northVIEW
Alaska's GLBTA News Magazine
Published by Identity, Inc.

Pride Conference 2002

Volume 3, Issue 11

November, 2002
Staff Members & Volunteers

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

Editor
Teresa McPherson
northview@identityinc.org

Layout/Design
Peter Keese
galileo@gci.net

Advertising
Jim Mohr
JMohr@identityinc.org

Identity Board
Victor Carlson
Chuck Hart
Peter Keese
Kurt M. Kleier
Kristara Ritalo
Teresa McPherson
Jim Mohr
Susannah Morgan
Wendy Parsons
Scott Turner
Diana Wolfe
Herman Coen
Tim Turner
Mary Parker

Contributors
Dee Gould
Chuck Hart
Jen Kohout
Teresa McPherson
Jim Mohr
Phyllis Rhodes
Frank Tano

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.
P.O. Box 200070
Anchorage, Alaska, 99520-0070
(907)258-4777
E-mail: northview@identityinc.org
Dear Reader:

Brian Ridder recently retired from the editor’s chair here at NorthView and I’ve agreed to see how the chair fits. We’ve had two great editors in recent times - Pete Gregson and more recently, Brian - so I know I’m stepping into some pretty big shoes. I’m willing to give it a try.

Each editor will bring his or her own flavor to the job and I have some personal goals in accepting this responsibility. When I joined Identity’s board, my hope was to attract more women to the membership. I want to enlist NorthView in meeting that goal.

I attend many women’s events in our community and I plan to write articles and run photos of these events in NorthView. I will depend on my fellow Identity board members to help me cover events and happenings in the men’s community. By combining our efforts, we’ll ensure that all facets of our community are featured in NorthView, such as the recent Pride Conference and the upcoming Identity 25th Anniversary Gala (get out your dancing shoes!).

So in the future, look for a somewhat leaner NorthView in terms of length, but more coverage of local happenings and local people. And I hope many of you will continue to contribute articles, photos, poetry, whatever you’d like to see when you open your newsletter.

Together, we’ll produce a newsletter that continues to reflect the warmth, wit, diversity, and depth of the Alaska GLBTA community

Warmly,
Teresa McPherson
Editor
You are invited to observe

**National Transgender Day of Remembrance**

*Wednesday • Nov. 20, 2002 • 7-9 p.m.*

To be held at the
Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage
2110 E. Northern Lights

Every month in the United States, at least one transgendered person is killed due to gender-related violence and prejudice. Join us in remembrance of those who have died and in celebration of transgendered men and women everywhere who lead lives true to themselves, in dignity and without fear.

Our short program will feature readings, music, discussion and refreshments. For more info, call the community center at 929-4528.

---

**IMRU2**

Sponsored by PFLAG Anchorage Chapter

Support Group for Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans and Questioning Youth Ages 13-19

In Anchorage, phone [907] 566-IMRU for meeting dates and location

This ad provided by Jan Carolyn Hardy of New Realities Counseling. 248-5933
Pride Conference 2002

Belly dancers, reverends, & spiritual warriors invade UAA
by Teresa McPherson

QUESTION: What do you call 175 happy GLBTAs, a mother/son belly dance duo, a fiery gay activist from California, a sassy Puerto Rican lesbian from the Bronx, a group of gay teens from West Valley High (Fairbanks), educators, social workers, workshop facilitators, and lots of food and fun?

ANSWER: Pride Conference 2002!

From the kick-off fiesta Friday night till the closing circle of spiritual warriors late Saturday afternoon, this year’s conference offered something for everyone. Here are just a few of the highlights.

The potluck was a great icebreaker to the conference. It’s fun to see friends and acquaintances we don’t often see, and make some new ones, too. After the potluck, keynote speaker Roosevelt Mosby got our attention with a sneak preview of his “sermon” the following day. And Maria Elena del Valle charmed us with her short Bronx rap number.

The highlight of Friday evening for me was the mother and son belly dancers. The voluptuous dancer and her female dance troupe swayed and undulated to the delight of lesbians in the crowd, while her son, clad in low-rise harem pants and short open vest, elicited cat calls from the Adam and Steve table.

Saturday morning brought a sea of new faces as Reverend Guy Johnson opened the day with a meditative invocation. Participants stood in a large circle around the Cuddy Center, hands clasped in friendship and affirmation. Then it was off to the workshop of our choice.

