.

There are a couple of "real world" challenges other than irrational fears of backlash. As the presence of Chris on Real World Chicago illustrates, diversity issues will be a flash point in our extremely diverse and somewhat hard-headed community. Market realities are another concern. Several ad media reports are already focusing on the promises of the gay market, but what's troubling is the flawed research often cited.

Many reports salivating over the gay market base their findings on "Internet" samples of gay spending, such as data from OpusComm and GSociety Inc. which show more than 20 percent of 6,000 respondents reported a total combined income of $100,000. "Internet" sample and "reported" are key words. How many gay guys allow the Internet to remarkably transform themselves into 6'2" studs with swimmers' builds for a chat room profile? Far fewer gays and lesbians are on the Internet than have cable, that's for sure. The findings are fine for fooling Jaguar into maybe a year's advertising, but the more realistic challenge will be convincing the millions of gays who have cable to spend $5-57 a month more for an all gay channel, much less to buy a Jaguar.

There is something to be said for all the politically correct bull we're to endure from a handful of loudmouthed activists if diversity isn't addressed early on. I mean, MTV's Chris is really hot! He's also a target for every angry black, Asian, bear, tranny, and you-name-it activist who either didn't try to get on the Real World, couldn't cut it, or only care to see Continued on next page...

Gratitude

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

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Real World, cont'd.

themselves represent the community. The new channel will hopefully find the best our community has to offer in representing our many faces.

When Ron Cowen, Executive Producer of Showtime's QAF, was on my show he addressed charges from activists regarding diversity on QAF pretty eloquently. Cowen basically said as a producer it's not his job to represent a group of friends as being one white, one black, one Asian, one tranny, one bisexual, etc. Sometimes his work intentionally reflects society as it is. And if activists don't like it, then they need to do a better job of making diversity reality. They wish they saw art or media reflect, to borrow a pet activist quote from Ghandi. There is something to be said for the role of activists versus the role of entertainment producers.

The image an all gay channel projects to our diverse community will no doubt become the main focus of quarrels within the gay community. Black Entertainment Television had it's fair share of similar growing pains when some within the black community were horrified at what BET called "black America." Realities are often stark and bitter pills to swallow. No one questions whether diversity is a good thing, and art can certainly project our aspirations. But I hope an all gay channel aspires more to show us as we are. Looking in the mirror occasionally is a good thing, and maybe, just maybe, our Pride parade coordinators will give some floats a second thought in next year's events.

Christian Grantham is a talk show host and has appeared on MTV and XM Satellite Radio. Along with his partner Vince, he co-hosts the Christian and Vince show, a gay two hour call in talk show weekdays 10PM to 12AM ET at www.christianandvince.com

Christian is also a member of NLGJA and has been published in the Windy City Times, Dallas Voice, Between the Lines, Texas Triangle and several other community papers.

The Violence of Intolerance
by Jim Mohr

One of the worst scourges confronting our country in recent times is the growing prevalence of hate crimes. These crimes are worse than other types of crimes because they attack the heart and soul of an entire people. Rather than targeting just an individual, a hate crime targets an entire community.

Exactly what is a hate crime? The Department of Justice, Community Relations Service Division defines a hate crime as:

The violence of intolerance and bigotry, intended to hurt and intimidate someone because of their race, ethnicity, national origin, religious, sexual orientation, or disability. The purveyors of hate use explosives, arson, weapons, vandalism, physical violence, and verbal threats of violence to instill fear in their victims, leaving them vulnerable to more attacks and feeling alienated, helpless, suspicious and fearful. Others may become frustrated and angry if they believe the local government and other groups in the community will not protect them. When perpetrators of hate are not prosecuted as criminals and their acts not publicly condemned, their crimes can weaken even those communities with the healthiest race relations.

To simplify matters, it is possible to examine two basic types of harm inflicted by hate crimes. First, the targeted group becomes emotionally damaged and individuals in the group will become afraid of exercising their rights within society. Second, they can create serious friction between cultural groups in our society, which can lead to further conflict and the outward expression of outrage through rioting and more violence. This is a direct attack on the bonds that bind our culturally diverse society together. Without trust and respect, the different cultures in our country cannot co-exist peacefully.

Due to the serious risk of exacerbating tensions, leading to violence, hate crimes need to be recognized as a more serious crime than any regular assault. The purpose of the hate crime goes beyond striking at the dignity of an individual but seeks to instill such a strong sense of fear in a group that they choose not to exercise their rights and drop out of involvement with society. For this reason, we need to support hate crime legislation.

Hate crime legislation is not anti-white and used only against white people as some critics like to claim. According to the FBI 66% of reported hate crimes are committed by white people while 34% are committed by people of another race. 14 attacks against people who were heterosexual were also reported destroying the myth that this has a special right for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. I could not find a separate category for transgender people and I am not sure if a crime against them would be listed under gender or under another category or even if it would be listed. This is an argument for including the phrase gender identity in any hate crimes legislation. If you are attacked because you represent yourself as a gender different than your biology indicates, this is a different rationale for assault than being attacked because you are a man or a woman.

In the last legislative session, Governor Knowles introduced a bill in the State Senate to create a hate crimes category that would be binding on all people in Alaska and includes sexual orientation in its list of crimes that can be considered hate. The Republicans, in a gesture of disdain, altered the bill so it is only valid for minors and does not include sexual orientation. Somehow the Republicans have decided that only minors can commit hate crimes but adults cannot. It is tortured logic at best.

Hate crime legislation is important to the protection of all people within the state of Alaska. We need this legislation to protect ourselves, families, friends, and loved ones. At this time, it does not look like the legislature will take any action on the bills. Identity will do its best to keep you informed on the hate crimes legislation and provide suggestions on what you can do to help get it passed.
Return of Winning the Debate

Two years ago we were still recovering from the evil of 1998's Ballot Measure 2. I was battle-worn and demoralized. The Northview was being published only intermittently and most of my "Winning the Debate" columns were not getting published. In addition I had run out of fresh ideas. These are some of the reasons I stopped writing the column.

That was two years ago. Now our community seems re-energized, we have a new community center and The Northview appears like clockwork each month. These are positive changes. There have been other changes too. We have a new resident at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. This new resident has given unprecedented access to religious conservatives who wish to establish a theocratic government. I find this alarming.

In response, I have decided to resume writing "Winning the Debate" where I left off. New ideas for columns are no longer a problem because the new resident at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue gives me plenty to write about. With the upcoming election for Alaska's Governor, I'm sure we'll also be hearing plenty of anti-gay bigotry from Robin Taylor et al.

