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Publication Information

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

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Cover View

The cover photograph was taken in September 2003, a little more than two years after the tragedy at the World Trade Center. The cross, made of steel beams originally a part of the Trade Center, is a memorial to the many heroes who lost their lives that day.

Cover and back cover photographs by Brian Chen.

Identity
Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage

The Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAAA)
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The Imperial Court of the Empire of All Alaska

If you or your organization would like to sponsor a future edition of the NorthVIEW, drop us a note at northview@identityinc.org.
Everyday Heroes Are the Very Best Kind

Mother Teresa once said, "We can’t all do great things, but we can all do small things in a great way."

To me, heroes are people who do just that. Heroes are ordinary, everyday people who don’t necessarily change the world, but who do change people’s lives in small ways through simple acts of kindness.

Years ago I read a letter to the editor in the Anchorage Daily News from a woman who worked at a gift shop in the Fifth Avenue Mall. She said a teenager wearing a cast on his arm had knocked a teacup off a shelf and broke it. The youth offered to pay for the cup, but she declined his offer since it appeared to be an accident. In appreciation, the youth later sent the woman a small gift certificate for the fast food restaurant where he worked. The woman was so moved that she sent a letter to the News praising the youth for his maturity and sense of responsibility.

When I read the woman’s letter, I was amazed that three small acts of kindness and compassion had evolved from one broken cup and saucer.

Heroes are people who, in the everyday course of life, find ways to help others, to lend a hand, an ear or a shoulder, and do something nice for someone else.

Heroes are people who shovel their neighbor’s driveway when they’re out of town. Or walk their roommate’s dog when the dog’s owner is studying for finals.

Heroes are people who donate blood and sign a donor card authorizing physicians to give the gift of life to another through organ donation.

Heroes are people who volunteer at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, while the rest of us put up our feet in the La-Z-Boy on Friday night and watch HGTV.

Heroes are people who drop by their local retirement home and visit with residents who are without relatives, and not just on December 25.

Heroes are people who rescue homeless pets, take them to the vet for a checkup and shots, and find them a good home, or perhaps make room in their own home for one more little creature. A saying goes that saving one dog won’t change the world, but the world will surely change for that one dog. Such is the domino effect of kindness.

This month many Northview contributors have written about our theme of heroes, both great and small. I hope you enjoy their stories and that we all find ways in the New Year "to do small things in a great way."

Warmly,
Teresa McPherson
Editor
Readings by Rachel Mattie

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The NORTHVIEW continues to seek volunteers to contribute articles, columns, reviews, stories, photographs, and artwork.

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Yep...we're gay!

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My Heroes? Your GLCCA Staff Volunteers!

Lawrence for a year and a half now catches the bus every Sunday morning to have the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage open at noon for you.

Stephanie drives in from Big Lake to staff the center and also facilitate the transgender group each Sunday.

The Sunday staff is rounded out by Dawn (Celebration of Change stage manager) and Cari (Cordova fisherwoman).

Juan is our Monday man. Then he drives out to Hatcher Pass. Jim covers for Juan those Mondays he has a staff meeting at work. Jim also covers other 3 to 6 PM shifts when called on.

Laura steps out of her work-related closet existence to help keep our doors wide open on Monday evenings.

If you don’t see Laura on some Mondays, you will be greeted by our Library Goddess, Liz. On her alternate Tuesdays off work, Gail labels library books and works on the library database.

If you want to talk to Kippy some Tuesday, just be late returning your library materials. Besides being our Library Enforcer, Kippy has used some of her shift time to study and obtain her degree from UAA this year.

Dan keeps Al busy on Wednesday afternoons helping with Identity administrative duties (read: stuff and label envelopes). What a great opportunity for a couple to have quality time together!

You’ll find Dee at the GLCCA primarily on some Wednesdays and Saturdays. Special thanks to Dee for putting together the Christmas Day poll tax at the GLCCA for two years now.

Deb covers Thursdays. You may also have seen her leading her band of merry Dykes on Bikes at this year’s Pride Parade.

Maria also helps on Thursdays, working her schedule around child care.

And dear Dave. Week after week after week you can count on Dave to have the center open a full six hours on Fridays. Multi-talented Dave also built shelves in our storeroom and put together the 2002 and 2003 New Year’s Eve parties at the GLCCA.

Steve has not only helped cover Saturdays, he has built some beautiful furniture units for the center. Tiffany has gone from Tuesdays to Saturdays, volunteering around her changing work schedule.

Scott (don’t ask, don’t tell) covers a full six-hour shift one Saturday a month, as does Victoria (Living Out Loud, Helpline, Celebration of Change, and so much more).

And when you see the term GLBTA and you wonder what the “A” is for, think Karen—a great ally and GLCCA staff volunteer.

These are only some of my heroes at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. They are the current core group whose dedication keeps the doors open seven days a week.

Editor’s Note: Phyllis Rhodes is MY hero for her energy and devotion to the GLCCA, and for her people skills in coordinating such an awesome and diverse group of volunteers.

I recently asked Phyllis how many hours she puts in coordinating the GLCCA each month. She pondered the question a moment, as though she’d never really given it any thought.

A big tip o’ the hat to this energetic and dynamic leader.
Frank Tano

Him, Her & All Those in Between

(The following is a transcript of a conversation I had with myself.)

Frank One: I have to write about "Heroes" for this issue.

Frank Two: Super Heroes? Tights, muscles not to mention their alarming practice of homoerotic subtexts?

Frank One: I am not writing about that. I am going to write about my own personal hero.

Frank Two: Who would that be?

Frank One: Well it's... well I don't know.

Frank Two: Well, I'd like to see you stretch that out into 600 words or less.

Frank One: Shut up.

Frank Two: Might I suggest revisiting the super hero concept? You could submit a picture with you in a cape.

Frank One: No.

Frank Two: Better yet, don't you still have that picture of you dressed as Starman Boy?!

Frank One: Don't make me take medication to sedate you.

Frank Two: Fine. I'm leaving.

Frank Three: Hey, where is he off to?

Frank One: Why can't anything be normal?

Frank Three: What?

Frank One: Never mind. Help me write this article. Who's a hero in our life?

Frank Three: Oh, the person who decided that you could put marshmallow cream into a jar and sell it for three bucks a pop.

Frank One: That reminds me, I'm hungry. Do we have any of that left?

Frank Three: No, Frank Two ate it all during TLC's What Not To Wear Thanksgiving Marathon.

Frank One: You mean "marathon."

Frank Three: No, "Marathong." Remember, we were in costume.

Frank One: That's the last time I play Truth or Dare. We were quite stunning though.

Frank Two: YEEAAGHHHHHH!!!!

Frank One/Frank Three: What was that?

Kelly Frank: Could you two guys tell the other guy that I have no interest in creating a comic book about superheroes that exist in a parallel world where they are completely straight acting. I don't think my fist in his face made that clear.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have a show to do.

Frank Three: She's so mean.

Frank One: Yeah, she has one good performance at Cruising for Laughs and she thinks she owns it all. It's hard being her friend.

