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Publication Information

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

We welcome articles and letters from individuals and organizations. Whenever possible submit electronic files (via e-mail) in PC (recent versions of Word, please) or text format. All contributions must be signed, but names will be withheld or pseudonyms used upon request. The North View reserves the right to edit as necessary and to decline any article submitted. The North View does not accept editorial copy or advertising that is sexist, racist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

All articles must be received by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the North View dated the following month (i.e. by March 10, we'll need April information).

The North View

c/o Identity, Inc.
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Anchorage, Alaska, 99520-0070
(907)258-4777
E-mail: thenorthview@hotmail.com
Identity’s Annual Membership Meeting

Identity will be hosting its annual membership meeting on Friday, April 26 at 6:30 PM. It will be held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 2110 E. Northern Lights near the corner of Lake Otis. It is in the building located between Burger Cache and Don Jose’s.

This is during our Fourth Friday Dessert Social so please bring a dessert to share. At this meeting, we will present a year-end report about our activities and growth during the past year and the ideas we have for the future.

Most importantly, we will have elections for our director positions. All members of Identity are entitled to a vote. If you are interested in running for office or want more information about being a board member, please email us at identity@alaska.net or call us at 258-4777.

See you there!
Remember to bring a dessert if you can.
Members Running for an Identity Board Seat

The elections for positions on the Board of Directors of Identity, Inc. will be held on April 26, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. during the Fourth Friday Dessert Social. The social and the elections occur at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage located at 2110 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite A. (929-GLBT) Please join us and bring a special dessert to share.

All candidates had to respond to the same questions and their responses follow. These descriptions are provided to assist you in choosing a candidate. If you are unable to come to the Center to vote, you can mail in the ballot enclosed with this NorthView. All ballots must be received by April 21, 2002 to be counted. Only Identity members may vote in the election. The ballot has been provided on a separate sheet of paper and is only included in copies of the NorthView that go to our members. Of course, we would love to see you at the social. The candidates are not listed in any particular order. Now, on to the candidates.

Susannah Morgan:

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

I have spent my life in nonprofit organizations. I am currently the Executive Director of Food Bank of Alaska, and I have an MBA in Nonprofit Management. I have also worked at a homeless services organization in Boston, the San Francisco Food Bank, a nonprofit Montessori School, and a children’s theater. My partner, Jocelyn, is a professor at UAA; we have been a couple for ten years and have known each other since 4th grade.

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

I have been involved in the GLCCA since I moved to Anchorage and served as the Site Committee Chair. I have facilitated strategic planning sessions for both Identity and the GLCCA. I believe that my background in nonprofit management will be valuable at the governance level of Identity, and I am passionate about building a strong GLBTA community in Alaska.

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

Firmly establish the GLCCA, maintain strong connections with other GLBTA organizations, and develop a strong organizational structure.

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.

I also volunteer at Out North Contemporary Art Center.

Wendy Parsons:

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

I am a 54 year old lesbian woman. I work as a school nurse in the Anchorage School District system. I have been in a relationship with my partner for 10 years. I enjoy hiking, camping, and skiing (downhill and cross-country).

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

I wish to give my time to the cause of supporting the community. I feel being an active volunteer doing what I can and providing the skills I have will allow me to give to the community and enjoy the privilege of being a part of it.

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

Establish the community center as a viable cornerstone for our community. Continue to sponsor those events which the community can participate in for social and educational purposes.

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.

Appointed as Identity treasurer in September 2001. Representative for GLSEN to the Community Center Advisory Board. Member of GLSEN. AEA member serving as my building representative.

Pete Gregson:

1. Please provide a biographical sketch.

I have been a very active Identity volunteer for the past two years, including as an Identity Board member. I am currently the Education and Prevention Coordinator for the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4-As).

2. Please state your reasons for wanting to serve on the Identity Board.
For fame and fortune. Seriously, I want to continue to help make Identity into a strong organization (both programmatically and financially). I believe Identity is the strongest community group in Alaska when it comes to improving the lives of GLBT Alaskans. I have given serious amounts of time and money to Identity.

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

During my term I will serve as the Co-Chair of Anchorage PrideFest and as Co-Chair for the Alaska Pride Conference. I would like to see both events continue to grow and become successful. I’d like to see the Community Center with programs on a nightly basis and see it used by 30 people per day. I’d like to see Identity continue to raise money through community support and grants.

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.


Pete Keese:

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

Born and raised in small town Iowa, I went to college at the University of Iowa. I moved to Alaska in October 1995. I currently reside in Eagle River with my partner, and our two dogs.

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

I have served for different organizations in varying capacities over the past few years, and my tenure with the GLCCA has been the most fulfilling. I feel that my knowledge and resources have been best utilized there. I would like to continue my work for the GLBT community by getting more involved with Identity, and the projects within Identity.

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

In the past few years, I have seen Identity expand it reach farther and farther into the community. I would like to help Identity continue that work. I would like to see it expand beyond Anchorage, into the Valley and Eagle River. I would also like to see more joint ventures with the different GLBT organizations in and around Anchorage.

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.

- GLCCA Advisory Board, 2001 - Present
- Imperial Court Of All Alaska, 1997 - Present
- Imperial Crown Prince 2001 - 2002
- Mr. Gay Alaska 1998 - 1999
- Gay People’s Union, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 1988 - 1991

Teresa McPhearson:

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

I am 40-something lesbian feminist woman married to a FtoM transsexual man. I’ve lived in Alaska for nearly two decades and I’ve been a member of the GLBT community for five years (I’m a late bloomer). I work as a writer editor and have a grown son who lives in Arizona. I enjoy poetry, fine food and wine, and our two beautiful cats.

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

I’ve enjoyed many of the events and activities made possible by the hard-working folks of Identity, and I’d like to lend a hand.

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

Attract more women members. Continue to offer quality events and programs for our community.

4. Other volunteer service or experience you may have.

I’m relatively new at volunteer service in our community, but willing to learn from those with experience. I’m currently editing an anthology of women’s writings for Radical Arts for Women (RAW). I write articles for NORTHVIEW, KK, and an Outside newsletter called YOUR SOFFA VOICE for partners of transsexuals. My partner and I are active in Anchorage’s small transgender community and participate in workshops or interviews on transgender topics.

Kristara:

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

Continued on next page ...
Members Running for an Identity Board Seat

Kristara, cont’d.

Kristara was crowned the 17th and 26th Empress of All of Alaska in the year that was right. She has won prestigious awards all over the International Court System and is widely sought for her remarkable command performances. She spearheaded the first ever "Biking for AIDS" which raised huge amounts of money. The "Ultimate Ecstasy" was also instrumental in the development of the Breast Cancer Awareness Program, which was her platform as Empress XXVI. She has been recognized for her efforts organizing fund raising events such as "Fund for Prescription Drugs," "Pennies from Heaven," "Honolulu Marathon for Leukemia," and the million dollar "Together for Tomorrow" event for one of the local hospitals. Kristara has appeared in every form of media known to mankind and currently pens a column entitled "Behind the Face" for the Northview Newsletter. She headlined at the famed "LaCage Aux Wave" and Juneau's "Femme Fatale." She founded "Kristara In The Raw...Legends Extraordinaire" that was well received in the Alaskan community. Kristara currently hosts the cabaret "Friday Night Divas" every Friday at 9pm at Mad Myrna’s. Kristara has earned numerous titles all over the country. For years the Imperial Court of All of Alaska has granted her the title of "Advisor to their Majesties in the Field of Fashion and Glamour." She is a DIVA, who sets the standards, for all that follow.

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

As a member I could be a liaison between the Imperial Court of All of Alaska and Identity, Inc. Serving the Identity Board would also help reach the minority group of Alaska - the Transgender as well as the Asian Community.

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

- Raise more money
- Provide a better outlet of entertainment for all
- Face Forward - to let the Alaskan Community know that we exist.

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.

- Empress XVII and XXVI of all of Alaska
- Spearheaded Biking for AIDS fundraising
- Breast Cancer Research
- Providence Pennies from Heaven Fundraising
- Imperial Court of All of Alaska Board Member
- Currently CoDean of College of Monarchs
- Advisor to the reigning monarchs
- Yearly distribution of Valentine’s gift basket to Senior Citizen homes

Victor Carlson:

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

Retired superior court judge and most recently an assistant public defender in Bethel and Kotzebue. Have been an activist for gay rights for 20 years.

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

To continue the good work done up to this time by the Identity Board in establishing the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, the Gay and Lesbian Helpline, publishing the NorthView, et. al.

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

Reach out to and encourage greater participation by youth and women in our community, continue to build the financial support base to ensure the Community Center, Helpline, NorthView, et. al survive.

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.