At noon we met again to share thoughts about the workshops over a generous lunch spread. Then it was time to hold on to our seats as “Reverend” Roosevelt blew into the Cuddy Center to tell it like it is.

He reminded us that we must be willing to set aside stereotypes if we want to truly know one another: “Every white man is not a racist. Every black man is not a thief.” Unashamedly Christian, he proudly proclaimed, “We are not an abomination. We are the image of God. He created us just the way we are.”

When something or someone makes me laugh, cry, or think real hard, that’s a message I’m going to remember. Mosby’s “sermon” did all three. I have new laugh lines from his anecdotes. I felt sad when he talked about the ways queer folks sometimes ostracize our own. And I found myself thinking about his messages throughout the day. I want to do my part in this community to make safe space for all, to support others, appreciate others. I want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.
Pride Conference 2002, cont’d.

After Mosby’s moving and provocative presentation, I felt refreshed and ready for something tranquil to round out my day. So I headed for Melba Cooke’s “Romance 101” workshop.

Cookie’s workshop featured soft music, warm candles, rose petals, decadent chocolates, and luxurious massage. She entertained us with tips for creating special time with that special someone. I was then treated to my first-ever foot massage. Cookie had me place my tired feet into a warm, vibrating foot spa. Then she towel dried my feet and treated me to an invigorating foot massage with peppermint foot lotion. It was the first time I’ve had a foot massage by a self-described “Black Jewish lesbian from New Jersey.” I highly recommend it...

The conference ended at 6 p.m. and from there I dashed to join my friend Paula for the opening concert of the Anchorage Symphony. I was bubbling from my day at the Pride Conference as I told Paula about the workshops, speakers, and people I had met. As the lights dimmed, I sat back to enjoy the concert with the most pampered feet at the PAC.

---

Dad’s Corner

by Chuck Hart

Last month on a Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m., a 15-year-old high school boy, “Freddie,” came up to the Pride Conference registration table beaming, yet a little nervous. I helped him register for the conference. He put on a boldly lettered nametag and walked off studying his list of classes. I saw him throughout the day, always happy and shining a big smile at everyone he saw. His exuberance reminded me of my own soon to be fifteen-year-old.

Later in the day, I sat at the Identity merchandise table next to a table of Pride jewelry run by Laura Goss. Freddie bounced up to look at simple necklaces with rainbow colored rings. Laura had Freddie try on a few. He chose one and then ran to a man several feet away. The man came to the Laura’s table and bought the necklace for Freddie. Laura commented to me how nice the dad was to buy his son the necklace and to drive him three hours from a very conservative town to the conference.

I talked to the father and found out that Freddie is his foster son. He said that since coming out, Freddie couldn’t live with his real parents. This foster dad and his wife took the teenager in and were trying everything they could to be supportive. The foster dad was happy to bring Freddie to a place where he could meet other youth like himself and know he was not alone.

Freddie attends a large high school with no Gay/Straight Alliance and no way for GLBT students to meet for mutual support. He had a great day being accepted as he was, learning how to be healthy, and having fun. Freddie was not alone; many other kids had a great day. That alone made all the volunteer work, donations, and time worth it.

Identity, GLSEN, PFLAG, the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, Adam & Steve, and the Pride Foundation all did their jobs. Your membership and donations to these organizations helped us provide a safe and supportive environment outside of the home for Freddie and other kids like him, even if it was just for one wonderful day.
MARIA ELENA del VALLE:
Profile of a Spiritual Warrior

by Dee Gould

Dynamic, insightful, gentle, inspiring, welcoming, talented, bright, comfortable—all words that describe Maria Elena del Valle. Maria Elena was one of two powerful guest speakers brought to Alaska by Identity, Inc. to speak at Pride Conference 2002. Held in October at the Cuddy Center on UAA campus, this annual conference attracted 175 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and community allies to Anchorage.

Maria Elena was a perfect choice to keynote a conference with the theme “Promoting a Healthy Community.” She spoke in depth of the “Healer, Visionary, Teacher, Warrior” in each of us. “Show up, be present, look around, speak truth, let it go” were themes discussed and danced out in her delightful sessions and keynote address.