The first two installments uncover the dangers of Bush's "faith-based initiative" and the deception behind "every crime is a hate crime" rhetoric. If you want to read or review any of the old installments, just look on the Internet at http://www.alaska.net/~talmadge/debate.html.

Every Crime is Not

Every crime is not a hate crime. King Dubya and others are quite fond of saying that every crime is a hate crime, however it is simply not true. When you hear someone say "every crime is a hate crime", two questions should come to mind. The two questions are "Is this true?" and "If this is not true, why are they saying it?"

Let us first examine whether or not every crime is a hate crime. We'll start with a hypothetical situation in which a Doctor believes that marijuana is the best medication for one of her patients. The Doctor discusses this with the patient and then provides marijuana to relieve the patient's symptoms. The good Doctor has now committed a crime. However, I am unable to identify the victim of this crime, much less hate. In fact, we can assume that the good Doctor's motivation was to relieve pain and nausea or otherwise help the patient. There are many other possible examples of crimes that have no identifiable victim and are clearly not motivated by hate.

How about crimes where we can identify an "injured party" or victim? Are they all motivated by hate? Not! There are any number of "greed crimes" such as ripping off Social Security with multiple fake identities. "Greed crimes" would include any number of criminal acts committed by white-collar workers from good old embezzlement to shredding evidence of previous "greed crimes." The "injured party" or victim is usually the taxpayer or some corporation. Greed and hate frequently motivate people to commit evil deeds, but this does not mean greed and hate are the same thing. Greed and hate are both undesirable things, but there are important differences between them.

We have fairly well established that there is no rational basis for saying, "every crime is a hate crime." The statement does not

Continued on next page...
Winning, cont’d.

stand up under even the most casual scrutiny - which leads us to the second question. Why would so many people be saying something that is so obviously false?

I have reached several conclusions about why people are saying "every crime is a hate crime." First, they are lying. Consequently, from this point I will no longer use polite terms for their intentional deception. The second conclusion is that their motivation for lying is hate. This is truly ironic, but the conclusion is inescapable.

The people lying about "all crimes being hate crimes" are generally speaking against legislation that would recognize hate crimes and establish specific penalties for such crimes. What do these people have to lose with the passage of hate crimes legislation? What they lose is the ability to freely act out their hate. There is an unwritten law that it is okay to bash queers. If that were replaced with a written law that said it was not okay to bash queers, then juries, judges, public prosecutors, and law enforcement officials would have a more difficult time letting gaybasher off the hook. Make no mistake about it, except for a few high profile cases such as the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, gay bashers are rarely brought to justice.

There are other unwritten laws such as the one that says lynching of black men is a good thing throughout the republic of Texas. Except for certain high profile cases like the 1998 murder of James Byrd Jr., whites need not be overly concerned about being brought to justice. Consequently, black Texans do not feel confident that whites will be brought to justice for racially motivated crimes. Here in Alaska, I think it should be fairly obvious that it is something other than greed causing some people to target certain other people with paintballs.

In general, our laws are an attempt to define which is "wrong" and establish penalties for not doing what is "right". Unfortunately, our laws have not been completely cleansed of hate and prejudice.

It is clear that some people are filled and overflowing with hate. It is also clear that they have a particular interest in retaining the unwritten laws that enable them to act out their hate. If they didn’t feel they were losing something, they would not oppose restrictions on the free exercise of hate. Make no mistake about it - that is what "hate crimes" legislation is about. The unwritten laws encourage the free exercise of hate. Hate crimes legislation would simply correct the situation by establishing that these acts are wrong.

Remember this whenever you hear reich-speak about "every crime being a hate crime.”

transVIEW
by Teresa McPherson

Why I Don’t Come Out Anymore

I came out as a lesbian in 1997. I dissolved my long-time stale heterosexual marriage, proudly placed my girlfriend’s photo on my desk at work, combed the scanty "Lesbian Studies" section at Barnes and Noble, and began attending lesbian functions in our community.

I felt brave at times and a little scared at other times, but it just felt so “right.” I knew a few people at work were whispering about me, but I felt proud that I wasn’t hiding my newfound identity. Occasionally I got spooked and played my version of the pronoun game: gender-neutral terms like “sweetie” or “date.”

But most of the time, coming out and being out felt very right.

When I met my current partner, who has since become my husband, I got even better at genderless speech. Even before he transitioned from female to male, I had learned to avoid pronouns altogether—if I couldn’t get it right (yet), I at least wasn’t going to get it wrong.

And I learned to keep my private life to myself at work. There’s so much misinformation out there about transsexuals. I was still learning what transgenderism meant; I didn’t feel ready to explain it to heterosexuals.

So I eventually quit coming out as lesbian altogether, since I was living with a partner who appeared increasingly male. I talked about my relationship with a select few at work. Mostly I just let people think what they wanted.

My partner and I married last November. A coworker who attended my wedding told me a woman at work asked “What did she do with her girlfriend?” after seeing my name in the marriage license listing in the newspaper. My coworker told her, “that was a long time ago,” leaving the woman to assume it had been a phase. That stung.

It wasn’t a phase. I don’t find men attractive and I don’t feel heterosexual, even though my new husband is legally male. I married Danny because he’s not like other men. His history is different, richer and distinctly more complex from having lived 38 years as a genetic female. If he wasn’t transsexual, we wouldn’t be married.

I rarely come out anymore because to do so requires work. It means I have to explain my relationship, my partner, and spend precious energy trying to educate people who may never get it anyway. A transsexual woman we know explains it this way: each day you get a cup of energy. Some days it stretches far enough to educate people; other days you must reserve your energy for yourself.

Another reason I don’t come out is that to do so requires that I “out” my husband, who worked very hard to be regarded as the person he is inside. It’s just not worth it. So I let people

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assume I’m het. Sometimes I don’t like the way that feels—like when a lesbian couple walks by us in the supermarket and we’re invisible, just another heterosexual couple picking up a few groceries on the weekend.

I like to believe that sometimes, though, they stare at us a few seconds longer, not quite able to put their finger on it but certain there’s something unusual about us...

Danny used to notice lesbian-looking women staring at him and he’d say with a sigh, “I think she made me.” That rarely happens now, but it does occasionally because lesbians have a sixth sense about this stuff.

And so I don’t come out at work anymore out of respect for my marriage partner and because as a society, we have a long way to go before people will accept that gender occurs in the head, not between the legs. Until people meet a transsexual person and learn that person’s story, they won’t buy it, maybe not even then.