Frank Three: I don't want to alarm you, but you realize this conversation is happening in your head, right?

Frank One: That would explain why I looked so good in the thong during my visual flash back (Flash Back not available in print media).

Frank Three: So there is still the problem of the article. What are you going to write about?

Frank One: Forget the article. We've got a comic book to illustrate!

Frank likes to write. Sometimes he writes with the assistance of Frank, Frank, Kelly Frank and Far-Nut. Frankie will often distract them and Franklin pays the bills. If you'd like to hear their opinions on the matter, e-mail to befrankfeedback@yahoo.com.

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NORTHVIEW
PLATO’S PLAYPEN

Working-Class Heroes

I have a confession to make. I’ve never had a person who would fall under the penumbra of the title hero. I know there are a plethora of personalities who possess distinguished qualities of courage, ability and brilliant minds who would make an ideal role model. Choosing one person would elevate that person to a status of an idol, someone of god-like prowess, perfection and beneficence.

But would I really know them well? Would I know truly, deeply their substance and essence? There is hearsay and intuendo of people that seem marvelous on the outside, but who are haunted by inner conflict. Some people lead tumultuous personal lives behind the closed doors of home. And so I had to scratch my head, rewind my life experiences to filter the sea of stellar personalities and friends.

I decided to select a group that is under-rated and ignored—the working class. They are the ones who grunt and grind for a daily living without having auras of a “better than thou” attitude. This is the group I relate to and have heartfelt empathy for. While I worked in a cozy office with my stiff white designer shirt, my blue-collar co-workers toiled twice as hard as my colleagues and received one-half the compensation. I worked with highly-educated people who were not only lazy, but also refused to mingle with the blue-collar staff.

Here is a good example of what I mean. I invited a group of friends from all walks of life to my birthday party some time ago. There were notables present, aspiring actors, models and professionals, as well as some secretaries, persons of assorted ethnic origin, and a good mix of persons down on their luck, some with a criminal history or leading sordid lives. I was approached by a whiny, Yale-educated colleague who demanded that I throw out a particular person of the working class who appeared to have “a low intelligence quotient,” according to his judgment.

I immediately snapped, “I have learned a ton of street smart and practical knowledge from him, more than I will ever learn from your hoity-toity education and demeanor. If you don’t like my friends, you can just leave.” He did not leave, but I did catch him in my bathroom, in an embarrassing sexual position with another guy of similar intelligence.

Yes, the management at my office even went as far as admonishing me that I was too friendly with the staff and had to take their side on issues I felt were unjust or unconscionable. In short, obey orders and caress the personalities I despised.

I admit I am attracted to those who toll within the working class, you know the ones with practical household experience such as electricians, auto mechanics and plumbers. I was born in a working-class family, I worked my way up the educational and professional ladder into management. My philosophy is that hard work will beat talent when talent does not work hard. I identify with those without material possessions, who live with hunger, who have not a day of peace of mind. If you are speaking your mind, pushing the barriers and living in the present, then I’m on your side. Even though the nature of my profession brought me in contact with people of wealth, in entertainment and the wonders of privilege, I chose my company with people less fortunate.

I can hardly express my emotions to the working class for showing me the meaning of success. Here is what I think of the establishment and the privileged class: as soon as you are born, they make you feel small. Their mind games inflict pain until you feel nothing at all. They hate you if you are smart and despise you as a fool. They torture and scare you while breaking the rules. They say there is no room at the top, don’t bother to climb the hill, just keep on smiling as you learn how to kill.

Now, how should I put this delicately? When I am in the midst of society’s elite, it appears that everybody is talking about sanitation, regulation, revolution, masturbation, population, barricades, escapades, barristers, ministers, sinsters, grab it, snatch it, faggots, lesbians, bohemians, thespians, morality, insanity, working snails and fairy tales. They think they are so clever and free, but still fornicking with peasants as far as I can see.

So why don’t they just shut up and give us a chance?

PLATO’S HEROES

Neither the lords nor the shogun can be depended upon to serve the country, and so our only hope lies in the grass-roots heroes.

—Yoshida Shoin (1830-1859)

I say to you in all sadness of conviction, that to think great thoughts you must be heroes as well as idealists.

—Olive Wendell Holmes, Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1894-1935)

When I peruse the conquered fame of heroes and victories of mighty generals, I do not envy the generals.

—Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

The oppressed are always morally right.

—Robert Briffault, British anthropologist (1876-1948)

Show me a hero and I will write you a tragedy.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald, American writer (1896-1940)

Plato is a certified dreamer, living an illusion and pontificating conclusions. Plato thinks a working class hero is something to be.

February 2004 theme

Relationships: they make the world go round, and not just the romantic ones. Connecting with others is a beautiful thing. Share your thoughts on relationships in 800 words or less. Deadline for February NorthVIEW is January 10, 2004.
Women Who Walk Through Fire

In the introduction to the book she edited, The Women Who Walk Through Fire, Susanna J. Sturgis calls women heroes, heras. Women, she says, who are "insistent individuals," are found in many new works of fiction. The test and quest of archetypal heroism are found in women who "are actively pushing the boundaries of traditional heroism in all directions." The women she calls heras push those boundaries.

When I was in sixth grade, I had a teacher who pushed the boundaries. I can't remember her name now, but she took my precocious ability to read and turned it into a passion for books and words. I first knew then that I wanted to be a writer. I listened every day, enthralled as she read to us book after book during the time right after lunch. She was later fired from teaching because they didn't feel she was teaching the three "r's" of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Yet, these forty years later, I still remember her as a hera.

In high school I had an English teacher who pushed the boundaries. She taught me to love grammar. I still make mistakes, but she grounded me in good grammatical usage and instilled in me the love of what I later learned to call linguistics—the study of language. In graduate school I followed that thread to study linguistics and it's a hobby I still have.

Those two women influenced the direction my life took as far as writing was concerned.

Many years later, in 1992, I walked into the Alaska Women's Bookstore on Tudor. I walked in with trepidation, worried that I would become a dreaded lesbian. After all, my mother warned me that if I hung around with lesbians, they would convert me. But my inner sense of knowing told me that I would find answers to what was going on inside of me. It took me several visits before I could walk down the aisle where the lesbian books were located. But I did go down aisles where books on feminist theory were located.

I began reading and couldn't stop. Answers to questions I had been asking came pouring off the pages of the books. When I got up the courage to go down the lesbian book aisle, the owners recommended a book called, Invisible Lives: The Truth About Millions of Women-Loving Women, by Martha Barron Barrett. I read it and poured over it, as it resonated within me.

As I read, the two women who owned the bookstore, Joann and Mariah, gently led me into knowing who I really am—a proud lesbian, in love with the woman who is now my partner of eleven years. Those two women are heras to me. They introduced me to lesbian life and opened my eyes to feminist theory.

Mariah and Joann also introduced me to Libby Roderick's music. Libby has a song entitled Inspire Me, where she sings "I need to stand on the shoulders of giants, I need a woman who is as big as me ... women living without limits." She lists women who are those giants—heras—such as Judy Chicago, Amelia Earhart, Winnie Mandela, women who have made history in art, adventure, and politics.

