RELATIONSHIPS

The Imperial Court of All Alaska generously donated funds to cover mailing expenses for this issue of NorthVIEW.
Advertising Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business card</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter page</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back cover</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insert (first page, white paper)</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insert (each additional page)</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advertising Discounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Discount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three months</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six months</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Publication Information

The NorthVIEW is a monthly publication of identity, a non-profit 501 c (3) Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity. The NorthVIEW 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 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.

All articles must be received by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the NorthVIEW dated the following month's issue.

The NorthVIEW
c/o identity
P.O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070
(907) 929-4528
northview@identityinc.org

CONTENT VIEW

From the Editor 3
Ruth Mitchell: My Guy 5
Plato's Playpen: You Are So Lovely... 6, 7
Frank Tano: Tigger is Out & Rabbit Hates It 8
Tim Weiss: Someone I'm Very Close To 9
Kathleen Madden: Your Financial Planner 10
Gale Smoke: Queer Books 11
Jane Schaffeter: PLFAG Update 12
Dee Gould: Winter in Alaska 13
Ron Swartz: Photography 13
Chuck Hart: Bipolar Blues 14
EventVIEW 15
OverVIEW: Resources 16, 17

COVER VIEW

The cover photograph reminds us how important relationships truly are during Alaska's long, cold, yet beautiful winters. (photograph by Dee Gould)

MARCH 2004 THEME:
Arts & Entertainment--What do Alaska GLBT folk do to entertain ourselves during the waning days of winter? Share your tips in 800 words or less. Deadline for March NorthVIEW is Feb. 10, 2004.

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF ALL ALASKA (ICOAA)
generously donated funds to cover mailing expenses for this issue of NorthVIEW.

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.
Peggy Shaw/Split Britches

To My Chagrin

And yet again, Out North brings you an artist you won't see anywhere else in Alaska. That's too bad, because she's so good.

Acclaimed for her "supremely transgressive art" at major theaters and women's festivals on three continents, the legendary Peggy Shaw shakes it up with drummer Vivian Stall for a moving, cross-dressing grandma's rock n' roll lullaby to her mixed-race grandson. She's a performer critics have hailed as the "love child of Sappho and Jimmy Durante". And now she's in Anchorage!

A riveting performer with extraordinary comic timing.  San Francisco Bay Guardian

Flamboyant, ironic and shamelessly over the top.  The Stage, London

Rich, rewarding... rush out and see it!  San Antonio Express-News

It's about Cars, Sex & Rock n' Roll! It's a night of queer music theater! It's a show about love of cars, love of family, and a 50-something grandmother who passes for a 30-something guy who likes the ladies... and all in one evening. It's a show our community will talk about for years to come. Don't miss Out!

7pm February 5, 6, 7, 9, 10
thursday: $15.00 advance $17.50 at door
fri • sat • mon • tue: $18.00 advance $20.00 at door

TICKETS: www.outnorth.org or call 279-8200
The Journey

A friend and co-worker named Brenda recently said to me, “Everyone should know their creation story.” Brenda is Athabaskan. She’s married to a proud member of the Crow Nation. They have two sons whom Brenda is raising to be proud of their heritage, and part of that pride is knowing the traditional creation stories of their parents’ tribes.

I’m an agnostic humanist of European descent. I don’t have a tribe or a creation story. So when I thought about what Brenda said, I decided my creation story is the “bang theory.” I’m fascinated by the explanation astronomers offer for how our universe came to be.

I don’t really understand why our solar system decided that Earth should orbit the sun every 365 days, or why the Earth’s axis is distinctly less than perpendicular. But I’m fascinated by the resulting seasons of Solstice and Equinox.

The ancient watchers of the sky didn’t know much more than I do about these seasons, so they invented elaborate myths for the lengthening and shortening of the days. The sun was a powerful God who moved across the sky each day. When the sun’s feeble rays were at their weakest each December, the Sun God was thought to be dying. Fortunately, the Sun God would get his groove back shortly thereafter and spring would follow.

Today we no longer attach mythological significance to the solstices and equinoxes. These seasons simply mark the progress of the spaceship we call Earth in its annual trek around the Sun God.

I believe there is no cosmic intelligence that counts how many revolutions we complete on this merry-go-round whose axle is the sun. Only we do the counting. And we only have each other.

This month several Northview writers share their thoughts on the theme of relationships. Whether personal or professional, romantic or platonic, passionate or casual, relationships are essential to a healthy sense of self. It doesn’t mean we’ll always get it right. We’re human, after all.