Several years as a buddy, service on 4As Board, current service on HIV Prevention, Planning Committee, Identity Board, Helpline volunteer.

Stephanie Ruff:

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

I am an accountant with experience in non-profit and governmental agencies, has served in several volunteer and community based programs. My life continues to be a series of investigations uncovering answers for her ceaseless questions about nature and quality of life.

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

To improve human relations and the vast amount of
Members Running for an Identity Board Seat

avoidable unhappiness with which people are affected.

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

During my term I would like to see the Alaskan Community become more unified in their efforts and utilize the resources already available. Thus, streamlining and networking to improve the community services for a larger number of people, with less effort and duplication of energy.

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.

I have experience working with many non-profit organizations on a financial level. I have volunteered with Special Olympics for several years, the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, and the Gay & Lesbian Helpline, and other small gatherings in the community.

Demara Crim:

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

I have a wide range of experience in coordinating, goal formation, needs assessment, and the leadership necessary to obtain those goals and needs once they have been established. In working side by side with other volunteer staff in varied environments, I have begun a life long dream to help others. Currently I am completing a degree in Psychology and hope to continue my studies at the graduate level.

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

To be a link in a support network and in providing information on research programs and support groups as well as education and training programs for the community.

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

To organize and further develop healthy programs focusing upon weekly and/or monthly social gatherings for new and existing members of the community.

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have.

I currently volunteer my time at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, the Gay & Lesbian Helpline, the Alaska Women's Resource Center and co-facilitate a Women's Therapy Group for recovering alcoholics. I have also worked with Special Olympics.

Identity Election Ballot

Please fill out the ballot and return to:

Elections
PO Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520

The ballot must be received by April 21, 2002 to be counted. You are more than welcome to join us at the Fourth Friday Dessert Social at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage to hear the candidates talk and to vote there. This is a fun social gathering. Bring a dessert to share.

There are seven open seats and you may vote for seven (7) of the people on the ballot. Remember the candidates are not listed in any particular order. Please place an X in the box to represent your vote for that person.

[ ] Susannah Morgan
[ ] Wendy Parsons
[ ] Pete Gregson
[ ] Pete Keese
[ ] Teresa McPhearson
[ ] Kristara
[ ] Victor Carlson
[ ] Stephanie Ruff
[ ] Demara Crim
ARCTIC SOUL
by Deborah A Thompson

Empty miles of snow
Diamonds sparkling bright
Blackened fingers of the trees
Pointing in the moonlight

Savage wind blows
Frosting nose and cheeks
Silence so tender,
Silence so sweet.

Silence, silence sweeps over me.

Wash away yesterday’s yens
Flood me with tranquility
Suspend all thoughts deep untrue
Freeze the Now in blinding clarity

Silence, silence do sweep over me.
Leave me on the edge of a dream.
Alaska Sourdough Quiz

1. A Sourdough is:
   a) an Alaskan, a veteran of many seasons.
   b) A tangy yeast bread made from a carefully tended sourdough starter.
   c) All the above.

2. Everyone knows that Alaska was the 49th state admitted to the Union. What were the 48th and 50th states?

3. The cities in the first column below were the largest cities in Alaska at one time. Match the cities and the population in second column.
   1. Nome       a. Pop 3,058 (1920)
   2. Anchorage   b. Pop 12,488 (1900)

4. What Alaskan fish begins its life swimming like any normal fish, and then, as it grows, begins changing color and swimming on its side, while the eye on one side of its body moves around its head until both eyes are on the same side?

5. The United States bought Alaska from the Russians in 1867. How much did Secretary Seward agree to pay, per acre?
   a) about $100
   b) $20, in gold
   c) less than $.02

6. Who was the first governor of Alaska? (Any one of four answers would be correct)

7. Which of the following Alaska products is unlikely to weigh 80 lbs?
   a) Salmon
   b) Cabbage
   c) Halibut
   d) Mosquito

8. What foreign nation is nearest Alaska, and where is its closest point?

9. What Alaska sport fish is named for a character in Charles Dickens’ novel?

10. What are the most northern, eastern, southern and western states of the United States?

11. Where am I?
    a) True or False: It’s a shorter distance from Prudoe Bay to Anchorage than it is from Prudoe Bay to the Soviet Union.
    b) Six world famous cities are listed alphabetically below. Imagine that you had an airplane at your disposal, and could fly to each city from Anchorage via the “great circle” (shortest distance) route. Arrange them according to their distance from Anchorage, closest first.

           Honolulu
           New York
           Mexico City
           Tokyo
           London
           Miami

    12. A hunter gets up early and discovers bear tracks outside her tent. She follows the tracks 12 miles south, 17 miles east and 12 miles north, and shoots the bear. The bear collapses on the hunters tent. What color is the bear?

13. Alaska has some of the most wonderful place names – Chicken, Clam Gulch, Kanakanak, Poorman, Burnt Paw, Shishmaref, Goodnews Bay and so on. It also has some predictable ones. For the Grand prize how many Bear Creeks are there in the State (to the nearest 10)?
My first encounter with Alaska was in April, 1998. I was living at the time in Forest Park, Georgia, which is just south of Atlanta. I had just returned from a short trip to Europe. I had been to London, seen all the sights there, had travelled a bit around England (couldn't travel too much because there was a torrential rain for days) and had gone on to Paris, France and explored that beautiful, great, romantic city for some time.

I returned to Forest Park, Georgia and within days I was very B.O.R.E.D. I thought of all the places that I had dreamed of visiting, had put off visiting and the one that kept coming to mind was, of course, ALASKA! So, In April, 1998 I packed everything of value that I owned in a small, blue Mercury Tracer and set out for Alaska. Boy is that a long trip! Even just to the Canadian Border is a long trip but before I reached there I discovered there was a thing called the "Marine Highway", so I went to Bellingham, Washington, drove my car and all onto an immensely large ferry and headed to Juneau, Alaska. What a beautiful experience it was going slowly up the "Inside Passage"; mountains on either side, mist shrouded, and remembering all the Jack Londonish tales I had heard as a boy about Alaska! It wasn't until I was on my way to Juneau that I learned the ferry ONLY went to Juneau and no further and that there were no highways leading out of Juneau to the rest of Alaska! Stuck in Juneau. Yes I was for almost two months until another ferry was christened to go from Juneau to Valdez. But I loved my stay in Juneau and was surprised to find that such a small town is the capital of such a large state. But Juneau is not without its attractions. I particularly liked the blue bay there (Gastineau) with the surrounding mountains. I enjoyed camping out for weeks on the island across from Juneau and seeing first hand the wild life (including large black bears!) of Alaska. They (the bears) never bothered me and I've heard so many horror stories of peoples encounters with bears. I guess I was just lucky.

Eventually the new ferry arrived in Juneau (you can believe I was one of the first passengers onboard) and I was on my way to the "real" Alaska. The trip up was stupendous, seeing whales "blowing", icebergs and immense chunks of blue ice falling into the ocean! Also, it was quite wet with spray covering the ship at almost all times. What a beautiful sight it was coming into the harbor of Valdez the "Switzerland of Alaska". Beautiful snow topped mountains, green-green trees and blue-blue water and the wonderful people of Valdez who had come out to welcome the maiden voyage of the new ferry to Valdez.

From Valdez I drove up to Chitina, which is about one hundred miles north of Valdez and way, way out in the country, or "bush" as they say here. I loved it! And it was there I encountered my first grizzly bear. I was camping out near the small small town of Chitina, when early one morning, when I was having my first cup of coffee a HUGE brown bear (a grizzly) came down for a drink to the small pond that I was near. I must admit I froze. It WAS huge. But fortunately the bear wasn't interested in me for some reason and decided to go on. Whew!

After camping out for about a month near Chitina I decided to "go to town" and see the beautiful metropolis of Anchorage! I called ahead and made arrangements to stay at a "hostel" in Anchorage and although it did say that it catered to backpackers the place was one step above a flop house. What a dump! But it was cheap! The times I had there with a great, colorful, international group but....that's for next time. 'Til then I am...your friend...Barry.
It will be 20 years ago this summer when I arrived in Alaska. The summer of ’82 was one of the best Alaska has had in it’s rotating history of very rainy to dry and sunny ones. That summer it was exceptionally warm and dry with lots of sunny days. My family and I spent every weekend exploring the different parts of the state you could get to by road or plane. This was during the end of Anchorage’s third Room Time when the North Slope oil development and pipeline construction was still happening.

I was married back then with two small children. My ex-husband was an Alaska Airlines pilot flying out of the Seattle base. He was offered a temporary position as co-pilot flying out of the Anchorage base for the summer and we decided to take it. All my life I had known people who worked in Alaska and heard stories about the places they had seen, so when this opportunity came up for Ted, I was really excited. The allure of actually seeing and exploring this far away place was appealing to all of us. We loved camping, hiking, fishing, skiing - all the outdoor things you can do in the lower 48, but have to drive a ways to get to from town.