I look around me now for women who are pushing boundaries. What I find is that I need to be a hera myself. I need to push the boundaries and make a path where none, especially women, have gone before.

Diana Wolfe is a long-time Alaskan. She lives in Anchorage with her partner, two dogs and four cats.

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An Arrogant SOB

"Glad to meet you," some young man says whose name it is beneath me to recall. I jab my hands into my pockets and give a slight nod of my head. His eyebrows raise at this.

"I only shake hands on Tuesdays and Thursdays" I say, "and besides, today is my day for being anti-social. If you don't like it, I'll send the Velvet Mafia out to sneak into your house and viciously rearrange your furniture." I don my Italian cashmere topcoat and fedora, adjusting my silk scarf. I'm only missing a green carnation. Oh well, we can't all match the standard set by those great men who have come before us.

Upon arriving back at my office, my boss walks up to me and states, "You're a real arrogant SOB, aren't you?" I smile and respond, "Why, thank you very much. I'm glad you recognize my talents. I'm working on becoming the quintessential arrogant SOB as perfected by my hero, Oscar Wilde."

"Why don't you go take your meds," she responds in exasperation and turns away.

Some people quibble about whether Oscar Wilde truly is worthy of being a hero of gay liberation, but few will disagree that he created the archetype for the perfect gay arrogant SOB. Many try this, but only succeed in being a curmudgeon.

Wilde threw arrogance and insult in the face of an ultra conservative Victorian society and had them scrambling to be insulted again. The press flocked to record each witty insult he threw out, outlandish clothing he wore, and to criticize him for his immorality (being gay). When asked if he was bothered by the negative press, Wilde responded, "You have to let other people be right; it consoles them for not being anything else."

He started a fad for wearing a green carnation as a symbol of being gay, which lasted from the late 1800's until the 1930's. He never intended it to be such a symbol. When asked what it meant, he stated, "It means nothing at all, which is precisely what they are least likely to guess." In response to his predilection for such pranks, he said, "I am in terror of not being misunderstood." However, after his spectacular trial for being gay, the green carnation became the "secret symbol" for gays.

When people superciliously saw fit to advise him, he remarked, "I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself."

Even upon his death, he had his own arrogant style. "It is only by not paying one's bills that one can hope to live in the memory of the commercial class." His last words, after being told his medical bill, were: "Then I suppose I shall have to die beyond my means."

When Oscar Wilde was arrested for being gay, the proscription against being gay, or rather, any sort of sex between two men had only become a law in England 10 years earlier. It was seldom enforced. In Wilde's case, they made an exception because he chose to openly have affairs with both lower class and nobility, scandalizing the Victorian sensibility. The fact that he was always in the press, poking fun at the Victorian sense of morality and fashion in his actions, poetry, plays, and novels, especially with his writing of same-sex love, made him the perfect target for those wishing to make an example. But even then he had more than enough friends and was given three chances to flee England, but refused to do so. He was eventually jailed for being gay.

Oscar Wilde is my hero because he created an art form out of arrogance. Snubbing people and having them happily write about the experience, rather than insulting them, is truly a form of poetry. In fact, witty insults appear frequently in Wilde's plays and novels, thus proving that arrogance pays.

The lesson to be learned is that while conservatives and fundamentalists rant and rave with their emotionally charged and illogical arguments, we need only lift our noses a bit and remain above it all. With studied arrogance you can weather out the storms of ignorance while cutting them to shreds in a calm, calculated, rational manner.

Practice whenever possible. Like I said after my previous boss died, "I did not attend her funeral, but I wrote a nice letter saying I approved of it."

Tim Weiss is currently tolerated at his current job at Covenant House where he is kept in a dark closet to minimize human contact. Despite all attempts by others, he can still be reached at timweiss@chugach.net.
Dad Reads with Son, Daughter, and Friends

My son was born prematurely after a difficult pregnancy. His first three years were filled with ear infections and allergies. His sisters, mother and I read to him every day. When he was in pain, reading calmed him. With his ear infections, he did not always hear the words, but he knew we were giving him our attention.

I read to him when I had the chance during the turbulent year of my coming out and divorce. Sometimes he would be too upset for conversation, but I could read the book of his choosing to him. He had control over the book and felt safe that we would not discuss anything he did not like. Reading kept our fragile bond from snapping.

Nine elementary schools by fifth grade, four homeless shelters, and everything else put his schoolwork years behind his peers. I read to him every chance we had. I can ask him about anything in a book we have read, even passages from months ago, and he has perfect comprehension.

In the last few months, my son has finally caught up with his sixth-grade classmates. He graduated out of the special needs program and is getting great grades. Reading to him has helped get my son out where he can grow.

My daughter, Becca, learned to read quickly. I had read to her from birth. By kindergarten she was reading to me. She has been reading at a college level since fifth grade. Frequently she reads books I have read. Becca and I have great conversations about the treasures and the stinkers we have both read. Harper Lee’s To Kill A Mockingbird was a weekday discussion. We both loved the book.

My oldest is an avid reader in college on academic scholarships. Becca is getting all A’s, and my youngest is now earning his first A’s. The small fortune I have spent on books and the enjoyable hours reading to my kids were well worth the money and effort. My children and I have happy memories that will last forever. They have advantages because of the time spent between the pages, crawling around in the imaginations of authors they’ve never met. They can see things from many sides by imagining how Sendak or Cartwright might describe the situation.

You might think I am trying to paint myself a hero. I am not a hero; I am a book junkie who works in a bookstore. I read for myself everyday, on the bus, at home, on my lunch break for my pleasure.

Talking about a book with five or six others who have read it is fun. The Borders GLBT Reading Group has been meeting since October.

In October we read Augusten Burroughs’ comic/tragic autobiography, Running With Scissors. This story was too strange to be fiction. Had it not been written with such fierce humor, the horrific story would not have been bearable. We enjoyed it, laughing and crying with the author.

In November we read Come Out Fighting edited by Chris Bull, a collection of essays, letters, and writings on gay and lesbian liberation from the late 1960’s to 2001.

We will discuss Inajica by Clive Barker in the Borders Café on January 21 at 7 PM. Clive Barker produced the Oscar-winning movie, Gods and Monsters, and is a best selling popular science fiction writer.

There is no charge to participate. If you want to buy the book, just tell any cashier you are buying it for the GLBT reading group and you will get a 20% discount.

Come join us for an hour and help pick the March book selection. Although we do laugh, and sometimes camp it up a bit, we don’t bite.

Chuck Hart, father of three, was born in the 31st year of the Showa era, the year of the monkey.
My Hero

As a child I always thought my hero would be the classic knight in white armor, sweeping me off my feet into Never-never Land.

As I grew up, I decided being swept off my feet was really not very dignified, and the knight changed from time to time with the latest movie idol. As for the armor, I really preferred something more pliable, and I had no idea where Never-never Land was.