“I work by invitation only,” was a statement she lives by, and proved to those participating in her workshops. Her gentle encouragement and contagious smile had participants on their feet dancing from their hearts to catchy Latino sounds. She shared her outstanding voice with the group by leading them in singing Libby Roderick’s lyrics, “How could anyone ever tell you, you were anything less than beautiful…”

Libby Roderick’s music was what Maria Elena knew of Alaska before she arrived. Now she has the music, memories of the beauty of Alaska, and the diversity and friendliness of the Alaskan community to take home to the Bronx.

“Gather in Community” was a natural theme for this forty-one year old Puerto Rican American woman. She is a Senior Staff Consultant for the Support Center for Nonprofit Management in New York. It is her belief that through dialogue, understanding of self and others, and listening, the causes of conflict can be solved. She has used her considerable talents facilitating nonprofits, foundations, health organizations and religious and ecumenical institutions. She creates environments that offer people of diverse backgrounds the opportunity to consciously develop a healthy culture together.

It was a blessing and a positive experience to have Maria Elena visit our state and share her wisdom and gifts with us. We hope she went away with as much empowerment as she gave to our community!

---

A TIP ‘O THE HAT to conference director Pete Gregson and his army of volunteers (see complete list on the back cover). Pete looked exhausted but pleased at the close of the conference.

“Forums like the Pride Conference help build a better, stronger, more healthy GLBT community,” he said. “And I believe a strong GLBT community is the only way for all GLBT persons in our country to gain the same basic rights and freedoms enjoyed by all other Americans.”

Amen, Brother Pete.
a **VIEW** of Pride Conference 2002...

*Adam & Steve's Joshua Sahara and mother, Linda, delight Pride Conference participants during the October 11 kick-off celebration at UAA's Cuddy Center.*

*Photo by Teresa McPherson*


*Photo by Dee Gould*
Diana Wolfe enjoys a foot massage from Melba Cooke at the “Romance 101 for Women” workshop during Pride Conference 2002.

TWO DYKES & A DANCER - The lovely Linda Sahara is joined by Kippy Lanz and Ellen Twinname during the Friday Fiesta kickoff of Pride Conference 2002.
Identity Corner

by Jim Mohr, Co-chair

Identity is proud to celebrate our 25th year in existence. It has been twenty-five years of success, challenges, and a mixture of the two. It has taken the work of over 1,000 volunteers and countless volunteer hours. The faces may have changed, but the commitment to building a stronger and healthier gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allied (GLBTA) community has never wavered.

Looking back on the past, we can see how Identity has changed. It first formed in 1977 as the Alaska Gay Community Center. It changed its name to the Alaska Gay and Lesbian Community Center and then to the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center. The name then permuted to Identity: The Center for Sexual Minorities and soon after it simply became known as Identity. Though we have had many names, we have been one organization committed to providing the GLBTA community with the best possible community service programs possible.

We not only celebrate our 25th anniversary, but also celebrate the opening of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. As an organization, Identity has come full circle in returning to its roots as a community center. The center has been a hub of activity since February when it first opened.

We have been privileged to host the following organizations or events at the center: Adam and Steve use the center as their main meeting location; GLSEN and PFLAG hold meetings here; the 4As held staff training; the Imperial Court of All Alaska conducted voting for Emperor and Empress; Women’s Equality Day was celebrated; PrideFest and Living Out Loud were organized here, and so much more.

In the next few months, Gay, Joyous and Free will meet at the center, Transgender Day of Remembrance will be celebrated, a statewide youth conference call will occur monthly, a new transgender social support group will meet; and other events we cannot yet predict. The center is quickly becoming a hub of organizing and social events for our community.

We also celebrate this year because of three successful grants. We received grants from the Gill Foundation, the Pride Foundation, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. These grants are helping us create a stronger Identity, which means we can focus on the vision of creating an Alaska that is healthy for all Alaskans.

We also look on our most recent accomplishment, another successful Pride Conference. This year the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association provided the staffing to fully organize the event, bringing in two wonderful keynote speakers and partnering with many other agencies. PFLAG and GLSEN both sponsored numerous workshops throughout the day, attracting educators and parents. The Native Health Board provided speakers from the Navajo Nation, expanding our focus to include Native concerns this year.