Some days I’m willing to be part of that learning process; other days I need my private space. And those are the days I’m grateful that I share that private space with a wonderful person who respects my needs and believes that I, too, am who I say I am: a lesbian happily married to a great transgendered guy. ▼

**legal CORNER**

*by Lanae R. Austin*

Innovative lawyer, practicing aggressive strategies when necessary, always reasonable and in touch with you, the client.

**Question: Do you have any legal advice for someone getting divorced whose partner does not yet know they are gay?**

In answering this question, I am assuming that the parties have children and that’s why there is a concern regarding one of the parents being gay. When I have clients who come to see me that are in the process of getting in divorce and have children, I give them the same advice regarding their children and ultimate custodial arrangements for their children whether they are gay or straight. For clarification, let’s assume that the gay spouse is the husband. Legally, it doesn’t matter whether it’s the husband or wife who is gay. Now, in answering this question, I must also address to possible scenarios.

One: husband and wife have children and are getting in divorce. Wife does not currently have a girlfriend but has come to realize that she is a lesbian and no longer wants to be in the marriage.

Two: husband and wife have children and are getting a divorce. Wife currently has a girlfriend and an active relationship with the girlfriend.

The reason I set out these two different situations is because it doesn’t really matter whether or not one of the parents is a lesbian or gay parent. What matters is how any new relationship affects the children. I give people this exact same advice whether they are homosexual or heterosexual. It is not the issue of the sexuality of the parent that may affect the children. Rather, the issue is how a divorce, coupled with one or more of the parents jumping into another relationship, may ultimately affect the child. For example, it is commonly known that during the stages of the divorce, the children, depending upon their ages, may be quite traumatized by the event. So, the greater number of variables that are inserted into the picture, the greater the potential for additional stress and strain on the children.

For a greater understanding of how the Alaska Supreme Court views lesbian relationships see SNE v. RLB, 699 P.2d 825 (Alaska 1985). In that case, the Father moved for a change of legal custody in the best interests of the child, contending that Mother was a lesbian with radical political views, that she was emotionally unstable, and that he was in fact the child’s primary parent and custodian. The superior court awarded custody to Father. The Supreme Court reversed and remanded the case back to the Superior Court. In doing so, the Supreme Court stated: “Simply put, it is impermissible to rely on any real or imagined social stigma attaching to Mother’s status as a lesbian.” Cf. Palmere v. Sidoti, 466 U.S. 429, 104 S.Ct. 1879, 80 L.Ed.2d 421 (1984). The Supreme Court further noted in a foot note: “The only nexus found by the superior court between Mother’s sexual preference and a possible adverse effect on the child related to the likely duration of Mother’s current relationship. The superior court found that this relationship might be less stable and longlasting than Father’s most recent marriage. However, this was essentially con-

*Continued on next page...*
lection by the court, since there was no evidence Mother’s relationship was not committed. Instead, the court relied on its own unsupported opinion that homosexual relationships are unstable and usually of short duration.” The Supreme Court concluded by stating, “Consideration of a parent’s conduct is appropriate only when the evidence supports a finding that a parent’s conduct has or reasonably will have an adverse impact on the child and his best interests.” See Horutz v. Horutz, 560 P.2d 397, 401-402 (Alaska 1977).

In summary, a parent, no matter what their sexuality, who is involved in a new relationship while going through a divorce, and is possibly facing a custodial battle, should be discreet, cautious, and first and foremost keep their children’s well-being at heart. One should always be careful not to expose her children to a new relationship no matter what the sexuality is if that exposure is going to harm or upset the children in any way. The children may need therapy and/or counseling to help them adjust to mom and dad’s new life and to help them adjust to any new partners that mom or dad will most likely eventually have. The most important thing to remember when going through a custodial battle is that your children are No. 1 and that you may have to sacrifice some of your own needs while going through a divorce in order to meet the needs of your children. This is the standard that the court will apply when determining custody, and it is the greatest standard that any parent can apply in their own lives in regard to their children.

Lanae R. Austin

Send Questions To: lanae@alaskanattorney.com
For More Information: www.alaskanattorney.com

SEX in Anchorage

BY Pete Gregson

Finding Mr.... Right.

There seems to me to be an epidemic in Anchorage of lost souls who, despite their best and most frantic efforts, cannot seem to find anyone with whom to enter into a relationship. This group is just a tad bit bigger than those poor souls who go through relationship after relationship because they just cannot find the right person. Some blame the smallness of our community, others blame the gene pool, while the rest blame fate for denying them their true love. But all of them claim that they are desperate for true love, for a soul mate with whom to grow old.

Now, in case you are wondering, these folks come in all ages and in all shapes, sizes, and colors. These are not just the hard to place, but also the hard to misplace. It seems that everyone in Anchorage is looking for someone, but no one is finding anyone. Anchorage, according to many that I know, is a hard city in which to find a date, much less a significant other.

Why is it that Anchorage is a dateless city for so many of us queers? Can a city of 200,000 really be that bereft of dateable bodies? Are we such a rarefied group of men and women that it takes a saint or a cover model to meet our standards?

I know what part of the problem is because I faced it myself recently. Last Friday night I was at Anchorage’s finest gay dance club propping up my intoxicated buddy and making eyes at a cute boy who was very obviously waiting for someone to talk to him. Yet every time I started to venture over, yet another man came by to ask me if he could have my last flavored condom (absolutely not since there are plenty of free condoms in the bar on top of the cigarette machine—two sins in one). Finally, someone did talk to the patient guy that I couldn’t find time to talk to, and minutes later they left together (to get breakfast, I’m sure).

Was I really so busy that I couldn’t talk to someone new? Not really. My problem was that out of 317 people in the bar that night, I knew 312 of them. Did I really want to risk a turndown in front of someone so many people who knew me? Not really. It is hard to meet new people in front of 312 of your closest bar acquaintances. It is even more difficult if it is someone you might be really interested in getting to know, someone you may want to keep. Our small community means that so many of our dating rituals are done in a fishbowl. No offense, but maybe I don’t want all of the other fish to know who I’m swimming with. But, in Anchorage, it is hard to hide, and it is certainly hard to find a way to meet new people when everyone you know is watching. Anonymous-ville we are not.

Yet there is a bigger problem than just finding a way to score love in Anchorage without the participation of our entire GLBT population. I think we expect too much. I mean, it is fine to have standards, but will we really find someone who just stepped off of the cover of “Jock” or who just did a guest spot as Brian’s newest acquisition on “Queer As Folk”? I have a friend who had to be wooed by his current boyfriend for longer than normal because my friend was afraid the guy was not quite what he wanted. Now, they are in love, and my friend is glad he took a chance on someone “not quite right.” I have another friend who catalogues his boyfriend’s faults, certain that one day, the catalogue will be full. He is probably right. If we are sure love will fail, it often will.