But may we always remember to celebrate and cherish our fellow travelers on this journey we call Life aboard the spaceship we call Earth.

Warmly,
Teresa McPherson
Editor

Celebrate your relationships (friends, lovers, family, spouse, children, etc.) during MCC’s special Relationship Sunday Service

On February 15, 2004, bring all the people who are important in your life to a special service at MCC Anchorage to recognize those relationships.

MCC-Anchorage meets every Sunday at 2:00pm at 2311 Pembroke Street — for a map, check out our website at www.geocities.com/mccanchorage

Email: mccanchorage@yahoo.com PH: 258-5266
Readings by Rachel Mattie

I have been giving readings for 17 years. Being clairvoyant, clairaudient and Emphatic, I see, hear and feel the situation around you. I am here to help you get the answers you need. My readings are truthful, intuitive, accurate, prompt, & confidential. Are you worried, troubled? Have other psychics deceived you? Do you need to know what the future holds for you? Is there someone standing between you and a loved one? Are you having difficulty finding true love? Are you searching for a new beginning, but can't seem to find your way?

I specialize in love & romance, money & financial, sex & intimacy, career & occupation, family & friends.

Just a simple phone call will convince you. Call 877-822-6203 ext 1122 or 920-651-1242

Let me still your confusing thoughts and emotions by giving to you the truthful answers you need to find peace of mind.

Identity Seeks
Design God/Goddess!

Identity is looking for a bodacious designer to lay out NORTHVIEW. Desktop publishing experience a must (we have PageMaker at the GLCCA). Monthly volunteer commitment: 10-15 hours, depending on your skill level. Great resume builder! Contact northview@identityinc.org.
My Guy

Not being a stereotypical lesbian has at times been hard for my Deb.

In the early years of our relationship, Deb researched the pros and cons of gender change. Having come out of a dismal heterosexual marriage, I wasn’t much support or help in her decision making. She was a very masculine female and I was in love with both the male and female traits in her. Deb presented a dynamic, charismatic butch to the world who was comfortable with her masculinity. Being of slender build, she was able, and did, pass as a guy for many years. Being able to publicly exist as a man eased her urge to take permanent steps toward more extensive physical changes.

As a couple we co-existed in the hetero world, employed in the same company, working and socializing with straights without incident. Although our co-workers and friends knew we were both women, men willingly absorbed Deb into the “mate” society of motorcycle riding and repair, beer blasts, rap sessions, cruising and automobile idolatry. At the same time, they expected me to meld into the “female” role of childcare, meal preparation, household chores, shopping, and female urges to do with nails, hair, makeup, etc.

We had a unique, one-of-a-kind lifestyle and special friendships that still exist to this day, keeping us in touch with and very much a part of the Hawaiian Islands. When life threw us a major curve, forcing us to move back to the mainland, we realized just how rare a life we had been living and how different we were as a couple. The move brought Deb once again into that state of discomfort at being stereotyped as a lesbian.

Consequently, it has raised the gender question again, as well as bringing us to a need to re-evaluate who we are as individuals. I have learned through the years that I am a woman who loves a man in a woman’s body. I know I am married to a person of great spirit and tremendous inner strength and that we are going to spend our lives together as partners and soul mates. I have come to the affirmation that Deb is free to “be” whomsoever she needs or chooses to be to feel whole and I am her mate regardless. That was not an easy decision for me to achieve.

Granted, age and time affect all things. Some people do make physical changes successfully; some never do and remain frustrated or unhappy. Yet some evolve (or live) past the time for change and accept with peace who they are, who they have become.

I love my Deb, male or female, and the unity we have built only gives honor to the uniqueness of us as “one.”

Ruth and Deb are life partners with one cat-child and interests in writing, reading, tarot and travel.
You Are So Lovely and I’m So Sleazy
A review of times when Plato was lost in the woods and when meaningful, loving relationships were hard to come by

Friday
It’s the weekend and somehow the unthinkable has occurred again. I’m single after five years or more. I have no date, no prospects, and watching television stinks.

I try to entertain myself, to seduce myself with a candlelight supper, but I’m bored. I half-assedly preen and prance down to the nearest gay bar to slurp intoxicating elixirs. I overhear monotonous conversations while becoming embalmed in a manageable buzz which has altered my mood. I am suddenly, erotically impelled by a fantasy that only one thing will cure: the bathhouse.

I have given up the fight against rational behavior. I am absorbed by a whirligig of scenarios spinning my cerebellum with uncontrollable sexual desire. I slide deeper into a contorted state of mind and an erogenous feeling as I morph into a sleazehound.