Having grown up and lived my entire childhood in Seattle, I was used to life in the outdoors and viewing. My family and I did lots of hiking and camping in the summer and there was great skiing at one of several ski areas in the winter. Seattle exists in the shadow of Mt. Rainier at 14,000 feet to the south and Mt. Baker to the north with the 3000 feet Cascade range to the east. It’s about a 50 mile drive to those mountains - about an hour down the freeway to Snoqualmie Summit and 2 hours to the trailhead on the other side of the summit at our favorite “stomping grounds” of Salmon La Sac where one of several trails leads to pristine mountain lakes 2-9 miles away. Every summer we would go hiking into Lake Waptus, 9 miles from civilization and spend 2 weeks up there using it as our base camp and hiking to nearby lakes on day trips or fishing for trout in the lake. It was a great life.

After graduating from college and getting married and joining the military and being away from Seattle for 10 years, we found that Seattle was not the same when we came back to settle there once more. Oh, the mountains were still there, but Seattle had become a bustling metropolis and still growing and changing from the quiet city I grew up in.

So when the opportunity came to spend the summer in Alaska, we jumped at it. Wow, what an experience! There we were in the biggest city in Alaska yet within a walking distance from the mountains, the Chugach “foothills” they call them up here, because 3000 feet in Alaska is only a small mountain compared to the usual height of the mountains in the various ranges that extend for hundreds of miles around the three hundred sixty-five thousand acres of this countryside. Everywhere you turn you see them. Everywhere you drive or fly you are going by them, around them, through them. Anchorage itself is even like living in the wilderness with areas of undeveloped land in it’s natural state all over town, where wild animals big and small hang out all year long. The first time I saw a moose that summer we were driving south out of town on the Seward Highway. There it was in the little meadow across from the old Potter Marsh Section House. We stopped of course at the pullout and kept out of the car to stare, open-mouthed, at the sight.

That summer we saw many more moose and breathtaking scenery on weekend adventures around the state. Everything from fishing for pink salmon at the mouth of the Nome River to exploring the Kennicott Copper Mine to walking the streets of the intriguing and historic town of Skagway and riding the little train up the hill, catching glimpses of the original Chilkoot Pass trail. That was a summer to remember and we got so hooked on this place that we decided to move up and stay when Ted’s temporary position was opened up and offered as a permanent position. So we found a place to buy at the east side of town next to the military reservation land with the Chugach Mountains in our back yard and Chester Creek bordering the property and, we found out, a regular thoroughfare for moose, passing by to graze on the leaves of the birch and willow trees, the older bushes, and grasses that grow abundantly on the other side of the creek.

After that summer came our first winter in Alaska. It was like living in a ski area without having to drive 50 miles to get Continued on next page...
First Summer, cont’d.

there as I had in my youth. Beautiful snow covered everything - lots of it that never melted and wet away like the snow we occasionally had in Seattle. I loved shoveling the stuff and walking in it and skiing in it - so light and fluffy like in places I’d skied in the lower 48 - Park City, Mammoth Mountain, Banff. The snow at Snoqualmie Pass was usually wet and heavy, packing down quickly when skied on. Only occasionally would it get cold and dry enough to be able to enjoy the title of powder snow. But in Alaska the snow was like that all the time, falling like tiny feathers out of the sky, piling up a foot at a time each snowfall. Gorgeous glistening powdery stuff sparkled in the sunlight by day and reflected the lights of the city or the moon by night so well that you could walk outside at night without a flashlight. The Northern Lights played across the sky all winter long.

Well, since then I have lived through rainy summers and semi-dry summers, winters with lots of snow and lean winters with lots of chinooks that melt it away and leave nothing but icy streets and bare brown grass and trees. The weather is not always perfect in Alaska, I soon found out, and very unpredictable. But still, the “call of the wild” is there for me, beginning just beyond my back yard where the wilderness starts and adventures begin. I never get tired of catching a sight of a moose walking by my front yard or down a street somewhere in town, or seeing those big, fat ravens and hearing their raucous call or their melodious chortling, or watching a bald eagle circle overhead or sitting majestically on a tree branch high up, viewing his kingdom below. These are things that made me fall in love with Alaska and this is why I stay. Now days my lifelong partner and I spend time exploring the highways and byways of Alaska together, camping at our favorite spot off the Glenn Highway with King Mountain looking down on us, hanging out in our pop-up trailer and listening to the Matanuska River flowing swiftly by.

Susitna
by Jory Michaala

She lies there sleeping
Her beauty undeniable.
I can look at her for hours.
Her features elegant,
Her face elusive.
Her curves unmistakable
Beneath one of her blankets.
Her body magnificent and
Unbelievably perfect.
She’s a natural mystery and
marvel.
She’s is the Sleeping Lady.
She is Mount Susitna.

Finding yourself in a strange state
Knowing only a few people
Not knowing where to go
How to find the things you need
Asking for help isn’t in you
Needing to count on friends
Finding having no one there
Being alone in this strange state
Being lost amongst strangers knowing
No one to talk to for you’re lost
You been taught from a young age
not to talk strangers
But you hope to find a friend
Amongst all these strangers
To offer you a helping hand
Finding no one there to help you
Find your way around this strange state.
You walk amongst strangers
Hoping to make new friends as you walk along
Alone, lost in this strange state.
Mushing Terminology

Big Su: Refers to the Big Susitna River
Boonies: A non-rural or urban area, generally an area where no one lives.
Booties: A type of sock that is made to protect the dog's feet from small cuts and sores. These are made out of various materials, i.e., denim, polar fleece, trigger cloth, etc.
Burred Arch: The finish line in Nome
By-Pass Mail: Service provided by US Mail System for remote villages to get mail and goods delivered. By-Pass Mail has been used to ship everything from toilet paper to refrigerators.
Come Gee! Come Haw!: Commands for 180 degree turns in either direction.
Dog in Basket: Tired or injured dog carried in the sled.
Double Lead: Two dogs who lead the team side by side.
Dropped Dog: A dog that the musher has dropped from his team at a checkpoint. The dog is cared for at the checkpoint until it is flown back to Anchorage to the musher's handlers.
Gee!: Command for right turn.
Haw!: Command for left turn.
Heet: Alcohol based fuel used by mushers in their cook stoves on the trail.
Husky: Any northern type dog.
Indian Dog: An Alaskan Husky from an Indian village.
Lead Dog or Leader: Dog who runs in front of others. Generally must be both intelligent and fast.
Line Out!: Command to lead dog to pull the team out straight from the sled. Used mostly while hooking dogs into team or unhooking them.
Malamute: Term often used by old timers for any sled dog. Larger husky.
Mush! Hike! All Right! Let's Go!: Commands to start the team.
Neck Line: Line that connects dog's collar to tow line and between the two collars of a double lead.
Overflow: When the ice gets so thick that the water has nowhere to go, it pushes up and over the ice. This overflow often gets a thin layer of ice when the temperature drops making it dangerous to cross.
Pacing: Leading a team with some sort of motorized vehicle that can set the "pace" at a specific speed.
Pedaling: Pushing the sled with one foot while the other remains on the runner.
Rigging: Collection of lines to which dogs are attached. Includes tow line, tug lines and neck lines.
Rookie: A musher who is running the race for the first time or who has never completed the race.

Runners: The two bottom pieces of the sled which come in contact with the snow. They extend back of the basket for the driver to stand on. Runner bottoms are usually wood, covered with plastic or Teflon. This plastic or Teflon is usually replaced at least once during the race.
Siberian Husky: Medium sized (average 50 pounds) norther breed of dog, recognized by the American Kennel Club. Siberians usually have blue eyes.
Slats: Thin strips of wood which make up the bottom of a wooden sled basket. Note: Toboggan sleds have a sheet of plastic as the bottom for their basket.
Snow Hook or Ice Hook: Heavy piece of metal attached to sled by line. The snow hook is embedded in the snow in order to hold the team and sled for a short period of time.
Snub Line: Rope attached to the sled which is used to tie the sled to a tree or other object.
Stake: Metal or wooden post driven into the ground to which dog is tied.
Swing Dog or Dogs: Dog that runs directly behind the leader. Further identified as right or left swing depending on which side of the tow line he is positioned on. His job is to help "swing" the team in the turns or curves.
Team Dog: Any dog other than those described above.
Tether Line: A long chain with shorter pieces of chain extending from it. Used to stake out a team when stakes aren't available.
Toggles: Small pieces of ivory or wood used by Eskimos to fasten tug lines to harnesses.
Trail!: Request for right-of-way on the trail.
Tug Line: Line that connects dog's harness to the tow line.
Wheel Dogs or Wheelers: Dogs placed directly in front of the sled. Their job is to pull the sled out and around corners or trees.
Whoa!: Command used to halt the team, accompanied by heavy pressure on the brake.