Does our gay culture ask us to hold out for a superman or a superwoman? Do all gay men really look like Will and Jack? Do
we have to be blissfully in love and in the perfect relationship? You know, the one that looks like all of the perfect straight relationships to which we are supposed to aspire. Moreover, in a small city such as ours, where we often know one another before we date one another, is the person really perfect once we know them? Doesn’t perfection only apply to strangers?

I think it takes courage to date and to build a relationship in this town. First you have to get through the very public cruising and flirting rituals. Then, you have to make sure your expectations are in check. And finally, you have to be willing to accept that perfection, in any form, is not really going to happen. In a town this size, perfection is hard to come by. You have to accept your partner, warts and all. If you really want to be in a relationship, you have to work at it and make it work.

Some people think that queers don’t do well with long-term relationships anyway. Some think we are better off drifting from one relationship to another, leaving after the newness and the perfect shine have worn off. Maybe they are right, or maybe they have it right for their own lives. But if you want a long-term relationship, if you hope for love everlasting, take heart.

One of the best gay men it has been my privilege to know and one of the stars of our own GLBT community is currently nursing his mate of over twenty years through a terminal illness. He told me that it took compromise and understanding to make it through their relationship. Are either of these men perfect? No. Are they still in the infatuation stage that so many of us believe is true love? No. Instead, like all of us, they are two flawed individuals, each with his own foibles, who over the years, built a love that was based on shared space and memories, shared experiences, and an abiding trust that the other would be there. They took a chance on one another. For them, it has meant everything.

Maybe for those of us who seek romance and love, there is a lesson Tom and Al can teach us. Take a chance on someone, no matter what preconceived notions you might have about them, and then give the relationship time to work. Maybe, if you give it a shot, if you work at it, rather than waiting for the perfect man or woman to fall into your lap, something wonderful will happen, and you will still be there for one another over twenty years later.

And, if not, there is always the fishbowl.
Letter to the Editor

I would like to thank Michael A. Haase for his submission of the Michelangelo Signorile "Hate Crimes" article. This was one of the best articles I've read in a long time on World attitudes towards our community. Even though I enjoy the local flavor of our community, I would like to see more on the National and World level. If sponsorship is needed for this I would be more than happy to contribute.

Chris Pearson

Renowned Author Donates Books to the GLCCA

I was pleasantly surprised to receive an e-mail from Patricia Nell Warren, a respected author who has written several best selling classics about the lives of gay men. She heard about our new Gay Lesbian Community Center in Anchorage on an e-mail list we both belong to and decided that she wanted to help, so she is sending a box of books for the library section. Having met her on more than one occasion when she attended Gay Pride in Palm Springs, CA., I can say that she is a genuinely open and caring person. This gift only serves to further prove the point. Please consider sending her a note of thanks @ wildcatprc@aol.com

Michael A. Haase

Serial Monogamy: Breakfast of Champions
Or Perhaps
Stereotype Unto Others as You Would Have Them Stereotype Unto You

After reading Pete Gregson's "Sex in Anchorage" column and the accompanying counterpoint by Jim Mohr, I felt both writers were missing the big picture. I am more accustomed to writing responses to reich-speak and the like, but I shall endeavor to be respectful as I fill in what I see as significant oversights by the previous writers.

I think both writers ignored what is perhaps the majority relationship model for gay men. That model is probably best described as serial monogamy. Once this model is acknowledged, it adds infinite shades of color to a discussion that the writers have attempted to frame as an either-or debate.

Let's look at serial monogamy for a moment. Just what is this thing? It is just like regular monogamy in many respects. There is the idea of exclusivity, a little romance, perhaps even shared finances. The difference is that the participants will, after some period of time, go their separate ways and find new boyfriends. The part about "after some period of time" is most relevant to the current discussion. To best understand this let's try to cram it into the either-or version of the "monogamy or promiscuity" debate.

Just as a starting point we should note the many heterosexists who believe they own the word "monogamy." They refuse to acknowledge any relationship as "monogamous" unless it includes exactly one female and exactly one male. As far as I'm concerned, these heterosexists may board the next express handbasket headed you know where. However, if we are not going to draw the line between promiscuity and monogamy such that it excludes all same-sex relationships, then just where shall we draw it? I imagine most people would describe one sex partner per lifetime as monogamous. Most might even extend that to include guys who move on to new serial-relationships once every decade or
so. Starting from the other end of the spectrum, most people would describe a new boyfriend every night as “promiscuous.” But what about the guy who changes boyfriends every couple of years? During a lifetime that might mean a dozen or more sex partners. Is this “promiscuity,” or is it not? How about a guy who has a new and temporary “love of my life” every six months? Is this monogamy or is it not? Different people are going to give different answers to these questions. It should be clear that tidy little labels like “promiscuous” or “monogamous” do not adequately describe serial monogamists. It is also my observation that serial monogamists far outnumber those at the extreme ends of the spectrum. Therefore they should be central to the discussion, not ignored.

Serial monogamy is not the only relationship model overlooked by Mr. Gregson and Mr. Mohr. There is an impolite term used to describe guys who get together for sexual encounters, but don’t have any connection between those encounters. I won’t use the term here. However, you will likely recognize the pattern. Guys fitting this relationship model will have some number of buddies that they call on as the mood strikes. Their associations generally involve much less in the way of commitment than the stereotypical monogamist. But unlike the “promiscuous” relationship model we’ve been talking about, this model involves mostly repeat encounters with the same guys. You may be asking what bearing this has on the current discussion. The answer is simple. These sex buddies represent another group that doesn’t fit neatly under either of the two labels provided by Mr. Gregson and Mr. Mohr. In fact these sex buddies don’t really fit anywhere along the spectrum that I described above. Consequently, we must assume that they represent an entirely new dimension in the range of human sexual expression.

With all that said, I’m now going to share the thing that peeved me enough to respond to these writers. In my opinion they are creating artificial divisions where none should exist. None of us are that far from being like someone else along the continuum of sexual expression. If we all want the freedom to be ourselves and to be free of the judgments of others, then why should some of us be so intent on labeling and stereotyping? What about the golden rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you? If you don’t want to be labeled and stereotyped, then don’t label and stereotype!