It was in my newly-acquired dotage that I discovered what my hero, as he too matured, really is. He has the following attributes:

1. He has a sense of humor.
2. He is intelligent and pragmatic.
3. He cares about the world in which we live.
4. He cares about people, whatever their style, type or kind.
5. He always has time for a friend or even an acquaintance who needs him.
6. You can always rely on his word.
7. He is unspiring with his energy and always there to help.
8. He befriends those who are maligned, mistreated, unwanted.
9. He is inventive and resourceful.
10. He is skilled and generous with his skills.
11. He listens and never complains.
12. He is a friend.

These attributes have become important through the years, especially when I associated with those from whom such attributes are missing! But as the list grew, I despaired of ever finding anyone who possessed all of them, satisfying myself with living with those who embodied the important ones and trying to emulate these ideals myself as best I could.

Then, from among the wonderful people I became acquainted with in association with the Gay community, I found a person who stood out. He was from the medical profession (hence the white armor). He inspired me to join with him in instituting some helping organizations (sweeping me away). He embodies the assets I admire most, and although he can't help being human, it's his very human-ness that makes him a real, live, hero!

So, romance aside and Never-never Land dismissed, I salute my hero: Fred Hillman.

Sylvia Short helped found Four A's and the Alaska chapters of PFLAG and GLSEN. She remains an active supporter of all things GLBT.

A Time to Remember

A significant event took place in a quiet candlelight ceremony at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage Sunday, November 16, 2003.

National Transgender Day of Remembrance was celebrated with flute playing, candle lighting, a special song, and several heartfelt readings. Some 30 transgender people, friends and allies gathered to honor those lost and to celebrate transgender men and women everywhere who lead lives true to themselves in dignity and without fear.

Kippy Lanz played the flute, Tina Saunders gave the welcome and opening remarks, and Rachel Runyan read the names of those slain from gender-related violence and prejudice. Danny Templeton, Taylor Burns and Rachel Runyan gave moving testimonies to the personal, social and political effects of being transgendered. A juice-drink toast was offered by Taylor Burns and refreshments were served by Teresa McPherson and Ruth Mitchell. It was a moving, serious and joyful occasion all at once.

Thank you to the Transgender Community for the invitation to share their journey.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gabriel
272-9045
Hairstylist
Cosmetologist
Licensed Masseur

1310 East 8th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Clockwise from the bottom left:

Tina Saunders giving the welcome and opening remarks

Kippy Lanz playing flute

Rachel Runyan reading names of those slain from gender-related violence and prejudice

Danny Templeton lighting candles in remembrance

Attendees of the event enjoying snacks and refreshments
No More, No Less

Sometimes people ask me what it's like to be transgendered. It's a strange question, since I don't really think of myself as transgendered or transsexual or trans anything. I just think of myself as a man—no more, no less.

I haven't always thought of myself this way. In fact, for a long time, I tried not to think of myself at all. I thought if I didn't think about it, it would go away. Only it doesn't work that way. You look in the mirror and each day you hate what you see a little more. Until one day you have to do something about it, so you can be who you really are—no more, no less.

I've been seeing the same doctor for years. She's a great doctor, so when I went through gender reassignment, I decided to keep her as my regular doctor. But that meant I had to talk to her about who I am. So I did and she was very understanding, eventually she even agreed to manage my hormone therapy. I asked her change my medical record from F to M to more accurately reflect who I am—a male patient, a little different maybe, but a male patient, no more, no less.

I play in a rock and blues band. People used to call us a lesbian band, maybe because most of the band is lesbian. We've been together a long time and I think the band liked thinking of us as an all-woman band. But we're not. We're a rock and blues band with a lead guitarist who happens to be a man—no more, no less.

I married the love of my life two years ago. She sometimes calls me her partner, even though we married in a legal ceremony. I call her my wife, but she still wants to call me her partner. I tell her, I'm your husband—no more, no less.

I visited my grandmother last year. She's 98 now. It was the first time she saw me as I look today. At first, she was pretty surprised, but all in all, she was pretty cool about things. Maybe getting old does that, maybe it helps us see what's really important in life. Because she looked at me and said, "Are you happier this way?" I said, "Yes, Grandma, I am." Then she said: "Well you made a better boy than a girl." She saw me for what I was: her grandson, no more, no less.

Today, I'm an ordinary guy. I go to work, I come home, I exercise, I love my wife, and I look forward to growing old. My body isn't perfect, there are still things I would change if I could, and maybe one day I will. But it's a body I can live in.

Today, I look in the mirror and I don't hate what I see. Today I look in the mirror and I see a man with a receding hairline, and I think to myself, "Geez, Danny, one day you're gonna be an old man—no more, no less."
The Last Frontier
Men's Club
11th Annual

Black & Blue Ball
T.L.F.M.C.
Anchorage
Alaska

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Mr. Alaska Leather
Mr. Bear Alaska
Mr. Levi Alaska
Alaska Bear Cub

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Anchorage Alaska

www.tlfmc.com/blackandblue
2003 Exceeds Others in Transgender Killings

The year 2003 has been the most deadly on record for transgender people, with more victims of anti-transgender killings reported this year than in any year prior.

Thirty-eight transgender people have been reported killed so far this year, twice the number reported just two years ago, according to experts who monitor anti-transgender violence. Last year, 27 such killings were reported.

"It's brutal and it's gut-wrenching," said Shawna Virago, a transgender activist at Community United Against Violence, a San Francisco agency that provides support to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender victims of hate and domestic violence.

Virago and other experts attribute the increasing killings to a number of factors, including diligence on the part of the transgender community to track the crimes, increased media interest, and, in some parts of the country, better relationships between law enforcement and the transgender community.

"Then there's the intense hatred," said Jennifer Rakowski, a board member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects, an alliance of 26 organizations that tracks hate violence in the United States.

Rakowski believes that some people who assault transgender people do not see their victims as fully human. "The killers view them as 'it' as opposed to seeing them as people," Rakowski told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Net-

work. "That leads to their expectation of societal permission to go through with the killing."

Other experts attribute the increased violence to the growing visibility of transgender people in the United States and around the world.

"As transgender people become more visible, we're becoming a bigger target," Gwen Smith told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. Smith has tracked transgender killings for the past six years on her website, Remembering Our Dead.

"As trans and LGBT rights become a bigger issue in society, these killings are part of that backlash to it," Smith said.

Smith believes transgender people are often the main targets of a backlash because they are the most visible, sometimes clearly challenging stereotypical notions of "appropriate" male and female attire or gender expression.


MARY PARKER

Health Issues Panel a Success

The Anchorage chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) sponsored a panel discussion December 3 on Healthy Living Challenges of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Population. This panel was part of the Alaska Public Health Association’s annual Health Summit at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel.

Jane Schlittler and I wish to thank publicly and heartily our four panel members and our moderator who made the presentation a success. Our panelists were Jackie Buckley, Taylor Burns, Katherine Davey, and Stephanie Strube. Tim Pearson was our panel moderator.

Topics discussed during the hour-long session ranged from education on sexual health to legal issues involved in health care to health care issues encountered by Alaska transgender patients. Our panelists were articulate and well prepared, and the audience, though small, was attentive and appreciative. Many lingered long after the session ended to continue discussions with the panel members.