It Ain't All Pretty

Church sign during AIDS Ride fundraiser
Sutton, Alaska, 1999
Answers: Sourdough Quiz

1. Usually a and b, but sometimes d.
2. Arizona (1912) and Hawaii (1959)
3. (b) Nome Ballooned during the gold rush, but by 1930, its population had dropped to 852.
4. We just asked this question for the Halibut.
5. (c) $7.2 million for 375,000,000 acres is a bargain by any standards.
6. Aleksandr Baranov (1790 - 1818), First Governor of Russian America
   Walter S. Clark (1909 - 1913), Governor of Alaska Territory
7. (d) The size of Alaskan mosquitoes is often exaggerated. It would take at least two to total 60 lbs.
8. Canada, of course. It touches Alaska for hundreds of miles along a common border. If you said Russia, it is as close as three miles between two islands in the Bering Strait, one American and one Soviet.
9. Dolly Varden, in "Barnaby Rudge".
10. N - Alaska, of course.
    W - Alaska. The Aleutians Islands extend all the way to the 180th meridian, the end of the western hemisphere.
    S - Hawaii.
    E - Alaska again. The Aleutians, in fact, extend past the 180th meridian into the eastern hemisphere. Alaska is more far Eastern than China (or Maine).
11. False. It's almost exactly the same distance, 650 miles, to Anchorage or the Chukotsk Peninsula. (Anchorage has better restaurants.)
12. Honolulu
13. New York
14. Tokyo
15. Miami
16. Moscow
17. London
18. White. The only place in the world where you can walk 12 miles south, 17 miles east and 12 miles north, and be exactly where you started is the North Pole. Thus a polar bear.
19. About 70.
Keep Looking Up

by Victoria Shaver

As I write this I am looking out the window of a plane and the Alaska Range spans the distance. Every time I am fly into Anchorage, I am reminded how lucky I am to live here. I am ashamed to say that I sometimes drive past the most incredible sights; wild animals, sunsets, mountain tops, and I take it for granted. It is always there. I forget to look up.

That is why this change in perspective is so important. It is easy to see the grass always greener on the other side – especially with the record 28.5 inches of snow the week of March 18. No matter what the weather; the fact remains: I am always happy to come home.

I have had the opportunity to travel to many different cities in the states and abroad and I can honestly say, “There is no place like home.” I am in awe of our GLBTA community. We are small but mighty, warm and welcoming.

We have a 7-day a week Helpline, a 7-day a week Community Center, and many active clubs, groups and organizations that strive to help make our community a better place to live. And we have dedicated volunteers that make all of this happen.

We shine in the light of the Fur Rondy Parade, have folks like Jack Darnell put Alaska on the Leather map, host trainings with national leaders of GLSEN, lobby for policy changes in the local school districts, and are once again planning a grand Anchorage PrideFest Parade & week-long celebration in June. Anchorage will be the new host of the Alaska Women’s Music Festival and the GLCCA seems to keep growing with donations and gifts of all kinds.

As you will read in this issue, April means a changing of the guards for Identity, Inc. This April I will be stepping down from my position as co-chair and will give someone else the opportunity to serve on the Identity Board. I have enjoyed working with each of my fellow board members and wish all of the candidates the best of luck. I have learned much during my term on the board and am honored to have worked with so many talented people through the past few years.

I will continue as the Identity Helpline Coordinator, with much thanks to Tom R. who is a good friend and an awesome volunteer. I will also continue to be involved in Living Out Loud, the GLBTA youth leadership conference August 24 & 25. I have family obligations with ailing parents and career goals to conquer – and yes, I am out. I will still be involved – just a change in perspective. I know better than to take my community for granted. We are truly blessed. I have been and will continue to keep looking up.

4th Friday Cafe

Dessert Social

There is a time for entertainment, event info and announcements, good conversation, and great desserts! This is a potluck event, please bring something to share. 6:30 PM

929-GLBTA or 258-4777

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Community Corner 
by Laura Goss

Things at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA) have been progressing quite nicely in our first month of operation. We have been receiving a steady stream of visitors, and more groups are being held there which is attracting even more new people to both the GLCCA and the GLBTA community. We gained 8 new staff volunteers last month, but the 4A’s has opted not to staff the GLCCA any longer, so we still are in need of some more volunteers. (If you are interested, a training will be held very soon! Contact the GLCCA for more info.) We are also obtaining additional bookshelves to house all the donated books that keep coming. Our resource library is expanding by leaps and bounds, thanks to your generous donations. And we are even expanding the GLCCA after being open only one month! Yes, due to the overwhelming success we’ve seen thus far, the GLCCA Advisory Board voted unanimously to also rent the empty rooms at the end of the hall, knock down the wall between them, and make a large conference/private meeting room. If you have not yet stopped by the GLCCA, please make it a point to do so!

One thing the GLCCA is missing is postings of the various GLBTA events and groups and clubs. We have 2 bulletin boards designated for that specific purpose, and many of the people visiting the center ask about community events to attend. We even have a notebook in which to list your information as a resource. If your group or club is looking for new members, or if you’d like to advertise your event to members of the community, don’t forget about posting at the GLCCA!

There is one new thing I’d like to share with you - Identity, Inc. is starting a Speakers’ Bureau. We are looking for individuals in the GLBTA community who will be willing to become trained to serve as public speakers when Identity is asked to provide people to speak about their personal experiences in being a GLBTA person. If you are interested in joining this new group, please stop by the GLCCA to sign up!

And, do not forget about Identity’s new first annual Rainbow Prom, a Second Chance Prom for GLBTA people. This spectacular event will take place Saturday May 6, from 8:00pm - midnight at the Millenium Hotel ballroom. It is a fundraiser for Identity, and will be complete with formal or semi-formal Prom attire, a fabulous DJ, a Prom photographer, Prom “King & Queen” (which could be very interesting in our community!), and a few additional surprises! There will even be hotel rooms available at a discount for those wishing to spend the night or weekend at the Millenium Hotel. If you did not attend your high school prom, if you did and want to relive those memo-

ries, or if you want to create some new memories - Don’t miss this one! This will be the event of the season!

For more information on any of these things, contact or stop by the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. Our hours are Monday - Friday 3pm - 9pm, Saturday 12 noon - 9pm, and Sunday 12 noon - 6pm, our phone number is 929-GLBT(4528), and our email address is glccanch@yahoo.com.

Welcome Home!

First Annual
GLBTA Second Chance Prom!

A fundraiser for Identity, Inc., this prom is for people of all genders and ages! If you never got to attend your prom, if you loved the prom and want to relive that experience, or even if you hated your prom and want to make a better prom memory, this event is for you!

The Identity Second Chance Prom will be held in May, on a Saturday night - date to be announced very soon.

It will be a formal or semi-formal occasion (guys and butches - get those tuxes out!) with hors d’oeuvres served and a cash bar (yes, you can attend if you are under 21; they will be carding everyone). We will have a great DJ and even a photographer for prom pictures.

If you would like to volunteer and help plan this exciting event, or for more information, contact Laura at the GLCCA 929-GLBT(4528) or glccanch@yahoo.com.

ANCHORAGE PRIDEFEST 2002
UNITY IN THE GREAT LAND
June 12-19, 2002
Mark your calendars NOW!
Gay Pride Parade
June 22 at 11AM, Downtown Anchorage
Gay Pride Festival
June 22 from noon until 5PM
Downtown Parkstrip at the Flaggpole

Groups to sponsor events, parade entries, vendors, entertainers, and lots of volunteers still needed! Visit our website at www.anchoragepride.com or email info@anchoragepride.com

"Another Identity Event-Improving the lives of GLBT Alaskans."
There’s No Business Like Snow Business

For almost a decade The Imperial Court of All Alaska has sponsored a float in the Fur Rondy Parade. Eight out of nine years, our float has won. I do not say “our” just because I am a member of the ICOAA. I say “our” because it is OUR float. Our Community Float. As Imperial Crown Prince, Pete Keese said, “it is important to let people know that even thought the float is sponsored by the ICOAA, it represents the entire community, and people from all parts of our community help put it together.”

Every year a week or two before the parade Trina Johnson donates space in her warehouse (behind LaMex on Spenard) to the cause. So many different people stopped by and donated whatever time they had – maybe five minutes, one hour or more – to help build the blue ribbon float. Some of the die-hards were Pete, Lynette, Mikey R, Tom S., and Scott T. It is the project of the Imperial Crown Prince and Princess to organize and build the float each year. This year’s first place is thanks to the coordination of ICP Pete and ICP Sabrina along with the many people who helped make it possible.