I should like to see this particular discussion end so that we can all get on with the pursuit of happiness and all that jazz. We need only acknowledge that what brings us happiness might not be exactly the same thing that brings happiness to the next guy (or gal). Besides, there are quite enough heterosexists drawing artificial divisions between people. Why should any of us help them?

Talmadge W. Bailey
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Welcome to my new column! Each month I will be sharing with you the current news about the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, the Home of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgendered Individuals, and Our Allies (GLCCA).

During our first week of being open, 136 people visited the GLCCA (not including the estimated 300+ who attended our Grand Opening Celebration!). Obviously, this shows there is a great need in our community for such a center. Many people have come to “check it out”, but lots have stayed to hang out, watch a video, read a magazine or book, or socialize. It is proving already to be the “Home” of our community, as the GLCCA Advisory Board intended during the planning stages.

Our library has doubled since opening, with book donations coming in almost daily. We have received another donation of a large bookcase, which has really helped, but the bookshelves are quickly getting full. Who knew all the resource books and lesbian novels you all were stashing in your homes! (Thank Goddess for the Women's Bookstore!) Currently, our library is a resource library, meaning nothing can be “checked out” or removed from the GLCCA. You may read or view or listen to anything you wish while at the GLCCA. However, we are currently working with a volunteer, who is willing to set up a library system for us, so we may have a lending library several months down the road.

The GLCCA received the generous assistance of 12 staff volunteers and 5 paid staff of 4A’s to work at the center to keep it open 7 days a week, but we need more staff to insure proper coverage with at least 2 staff members for each 3-hour shift. Currently, there are several shifts (evening and weekend shifts) that only have 1 volunteer to staff the center. If you can find 3 hours per week to give back to your community by staffing the GLCCA, please contact me at the center 929-GLBT(4528). I work there Sundays 12-6, or you can leave a message for me with the staff person answering the phone. If you stop by the GLCCA, ask the staff person for a Volunteer Survey, fill it out and leave it for me. I will get back to you on Sundays. We plan to have another staff training (it only takes 4 hours!) on a Saturday afternoon in early March.

Due to the overwhelming support of in-kind donations received at the GLCCA, we are almost completely furnished. We have even been given 2, 3 and sometimes 4 of the same thing! To try to eliminate this, we’d like to ask that you contact the GLCCA with your intent to donate an item to be sure we still need that, or see if someone else has already donated that needed item. (We certainly don’t need 4 TVs and 3 fax machines!) For those of you still wishing to purchase an item to donate to the GLCCA, here is our current wish list.

Wish List:
Photocopy Machine (preferably a small new one or one in good working condition)
Postage Meter
5 computer desk chairs
Large Coat Rack (preferable free standing, but wall-mounted is OK)
Small heavy safe (or locked donation box we can attach to the wall that can’t be removed)
IBM compatible color printer for the computer
10 clipboards
Letter size hanging folders with plastic tabs
Board games and playing cards

Of course, cash donations are always welcome! (And please read Jim Mohr’s article in this issue about the cool GLCCA Adopt-A-Day program!) Please bring your checks to the GLCCA during office hours (Mon-Fri 3-9pm, Sat 12-9pm, Sun 12-6pm) or mail them to Identity, Inc. Please be sure to put “GLCCA” in the memo line of your check, so Identity will know which program to apply your donation to. Checks can be mailed to Identity, Inc. P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99502-0070.

Thank you all for your tremendous support! Welcome Home!
THANK YOU ANCHORAGE!

The Board of Directors for Identity, Inc. would like to thank the entire GLBTA community of Anchorage for their support during our recent Grand Opening for the new Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. Over 300 people came to check out the new Center during the three hours of the Grand Opening. We know everyone is excited about this great new social and meeting space for Anchorage.

Our biggest thanks and our utmost gratitude go to the GLCCA Advisory Board who worked so long and hard to make this Center a reality. Susannah Morgan, Frank Tan, Mary Parker, Herman Cohen, Pete Keese, Wendy Parsons, Phyllis Rhodes, Scott Turner, Diana Wolf, and the Co Chairs Jim Mohr and Laura Goss. Look what all of your wonderful work has done for our community. Thank you!

To the Grand Opening committee of Jim Mohr, Pete Gregson, and especially Phyllis Rhodes (who did so much to make sure everything was perfect), our thanks. What a great day it was.

To all of the people who spoke and entertained: Jan Richardson, Kippy Lan, Jim Mohr, Laura Goss, Victoria Shaver, Lisa Jamieson, TMIM Eldon and Joani, CommonBond, Jane Schliitter, Chris Pearson, Steve Cook, Andrea Nenzel, and Behr Dembroski. Thank you for taking part in this wonderful opening.

Thanks to the organizations who took part and who are part of the Advisory Board: The Imperial Court, the Last Frontier Men’s Club, PFLAG, GLSEN, IMRUI, the 4-As, OPAL, and MCC.

Thanks to TMIM Mikey and Rosie for the flowers and to Stonewall’d for providing decorations. To all the folks who gave donations to the Center before it opened: Kim Acuna, Angie LaFluer, Lisa Jamieson, Stacia Baker, Michelle Morand, ME Ridder, Ruth Mitchell, Michael Hasse, Dave Powell, David Hetzel, Jean Craciun, Amy Young, Jane and Norm Schliitter, Mike Richardson, Kathleen Jones, and Chuck Hart (along with many others who did not want to be listed or who gave anonymously), thank you.

To Linda Steiner of BreakEven Productions and CommonBond for the benefit concert on Saturday night. What a great show and a great way to benefit our community. Thank you.

To the volunteers who are staffing the Center: Dave C., Tiffany L., Chuck H., Jane S., Erin E., Phyllis R., Lea M., Demara C., Stephanie R., Ruth M., Karen L., Guy J., and many others who will do so over this year. Thanks for being there for us every week.

Finally, two great big thanks. First to the Imperial Court of All Alaska and their Most Imperial Majesties, Eldon and Joani, thank you. Your donation of $2,000 on opening day was an incredible way to start the day and to get the Center going. All your support for the GLCCA and that you show the community is greatly appreciated. Thank you to you, your wonderful Board, and to your organization. Alaska is lucky to have you.

And to the 4-As and their Executive Director Andrea Nenzel, their Board of Directors, their staff, and to their "Adam and Steve" Project Coordinators, Matt Grabowy, Nathan Rivas, Zevon Dopwell, and Josh Siege, your donation of over $18,000 of staff hours is an incredible gift to the GLBT community you work so hard to serve. Thank you.

Thank you Anchorage. Enjoy your new Gay and Lesbian Community Center.