Pete Gregson was the instrumental organizer of the event, so please give him a standing ovation for his work, dedication, and energy. Please see the thank you list in this NorthView for a more extensive list of acknowledgements.

As an organization, we also continue to sponsor the NorthView, the Gay and Lesbian Helpline, the Living Out Loud Youth...
Conference, PrideFest, and so much more. It is impossible to cover our whole history or all of our programs in such a short space, but we truly believe that all of these programs are important and are creating a healthier Alaska for our community.

On November 9, 2002, we are sponsoring our 25th Anniversary GALA. Patricia Nell Warren, author of The Front Runner, will speak and local talent of all types will perform. It will be an exciting evening of remembrance, celebration, and envisioning the future to come. Join us as we honor the past, rejoice in the present, and look forward to the future. Tickets can be purchased at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage or from any Identity board member.

As always, thank you to our volunteers and donors who have made twenty-five years possible and who make the next twenty-five years an exciting possibility.

CELEBRATE YOUR IDENTITY

November 9, 2002 - 6:30pm to Midnight

Sheraton Anchorage Ballrooms A & B

Contact the GLCCA for tickets at 929-6BLT (4528)
I had the great pleasure of interviewing Patricia Nell Warren by email of the last few months. She wrote the very first gay novel I had ever seen or read, “The Front Runner.” This book had a profound effect on my identity that continues even now. That is why this interview took place by e-mail. I was too much in awe of this insightful, talented, inspiring and bold writer who will speak at the Identity 25th Anniversary Gala November 9.

I’m really looking forward to your visit in November. Have you visited Alaska before? What are your connections to Alaska? I’ve never been to Alaska before, so it will all be very new for me. My connections: My dad did some whitewater sailing and loved the trip up the Inland Passage. My brother was a bush pilot in Alaska for a couple of years. I’ve emailed with some people in Alaska. Other than that, not a whole lot of connection. But there’s always a beginning, right?

You began writing when you were very young. Did other authors influence you then? Eleanor Roosevelt, Walt Whitman and T.E. Lawrence were among the early influences when I was a young teen.

I read any of Eleanor’s autobiographical and political writings that were available to me in the 1940s, and actually got to see her in person when she came through Montana during FDR’s last Presidential campaign. Eleanor was my role model of a powerful and fearless woman whose words and deeds influenced her world. I was not surprised to learn, many years later when I worked at “Reader’s Digest” as a book editor and helped edit a biography about her, that she was probably bi and had a long-time love relationship with a woman.

The writings of Walt Whitman and T.E. Lawrence told me that men could have the same feelings I did about a person of the same gender. Naturally, my high-school literature teachers didn’t point out the gay sensibilities that suffuse “Leaves of Grass,” but I didn’t have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that Whitman loved men.

I also read Lawrence’s war memoir “Seven Pillars of Wisdom,” in the course of studying World War I. This powerful book is sadly forgotten by many gay people today, but it was one of the first 20th-century pieces of literature to broach “the subject.” I cried buckets over Lawrence’s love story of the two Arab boys, Daud and Farraj.
When did you begin writing with GLBT themes? I actually began these themes in high school, and continued through college and the early years of my marriage, but it was all deep closet writing and I destroyed it. Much of the Ukrainian poetry I wrote between 1959 and 1970 had closet themes that were so deeply veiled, that nobody but me understood them. Admirers of my poetry loved its cryptic nature!

My first efforts to open the closet door happened with my novel set in fascist Spain, where I lived for several years in the 1960s. I intended to publish this book, but couldn’t get it to work, so I put it in the bottom drawer. It wasn’t till 1973, and writing “The Front Runner,” that all the pieces fell in place for me. The Spanish book came back to life in the 1990s and I finally got it to work. That’s “The Wild Man.”

Do you write GLBT themed articles and books for a GLBT audience, or a larger audience? I don’t ever think about “targeting audiences.” It’s too cold a process. Besides, there are all kinds of crossovers out there that melt the lines behind different kinds of “audiences.”

Instead, I focus on telling a story and creating a cast of characters that I hope will be compelling to all kinds of people. This was especially true of “The Front Runner,” which I wrote when I was still new to gay fiction and had little real idea of who might read it. I did hope that some readers who had hardened their hearts towards gay people might be affected by the story of a talented young life so needlessly destroyed by bigotry.