I convince myself that within minutes of paying the entry fee to the bathhouse, I shall have the hot sexual payoffs. I imagine a plethora of diversions and a variety of sexual partners. This bound will sniff for sexual pheromones and neurotransmitters that will convert reality into delusion. The keys to my cabana are wrapped around my arm, condoms and lube clutched in one hand and poppers hidden in the other.

Sleazehound struts the dim catwalk with grace and charm. My smile is supported by generic booze that hides the frenzied anticipation. The third door on the left is an open invitation to satisfy my fury and passion. In the darkness of the room, love and long-term relationships no longer matter to me.

Saturday
After several sessions of orgasmic relief in one or more cabanas, sleazehound heads for the steam room. The heat, the sweat and the blindness from the tropical steam makes me horny within seconds. My hands grope for any flesh beside me. I feel someone’s heightened sexuality and my spirits soar.

I have no recollection of the subsequent events, except for biting a pillow in ecstasy while observing shadows of sleazehounds on mirrored walls of this sanctum. I feel sweaty, salty bodies rocking then sliding against me. I may have been mistaken, perhaps there were four bounds in this room. All my pain and loneliness has now evaporated.

I exit staggering with a sheepish grin into a flotilla of the curious seekers who follow my scent to the showers. As I soap and scrub my radiant flesh, the stress and strain of life flows down the drain. With body cleansed of sexual stench, sleazehound’s brain demands another dose of priapic excitation.

Sunday
Possibly Sunday. Sleazehound cannot recall whether it’s late Saturday or early Sunday. I can’t keep track of the private parts I’ve sampled and savored. Sleazehound has walked countless miles wandering the corridors of this garden of earthly delights.

I know I should leave this place now. But the urge to indulge in another anonymous encounter is overpowering. Caution is thrown out the window and into the wind. Sleazehound stalks the basement maze blinded by ultraviolet darkness. The dudes trapped herein touch me here and there.

The probing fingers, the pinching of my perky nipples makes me forget that I’m lost in a den of despair with lascivious hearts. I emerge from the maze with post-coital laryngitis and the loss of my Teva sandals.

Monday
Sleazehound senses it’s Monday by the scarcity of recognizable faces. A short nap has made me thirsty for a stiff drink to power my reinvented image. Well, actually anything stiff will do. I call my office under the pretense of hacking and coughing. My secretary senses by the tone of my voice that I’m seething with an ongoing sexual malady. Funny isn’t it, how women can detect these games?

Sleazehound is tiring while simultaneously feeling the gastrointestinal gurgling caused by the lack of nourishment. By now I’m sure to look as ugly as hell if I only had the courage to glance in a mirror. Mirror? I do recall a pretty lad on the third floor with his door ajar enticing me with some white powder on a mirror. Sleazehound scrambles to the third floor, salivating like Pavlov’s hound. Without any dialogue, I snort the white stuff while he uses a needle to get a bigger bang for his buck.

Tuesday
Today, sleazehound is in a state of bliss. This buzz has a wicked, insatiable desire. Having survived the surreal journey
through last night, I remain in a state of crippling compulsion, addicted to dangerous men.

I believe it’s the lunch hour or perhaps the happy hour between four and six in the afternoon. Sleazehound can always smell new, sweet, pungent aromas that enter the bathhouse. It sends a pleasant shiver down my spine. These new faces have the unmistakable stamp of cheating partners and married mammals. I know by their tender touch, their caresses, that they have long-term, cuckold relationships. And they are polite men who say, “Thank you for the mutual orgasm.”

Wednesday

It’s one-half off the admission price. The fraternity of like-minded players rush into the bathhouse. Some ask me for a briefing on the sexual proclivities of men aimlessly strolling the hallways, or of the occupants of various rooms. Somehow they seem to know sleazehound has inside information.

I lay inside my room wondering whether I’ve had enough. Am I in a crisis? Do I need professional advice? These fleeting questions float through my fading consciousness. This is my oasis. I decide to stay until I am stripped of my self-esteem or feel revulsed, whichever comes last.

Thursday

Sleazehound is feeling weak, maybe hallucinating. Days of whooping it up are taking its toll. Feelings of shame descend upon my head with the sensitivity of an iron anvil. Happiness? I seem to have misplaced it long ago.

My desire for love and affection is a distant past. I feel cold like the frigid frost. My sunny disposition has been lost, replaced by discomforting distress. My sleazy search for intimacy submerged in the arctic sea. I return home with sobbing sorrow to lay on my bed. My heart feels ripped and shred. This hour has too many days. Relationships no longer intrigue me.