According to ICP Pete, the experience of shopping at Home Depot with “four Gay guys and a Lesbian, anything can happen.” Apparently, the Martha Stewart in all of them came out. For example, Lynette transformed a piece of wood with a round saw into a baby grand piano and all were in awe of her craft. Needless to say, the creative juices were flowing and fun was had by all.

The Fur Rondy Parade Theme this year was There is No Business Like Snow Business. Rosie Rotton was the Snow Queen and as she pointed to Marilyn Monroe (Empress Joani), Jennifer Lopez (Taire, Ms. Gay Anchorage), Ethel Merman (Crown Princess Sabrina), Elton John (Crown Prince Pete) they sang Diamonds Are A Girl’s Best Friend, Let’s Get Loud, There’s No Business Like Show Business, and Philadelphia Freedom respectively. The sound system was rockin’ and a professional touch thanks to the sound system donated by SMK Sound Productions.

If you would like to be part of next year’s float committee contact the Imperial Court through their website http://www.icoaa.org or by calling Pete at 230-6043.

Gratitude

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

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Local Heroes

by Victoria Shaver

"It is not how much leather you wear... It's how you wear it!" boast an advert in the Twelfth Annual Pantheon of Leather program. Held this year in Chicago, the traditionally New Orleans event recognizes outstanding individuals, clubs, organizations and business with the prestigious Pantheon of Leather Community Service Award.

Mr. and Ms. Alaska Leather were nominated for the 2001 Pantheon of Leather Community Service Northwest Region Award. Like most awards, simply being nominated is an honor and an accomplishment. Jack Darnell, Mr. Alaska Leather 2000 and Cass Miller, Ms Alaska Leather 2000 have both worked hard to do outreach to the Leather and greater Alaskan community. They have co-hosted events and held events of their own and have raised hundreds of dollars for various not-for-profits that benefit Alaskans from all walks of life.

It was a proud moment for Jack when he received the award. Because of the time of year that the annual Black and Blue Ball is held and the new Mr. and Ms Alaska Leather is chosen, the 2000 title competes in the 2001 National Event. Jack may not hold the current title but his commitment and drive did not end with his title year. He has continued to organize and work for change in the Greatland. Jack placed in the top 20 at the International Mr. Leather in 2001, is a member of The Last Frontier Men’s Club and Vice-President of the Last Frontier Women’s Club. He is also a member and Ambassador to the Leather Community for the Imperial Court of All Alaska and co-owns Stonewall’d with his life-partner, Chris. Stonewall’d is the GLBTA gift shop with ever-expanding selections of women-centered gifts and an adult toy and leather/fetish section.

There are several different categories for the Pantheon of Leather Award. One is Couple of the Year. Jack and his husband Chris would certainly win my vote! Together they have hosted several workshops at the Alaska Pride Conference (APC). Their first workshop at the APC 2000, “Fruit Bowl”, was so successful that Identity Inc. sponsored a Second Saturday Workshop by the same name. This year the 2001 APC was no different. Their Safer SM workshop was a hit. With the help of Cass and Cookie they presented a workshop on BDSM. It was a BDSM 101 with much laughter, education, and pride.

Chris, the President of The Last Frontier Men’s Club, is also committed to the betterment of our community. Chris and Jack have faithfully volunteered for many community projects, including the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. They work behind the scene as well as chair events. The time, energy, and effort they put toward volunteerism is on top of running their business and working full time jobs. They have donated countless dollars to almost every organization in the GLBTA Community. Their community spirit and vision is a great asset to the entire GLBTA community.

Hats off to Jack for winning the award and to everyone wearing their leather well.

Alaska GLBT News

Alaska GLBT News is an e-mail broadcasting system providing information about Gay & Lesbian activities throughout Alaska.

We distribute messages concerning upcoming events, news, your business, rental opportunities, personal items for sale or sought, special announcements, etc.

For more information about receiving notices and/or sending your message, please contact:

AlaskaGLBTNews@yahoo.com

Cass Miller, Jack Darnell, and Chris Pearson

photos courtesy Jack Darnell
In Our Community
by Ron Swartz

eye on ... Nathan Rivas

When I walked away from my interview with Nathan Rivas, I had a sincere respect & admiration for the man he is and the man he is working to become. Only 23, he works as a new Project Coordinator with the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, as well as a bartender. Nathan is single, says he's not looking for a new relationship right now, and seems most focused on his work and leisure time with friends.

During his very early years, following his parents' divorce, he moved around the country with his mother. By age 10 he was back in Alaska, with his father. The then-overweight boy had his first boyfriend as a sophomore. His homosexuality was "never a question". By his high school junior year, Nathan found a passion in running and swimming. His motivation was dominated by thoughts of what a young male body was supposed to be. The transformation to a lean, athletic, healthier body had begun.

In his senior year at Bartlett, he found he just wasn’t happy living with his father. Nathan lived with friends in town, and his social life began to blossom. He was getting sneaked in to The Wave, and soon realized other men found him attractive. He found a boyfriend in a young military guy; a relationship that just didn’t meet his needs. Nathan felt a desire to flee, and soon was corresponding in a chat room with a friendly lesbian in rural Ohio. She offered to help re-establish him there, and soon he was giving away most of his possessions and was headed down east!

Enroute to Norwalk Ohio, Nathan got his first culture shock in Las Vegas. The vast numbers of people and activity was a wake-up that he wasn't in The Last Frontier any more. His new friend met him at the airport in Cleveland, and they drove to Norwalk from there. He was surrounded by lots of corn, and wasn’t accustomed to the extreme heat and humidity of an Ohio summer. He recalls often hearing the tornado sirens warning of potential disaster.

It wasn’t long before Nathan had started a dating relationship again. Too soon he realized his boyfriend was a very possessive man with a substance abuse issue. Nathan was scared “real bad” by the man eventually, and was again ready to flee. Suddenly the Cheryl Crow song “Run Baby Run” had new meaning. In short order, he was with friends’ friends in Atlanta, and then on to try life in Los Angeles.

In L.A. Nathan stayed in youth hostels. Expecting the Californians to be rude people, he soon learned that in reality they would start a conversation “at the drop of a hat”. Could his cute smile have anything to do with that? In Hollywood he found a truly creepy and seedy subculture, which was fascinating at the same time.

In time he was ready for a change. So when an Anchorage friend suggested trying a business enterprise in Bethel, Nathan realized there was a real appeal to trying life in a small city. He ended up working at a NAPA auto parts store, finding that he had skills as a problem solver and trouble shooter. In Bethel he also worked as an assistant to the harbormaster, and enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of life off the road system. One issue stuck in his mind, though. When he found that one of the 3 stores in town had run out of milk, he found it “unfathomable” that they were all out of milk. How could the store be “out” of something so basic? Maybe rural life wasn’t for him after all. Another learning opportunity for him was working with the Parks & Recreation youth program- Nathan was pleased to find a love for working with children. In a surprisingly profound moment, he asked an 8-year old “What is the most important thing?” The child replied, “Being alive!”

By age 21, he returned to Anchorage and came to understand he had done a lot of growing up. He knew he still had a lot to learn about himself, but was enjoying getting to know getting to know about the sociology of the gay community. Nathan began dat-

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Rivas, cont’d.

ing an older man, and soon was beginning to grow out of some naïve notions about people. He learned through this relationship that folks can be deceptive when it suits them, that you need to learn how to respect yourself and protect yourself, and that honesty and communication are of primary importance in a relationship. He also learned about the benefits of positive self-esteem.

Nathan terms himself “independent”, and found that he was not able to handle others’ insecurities and jealousies well. His partner tried to isolate him, and through the battle between his intuition and the dynamics of the situation, he found he was developing character as an adult. The relationship had to end.

Early in 2001 he had begun a routine of almost nightly partying with a fellow bartender. As they made the rounds in Anchorage’s night spots, Nathan learned that he could be a very popular person. Life was good. That is, until friends disclosed that an unflattering Gay.com profile page had been posted in Nathan’s name. Apparently an ex-boyfriend had some unexpressed hostility, and created a fake profile to embarrass and annoy Nathan. He was shocked at the hurtful action and betrayal, and found himself withdrawing from the community. Who could he trust?

For some time, he invested time being alone and introspective. A quality married friend became his trusted ally. As his thoughts again began to mature, he came to several important revelations. Nathan realized that a handsome appearance and the superficial world could be “gone in an instant”, and that what truly matters was paying attention to who people really are. He started to feel gratitude for the opportunities he had, a need to connect with his family, and felt a desire to make spirituality a part of his life. He knew that he wanted to learn how to be a good person, and that he could be happier helping others.