ADOPT A DAY!

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage opened its doors on Saturday, February 2, 2002 with over 300 people in attendance throughout the day. This is an extremely exciting time for our community but it is also a challenging time.

To keep the Center open for this year and beyond, it is going to require volunteers and money. The Center’s biggest expense is our monthly rent and with a new innovative program we have introduced, you can help us with that expense. This program is called Adopt A Day.

We have determined that our rent and utilities cost only $40 per day and this is where you come in. You can adopt a day by paying the Center’s rent for that day. We will then put up an announcement in the Center that this day is brought to you by and then your name will follow. With your permission, we will also print your name in the NorthView but you can choose to remain anonymous.

This is your day at the Center and everyone will know it. Stop by with friends and hang out, enjoy a movie on the TV and VCR, or play a game. You are welcome to stop by anytime but on
your day you get to show your commitment to keeping the Center open to your friends.

Another option is to purchase a day as a gift for the person who has everything. It could make a special birthday or anniversary present and it is something you know the person does not have. We can even arrange to send a card to the special someone announcing the gift.

If you would like to participate in this special program, you can stop by the Center and sign up for the program or you can call the Center at 929-GLBT (4528). We will help you pick a day not already chosen and that meets your needs.

IDENTITY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
HELP US, HELP YOU!

During the month of March, Identity is doing a month-long membership drive. Our goal is to increase our membership by at least twenty percent. We are also introducing our new membership levels with graduated levels of giving and lots of incentives for people to join or to increase their level of giving.

Why should you give to Identity? Because we are the leading GLBT nonprofit group in Alaska in terms of the scope and size of our events and projects. Identity is the proud sponsor of the new Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, Anchorage PrideFest, Alaska Pride Conference, and the Living Out Loud Youth Conference. We also sponsor the Gay and Lesbian HelpLine and the NorthView. In addition, we do smaller events such as the Winter Workshop Series, potlucks, and more. We will also sponsor this year, for the first time, the Second Chance Prom in May and the first annual Gay and Lesbian Awards of Anchorage (GALA-Anchorage) in November. We really are, in every way, improving the lives of GLBT Alaskans.

However, we need your help, for we cannot do it alone. We have recently added a part-time staff person, Laura Goss, and we have taken on the expenses of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. In addition, we continue to rely on community support to finance all of our major projects such as PrideFest and the Pride Conference. We need all of our GLBT friends in Alaska to help us by renewing their membership or by increasing their membership levels by making a monthly pledge.

We have made it easy for you to give to Identity and for you to support the GLBT community and special GLBT events. For just a few dollars a day you can join our exclusive Founder's Club by pledging $100 per month. For just a few dollars a week you can join one of our other prestigious giving levels by pledging from $10 to $50 per month. And for just a few pounds a day, you can join at our most basic membership level or sign up a friend. Anything you can do will help.

Check out our new membership levels below and mail in your new membership form (inside the front cover) and tell your friends that you are a proud member of Identity. Together, we can make Alaska a better place for all GLBT Alaskans.

$30 Red Rainbow Member: NorthView Subscription, special announcements of all Identity events, optional recognition in the NorthView, volunteer and community action opportunities.

$120 Orange Rainbow Member - $10 per month: All Red Member benefits plus special email announcements and 5% off all Identity events and merchandise.

$300 Yellow Rainbow Member - $25 per month: All Orange Member benefits plus lapel pin, invitation to a special donor functions, and 10% off all Identity events and merchandise.

$600 Green Rainbow Member - $50 per month: All Yellow Member benefits plus Identity T-shirt, invitation to all special donor functions, invitation to yearly political mixer, and 15% off all Identity events and merchandise.

$1200 Blue Rainbow Member (Founder's Club) - $100 per month: All Green Member benefits plus free admission to annual GALA Banquet, free admission to annual Alaska Pride Conference, listing in the PrideFest and GALA programs, free business card ad in the June and October editions of the NorthView, and 20% off all Identity events and merchandise.

$5000 Purple Rainbow Lifetime Member - $500 per month or five years of Blue membership: All Blue Member benefits for life.

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4th Friday Cafe
Dessert Social

A time for entertainment, event info and announcements, good conversation, and great food. Bring a dessert to share.

Begins at 7:30 PM at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center - 2110 E. Northern Lights, Suite A.

Call the GLBT Helpline at 258-4777 if you would like to help, need directions or just want more general info on this event.
The Strength of a Team
by Jim Mohr

C.G. Jung wrote, "I do not forget that my voice is but one voice, my experience a mere drop in the sea, my knowledge no greater than the visual field in a microscope, my mind's eye a mirror that reflects a small corner of the world."

There is a lot of truth in this statement and it is this truth that makes it a necessity for people to join together as a team to create change, to implement new ideas, and to strive towards success. As individuals, we can achieve a tremendous amount, yet there are times when individual effort is not sufficient. There comes a time when individuals realize that a group of individuals united with a common purpose can effect more change than one person alone. For this reason, I am asking anyone who is interested to consider running for a position on the Identity Board of Directors.

There are five open seats on the Board and we are looking for individuals who want to bring their voice, their experiences, and their knowledge to the Board. It is only through maintaining a representative sample of our community, that Identity can meet the needs of the GLBTA community in Anchorage and we want your voice to join us.

The nomination form is on the next page. Please look it over and give some serious consideration to running for the Board. We meet once a month and everyone normally takes on the responsibility of one committee. Our projects include the Gay and Lesbian Helpline, Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, NorthView, 4th Friday Cafe, PrideFest, Pride Conference, the Living Out Loud Youth Conference, and more.

You can contact Jim Mohr at JMohr1@aol.com or at 229-8256 for more information.

The elections will be held during our annual membership meeting in April. The meeting will be held at the same time as our fourth Friday Cafe which is April 26, 2002. It will start at 6:30 at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2100 East Northern Lights Blvd., Suite A.
IDENTITY BOARD NOMINATION FORM

Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________
Mailing Address ___________________________ Email ___________________________
Zip Code ___________________________

Please fill out the following questions. The first four questions will be placed in the NorthView so people who are going to vote get to know you. You may use a separate sheet of paper to answer the questions.