Are you still volunteering as a teacher? Teaching is a full-time job, even when you do it without pay! After six months as a volunteer teacher at EAGLES in L.A. in 1994, I had to go back to helping run my publishing business. But I did stay active for the next several years as a volunteer commissioner of education in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Please share some of your other volunteer work with our readers. I continue to be active on behalf of young people with the Patricia Nell Warren Endowment Fund, which helps young people who are creatively gifted but economically challenged to transition from school to careers.

What advice would you give a writer about getting started in the GLBT genre of writing?

Rules are made to be broken, so break them. Write for yourself, not for other people. And write from your heart—it’s the only way you’ll find your true literary voice. When it comes to publishing, arm yourself with information about the marketplace and learn to watch your back, because bad things can happen to writers who are naive about the crooked side of publishing.

Some say the “Gay Literature” market is drying up with the exception of gay erotic literature.

What do you think? I don’t agree with those who say this. We have a lot of new young wonderful writers who haven’t gotten the word that gay literature is dying—Juliet Sarkassian, Alex Marcoux, Michelle Tea, Kirk Read, Alex Sanchez—to name a few.

What IS changing radically is the book marketplace where our literature has traditionally been published and distributed. The traditional outlets are just not there for many writers, because big publishers are publishing fewer gay books and smaller GLBT publishers are experiencing severe economic challenge (some older houses, like Naiad and Firebrand, have vanished).
interVIEW... with Patricia Nell Warren, cont’d.

But individual writers are responding by starting their own independent imprints—West Bank, Myrmidon, Upstart, and my own Wildcat Press, to name a few. High costs of conventional printing mean that more people are going to “print on demand.” Gay bookstores haven’t disappeared altogether, and some of them are actually doing well in spite of the 9/11 slump, but quite a few stores have closed in the last 10 years. And the Web doesn’t sell as many books as some people think. This forces all of us to be creative and look for new marketplaces.

So, for example, Wildcat Press helped pioneer book marketing direct to the public at GLBT festival events, and now a growing number of authors are doing it. Some festivals, like Phoenix Rainbows and Palm Springs Pride, go out of their way to accommodate writers so they can sell there.

The bottom line is: all this healthy activity at the literary grassroots gives me a lot of hope.

Identity, Inc. has changed...

Our new website is:

http://www.identityinc.org

And our e-mail is now:

identity@identityinc.org
News from the GLCCA

by Phyllis Rhodes

The new conference room at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage is ready to use. There are still some finishing touches to complete—windows, floor covering completion and décor—but groups may now schedule meetings in this added space.

We’ve lined up a volunteer to set up a program to handle our library database, to include a system of checking out books and follow up as needed. This is a volunteer with a day job, so it may be a bit before the program is ready for entering our library inventory.

As soon as the library program is ready, we’ll call on all you folks who have volunteered to help set up the Community Center Library. This will be a large data entry project that can go fast if several volunteers willing to help “eat the elephant one bite at a time.” In the mean time, we’ll continue our manual system of checking out books. Come in and browse—what good is a library if the books aren’t being read!

Lots of new events are being scheduled at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. We hope you will find something of interest and make this a true “community” center for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered members of our family and our allies.

Volunteers needed!

The GLCCA is a volunteer-only staffed center.

With your help, we can make it even better!

Please contact the GLCCA at 929-4528 (GLBT) for information on volunteer opportunities.

Conference Room available!

The GLCCA conference room is open for business!!

It is free for use to GLBT organizations, and available for a nominal fee for non-GLBT organizations.

Call 929-4528 (GLBT) for info & scheduling.

DIRTY DOG PET WASH

A self-service pet washing facility with everything you need to clean your dirty dog! (Drop-offs available by appointment)

13136 Old Glenn Hwy.
North Eagle River exit off the Glenn Hwy.
694-WASH (9274)

F. kan Freedman Counseling

566-1708

Individuals and Couples
With special insight into issues for Gays & Lesbians & Bisexuals & Transgender People & HIV/AIDS

250 W. International Airport Pkwy, Ste. 204
Anchorage, AK 99518-1121
fkan@alaska.net \ fax: 248-2421
Web: www.alaska.net/~kan
But does it go with an acorn mini-quilted half-moon bag?

by Jen Kohout

Carelessly arrayed on the coffee table is a kaleidoscope of catalogues. Glossy page after page of anorexic, unshaven, thick-lipped models looking bored. Glassy eyed with off-camera half smiles, they remind me of the alien adolescents in “Children of the Damned,” that sci fi movie about possessed teens plotting worldwide mayhem. I cover their empty stares with a back issue of Runner’s World or Costco Connection.