Soon he had become a volunteer with 4 A’s in youth oriented programs. It was a turning point in his life, as he realized how fortunate he was to be healthy despite a history of sexually risky behaviors. He began opening up to people again, finding that most people are friendly and grateful. Nathan opened a dialogue with the ex-boyfriend who had wronged him, and was able to give forgiveness and part permanently on good terms.

He now works with 4 A’s, and is tending bar at the international airport. When asked what he feels passionate about, Nathan replied “exercise and self care”. He also has a passion for helping others, and finds that sharing success is even more fulfilling. He says he is impressed by people with honesty, and who share the same ideals toward helping. Nathan is excited about being involved in a new State-funded HIV prevention and general health program with a target demographic of men 18 to 29 years old. Called Adam & Steve, the program had a Core Group meeting in late January that showed a significant community interest in making the program a success.

When asked what he knows for sure, he showed that he’s learned several pearls of wisdom in his twenty-three years. First is to establish a good rapport with family. Secondly, that our time here is brief... what will you leave behind? In addition to finding that most people place too much emphasis on money and material things, Nathan has determined that no matter what happens, it eventually blows over!

Breakup: It’s Not Just a Weather Phenomenon

by Teresa McPherson

A few nights ago my partner arrived home, hugged me tightly, and said, “We’ll always talk things out, won’t we?” I said absolutely; then I asked what prompted the question. He said he’d just found out that two friends had split up after several years together. This seems to be happening more often of late. A friend said they don’t call it breakup for nothing; and isn’t that how Celebration of Change got started anyway? To give the newly single a chance to check out the goods?

How sad. I’m sad for our friends, who are terrific people and who seemed so wonderfully suited as a couple. And I’m sad for me. Why is it that when friends or acquaintances split up, it makes you feel like you’re the one who had the wind knocked out of you?

Is it because hearing about the demise of a friend’s relationship makes us confront the potential mortality of our own? Like when you hear an old friend died of cancer or heart problems. You assumed she was healthy. Then you found out otherwise. Could your own lungs be harboring a tumor without your knowledge? Am I next in line for congestive heart failure?

We buy a car and expect a good warranty. We insure our homes, our bodies, our incomes; some of us even insure our pets. Yet there’s no insurance for our relationships. We gamble that we can keep it together, work through things, or talk things out, as my partner said. But sometimes we can’t.
That's when we wish we had just the right words to offer our friends. Or when a writer hopes to find some nugget of wisdom or consolation to offer the reader. I have neither.

When my son was about to graduate from high school and go to college Outside, he and his girlfriend of four years considered splitting up. One day he asked me to lunch—this was his cue to me that he needed to talk. He told me he was torn. How could they keep it together and go to separate colleges? Should they just call it quits now?

I listened to him. Then I told him these were questions with no easy answers. I gave him two pieces of advice and told him to decide which felt right or discard both if neither felt right. I told him, don't be quick to throw in the towel. But I also added that some things aren't meant to last forever.

Four years later, he and his girlfriend graduated from the same college in Flagstaff, found jobs in Phoenix, and were married. They will move into their first house this summer. Things aren't perfect but neither has thrown in the towel.

Our friends who recently split up may or may not have decided to throw in the towel. Sometimes the towel is thrown in for us by time or by circumstances beyond our control. And sometimes even good things aren't meant to last forever. Who defines forever anyway?

Breakup is here, that's for sure. What do I know? Because in spite of the longer days, my heart is heavy for my friends. And for myself, because all of us are equally uninsured. All of us are vulnerable. All of us are human.

Can we fast forward past spring and get on with summer?!

**WINNING THE DEBATE**

by Talmadge W. Bailey

The Half-Baked Initiative

There are many reasons to be very wary of King Dubya's "Faith-based Initiative." If you are not familiar with the history of this thing, or don't understand why it is so extraordinarily bad then read on. When we're done with this month's debate, you will understand why the "Faith-based Initiative" is dangerously undercooked and should be sent back to the kitchen immediately!

What is the "Faith-based Initiative?" Well, according to Dubya, it "will eliminate the federal government's discrimination against faith-based organizations." I don't know about you, but this statement offends me to the very core of my being. If you're not offended, then let's examine the statement and reveal why perhaps you should be. First, it is based on a huge whopper of a lie. It is true that the government will not fund programs operated by some "faith-based" organizations. This is logically based on the constitutional restriction that prevents government from "establishing" a religion. In practical application the "establishment clause" means that government should treat all religion equally. So, let's assume that government money is to be passed out to some religious organization. Does the government then hand out "equal" amounts to every other religion? Based on what? The number of adherents to each religion?

The number of people they claim to help? The number of churches buildings owned by each religion? How different would a religion have to be to in order to count as a separate religion with a separate entitlement? As you can see, the concept of equal becomes a big problem very quickly. It should be evident that the only truly fair and equal method is to distribute ZERO government money to any religion. Certain people would like you to believe that this is in fact actual practice. They say separation of church and state "discriminates" against churches by keeping them out of the public treasury. Believing the reich-wing rhetoric, many people assume government doesn't give any money to religious organizations. Surprise! Not true.

According to the Washington Post, the Salvation Army gets over $300 million annually from the Federal government. Other...
WINNING, cont’d.

reliable sources reveal Catholic Relief Services receiving over half its annual funding from the U.S. Government. But wait, we’ve only examined half the lie! Is it discriminatory to grant religious corporations huge tax exemptions? For example, there is one highly profitable “church” here in Anchorage that would apparently contribute over $200,000.00 annually in property taxes just on its property holdings if it were not exempt from taxes. Not only does the government hand out money to some religious organizations, it isn’t taking anything from any of them.

So, the bottom line is that Dubya wants to give more taxpayer money to religious organizations in the name of eliminating discrimination. We’ll shortly explore the incredible irony hidden in this lie.

Rev. Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State lists dozens of reasons why the “Faith-based Initiative” is bad. However, the remainder of this discussion will focus only on why the initiative is bad for gays and lesbians. To learn why the half-baked initiative is bad for society at large you may want to check out what Americans United has to say because they have more thoroughly examined the wide-ranging problems created by the initiative.

You may recall a small scandal involving the Salvation Army last year. Seems they were secretly negotiating with the Whitehouse to preempt all state and local laws that might prevent them from practicing hiring discrimination against homosexuals. Yup, they wanted this written into the “fine-print” of the “Faith-based” legislation being sent to Congress. You might say it doesn’t matter because no self-respecting homosexual would want to work for a bunch of reich-wing theo-thugs. In fact it is very bad because the legislation sets a extraordinarily dangerous precedent. You can be sure that once the reich-wing smells success, they will be looking for other ways to write discrimination into law. Unfortunately it gets even worse.

I think the real horror of Bush’s half-baked initiative is revealed in the following scenario: Let’s say there is this hypothetical young person. The hypothetical young person has reached the age of sexual awareness and feels strongly attracted only to persons of the same sex. As you might surmise, this young person finds parents and clergy very hostile toward the newfound attractions. The parents and clergy behave as unenlightened parents and clergy have behaved for generations - much to the detriment of the hypothetical young person. In desperation, the young person flees for the relative safety of a homeless shelter. Oops. Too bad the contract for operating the homeless shelter was awarded to Anchorage Baptist Temple. Seems the run-away will have to listen to more anti-gay propaganda before he or she is allowed to eat or rest. The publicly-funded program that should have protected the young person from further abuse has instead delivered the hapless youth into the very clutches of his or her tormentors.

Of course the reich-wing would have you believe that safeguards would be in place to prevent proselytizing with public money. Guess again. The legislation for King Dubya’s half-baked initiative masquerades under the misleading title “Community Solutions Act”. The fine print of this legislative trash will allow volunteers and staff paid from other sources of money to proselytize where clients are supposed to be served. There is also some vague language about “self-auditing” by the religious organization to ensure that no public money is used for religious purposes. I don’t know about you, but I have real doubts about allowing televangelists to guard the taxpayer’s money.

There you have it. Dubya’s half-baked initiative needs to be thrown out before it causes a nation wide food-bank poisoning, outbreaks of proselytically shellfish poisoning, or worse.

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...with special insight into issues for Gays/Lesbians/ Bisexuals/ Transgender People/ HIV/AIDS

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Gabriel

272-9045

Haitstyst
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1310 East 8th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Dear Aunt Bi

Dear Aunt Bi

I am a 35 year old female and have been married for 16 years. My problem is that I am bi and have never been able to tell my husband. I find I am very tired of hiding it and need to tell him. How should I bring up this subject? Sincerely, Hiding behind the curtains.