Out of my darkened consciousness materializes an apparition, a devilish doppelgänger exposing me to indiscreet scrutiny. To which I whisper, “You are lovely, but don’t bother to come nearer to me.”

Plato is now thankfully sexually sober and has been celibate for many years. Plato has tried to expunge these memories, but the nightmares linger distastefully.

---

The NORTHVIEW is YOUR community magazine! It is a forum for dialogue on any subject related to Alaska’s gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and allied community.

It is also a forum for personal expression and welcomes original fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drawings, comics, art, and photographs.

Submissions are due on the 10th for possible inclusion in the next issue, but are accepted at any time.

Photos should be in JPEG format, and at least 300 dpi.

Submissions can be sent digitally to northview@identityinc.org or by mail
P.O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070
Tigger is Out and Rabbit Hates It

Someone asked me once if I had any gay role models while growing up. Immediately, I replied that I didn’t have any. I was a naive child, and even if I did have a role model, I wouldn’t have known it. Upon further reflection, it would seem that I did have a gay role model. Several, in fact. They’re still around today for others to look up to. The most flaming of them all is Tigger.

Yes, I mean THAT Tigger. Winnie the Pooh’s friend. What? Didn’t you know? Please, he’s this fabulously flamboyant guy who speaks with a lisp. He’s always into “bouncing,” as if we don’t know what that means. Tigger is the very image of gay males that the Defense of Marriage Act is all about and that is why Rabbit hates him. You see, Rabbit is gay too.

Rabbit is your typical conservative gay. The fag that wants to pass. He doesn’t see the need to rock the boat. He has all that he needs. Unfortunately, that screaming Mary named Tigger could expose everything he is trying to hide, not to mention making a bad name for gays with all that casual bouncing. Complicating matters, Rabbit secretly likes getting bounced by Tigger, but he’ll never admit it.

The Hundred Acre Wood is a veritable children’s storybook version of San Francisco. Not only do you have Rabbit and Tigger, but Kanga, the lesbian with child, her little Roo. Roo may not be gay, but studies show that he will be more likely to experiment with his orientation than his friends who have non-queer parents.

Then there is that poor soul, Eeyore. Introverted and depressed over his homosexuality, even getting bounced by Tigger cheers him up. He just feels dirty and guilt ridden afterwards.

There’s Owl, the wise mentor. He’s been through it all. Epidemics, court battles, Stonewall, Owl was there. He tries his best to pass his knowledge on to the others so they don’t make his same mistakes. He takes a special interest in Winnie the Pooh. Probably because Pooh Bear reminds Owl of a former partner. In case you’re wondering, Pooh is a ten percenter too. He’s your lovable bear type and you don’t have to guess what chat rooms he’ll be in with a screen name like “Pooh Bear.”

Piglet is the only straight one in the bunch. “He wears PINK!” you say. Let me explain, with everyone around him being gay, it’s all Piglet knows. He’s trying to fit in. He’s confused and doesn’t know what to do. Perhaps someday a lady piglet will arrive in the forest and show Piglet there is more to himself than trying to fit the “Twink” role.

Finally, there is Christopher Robin. The patriarch of the group. I don’t know if he is another mentor or if he just wants to have sex with all of them. Either way, I think he should stay away from Piglet.

Frank is twisted. He also likes to write—a dangerous combination. You can reach Frank at tobefrankfeedback@yahoo.com.

Identity Helpline
GLBT Information & Referrals
888-901-9876

907-258-4777
Nightly 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Gabriel
Hair stylist
Cosmetologist
Licensed Masseur

272-9045
1310 East 8th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Someone I'm Very Close To

"Let's go to dinner at Orso's," "No. We did that last week."
"How about going to Myrna's?" "I don't feel like it tonight."
"What do you feel like? Going to McDonald's again and getting fat?"
"Whatever." "How about we just go to bed?" "Fine. That sounds more romantic anyway."

People have asked, "Who do you love most?" "Myself," I reply. "I am in a deeply committed, romantic relationship with myself." I haven't yet had myself bring me over to meet the parents yet. I'm not sure they would take it very well. After all, it is a same-sex relationship. Who knows what the neighbors will think.