The panelists helped us put together a resource guide of principally web-based materials. You can get a copy of the resource guide by emailing marynparker@yahoo.com. The guide is a Word document that will be sent electronically.

Again, thank you Katherine, Stephanie, Jackie, Taylor and Tim. You made the event a success!

Mary Parker is active with the Anchorage chapters of PFLAG and GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network).
While the World Sleeps

When I picked up *While the World Sleeps* (Thunder's Mouth Press, 2003) from Barnes and Noble about six months ago, I wondered why I was doing it.

The book, edited by Chris Bull, contains forty-two articles and/or excerpts with regard to AIDS. Do I really need this? I've been dealing with this disease for a generation now. I've experienced a profound sense of loss—though not nearly as great as many others—and I've periodically felt the need to explode, given the anger and rage that has often festered within me.

But perhaps it was because the writings were over the past twenty years that I sensed, perhaps subconsciously, that it was important to take the journey again. And it might be beneficial for others like me, and even more so for those of younger generations who were barely born when this modern plague was hoisted upon us, to take note as well.

The articles (or excerpts) appear in chronological order. The first one, predictably, is the July 3, 1981, article from the *New York Times*, “Rare Cancer Seen in 41 Homosexuals.” I expect few, if any, had even the remotest idea what this foretold. Appearing in the straight press, this article was rare indeed, for it would take years for the press to take AIDS seriously and truly cover it. Indeed, a number of early articles come from the *New York Native* and are authored by Larry Kramer.

Now, whether you can take him or not, one has to concede that Larry is passionate, and I think he gave the gay community a kick in the ass when we needed it. Sure, I doubt I could ever work with him, but I do admire him and his commitment.

(There would likely have been no ACT UP without Larry.)

Excerpts from some memorable books and authors are also included in the work: Andrew Holleran (*Ground Zero*), Paul Mornette (*Borrowed Time*), Randy Shilts (*And the Band Played On*), Susan Sontag (*AIDS and Its Metaphors*) and Edmund White (*The Burning Library*). Articles about AIDS impact on African Americans (Marlon Riggs), athletes (Greg Louganis) and physicians (Abraham Verghese) are present and precious. And so is the hope of Michael Callen, the advocate of safe sex and survival, and the vision of Cleve Jones and The Quilt.

The book concludes with six articles that concern the worldwide impact of AIDS, and I was struck how forty-one cases in 1981 became around forty million a generation later.

Gale Smoke teaches Sociology 387: Gay & Lesbian Lifestyles at UAA. You can reach Gale at glsmoke@alaska.net.
News from the Co-Chair

The beginning of a new year is an exciting time for Identity. We start gearing up for PrideFest in June, the Pride Conference in October, and many other activities.

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage will celebrate its second birthday January 31 with a big birthday bash (more details to come). The Living Out Loud steering committee is hard at work and the first weekend workshop will be held January 24.

I have been asked, "What's in it for me if I join Identity?" All I can do is answer what it means to me. I love getting NorthVIEW delivered to my mailbox each month. NorthVIEW has gone through a metamorphosis over the last months and looks so spectacular and professional. We certainly can be very proud of our newsmagazine. It is very convenient for me to get it at home, rather than picking it up somewhere. All members and donors receive NorthVIEW.

I was in the women's community for years before I discovered Identity. My partner, Wendy, and I attended the Pride Conference in 2000 and what struck me the most was a sense of community. I was drawn to become a member so that I could be a part of that community of GBLTA folks.

Shortly after that I began making friends in the community. I met bisexuals, transgendered folks, and gay men. Coming from the perspective of a separatist, where I avoided contact with anyone outside our community (especially men), I found meeting and knowing other GBLTA folk was an immense paradigm shift for me. Now I wouldn't trade my friends, in fact, one of my best friends is a man. Wow, have I come a long way! We're all on the same team and I get to be a part of that.

Another reason I joined Identity was to support the efforts. Identity does to create safe places for GLBT people to celebrate, learn, and network, such as PrideFest and Pride Conference. I have met so many people who have joined Identity at one of those events. And, of course, the flagship of our programs is the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, where our goal is to provide a safe place to come to and be welcome. At the center we can grow in our understanding of what it means to be GBLTA. Even our A's - allies - find ways there to grow in their support of GBLTA individuals. We can justly be proud of supporting these programs.

Our Living Out Loud Youth Program has morphed into monthly workshops accompanied by social events. This is the first year I have had any part of the planning of LOL. The first one will be in January and all of us look forward to that. What a difference it will make for young people today to have a forum in which to explore their sexuality in a safe place. PFLAG and GLSEN, as our partner organizations, do a wonderful job with IMRU2 and the GSA's. It makes a difference, though, for Identity to sponsor these monthly workshops as a time for intensive training and learning for our young people. How many of us struggled alone to come to terms with our sexuality and lived for years with questions unanswered? What we offer these young people today is the opportunity to discover themselves and to know who they are.

The Helpline continues to be a crucial program of Identity. New life is being breathed into the program as a new steering committee works on a new and updated resource manual. Anyone who knows of resources that should be included can contact me at 338-5909 or dwolfe@alaska.com. Also, we'll offer Helpline training in January, so if you would like to be a Helpline volunteer, please contact me.

If you are a member of Identity, you can take pride in what we do as an organization and know that you are an essential element needed to keep us going.

If you are not a member, please join us as a member as we celebrate the New Year.

Diana Wolfe is co-chair of Identity and PrideFest.
In a state such as Alaska, where the majority of the population resides in the only big city, it’s impossible to be out and about without meeting someone you know. So being a same-sex couple with a child in Anchorage may not be the easiest path to follow.

However, in some ways a parent is a parent... There are many ways to become a parent, whether gay or straight. Artificial insemination is one of the more popular ways to acquire a child for a lesbian couple, and there are multiple options on how to do that. Another way is to simply become foster parents to children who need love and attention, or become a Big Brother or Sister, or just be a friend/auntie to someone's child.

A lesbian couple we know found a unique way to become parents. As "Leslie" was 40, she was mutually decided that Elizabeth, being the younger, would give birth—if they could find a suitable donor. They were already foster parents to one child who had been shuffled about a great deal when they became aware of a gay man offering free sperm through a Hawaiian gay/lesbian newsletter. This was 1991 and by March of 1992, they had acquired sperm from him. After four attempts, Elizabeth became pregnant through the act of pouring sperm into a diaphragm and inserting same, then making love.

Wow! Here we have two career-oriented women who wanted a child of their own, who have given this child a birth mother, a mother through legal adoption, a father who stays in touch, and three sets of grandparents.

By choosing to be parents, Elizabeth and Leslie opened themselves up to possible insult, ridicule, and career assassination. For them, this decision did not come lightly. As "Margaret" grew into youth from babyhood, they found themselves immersed in school, church, community and neighborhood activities where their unique family was in the public eye.