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

2. Please state your reasons for wanting to serve on the Identity Board.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

3. What would you like to see Identity accomplish during your term?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

5. Personal time available for board responsibilities.

__________________________________________________________________________

Please return this form to Identity, Inc, PO Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520
Help us keep this section current!
Please send new and updated listings to:
thenorthview@hotmail.com

Adam and Steve
Social group for young gay, bi, and questioning men. Weekly activities and fun community events, many taking place at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Also offers the monthly M-group, a fun workshop on sex and dating. Run by a Core Group (meets every first and third Tuesday at the GLCCA at 7 PM) who plan all activities. Come meet new young queer men in a safe and supportive environment. Call the infoline at 907-263-2081 or visit the website at: www.adamandsteve.org.

Alaska 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, 907-263-2050. Statewide: 1-800-478-AIDS.

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

Alaska Women's Resource Center
AWRC provides a variety of integrated services to meet the needs of women and children in our community. Our programs include: Information & Referral, Assessment, Vocational, Children's, Family Support (Parent Education & Pregnancy Related Counseling), Substance Abuse Treatment (Outpatient & Residential), and Domestic Violence Counseling. We also have a strong Volunteer Program with a variety of opportunities. If we can help you, give us a call. If you know someone who needs our help, give them our number. In Anchorage or statewide 907-276-0528 or www.awrconline.org. AWRC is located at 813 D Street. Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

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. 907-566-ACR1 AlaskansforCivilRights@yahoo.com.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Gay, Joyous, & Free
AA group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered individuals and their allies. Open non-smoking meeting Mondays only 7 PM to 8 PM at the Alano Club, 3103 Spenard (the old Wave building).

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3201 Turnagain St. GLBT-friendly liberal religious church, where people of all beliefs are welcome. Information line: 907-248-0715. See Anchorage Daily News Saturday religion page for Sunday forum and service speakers and topics.

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

Arctic Bears
First Friday of every month. Fairbanks 907-479-8680.

Aquarian Foundation
Services Wednesday 8 pm and Sunday 11 am, 8500 LaViento Drive, Anchorage. 907-349-995

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

Breast and Cervical Health Check
A cancer screening service offered By the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Funding for this program is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Free breast and cervical cancer screening is
Breast and Cervical Health Check, cont’d.
available to women ages 18 - 64, who have no insurance or
whose insurance does not cover these services. Anchorage
269-8069, statewide toll-free number is 1-800-410-6266.

Celebration of Change
A performance of women artists for women. If you would
like to perform or volunteer, please call 566-3783 or
celebrationofchange@email.com for more information.

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

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. 907-360-0340 or
907-830-4497.

Frontrunners/Walkers
Meets May thru Oct. at Westchester Lagoon. All levels of
runners/walkers/bladers and dogs welcome! Tues. at 6:30
PM and Sat. at 10 AM. Call Peter: 907-337-3682.
Email: anchoragefrotnrunners@hotmail.com
Web: www.frotnrunners.org/clubs/anchorage.

Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage
(GLCCA)
The Home of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgendered
Individuals and Our Allies. The GLCCA is a safe for
GLBTAs to meet, hang out, hold and/or attend a meeting
or group, or use the resource library or computers. Located at
2110 East Northern Lights Blvd., Suite A (between the
Burger Cache & Don Jose’s). The GLCCA is staffed by
trained volunteers 7 days a week. Current hours of operation
are Mon thru Fri - 3 PM to 9 PM, Sat - 12 PM to 9 PM, Sun
- 12 PM to 6 PM.
You can reach the GLCCA at 907-929-GLBT.
E-mail: glccanach@yahoo.com.

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

Gay and Lesbian Helpline, cont’d.
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 907-258-4777 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, 907-562-7161 or
hillman@alaska.net.
Fairbanks: for more information contact Lisa Slayton or
Jeff Walters c/o GLSEN Fairbanks P.O. Box 85315
Fairbanks, AK 99708 907-457-2787.

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 AAUF, 3201 Turnagain. 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)
The ICOAA is a non-profit organization formed in 1972. They
do extensive fund-raising for several diverse groups in
and around Alaska. The ICOAA sponsors the Eklutna
Picnic Memorial Day weekend, the Fur Rondy parade float
for the GLBT community, Pride on the Parkstrip, Coronation
Labor Day weekend and numerous other events. Contact
Information: PO Box 104032 Anchorage, AK 99510-4032.
907-622-2218.
Web: www.icoaa.org
E-mail: Eldon - emperor29@icoaa.org
Joani - empress29@icoaa.org

IMRU2
Anchorage gay youth group for ages 12-18. 907-566-4678
(IMRU). Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 PM, at 845 K street on
the Park Strip (Mendel & Associates Office).

Please send updated information to:
thennorthview@hotmail.com
 Clubs, groups, organizations

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 907-452-4222.

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)
A predominately gay/lesbian/bi/trans Christian Church. Sunday services at 2:00 PM at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke (just east of 24th Ave. & Boniface Pkwy) 907-258-5266 or email LOGMCC@ aol.com.

The Last Frontier Men's Club
Social club for the Levi/leather/bear community. Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month for a brief business meeting & potluck social, 6:00 PM, at Mad Myrna's, 530 E. 5th Avenue. In addition, we hold monthly "Dinner Night Out" and several campouts throughout the summer which are open to the community at large. Check our website for complete information and list of community events at: www.tlfmc.com/calendar.htm. TLFMC, P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK. 99502-2054, 907-338-3862. E-mail: info@tlfmc.com. Web: www.tlfmc.com.

The Last Frontier Women's Club
A pansexual social group for people with an interest in leather and the leather lifestyle. Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM, for a brief business meeting and social at The Raven. We hold other social events that are open to the entire community. For more information please write: TLFWMC, P.O. Box 203204, Anchorage, AK. 99502. Phone: 907-222-1509 or 907-338-3862.

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 4:00 PM, Park Lanes, Anchorage. Please call to confirm time and venue. 907-561-8744 or milt@alaska.net.

OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) & Travel 50
Two groups for women over 50. rosebethlevno@hotmail.com or 907-868-2662.

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 email@outnorth.org. Online calendar: www.outnorth.org.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) of Anchorage
Holds its monthly meeting at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain Street. Call 907-566-1813 for a recorded message.

PrideFest 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 907-332-0362 or email prideonthepark@yahoo.com.

Queer Rap
Start your week off right. Weekly conversations among GLBT persons about issues that affect us and our community. Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2110 E. Northern Lights. 907-929-4528. Sponsored by the Four A's and the GLCCA.

RAW (Radical Arts for Women)
A non-profit group which support and promotes women in the arts. Grant funding available for artistic endeavors. 907-566-3783. RAW@admmail.net.

Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA)
12-Step program meets Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Call 907-566-1133 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
clubs, groups, organizations

Shanti of Juneau, cont’d.
Seward, Suite 200; Mail P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, Alaska 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 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: 907-586-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 1-4 PM. Anchorage: 907-278-5019.