Dear Hiding

Well I can certainly understand your dilemma. If you and hubby have an active sex life you might start by watching a porn flick with him and when it gets to a scene with two women, and it always does, ask him what he thinks about it. This is always a playful time for a couple so use that playfulness to delve into his fantasies. His response might surprise you. Work slowly from there. Remember that you've hidden this for 16+ years so you need to give it some time. Good luck!

Dear Aunt Bi

I have a cute funny friend who is very self-conscious about her weight. She and I have spent a lot of time together and would like to do more intimate things. Sadly her feelings about herself have kept her from allowing me to get too close to her physically. I have reassured her many times that I find her delicious and sexy but it doesn't seem to help. What can I do to make her believe that I want her exactly the way she is? Sincerely, Happy with her just as she is.

Dear Happy

Ahh the issue that plagues most of America. Weight! If you have told her repeatedly that you find her delicious and it isn't helping then maybe there is another problem that you are unaware of. As a BBW myself I can relate but I also know there are people out there that love us BBW's. Talk to her and find out if there is something more going on. Maybe she isn't very experienced and is afraid that you will find her unsatisfactory in the lovemaking arena. If all else fails, you may need to move on thoughts on homosexuality and bisexuality are. I have a group of female friends that totally blew me away when I found out that 3 out of 5 of us are indeed bi! You might be (deliciously) surprised!

Dear Aunt Bi

I am a 35 year old female. I recently ended a short sexual relationship with a girlfriend. She did not take this well and now I am very afraid that she is going to out me to my friends. Should I take the initiative and go ahead and tell my friends that I am bi, or should I just wait and do damage control if this ex-girlfriend outs me? Sincerely, Worried

Dear Worried

Let sleeping dogs lie. If the time comes to cross the bridge then you can do damage control but don't open the floodgate prematurely. I'll guarantee you that if she does 'out' you to your friends you are going to find out if they are your true friends or not. In the meantime you might ask your friends what their thoughts on homosexuality and bisexuality are.

Dear Aunt Bi

I am very fond of a bi male friend of mine. He has expressed interest in having me participate in a threesome with himself and another male bi friend of his. I think that this would be fun but I am afraid of what he will think of me if I go through with this. My question is how does a female go about having a threesome with two bi males without looking like a slut? Sincerely, Worried about my Reputation.

Dear Reputation

You're kidding right? If all the participants are bisexual then I don't think you need to worry about your rep. Also, before you jump into that ring, sit down and talk to the players about what they expect from you and vice versa. My guess is that they aren't going to be spreading it around that they had you when you can turn around and tell that they had each other too! Remember my motto, "If you know that about me, just think of what I must know about you."

Questions? Advice? Issues?
- Dear Aunt Bi -
thenorthview@hotmail.com
P.O. Box 20070 Anchorage, AK 99514
*All correspondence strictly confidential*

Aunt Bi makes her home in Anchorage with her husband, 2 cats & 2 dogs. She is bi-sexual, has a steady girlfriend and loves to help people. She has a degree in behavioral science so feel free to ask her about absolutely anything!

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BY Pete Gregson

Cruising for Love

Cruising is such a dirty little word among so many GLBT folks. It seems to conjure up the worst images of our community. Toothless old fags leering at fresh twinks at the bar or butch dykes trying to seduce their coworker’s noble young sisters. It is a word that we infuse with nuances of predators and stalkers and of sex addicts and perverts. Yet don’t all of us, queer or straight, cruise at some times in our lives? If not, how do any of us have sex or fall in love? Isn’t cruising someone a perquisite for both of those activities?

I think it is time we reclaim that word and use it as a positive expression in our community, that we actually teach those in our community how to cruise. Imagine the anguish and the heartache we would save one another if we viewed cruising in a positive light, if we all learned how to connect while squeezing ripe melons at Fred Myers or working out our abs at the Alaska Club. Imagine, if we all were masters at cruising, how much happier we would be.

Now when I say cruising, people automatically think of cruising for sex. Don’t get me wrong, I think cruising for sex can be a healthy activity, but I’m speaking more of cruising for love or romance or at least two fun weeks of infatuation and heartbreak.

Cruising, especially in a small city like Anchorage, is the only way the majority of us can meet that special someone. And it something we all do (although most of us don’t do it very well).

Just think of the significant romantic relationships you have had in your life. How did you meet that significant other (or others)? I bet you meet them socially during a time when you were not expecting to meet them. Maybe you meet them at a bar or a social event or maybe at a store or at a friend’s party. But unless you were set up on a blind date, you probably did not leave the house that day expecting to meet someone with whom you would become romantically involved.

Recently, at a memorial service, someone leaned over and whispered to me: “Are you here cruising for sex?” He was being funny, making a reference to the firestorm my first column on cruising for sex ignited among the sexually pious in our local GLBT community. But, in some ways, I was there cruising, because on some level, I’m always cruising. My antenna is always raised to the possibility that Mr. Right for the Moment (or even better, Mr. Right for a Lifetime) might come into my vision at any time.

While I certainly did not expect to meet anyone at a memorial service, one never knows.

The person who asked me the question also whispered that he had met both his current partner and his former partner while cruising at adult bookstores. Even if we are just out cruising for a casual sexual encounter, often we are surprised and meet someone who becomes much more. I’ve had several boyfriends who were much more than Mr. Right. Now that I met while cruising them for casual sex. So, whenever I’m in public, some part of me, on some level is constantly cruising.

Some think this is sad, equating the constant cruising with a sexual addiction or personality disorder. But we all do it, and you are lying if you say you don’t. Even if you are partnered with the person of your dreams, I bet if Brad Pitt or Cindy Crawford (or whomever turns you on) walked into the room that you would look and think “what a hottie.” Does looking equal cruising? It is always the start. For when we look at someone in a sexual manner there is always a

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possibility they will look back as equally attracted to us. And if we are single or in an open relationship that one look often starts all sorts of things.

Friends of mine met at Borders while in the music section. Another couple I know met at a YGMA bowling event. Still another met at a volunteer committee meeting for the Alaska Pride Conference. I know couples who met at bathe, at the local grocery, at church, and everywhere else you could imagine. All of them met because in some small way they cruised another while attending to the daily details of their lives. To me, this is the greatest beauty of life, never knowing what will happen at any given moment, always knowing that any moment your life could totally change. Hope springs eternal in this jaded heart.

So, for all of those who ask, "how do I meet someone in Anchorage," it is really a matter of learning the fine art of cruising, of learning how to pick up on those barely perceptible signals, of knowing how to introduce yourself to strangers in strange places, of always being open to making connections. Even if you are like many, and think you are just cruising for sex, you never know. A sexual encounter may just be the start of a wonderful life.

So, queer men and women of Anchorage, go out and cruise the city unashamedly. Take back your power to connect to others. Banish the unseemly images that come to mind when you think of cruising and empower that word with new meaning. And when I see you carelessly strolling through the aisles at Barnes and Noble or sipping your espresso at New Sagaya, I'll give a little smile and send good thoughts your way, hopeful that your life is about to happily change forever.

Pete Gregson is the Education and Prevention Coordinator for the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association and former Editor of the NorthView. He can be reached at prevention@alaskanaids.org.

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**Powell’s Fleeting Words**

by Michelangelo Signorile

It's not every day that someone like Colin Powell - a member of a conservative Republican president's Cabinet - stands up to the Pope. And let's not forget: it's the very same Cabinet that includes the evangelical John Ashcroft, who covers up statues of naked people in public. "I certainly respect the views of the Holy Father and the Catholic Church," Powell said in his MTW appearance the week before last. But, he said, "in my own judgment condoms are a way to prevent infection, and therefore I not only support their use, I encourage their use among people who are sexually active and need to protect themselves."

Only a few days later the Pope was reported to have performed an exorcism on some crazed, whirling Italian woman just last September. Exorcism is to Catholics what polygamy is to Mormons - an embarrassing throwback that we like to believe doesn't happen anymore. Between the devil-purging ritual and the mild defiance coming from an American Republican official, the Pope seemed even further out in his own orbit than usual last week. And Powell seemed like a saint. Anyone who uses a rare speaking opportunity to realistically educate millions of teens worldwide about sex rather than spout moralistic dogma - and while knowing there would be a backlash within his own party - is to be applauded.

But that is all that it was: a rare opportunity and an isolated event - and not indicative in even the remotest way of the Bush administration's direction on AIDS. That fact seemed to get lost in the ensuing debate over the following week, as some religious conservatives loyal to Bush became outraged. Liberals and Democrats were trotted onto the talk shows not to point to the glaring inconsistency between Powell's words and Bush's AIDS and contraception policies, but rather to defend Powell against conservative attacks. (How it is that liberals wound up carrying water for Bush & Co., I don't know, but it was pretty brilliant of the administration.)