Part of their planning for parenthood included projecting ahead to the difficult times when Margaret might be faced with questions of a tender nature about her family. So these bold, determined women gave Margaret a shield of love, truth and respect that allowed her to develop into a bright, forthright individual with a comprehension of the various love relationships humans have, even though she admits sometimes she'd rather not know as much as she does. It's also allowed her to be strong and unafraid to speak out when someone attempts to malign her, her family or her beliefs.

When Margaret approached school age, her parents stopped the local schools to find one that had teachers with a more enlightened approach to their familial situation, as well as a higher standard of education.

Coping with the prejudices of American society, whether gay or lesbian, is a decision we each make daily. And with the stress of choosing to be parents comes the demand to be courageous above and beyond the normal call of duty. For Leslie and Elizabeth, it means much more personal involvement in a straight world than their careers require, which has also cost them some lesbian friends who don't have and never wanted children, but has introduced them to couples who have. Regardless of community affiliations, to love a child and instill her/him with the best of principles means putting your money where your mouth is in practicing "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself."

Overall, this couple has been fortunate with Margaret, as they have had, from the beginning, much support of community, friends and co-workers. Sure, there are those parents who won’t let their children stay overnight at Margaret’s home, as if afraid the sexual differences may become infectious. Some equate queers with pedophiles, even though statistics indicate most offenders are straight males. But there are also the open-minded, unafraid parents who see a family first, an ordinary child, perhaps love and spirit even.

I am sure there are times when Margaret wishes her family really were normal. Striving to be a typical child isn’t easy in a lesbian family. It sometimes means finding fault with others, arguing, disliking certain foods or activities, at least while you’re struggling through those awkward stages of establishing your own identity. The true norm here is that everyone’s kids are doing the same thing, regardless of parentage. Certainly there are probably times when Leslie or Elizabeth would prefer more personal time and solitude. However, we see a happy, productive family that love and enjoy each other in spite of the difficulties they face by being atypical.

We find it awesome that two women united in love can naturally produce a child. Twenty years ago, it would have been an option for the average lesbian. Our world is expanding, and hopefully there are many brave, assertive women out there who can leap through the doors that are opening to us.

Ruth and Deb are life partners with one cat-child and interests in writing, reading, tarot and travel. They changed the names of the women and child in this article to protect the family’s privacy.

GLCC A Birthday Bash!
Saturday, January 31
1:00 - 4:00 PM
Come help the Community Center kick off another year of great programs and service to the Anchorage G L B T A community!

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650 W. International Airport Rd., Ste 204
Anchorage, AK 99518-1121
fken@alaska.net/toll: 248-2421
http://www.alaska.net/~fken

January 2004
Dear Editor,

After reading the review of *The Man Who Would Be Queen*, I felt I had to respond. Unfortunately, the review does not mention that this book has generated controversy and offended many people in the transgender movement. People who read this book should understand that it does not reflect the only theory about transgenderism and, in fact, presents an outdated theory that many consider degrading to their experiences.

The book's author, Bailey, attempts to create a binary category for male-to-female transgender people that puts them into two nice, neat boxes. This does not reflect the reality of people's lives and does not allow nuance to enter the equation. People's lives are all about nuance, not strict binary categories. We saw this attempted with sexual orientation—either you were gay or straight. Then those pesky bissexuals appeared and declared their existence.

One of the two categories Bailey offers is that a man has a sexual fetish to have sex with himself as a woman. I am not transgender, but I would not want my feelings and beliefs about myself turned into a sexual fetish. I understand how people are offended by this viewpoint.

I should correct myself. Bailey does permit a third category of transgender women: liars. He has claimed that if anyone says they are not in one of these two categories, they are lying or in denial. Remember those pesky bissexuals. They have been called liars or in denial and told to get off the fence. Maybe we need to learn that life does not have to be binary, but can involve nuance and be multifaceted.

The official publicity for the book, distributed at the Denver American Association for the Advancement of Science Convention in February, leads with the phrase "Gay, Straight, or Lying! Science Has the Answer." It also claims
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

that Bailey’s conclusions “may not always be politically correct, but they are scientifically accurate, thoroughly researched and occasionally startling.” Instead, many now point to the book as another example of junk science that sensationalizes the lives and experiences of lesbian, gay and transgender people.

Lynn Conway, a male-to-female transsexual and former engineering professor at the University of Michigan, said about Bailey’s work: “In the process of investigating Bailey’s work on transsexualism, we do not learn anything about transsexualism. Instead, we begin to see more clearly all that is wrongheaded with the current scientific and social stereotyping of transsexual people.”

|I would never tell someone not to read a book. Everyone must read controversial works to form their own opinions. But people should do so with open eyes and with the recognition that just because someone can reference some scientific research, that does not make their theory truth. Science can be twisted and misrepresented.

So if you are interested, read the book, but do so knowing that the so-called “science” used in the book is not accepted by everyone.

Sincerely,

Jim Mohr

Jim Mohr is former Co-chair of Identity who has since moved to Washington State to complete his doctorate in Leadership Studies.

Dear Editor,

Just to set the record “straight” (so to speak), while a strict reading of the financial records may show that Doran Vaughan and Steven Jacquier donated an amount between $250 and $299 during 2003, let it be known far and wide that Doran and Steven in December of 2002 adopted twenty-four (24!) days in our 2003 Adopt-A-Day program—$960—in support of the GLCCA. In addition, Steven donated and critiqued almost the entire science fiction section of the GLCCA library collection.

Special thanks to Doran and Steven and all our Community Center supporters!

Phyllis Rhodes

Editor’s Note: The December 2003 NorthVIEW listed our top individual donors and their generous contributions received during calendar year 2003 only. Thanks to Phyllis for clarifying that the article did not reflect adopt-a-day contributions for 2003 received prior to January 1, 2003.

Identity
gay & lesbian
Community Center of Anchorage

Identity envisions a world where all people are free to express and be proud of their sexual and gender identities.

Identity exists to build the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Allied community in Alaska by providing programs, education, and collaboration that promotes the diversity of sexual and gender identity.

Identity sponsors a statewide Helpline, the NorthVIEW, Prizedest, Living Out Loud, Pride Conference, as well as the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage.

P.O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070
(907) 929-GLBT

Identity receives funding from:
Gill Foundation
Pride Foundation
OverView: Resources

Organizations

- **Adam and Steve**, a social group for young gay, bi, and questioning men. Weekly activities and fun community events, many taking place at the GLCCA. Also offers the monthly M Group, a fun workshop on sex and dating. For more info, please call 907-263-2081.
- **Alaska AIDS Assistance Association (Four As)**, provides supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and in the elimination of HIV infection and its stigma. Many services cater specifically to women. 100-CW Tweedway Ln., Ste 302, Anchorage, 907-263-2050 (Anchorage), 900-478-AIDS (statewide).
- **Alaska Gay/Lesbian Association (UAF student organization)**, c/o Student Activities Box 40, Wood Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 99775, 907-474-1136. faalga@uaf.edu www.uaa.edu/agla
- **Alaskans for Civil Rights (ACR)**, a locally organized and operated statewide political organization dedicated to obtaining full civil rights for lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, polyamorous, and intersexed people in all aspects of personal and public life. 907-265-566 - ACR. AlaskansforCivilRights@yahoo.com
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** Gay, Joyous, & Free, AA group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered individuals, and their allies. Open non-smoking meeting Mondays 7 PM to 8 PM at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA).
- **Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**, GLBT-friendly liberal religious church, where people of all beliefs are welcome. 5201 Turnagain St., Anchorage, 907-240-0715.