Maybe I'll take myself out to dinner at a nice restaurant. Eat too much expensive food. Wine and dine myself. Say flattering things to me. "Gee you look nice tonight. Is that a booger in your nose or a nose ring?" Afterward I will take myself back to my house and have serious romantic sex. We are always arguing about who gets to be on top. It never does get settled. I guess there is always some friction in all relationships. Friction? Now that's a word worth talking about. Uh... or maybe not.

Today I had another appointment with my psychiatrist. "Have you been having any hallucinogenic ideation recently?" I ask. She rolls her eyes and says "No, but I'm betting you have."

I throw myself on the couch and change the subject. "I'm afraid I'm having some trouble with my relationship with myself," I say. "I can't get myself to truly commit to this relationship. I feel we might be drifting apart, especially when he spots some cute guy." "Why don't I just prescribe a nice anti-psychotic for you," she says in placating tones.

I don't know about you, but I think having a nice relationship with yourself is very important. Self-love is not a bad thing. In fact, it is necessary in order to maintain a positive self-esteem. Yourself is the only thing that you must remain with. All other relationships are transient. They change, they leave, they return.

Friendships never seem to last for me. I change, I move, they move. The one thing I have discovered is that at least I leave a lasting impression. Someone just told me last week that an old friend of mine from college had written about me in his web diary. I haven't seen him in 20 years at least. I looked it up and, sure enough, there was plenty about me. He described me as a bizarre and extremely unusual creature. In his writings, I am described as the only person he ever met who completely and totally lacks the filter people use to screen what they think and what comes out of their mouth.

He had a lot of even more interesting things to say about my personality and especially about my exploits. None of them upset me because no matter how outlandish his descriptions, they were all correct. Of course, I have no intention of telling you what the web address is for that site. I've since discovered a number of other web sites that talk about me also. Oh well...

A friend who is now a Hugo award-winning novelist included me as a character in one of her novels. She even signed a copy with verification that the character was me. She apparently thought I was more eccentric that most of her fictional characters. I suppose friendships can immortalize you as well.

Even after you have left your good (and bizarre) impressions upon other relationships such as friends, what you are left with that you must stand up to each morning is yourself. Earning other people's respect is only of mild importance. Earning your own respect is most important of all.

Who cares what people write about me, as long as I respect myself in the morning.

Tim is avoided by all sane people (which explains the type of people who hang out around him), however the barbed wire around his tower on the hill can be breached by e-mailing him at timweiss@chugach.net.
Your Relationship with Your Financial Advisor

Here we are in February 2004. How many of you made New Year’s resolutions to get “financially fit” this year? Maybe you decided it’s time to get rid of that consumer debt, increase your cash reserve emergency fund, fully fund your retirement plan at work, start an IRA or finally get that disability or life insurance you’ve been thinking about.

Have you actually taken action? My guess is, probably not. That’s where a relationship with a trusted financial advisor can be extremely beneficial. Successful people often have coaches. Look at professionals in sports, music and business. Olympic champions at the top of their sport have a coach. Why? A good coach motivates you to do the things you may not want to do, so that you can become the kind of person you want to become. He or she is someone who will hold you accountable to do the things you say you want to achieve. A good coach can help you gain clarity and focus and have a greater positive impact on your life than if you try to go it alone.

I strongly believe in the coaching process and have hired coaches in several areas of my own life, both personally and professionally. The results have always been better than I could have achieved on my own. One of the areas that we often don’t think about is the financial arena. A trusted financial advisor can help you through the process of financial planning, based on what is important to you. Here are a few things to look for in finding your own financial “coach”:

- Are they gay friendly and familiar with gay issues as they relate to money?
- Do they have a structured process for creating a comprehensive financial plan?
- Do they ask you to bring your financial data to the first meeting and only ask you to disclose it if you are comfortable?
- Do they disclose how they are compensated? Expect to pay for the services—a professional does not work for free. You may be pleasantly surprised at the affordability.

- Do they ask questions about you and what’s important to you? Or are they trying to talk you into something?
- Do they act professionally as an advisor, rather than as a salesperson?
- Are you comfortable and feel you can trust this person with your financial affairs?
- Do they inspire you in a positive way?

Most good financial advisors maintain long-term relationships with their clients. If you think about it, whenever there is a life change, it usually impacts your money. It could be a new job, new relationship or breakup of a long-term one, kids, new house, an inheritance and the list goes on.

A financial coach who knows you and your goals, desires and objectives can help guide you in a proactive way to make the smartest choices about your money.

Kathleen Madden is a senior financial advisor with Waddell & Reed and has been a supporter of Identity and the NorthVIEW for many years. She has also presented workshops at Identity events.

---

Read all about it! Here’s where you can find the NorthVIEW.