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 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM at the Pioneer Schoolhouse at 3rd & Eagle. Contact Katie for more info at: 907-278-9174.

Women’s Music Fest

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 907-278-5179 for more info. E-mail: Jenkout@aol.com.

Publications

Alaska Women Speak
A publication by Alaskan women on topics for Alaskan women. They can be reached at 907-696-0924.

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 907-561-7737.

The Klondyke Kontakt (The KK)
This is a every-other-monthly newsletter by and for the

The Klondyke Kontakt, cont’d.
lesbian community in Anchorage and dykes in the Bush. For more information e-mail at: kk@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, AK, 99802-1452 or phone 907-586-GAYS.

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

E-mail lists

Fairbanks Pride
http://www.e-groups.com/subscribe/fairbankspride
A mailing list for information concerning Fairbanks & Interior Alaska’s GLBT community, emphasizing in announcements, politics, information, etc.

Anchorage Pride
http://www.e-groups.com/subscribe/anchoragepride
A mailing list for information concerning Anchorage & Southcentral Alaska’s GLBT community. Primarily event announcements.

Alaska Gay Discussion
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskagaydiscussion
This is an opportunity to discuss gay issues relevant to Alaska, and provides a calendar of events. Participation available via website and/or e-mail. For more info contact Michael Haase at haase_m@msn.com.

Alaska GLBT News
alaskanlgbtnews@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: alaskanlgbtnews@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.
ongoing events

Mondays
(A) Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, The Alano Club, 3103 Spenard (the old Wave building)
(A) Lesbian Social Group, reviews films & books, 1st, 3rd & 5th. Inquire 868-2662

Tuesdays
(A) Righteous Babes Radio Show, 7pm, KRUA-FM 88.1
(A) SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous) 8pm, 566-1133
(A) PFLAG, 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 pm, AUUF
(A) Frontrunners/Walkers: Meets at Westchester Lagoon May through October, 6:30 pm 337-3683 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 Lori 263-2050
(J) Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
(J) "Women's Prerogative," KTOO-FM Wednesdays, 9-10 pm.
(F) Dames on the Dial, KSUA-FM 91.5, 10 pm - Midnight.
(A) GLSEN, second Wednesday, 7pm, John Thomas Building 3rd & Cordova
(A) IMRU2: every other Wednesday, 5:30 - 7 PM 845 K Street, for more info leave message: 907-566-IMRU

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.

Fridays
(A) Lunch, 4As, noon-1 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102, Lori 263-2050. Everyone invited—HIV+, volunteers and friends.
(A) Midnight Suns Gay AA Meeting, 7:30 pm-9 pm, 3020 Minnesota (Z-Plaza) & Benson.
(A) Identity Fourth Friday Potluck, 6:30 pm, AUUF.

Fridays, cont'd.
(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) Identity Workshop Series
2nd Saturday of the month, December through May. More info: 907-258-4777
(A) SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 12 noon, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
(A) Frontrunners/Walkers: Meets at Westchester Lagoon May through October, 10:00 am, 337-3683 or anchoragefrontrunners@hotmail.com
(J) PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Mendenhall Library conference room.
(F) Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd, 9 pm – 3:30 am, 150 Farmer's Loop.
(A) Woman's Sing-A-Long, third Saturday, 6:00 PM, 1351 Early View Drive. Contact: wgparsonsak@worldnet.att.net

Sundays
(A) Metropolitan Community Church Services, 2pm Sunday at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke
(A) White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, 11 am Sunday 1047 L Street, 258-1851
(F) PFLAG, third Sunday, 4-5:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 4448 Pike's Landing Road
(A) Parents Support Group (Metropolitan Community Church), second Sunday, 2-4 PM at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, (907) 727-0808
(A) Northern Exposure bowling league, Park Lanes, 4:00 pm 561-8744 for more information
Calendar

March

Sunday, March 3

MCC Service
2:00 PM
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
2311 Pembroke
(every Sunday)
info: www.geocities.com/logmcc

Northern Exposure: The Gay Bowling League
Park Lanes at 4:00 PM
Steve Saccheti, ssach@alaska.net
(every Sunday)

White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism
Services at 11:00 AM
1047 L Street
(907) 258-1851
(every Sunday)

Tuesday, March 5

The Last Frontier Women's Club
1st Tuesday of each month
The Raven 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 6

IMRU2 Youth Group
Group for GLBT youth, ages 13-18
5:30 - 7:00 PM
845 K Street, (907) 566-IMRU
(every Wednesday)

Karaoke
8:30 PM
Mad Myrna's (every Wednesday and Thursday)

HIV Testing
2:30 - 4:30 PM
4A's offices, 1057 Fireweed, Suite 102
(907) 263-2050
(every Wednesday)

Thursday, March 7

Karaoke
8:30 PM
Mad Myrna's
(every Wednesday and Thursday)

Thursday, March 7

Country Dancing
Mad Myrna's
7:00 - 8:00 PM
(every Thursday)

Friday, March 8

Friday Night Divas
9:00 PM
Mad Myrna's (weekly)

Sunday, March 10

TLFMC
Club meeting and potluck
Bring a dish, bring a friend
2nd Sunday of each month
Mad Myrna's 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 16

Woman's Sing-A-Long
1351 Early View Drive, 6:00 PM
wgparsonsak@hotmail.com
(third Saturday of each month)

February 22, Friday

Fourth Friday Cafe: Dessert Social
An evening of fun and friendship. There is a time for entertainment (poetry, song, etc.), for event info and announcements, and we will sample great desserts. Bring a dessert to share.
Doors open at 7 PM at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 2110 East Northern Lights, Suite A (907) 929-GLBT for more info

Tuesday, March 26

Identity, Inc. Board Meeting
Gay and Lesbian Community Center
2110 East Northern Lights, Suite A
(907) 929-GLBT
"Quality of Life is our Goal"

725 Northway Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

(800) 262-8055  279-8055  (Fax) 279-8054

Karen Marcey
Registered Pharmacist

Danita Fischbach
Registered Pharmacist

⊕ Home Infusion Services  ⊕ Free Delivery
⊕ Oral Prescription Drugs  ⊕ One-on-one counseling in a confidential environment
⊕ Insurance Billing

A quiet, confidential, knowledgeable environment to get prescription medications and information. Information available on HIV/AIDS medications, clinical trials, parallel drug protocols, indigent-patient assistance programs and insurance billing.

QUESTIONS WELCOME.