Occasionally, however, Karen makes her way over to the table and retrieves a J. Crew or Nordstrom publication from the bottom of the messy stack. Apparently unaffected by the eerie human mannequins, she sits next to me on the couch and begins casually flipping the pages, pausing to study a tailored suit or pair of leather dress shoes. Distracted by her monosyllabic noises of approval, I lose interest in a half-read article on carbo-loading and begin looking over her shoulder.

Sensing my attention, she seeks out my ill-advised input.

“What do you think?” she asks sincerely. “Isn’t that a nice jacket?”

Genetically pre-disposed to dislike all things fashion related, I valiantly try to feign enthusiasm. “Yeah, it’s okay.”

Even if I could get past my issues with nonchalant waifs in contrived nature settings, there would be other hurdles to my becoming a catalogue aficionado. Language, for one. I’m fairly resourceful. With a little context, I can decipher most foreign words. Clothing catalogues, however, leave me at a complete loss. Turns out, for example, that a heather pigment-dyed fleece hoodie is a gray sweatshirt. A fine-gauge merino ribbed henley? No clue. Low-slung twill palazzo? Alpaca belted cowl neck? These are not terms I hear in common parlance.

Admittedly, this is where the models provide some assistance. Looking over Karen’s shoulder, I connect the description at the bottom of the page with a capital letter floating next to the chest of a Brad Pitt look-a-like, and voila, a “merino ribbed henley.” Much like the disappointment I feel when a clever book is transformed into a crummy movie, however, I invariably conclude that my image of a “merino ribbed henley” was much more exotic than the J. Crew version.

“Hey, what about these beige cords?” Karen asks. “I bet they’d look good on you.”

I appreciate flattery as much as the next girl, but I’m skeptical. “Hmm. . . I’m not sure they’re my style.”

Given that I don’t really have a style, it’s a lame excuse. To her eternal credit, Karen turns the page without saying another word.

When I’m asked why I love Alaska, Carharts is near the top of my list. It appears soon after friends, Chugach State Park, a six-minute commute and First Fridays. I don’t own a single pair of the sturdy tan work clothes, but their prevalence in Alaskan movie theaters and coffee shops puts my fashion angst to rest. By comparison, my high-riding Levi’s look downright upscale.

When I first moved to Anchorage I explained...
to my stylish friends back in DC that I’d finally found a place where function prevailed over fashion. And it felt like home.

Of course, there’s the proverbial perfect home, then there’s the emotionally complicated reality. Turns out my fashion home is closer to the latter. Because while I publicly proclaim my aversion to fashion, I am not immune from societal expectations or from my own vanity for that matter.

As much as I resist, I want to inspire a clothing-related compliment once in awhile, even turn an occasional head when I walk down the street. And I appreciate that my high-waisted jeans and a cat-hair laden black fleece shirt are unlikely to garner much positive attention. Ergo, my dilemma. Despising on the one hand the che-che fashion of urban America with all its capitalist hype, while at the same time wanting to look good according to some collective standard I can’t quite put my finger on.

“Do people really wear that stuff in public?” I ask Karen when we reach the Alpaca cowl neck page.

Sensing that under my feigned disgust lies a genuine fear that I might one day have to add a cowl neck to my wardrobe, she laughs, “Probably not in Anchorage, Honey. Don’t worry, you’re safe.”

---

Hugs should last less than a minute

by Frank H. Tano

It’s November. On a certain Thursday of this month, a vast majority of us in this country give thanks. I’m no different. I, too, take this time to reflect on the things I’m thankful for. Family, friends, good health are all things I try not to take for granted. I’m also thankful for so much more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize some other important people in my life. I’m referring, of course, to everyone who has ever hit me...and failed in the endeavor. For obvious reasons, the names have been changed, not so much to protect the innocent but to add to the comic effect. Yes, I am shameless.