**The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association**  
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 102, 263-2050

**Borders Books & Music**  
1100 E. Dimond Blvd., 344-4099

**The Gay & Lesbian Community Center**  
2110 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 103, 929-GLBT

**Mad Myrna’s**  
530 E. 5th Ave., 276-9762

**Metro Music & Book Store**  
530 E. Benson Blvd., 258-8774

**The Raven**  
708 E. 4th Ave., 276-9672

---

Kathleen Madden is a senior financial advisor with Waddell & Reed and has been a supporter of Identity and the NorthVIEW for many years. She has also presented workshops at Identity events.
What Becomes of the Broken Heart

If I were asked to name an African American gay author, the first person who would come to mind would be James Baldwin.

But, if pressed for a second name, I think I'd probably say E. Lynn Harris. For the past decade or so, we have been favored with eight of his novels, and he has a very unique appeal. Both gay and straight people read his novels. In fact, I've known about his loyal following of straight women readers for years. One of the straight women who took my Soc 387 class in 2003 did her project on the novels of E. Lynn Harris. She absolutely loved his novels.

Moreover, I was astounded to learn a couple of years ago that my brother—a white, retired pastor without a gay bone in his body—loved the works of E. Lynn Harris. So, Mr. Harris has had a profound influence. He's been inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame (he grew up in Little Rock) and both Ebony and Savoy magazines have honored him.

But we nearly missed all of it. That was what I learned when I recently read E. Lynn Harris's first memoir, entitled What Becomes of the Broken Heart (Doubleday, 2003).

The first chapter begins in August 1990, with Harris telling of his suicide attempt. It was the low point of his life, as he battled depression, alcoholism and lost love. Fortunately, the attempt did not succeed, and toward the end of the following year, he published his first novel, Invisible Life. But what a journey it was.

Born in the 1950s in Arkansas, segregation was just beginning to end and E. Lynn Harris was in his formative years, dealing with the double burden of being a member of a racial minority and gay. He was consumed with self-hatred and low self-esteem, and he also was severely abused physically by a man who he thought was his father. His mother, whom he considered a saint, finally helped him out immeasurably by divorcing his stepfather. A few years after that, he met his biological father, who lived in Michigan, and was able to get to know his father and siblings during the course of one summer. But tragedy took the life of his father shortly after he visited him, so his contact was fleeting.

After Lynn graduated from the University of Arkansas, many would have thought he had a dream life, being a sales representative for various computer firms, beginning with IBM. In the late 1970s and 1980s, this was truly "making it" for an African American male, and he was able to lead a middle-class life. He lived in various cities: Dallas, New York, Chicago, and, eventually, Washington, D.C. And he did find the gay community in each of these places, but he was still largely closeted in his workplace and to his family. That's one of things that led to his alcoholism, as well as the devastation of losing so many good friends to AIDS. By 1990, he was really hurting, thus, the suicide attempt.

But in 1991, the transformation began, largely due to faith, family and friends, Lynn claims. As his writing career began, his confidence soared. And he has never forgotten those who helped him at each stage of his life. He literally acknowledges hundreds of people at the end of his book, not claiming, like so many self-absorbed bores today that he "made it on his own."

E. Lynn Harris is famous and humble and a treasure.

Gale Smoke teaches Sociology 387: Gay & Lesbian Lifestyles at UAA. You can reach Gale at glsmoke@alaska.net.

The next meeting of the Borders GLBT Reading Group is Feb. 18, 7 pm. Info: chart@gci.net

Life Spirit Counseling
Individuals, Couples, and Small Groups
Grief counseling
Spiritual health and healing for all people
...with special focus for Lesbians, Gay Men, Bi-oriented, Trans- and Inter-gender people, and HIV/AIDS

770-7731
Jan R. Richardson, MDiv., M.A.
650 W. International Airport Road, Suite 204
Anchorage AK 99518-1121
PFLAG Update

With Safe Schools grant monies in 2002 from the National PFLAG office, we were able to support the Gay-Straight Alliances in the high schools, provide information and resource material to middle and high school staff members through annual mailings, and purchase library materials for five high school libraries. Some of the schools did not have a single item for GLBT teens in their libraries.

We held meetings with the GSA advisors and students to exchange ideas, and encourage and support activities at their respective schools. In June of last year, we sponsored a GSA marching unit in the PrideFest parade and purchased a parade banner for the group to carry. The mailings and GSA meetings continue on a regular basis each school year.