"Sec. Powell's remarks are reckless and irresponsible," thundered Family Research Council President Ken Connor. "Young people need to know the truth that the only sure way to protect themselves from ..."
Powell, cont’d.

the spread of life-threatening, sexually transmitted diseases is to save sex for marriage.”

Bush didn’t respond to the denunciations by taking his subordinate to task - as Bill Clinton
did in the extreme when he axed Joycelyn Elders as surgeon general for saying that masturba-
tion was okay. Instead, in what almost seemed calculated, the White House calmly supported
Powell and smoothly played both sides, stating that the President’s policy is abstinence but that
Powell was talking only about young people who are “sexually active.” This of course was doublespeak, as the
crux of the “abstinence-only” programs is that unmarried folks should never, ever be sexually active - ever. A
week later FRC was pointing this out on its website, and chastising other conservative groups and politicians
such as Congressman Henry Hyde (who often vilified Clinton, but tepidly defended Powell) for excusing the
White House’s doublespeak or staying silent entirely.

“Had President Clinton been in office when a Cabinet member made pro-condom remarks, social conserva-
tives would be calling the administration to the carpet for their inaccuracies.”

If only for once, FRC has a point. But beyond the issue of loyalty, one reason that many conservatives may
be less vocal is that the devil is in the details - and he’s so carefully camouflaged that perhaps only a papal
exorcism can force him out. The Bush strategy has often been to speak compassionately to court Republican
moderates and wavering Democrats while quietly ceding to the ideologues when it comes to actually hammer-
ing out policy. The folks at FRC, however, tend to be the purists among the religious-right crowd, demanding
public as well as private validation.

When Bush appointed openly gay Scott Evertz as AIDS “czar” last year, FRC wailed loudly while other
groups offered only muted criticism. After eight years on the outside hounding a Democratic president, most of
the conservative groups realize they’ve got to play a more subtle game now, quietly getting assurances from the
administration on the issues most dear to them while biting their tongues a bit as Bush publicly makes often
empty gestures to moderates.

The AIDS czar post, for example, created during the Clinton administration, has never risen much above
being a figurehead position, and already Evertz has been criticized for not having any real leverage. Mean-
while, below the media’s radar, Bush last month made 24 appointments to the Presidential Advisory Council on
HIV/AIDS. Unlike the AIDS czar, the council acts fairly independently, releasing reports that could be poten-
tially embarrassing to the administration. Bush appointed far-right former Oklahoma congressman Tom Coburn
a fierce abstinence-only devotee who railed against condoms while in Congress - as the council’s co-chair, along
with Louis Sullivan, who was Health and Human Services secretary under Bush the elder. Sullivan often bowed
to religious extremists when it came to AIDS.

There is “a heavy influence of religious representation [on the council] and people whose policy is clearly an
abstinence-only approach,” noted Maureen O’Leary of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, a gay doctors
group. Several openly gay men were also appointed to the council, but three of them are loyal political operatives: Bush friend and Big Tobacco p.r. huckster Charles Francis, and two prominent Log Cabin Republicans.
Powell

Clinton's AIDS advisory council, which included more medical professionals, cast a no-confidence vote in him in 1998, in a blistering critique of his policies - and Clinton had done a lot more on AIDS than Bush is calling for at the moment. It's hard to believe that this council would ever be similarly critical of Bush. While he's proposed that military spending skyrocket, Bush's proposed spending domestically on AIDS hasn't gone up as the epidemic surges in the African-American and Latino communities. His pledge of $250 million to the international AIDS fund has practically been laughed at, with some activists noting that even House Republicans have been more generous in the past. In terms of prevention, the proposed 2003 budget calls for $135 million for abstinence-only programs, up $33 million from the 2002 budget, and of course nothing for condom education programs.

Seventy-three million dollars of the total, according to a report by Tom Musbach on Gay.com, is proposed for the Community-Based Abstinence Education Program, which backs community groups that agree not to give participating adolescents "any other education regarding sexual conduct in the same setting." Powell's remarks created quite a media spectacle and gave the impression that the Bush administration is open to different approaches, which surely comforted moderates. But when it comes to the actual Bush AIDS policy, the right-wing agenda is firmly ensconced.

Editors note: A nominal fee has been paid on behalf of Identity, Inc. and NorthView by Michael A. Haase for the reprinting of this article. This article may not be reprinted or redistributed without the consent of the author.

Comments on the article may be sent to Mr. Signorile at mike@signorile.com or visit www.signorile.com Photo of Pres. Bush and Sec. Powell provided by the White House website, www.whitehouse.gov

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clubs, groups, organizations

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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. GLB1-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 7pm 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 8pm and Sunday 11am, 8500 LaViento Drive, Anchorage. 907-349-995

BreaKeven Productions:
Has been bringing up lesbian performers from around the country since 1987. For more information about upcoming events or BreaKeven 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@gei.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: anchoragefronrunners@hotmail.com
Web: www.fronrunners.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: glcanch@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
fhillman@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 AAU, 3201 Turnagain. Doors open at 6:30pm,
night 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
The social group for GLBT youth meets Wednesdays from
5:30 to 7:00 PM. We meet at Mendel & Associates office
on the park strip, 845 K Street. The group is for GLBT
youth, ages 13 to 18. We eat, chat, watch videos, plan events
IMRU2, cont’d.
and do lots of laughing. There aren’t many ways for people this age to meet each other, so join us and tell your friends about us. Call 566-IMRU if you have questions, and one of us will call you back.

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)
Lamb of God MCC is a predominantly gay/lesbian/bi/transgendered Christian church where ALL people are welcome to worship a loving and compassionate God. LOG MCC meets every Sunday at 2:00 PM at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke (East of 24th Ave. and Boniface Parkway). Contact LOGMCC@aol.com for more info or visit: www.geocities.com/ logmcc.

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 Myra’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: TLFWC, P.O. Box 203204, Anchorage, AK. 99502. Phone: 907-222-1509 or 907-338-3862.

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. roselbievno@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@gei.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 7:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Anchoruge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship AUUF, 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 GLCCA at 929-GLBT 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 supports and promotes women in the arts. Grant funding available for artistic endeavors. 907-566-3783. RAW@admin.net.

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

Shanti of Juneau
Offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS prevention and educational information. Offices: 222 Seward, Suite 200; Mail P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, Alaska 99802-2655. 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.

Women's Dances
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 frisbeeheadeers 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 an every-other-monthly newsletter by and for the lesbian community in Anchorage and dykes in the Bush. For more information e-mail at: kk@gei.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 IAA, P.O. Box 71248, Fairbanks, AK., 99707. Phone 907-452-4222 or e-mail pinkink@alaska.com

E-mail lists

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

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

**Alaska Gay Discussion**
http://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 michaelhaase2001@aol.com.

**Alaska GLBT News**
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: alaska.glbtnews@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@gei.net.
MONDAYS

(A) Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, The Alano Club, 3103 Spenard (the old Wave building)

TUESDAYS

(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 anchoragefronrunners@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) Fourth Friday Dessert Social, 6:30 pm, AUUF.
(A) First Friday Fetish at the Raven, 9:00 pm

FRIDAYS, cont'd.

(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 April. 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 anchoragefronrunners@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) Women'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

Monday, April 1
GLCCA & 4A’s present “Queer Rap”
A great opportunity to meet new people and to engage in the declining art of conversation and discussion
Gay and Lesbian Community Center
2110 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite A
7 PM
(every Monday)
929-GLBT

Tuesday, April 2
The Last Frontier Women’s Club
1st Tuesday of each month
The Raven, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 3
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, April 4
Karaoke
8:30 PM
Mad Myrna’s
(every Wednesday and Thursday)

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

Friday, April 5
Friday Night Divas
9:00 PM
Mad Myrna’s (weekly)

Saturday, April 6
Leather / Bear Carnival
Mad Myrna’s
8 PM

Sunday, April 7
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 Sacchetti, ssach@alaska.net
(every Sunday)

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

Sunday, April 14
TLFMC
Club meeting and potluck
2nd Sunday of each month
Mad Myrna’s 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 20
An Evening With Friends
Annual fundraiser for the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association.
Mad Myrna’s
7 PM
$20 suggested donation

Tuesday, April 23
Identity, Inc. Board Meeting
Gay and Lesbian Community Center
2110 East Northern Lights, Suite A
(907) 929-GLBT

Friday, April 27
Identity, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting
and 4th Friday Dessert Social
Gay and lesbian Community Center
2110 E. Northern Lights, Blvd., Suite A
6:30 PM
929-GLBT
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QUESTIONS WELCOME.