A thank you goes out to “Hands On Murphy” of Tacoma, WA. He was the first man to ever hit on me. I didn’t know what to say when he asked me for certain liberties that day. Thanks, Murphy.

My appreciation is offered to “Natural Feel Bob.” During a Zen moment of sightseeing, he made a grab for my joy area...twice. Thanks, Bob, for that enlightenment moment. I admire a man searching for Nirvana. Might I suggest alternative methods that don’t require tactile familiarity with my novelty print boxers?

An “I owe you one” is noted for “Personal Space George” who tried to get my attention by draping his body all over me...in front of my boyfriend! You’ve got big ones, George, if not the best tact.

There are women who need to be thanked as well. To “It’s Dark in the Theater Jane” who seemed quite taken with me till she saw that I was purchasing gay cinema at the video store. To “A Man Who Reads! Alice” who was all set to give me her phone number and then noticed I was browsing in the Gay and Lesbian section of the bookstore. To “He’s Not That Way Amy” who stuck with me for three months in a relationship. Sorry about that. To all you ladies, thanks.
Hugs ...

*cont'd...*

To the guy who winked at me in the grocery store while standing in front of the bananas...you had appeal (bad pun intended). I'm sure you would have loved to show me your two-for-one special. To "Guy Number Two," I wonder what you eventually did with all that Jell-O. Then, of course, there was the checkout clerk. I saw the glee in your eye as you scanned my Oscar Meyer Wiener. Oh, and when you checked my I.D., yes. I am that old.

A big hug to all those who smack my bottom, brush up against me, and other such "casual" contact at the bar. Oh yes, your efforts were not in vain, I noticed...well at first I thought you were all trying to steal my wallet, but then I figured it out. For shame.

Yes, thanks to each and every person I've listed and to the others I just didn't have space for. To all who gave me unsolicited and unwanted warm and fuzzy feelings of ick! Thank you for making this little guy feel wanted. Now, could you just go away?
Identity Helpline

GLBT Information &
Referrals
907-258-4777
1-888-901-9876
Daily 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

---

The Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage

The Home of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgendered individuals and our allies.

The GLCCA is a safe place for GLBTs to meet, hang out, hold or attend group meetings, or use the resource library and computers.

- GLCCA -
2110 East Northern Lights Blvd.
Suite 103
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(between Burger Cache and Don Jose’s)

929 - 4528 (GLBT)

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday: 3pm - 9pm
Saturday: Noon - 9pm
Sunday: Noon - 6pm

glcca@identityinc.org
Help us keep this section current!

Please send new and updated listings to:

northview@identityinc.org

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 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)

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

Alaskans for Civil Rights (ACR)
A locally organized and operated statewide political organization dedicated to obtaining full civil rights for lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, polyamorous, and intersexual people in all aspects of personal and public life. 907-566-ACR1 AlaskansforCivilRights@yahoo.com.

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

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

Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus
Open to all women, meets 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 907-349-9955

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 bbsara@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: anchoragefrontrunners@hotmail.com
Web: www.frontrunners.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 space
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 - 9 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
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 the statewide Helpline,
the NorthView, PrideFest, Living Out Loud and other events.
For more information about these events contact the Gay
and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, 2110 E.
Northern Lights Blvd, Suite 103, 929-GLBT. You can also
call the Helpline at 258-4777, or visit the Identity web page
at www.identityinc.org.

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
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.
http://www.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
and do lots of laughing. There aren’t many ways for people
to this age to meet each other, so join us and tell your friends
IMRU2, cont’d.
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 predominately 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 Myrna’s, 530 E. 5th Avenue. In addition, we hold monthly “Dinner Night Out” and several campouts throughout the summer which are open to the community at large. Check our website for complete information and list of community events at: www.tlfmc.com/calendar.htm. TLFMC, P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK. 99502-2054. 907-338-3862. E-mail: info@tlfmc.com. Web: www.tlfmc.com.

The Last Frontier Women’s Club
A pansexual social group for people with an interest in leather and the leather lifestyle. Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM, for a brief business meeting and social at The Raven. We hold other social events that are open to the entire community. For more information please write: 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. rosebethlevno@hotmail.com or 907-868-2662.