Other activities for the past year included:
- A silent auction in March where we raised almost $700 for the GLCCA
- Participation in National Crime Victims Rights Week in April with a panel discussion on resources for GLBT crime victims
- In December we organized a panel discussion workshop for the Alaska Public Health Association annual conference on the topic “Healthy Living Challenges for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Population.” The panelists did an excellent job and the topic was well received.

We are now engaged in another project which will serve as a follow-up to our Safe Schools work of last year. A 60-piece black and white photo exhibit with text, “Out & Elected in the USA,” will come to Anchorage in April. It has been approved for display in the high schools. The subjects of the photos are out gay and lesbian individuals who have been elected to public office on the local, state, and national level.

The exhibit creator and photographer is RS Lee (a.k.a. Ronald Lee Schlittler), a graduate of East High School in Anchorage. The 60 photos will be divided up between 6 high schools for the first two weeks of April, then all 60 placed in the Loussac Library, if things go according to plan (approval for the display in the Loussac is pending). The GSAs will help coordinate the exhibit in their respective schools.

We feel it’s important for GLBT teens to have positive role models and to realize they, too, can be out and accepted in their communities and contribute in worthwhile ways. A reception will be held while the exhibit is in Anchorage.

We are requesting help with funding locally from groups and individuals for this project. If you would like to contribute, please mail a check to PFLAG/Anchorage, PO Box 203231, Anchorage, AK 99520-3231. Call our voice mail, 566-1813, for further information. Samples of the photos and other information will be available at chapter meetings, Feb. 19 and March 18.

Jane Schlittler
President, PFLAG

identity
Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P.O. Box 203231
Anchorage, AK 99520-3231

www.alaska.net/~identity/pflag.html

E-Mail: PFLAG-Anchorag@gci.net
Voice Mail: (907) 566-1813

Mister Masher’s Therapeutic Massage

for relaxation
post workout
or escape from workplace stress

Talmadge Bailey
licensed & insured
441-8790

Appointments available evenings and weekends. Outcall only - enjoy a relaxing massage in the comfort of your own home.

Winter Partners Special: Call the Masher for a hands-on demonstration plus a few pointers on rubbing your partner the "right way." Then swap places with your partner while they get a few pointers on rubbing YOU the "right way." Two full hours plus a nifty starter bottle of pleasantly scented massage oil - only ninety bucks - and an absolutely fabulous way to spend a winter evening!

More information at:
www.mistermashers.com
WINTER IN ALASKA

The Alaskan winter stretches before me
In palatable dimness.

Everything slows down—my body, mind and soul withdraw
As if they have retreated into another domain,
Patiently waiting to emerge again.

I walk through winter one motion at a time.
Setting my eyes on the next goal,
I move forward ghostlike.

Winter in Alaska...

Breathtaking moments in this dusky season:
Sunsets in the afternoon,
Northern lights playing their green-white tunes overhead,
The soft quiet of a snowstorm,
The ferocity of high Chinook winds
Diamond ice crystals adorning every tree
Disappear in the next warming.

I experience the essence that is Alaska.
Many days spent indoors,
Looking forward to going to bed early,
The joy of reading about other times and places,
Knowing the winter will pass.

Winter
Is a dreamlike time for me;
It offers rewarding and fruitful days in my work,
Quiet in my home, a time for renewing my spirit.

Winter.
Marvelous, tedious, challenging.
Beautiful, quiet, dangerous, fulfilling,
A place to go
To reconnect with my soul and the elements.

– Dee Gould

Bipolar Blues

Last February I let the readers of Dad’s Corner know that I have Bipolar Disorder. It was like a second coming out, and if I have helped anyone get help, I am happy. Here is an update on my mental health.

My depression has persisted since summer, steadily through happy times and sad events. This is a medical, clinical depression. It has slowed my productivity at work and crippled my housekeeping. I have literally been spending 14-20 hours per day in bed. I have had little energy to get up, and have some anxiety at the thought of leaving my room. Several times this winter I have gone four days without setting foot outside my door.

The lack of energy has been one terrible thing, but even worse are the thoughts that I would be better off dead. These thoughts have been increasing in frequency and urgency.

I am taking time in January to take care of all of my most important relationships by taking care of myself. My bipolar disorder has been increasingly difficult to deal with on an outpatient basis. I will be spending next week at Providence Hospital’s Mental Health Ward. I need this tune-up more than I probably know.

I have new medications to try that are best introduced in a safe and controlled environment. I will be seeing a psychiatrist at least 1-2 times per day. I will be working with psychiatric nurses, nutritionists, and many other professionals. There will be little free time in my day. My time will be focused on returning me to home, work, family, and friends.