Events

- **Anchorage Women's Political Caucus**, Open to all women. 7pm, first Wednesday. Elmer's Restaurant: Neweward and Fireweed.
- **Arctic Bears**. First Friday. Fairbanks, 907-479-8600.
- **Aquarian Foundation services**. 8 PM Wednesdays, 11 AM Sundays. 8500 LaViente Drive, Anchorage. 907-349-9955.
- **Breakeven Productions** has been bringing up lesbian performers from around the country since 1987. 907-277-5630 for upcoming events or productions. 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. For breast and cervical cancer screening is available to women ages 18 - 64 who have no insurance or whose insurance does not cover these services. 907-269-8069 (Anchorage), 800-410-6266 (statewide).
- **Celebration of Change**, a performance of women artists for women. 907-566-7983 (for performance and volunteer information). celebrationofchange@email.com
- **Committee for Equality**, Box 34202, Juneau, AK 99803. bsarcar@gi.com
- **Fairbanks Gay Youth Group**, 907-457-3524 (leave message for more information).
- **The Family (UAA Student Club)**, hosts discussion groups, potlucks, and various other social, political, and awareness activities. You DO NOT have to be a UAA student to attend. Many that do attend UAA are non-traditional students. 907-360-0340 or 907-830-4497.
- **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 GLBTQ to meet, hang out, hold or attend a meeting or group, or use the resource library or computers. The GLCCA is staffed by trained volunteers 7 days a week, 3-9 PM Mondays through Fridays, 12-6 PM Saturdays and Sundays. 2110 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Ste 103 (between the Burger Cache & Don Jose's). 907-929-GLBT. glccainfo@identityinc.org
- **Gay and Lesbian HelpLine**, an information and referral line sponsored by Identity, Inc. The HelpLine is staffed by volunteers and provides information and referrals to businesses, professionals, and service providers which are supportive of the goals and objectives of Identity, Inc. 6-11 PM daily. If you need information or like would like to be a part of this service, please call 907-258-4777 (Anchorage), 888-901-9876 (statewide).
- **GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)**. Membership is confidential. We welcome educators and non-educators who are interested in the problems of GLBTQ youth in our public schools. Anchorage: 907-562-7161 (Fred). frlumine@alaska.net
- **Fairbanks**: Lisa Slayton or Jeff Walters, c/o GLSEN Fairbanks, P.O. Box 85315, Fairbanks, AK 99708. 907-457-2787.
- **Identity, Inc.**, a non-profit Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity. Identity envision a world where all people are free to express and be proud of their sexual and gender identities. The mission is to build the infrastructure for a strong GLBTQ community in Alaska. Some statewide programs include the Gay and Lesbian HelpLine, the NorthVIEW magazine, PrideFest, Living our Loud Youth Conference, and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070. 907-929-GLBT. www.identityinc.org
- **Imperial Court of Alaska (ICOAA)**, sponsors the Memorial Day weekend Ekibutu picnic, the Fair Fourth parade float for the GLBTQ community, PrideFest Festival on the Parkstrip, Labor Day weekend Carnival, and numerous other events. P.O. Box 10403, Anchorage, AK 99510-4032. www.icoaa.org
- **IMRU2**, the social group for GLBTQ youth, ages 13 to 18. We eat, chat, watch videos, plan events, and do lots of laughing. Join us and tell your friends. 5:30 PM Wednesdays at GLCCA. 907-566-IMRU(4678) (leave message for callback).
- **Interior AIDS Association (IAA)**, Fairbanks offers medical and dental, program assistance, “cuddles” (volunteers who help HIV & People Living With AIDS), meal delivery & food supplement program, lending library, and counseling support. 907-452-4222 (for assistance or volunteering information).
- **The Last Frontier Men's Club**, a social club for the Leather/Bottom/beer community. Brief business meeting & potluck social at 6 PM.
OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

second Sundays at Mad Myrne’s, 530 E. 5th Avenue. “Dinner Night Out” and several
campouts are open to all throughout the summer. Check the website for complete information
and a list of community events. TLFCM, P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99520-2054. 907-338-3682. info@tlfccm.com
www.tlfccm.com

Metropolitan Community Church of
Anchorage (MCC), a predominately gay/lesbian/transgendered Christian church at
which ALL people are welcome to worship a loving and compassionate God. 2 PM
Sundays. Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311
Pembroke St. (East of 24th Ave. and Boniface Pkwy). See website for location map and
calendar of current events. 907-258-5266.
mccanchorage@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/mccanchorage

Northern Exposure Bowling League for
bowlers of all genders. 4 PM Sundays. Please
call to confirm time and venue. Park: Lanes
4350 Ames Avenue, Anchorage. 907-561-
8744 milte@alaska.net

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

OPAL, a social organization open to all
Lesbians. OPAL sponsors different events throughout the year and occasional politics.
907-343-3818 (Annie) opal@gein.net

Out North. Cutting edge art, theatre, film,
educational programs, and more. See online
calendar. 1325 Primrose St., Anchorage,
AK 99508. 907-279-8099 (voicemail), 907-
279-8200 (box office), 907-279-8100 (fax).
email@outnorth.org www.outnorth.org

PFLAG of Anchorage (Parents, Families
and Friends of Lesbians & Gays). Meetings:
7 PM third Thursdays except November & December. Immanuel Presbyterian Church:
2311 Pembroke St. 907-
566-1813 (voicemail).

PFLAG of Fairbanks, promotes the health
and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and
transgendered persons and their families and
friends through support, education and
advocacy. 907-45-PFLAG (for meetings and
events).

PFLAG of Sitka (Parents, Families
and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Meetings:
7 PM second and fourth Sundays. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall: 408
Marine, Sitka. P.O. Box 6515, Sitka, AK.
907-747-3674. sitkapflag@yahoo.com

PrideFest Steering Committee of Identity, Inc., plans and presents the annual Anchorage
Gay Pride Week events in June. Meetings start in September. The committee invites
and welcomes corporate and individual sponsors, parade entries, entertainers, volunteers,
and more. 907-929-4585. prideonthepark@yahoo.com

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@admmail.net

Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA): a 12-Step program. Meetings are held on
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. 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. 222
Seward, Ste 200. P.O. Box 22655, Juneau,
AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5666, 800-478-
AIDS (2437).

Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alli-
ance (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.
907-586-GAYS.

S.T.O.P. AIDS PROJECT. Center for Drug
Problems provides education and outreach specific
to injecting drug users and their sexual
partners regarding HIV/AIDS prevention.
Free anonymous HIV testing is provided on a
walk-in basis. 1 - 4 PM Mondays and
Wednesdays. 907-278-5019 (Anchorage).