OPAL
A social organization open to all Lesbians. OPAL sponsors different events throughout the year and occasional potlucks. Anne at 345-3818 or opal@gi.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 of Anchorage
(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
Hold its monthly meeting at 7:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship AUUF, 3201 Turnagain Street. Call 907-566-1813 for a recorded message.

PFLAG of Fairbanks
PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons and their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. For more information, call 45-PFLAG for meetings and events in Fairbanks.

PFLAG of Sitka
(Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
Meets the second and fourth Sunday evenings at 7 PM in the UU Fellowship Hall, 408 Marine, Sitka. Mail: P.O. Box 6515, Sitka, Alaska. Phone: 907-747-3674 E-mail: sitkapflag@yahoo.com

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 prideontheironp@yahoo.com.
clubs, groups, organizations

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@adnmail.net.

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

Shanti of Juneau
Offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS prevention and educational information. Offices: 222 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 frisbeeheaders should contact Jen or Karen at 907-278-5179 for more info.
E-mail: Jenkout@aol.com.

Publications

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

The Anchorage Press
This is an alternative weekly paper that is not focused on the GLBT community but is friendly. They have a large personals section and can be contacted at 907-561-7737.

The Klondyke Kontakt (The KK)
This is a every-other-monthly newsletter by and for the lesbian community in Anchorage and dykes in the Bush. For more information e-mail at: kk@sci.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 michaelh2001@aol.com.
E-mail lists

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:
alaskaglbtnews@yahoo.com.

Grrlz List
A mailing list for the Women's Community. Event announcements, inquiries, issue discussion, and relevent topics of concern for women. Delivered every Thursday.
GrrlzList@hotmail.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.

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, Inc. sponsors a statewide Helpline, the NorthView, PrideFest, Living Out Loud, as well as the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, 2110 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 103 (929-GLBT).

www.identityinc.org

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

We distribute messages concerning upcoming events, news, your business, rentals, 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

Mad Myrna's

Wednesdays-Sundays
DJ Music

Sundays
70's/80's Music
Myrn's "Green Plate" Special
Pool Tournament

Wednesdays
Karaoke

Thursdays
Country Dance Lessons
Country Dancing
Karaoke

Fridays
Mad Myrna's Drag Divas
**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 anchoragefrontrunners@hotmail.com
(F) GLSEN, 5 pm, FEA on S. Cushman, every 3rd Tuesday

**WEDNESDAYS**

(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) First Friday Fetish at the Raven, 9:00 pm
(F) Free anonymous HIV testing, 3:30-5:30 pm, IAA offices, 710 3rd Avenue.

**FRIDAYS, cont'd.**

(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 anchoragefrontrunners@hotmail.com
(J) PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Mendenhall Library conference room.
(F) Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd, 9 pm - 3:30 am, 150 Farmer's Loop.

**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 I 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
Northern Exposure bowling league, Park Lanes, 4:00 pm 561-8744 for more information
Thank You!

This is a great big thanks for the hard work and sponsorship that made Pride Conference 2002 possible and a great success:

Our Sponsors
Identity, Inc
Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association
The Family at UAA
Pride Foundation

Lead sponsor
Staffing
Venue
Funding

Thanks to these groups
Anchorage PFLAG
GLSEN Alaska, Inc.
Adam-and-Steve
Alaska Native Health Board
African Men United Against AIDS
IMRU2
Navajo AIDS Network
NAESM

Thanks to our volunteers
Tom Rachel
Victoria Shaver
Jim Mohr
Chuck Hart
Wendy Parsons
Scott Turner
Mary Parker
Mike Travis
Joe Weiss
Rodney, Javier, James, Mark, Anthony

Potluck and Housing Coordinator
Workshops and Publicity
Admin Support
Registration
Finance
Workshops and Publicity
PFLAG Workshops and Publicity
GLSEN Workshops and Publicity
Venue
A bit of everything

Four As Staff
Pete Gregson
Matt Grabowy
Gregg Palmer
Nathan Rivas
Ryan Bolton
Diane Johnson
Andrea Nenzel

Conference Director
Entertainment, Decorations, Registration
Food, Publicity
Registration, Signs, Publicity
Workshops, Admin
Community Art Project
Admin Support

Also thanks to any volunteers we might have missed, all of the workshop presenters, and all of the vendors. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated. Thank you!