Support Group (Soldotna), a group of
people with HIV/AIDS, families, or friends.
907-262-2539 (Jan).

Transgender Social/Support Group
meets weekly at the GLCCA. 907-929-4528
(for more information).

907-258-0312 (Gay Wolfenden).

Women’s Ultimate Frisbee. 1030 AM
Sundays. West end of Delaney Parkstrip. 907-
278-5179 (Jan or Karen). Jenkout@aol.com

E-MAIL LISTS

Alaska Gay Discussion, providing an
opportunity to discuss gay issues relevant to
Alaska and a calendar of events. Participation
available via website and/or e-mail. For
more information contact Michael Haase at
michaelh2001@sgi.net or michaelh2001@palm.net. http://
groups.yahoo.com/group/
alaskagaydiscussion

Alaska GLBT News, a state-wide e-mail
notification service distributing news and in-
formation about upcoming events of interest
to the Alaska GLBT community. To receive
these notices or to submit an item for dis-
tribution: alaskaglbtnews@yahoo.com

Anchorage Pride, a mailing list for infor-
ination concerning Anchorage & Southeast Alaska’s GLBT community. http://
groups.yahoo.com/accessories/
anchoragepride

Fairbanks Pride, a mailing list for infor-
ination concerning Fairbanks & Interior Alaska’s
GLBT community. http://
groups.yahoo.com/accessories/ fairbankspride

Grtizist, a mailing list for the Women’s
Community. Event announcements, inquiries,
discussion, and relevant topics of concern for
women. Delivered every Thursday. Grtizist@gein.net

National and Political GLBT News,
Landmark case decisions and other news-
sworthy announcements from national organiza-
tions. To be placed on this list, send an e-mail
to: bsr@gein.net

PUBLICATIONS

Alaska Women Speak, a publication by
Alaskan women on topics for Alaskan women.
907-689-7922.

The Anchorage Press, an alternative weekly
paper that is not focused on the GLBT commu-
nity but is friendly. There is a large person-
als section. 907-561-7737.

The Perspective, a newsletter published for
the Southeast Alaskan. News and events can
be found in this publication. SEAGLA, P.O.
Box 21542, Juneau, Alaska, AK 99802-
1452. 907-586-GAYS.

The Pink Ink, a newsletter published in
Fairbanks for the Fairbanks GLBT community.
Interior Newsletter, 601AA, P.O. Box
71248, Fairbanks, AK 99707. 907-452-
4222. pinkink@alaska.com

JANUARY 2004 23
Identity Programs

Winter & Spring  Living Out Loud Youth Program
October    Pride Conference
Daily       Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA). Ste. 103, 2110 East Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. 907-929-4528
Nightly    Helpline for GLBT information and referrals (6 PM to 11 PM). 907-258-4777 or 888-901-9876
Monthly    NormVIEW newsmagazine

Anchorage Events

Mon  AA: Gay, Joyous, and Free; 7 PM; the GLCCA
Tues PFLAG; 7 PM, third Thursday (except November & December): Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke St.; 907-686-1813
SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous); 8 PM; 907-666-1133
Wed IMRUJ; 5:30 - 7 PM, first and third Wednesdays; the GLCCA; 907-666-IMRU; leave message for more information
GLSEN; 7 PM, second Wednesday; the GLCCA
LGBT Reading Group; 7 PM, third Wednesday; Border's Cafe; 907-534-4099 (Chuck, Mon - Wed), chart@gci.net.
"Karaoke Night" hosted by "K" Entertainment; 8:30 PM; Mad Myma's
Thu SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous); 5:30 PM; Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 907-666-1133
Friends and Family Support Group; 6:30 PM; 907-263-2050
"Karaoke Night" hosted by "K" Entertainment; 8:30 PM; Mad Myma's
Fri Lunch: everyone invited (HIV+, volunteers, and friends); 12 noon - 1 PM; Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4/12), Ste. 102, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln.; 907-263-2050 (Lon)
"Friday Night Divas Show"; 9 PM; Mad Myma's
Sat SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous); 12 noon; Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 907-666-1133
Sun Buddhist Morning Service; 11 AM; White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, 123 E. 11th Avenue; 907-226-1851
Center for Spiritual Practices & Education Worship Service; 11 AM; Center for Spiritual Practices and Education, 8050 Old Seward Highway; 907-522-0940 (Rev. Guy Johnson)
Metropolitan Community Church Service; 2 PM; Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke St.
Northern Exposure Bowling League, 4 PM; Park Lanes, 4350 Ames Ave.; 907-561-8744
Sunday Dinner; 5 - 8 PM; Mad Myma's; 907-276-9762 (Jim)

PLEASE HELP KEEP THIS SECTION CURRENT! SEND NEW AND UPDATED LISTINGS TO NORTHVIEW@IDENTITYINC.ORG

Fairbanks Events

Tue  GLSEN; 5 PM, third Tuesday; Fairbanks Education Association on S. Cushman St.
Wed "Dames on the Dial"; 10 PM - midnight; KSUA-FM 91.5
Fri  Free anonymous HIV testing; 3:30 - 5:30 PM; Interior AIDS Association; 710 Third Ave.
"Outlooks"; 5:30 - 7 PM; KSUA-FM 91.5
Socializing and dancing; 9 PM - 3:30 AM; Club G (mix crowd), 150 Farmer's Loop
Arctic Bears; first Friday; 907-479-8680
Sat Socializing and dancing; 9 PM - 3:30 AM; Club G (mix crowd), 150 Farmer's Loop
Sun PFLAG; 4 - 5:30 PM, third Sunday; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4448 Pike's Landing Road

Juneau Events

Wed Social gathering; afterwork; Summit Lounge
"Women's Prerogative"; 9 - 10 PM; KTOO-FM
Fri Juneau Pride Chorus; 5:30 - 7:30 PM; Resurrection Lutheran Church; 907-789-6167 (Marsha)
Sat PFLAG; 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, first Saturday; Mendenhall Library Conference Room

Punnett View

24 NorthView
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<tr>
<td>7 PM AA @GLCCA</td>
<td>8 PM SLAA</td>
<td>5:30 PM IMRU2 @GLCCA</td>
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<td>Noon 4As 9 PM Diaries Show @Myruts'</td>
<td>Noon SLAA</td>
<td>11 AM Buddhist Morning Service @White Lotus Center</td>
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<td>Noon SLAA</td>
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**January 2004 Calendar for Anchorage GLBT Community Events**

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- **PFLAG @Immanuel Presbyterian**
- **7 PM AA @GLCCA**
- **7 PM GLSEN @GLCCA**
- **7 PM LGBT Reading Group @Barley's Cafe**
- **8 PM SLAA**
- **7 PM PFLAG @Immanuel Presbyterian**
- **8:30 PM Karaoke @Myruts'**
- **Chinese New Year**
- **5:30 PM SLAA**
- **6:30 PM Friends & Family Support Group @Myruts'**

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**Noon SLAA**

**March 24**

**Noon SLAA**

**1 PM GLCCA Birthday Bash**