I will write a follow up in my next column.

Chuck Hart is the proud father of three wonderful young people, and an Alaskan for 40 years.

Editor’s note: We wish Chuck success in his valiant struggle with a very powerful disease, and hope 2004 brings him brighter days.
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  NorthVIEW news magazine

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.
    "Outlook"; 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

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.; 907-566-1813
SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous); 8 PM; 907-566-1153
Wed  IMRUK; 5:30 - 7 PM, first and third Wednesdays; the GLCCA; 907-566-IMRUK, leave message for more information
GLSEN; 7 PM, second Wednesday; the GLCCA
LGBT Reading Group; 7 PM, third Wednesday; Border’s Cafe; 907-334-0499 (Chuck, Mon - Wed), chart@gci.net.
    "Karaoke Night" hosted by "K" Entertainment; 8:30 PM; Mad Myrna’s
Thu  SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous); 5:30 PM;
    Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; 907-566-1153
    Friends and Family Support Group; 6:30 PM; 907-263-2050
    "Karaoke Night" hosted by "K" Entertainment; 8:30 PM; Mad Myrna’s
Fri  Lunch; everyone invited (HIV+, volunteers, and friends); 12 noon - 1 PM; Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (AAA), Ste. 102, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln.; 907-263-2050 (Lori)
    "Friday Night Divas Show"; 9 PM; Mad Myrna’s
Sat  SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous); 12 noon;
    Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; 907-566-1153
Sun  Buddhist Morning Service; 11 AM; White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, 125 E. 11th Avenue.; 907-258-1851
    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 Myrna’s; 907-276-9762 (Jim)

PLEASE HELP KEEP THIS SECTION CURRENT!
SEND NEW AND UPDATED LISTINGS TO NORTHVIEW@IDENTITYINC.ORG
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. Run by a Core Group (meets every first and third Tuesday at the GLCCA at 7 PM) who plan all activities. Come meet new young queer men in a safe and supportive environment. 907-263-2081.

www.adamandsteve.org

Alaska AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's), 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. 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Suite 120, Anchorage. 907-263-2050 (Anchorage), 800-478-AIDS (statewide).

Alaska Gay/Lesbian Association (a UAF student organization). e/o Student Activities Box 4, Wood Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99775, 907-474-1136. fbagla@uaaf.edu www.uaaf.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 intersex people in all aspects of personal and public life. 907-566-ACR1. AlaskansforCivilRights@yahoo.com

Alcoholics Anonymous: Gay, Joyous, & Free. A 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. 3201 Turnagain St., Anchorage. 907-248-0715.

Anchorage Women's Political Caucus. Open to all women. 7pm, first Wednesday. Elmer's Restaurant: New Seward and Fireweed.

Arctic Bears. First Friday. Fairbanks. 907-479-8680.

Aquarian Foundation services. 8 PM Wednesdays, 11 AM Sundays. 8500 LaViento 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. alkpups@alsk.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 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. 907-566-3783 (for performance and volunteer information). celebrationofchange@email.com

Committee for Equity. Box 34202, Juneau, AK 99803. bsara@gei.net

Fairbanks Gay Youth Group. 907-457-3524 (leave message for more information).

The Family (a 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 Help Line, an information and referral line sponsored by Identity, Inc. The Help Line is staffed by volunteers and provides information and referrals to businesses, professionals, and service providers supportive of the goals and objectives of Identity, Inc. 6 - 11 PM daily. If you need information or 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-educator allies who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public schools. Anchorage 907-562-7161 (Fred thillman@alsk.net; Fairbanks Lisa Slayton or Jeff Walters o/o GLSEN, PO Box 85315, Fairbanks, AK 99708. 907-457-2787.

Identity, Inc., a nonprofit Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity. Identity envision a world where all are free to express and be proud of their sexual and gender identities. The mission is to build the infrastructure for a strong GLBTA community in Alaska. Programs include the Gay and Lesbian Help Line, NorthVIEW, PrideFest, Living Out Loud Youth Conference, seminars, and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070. 907-929-GLBT. www.identityinc.org

Imperial Court of Alaska (ICOA), sponsors the Memorial Day weekend Eklutna picnic, the Fur Rondy parade float for the GLBT community, PrideFest Festival on the Paskapox, Labor Day weekend Coronation, and numerous other events. PO Box 104032, Anchorage, AK 99510-4032. www.icoa.org

IMRU2, the social group for GLBT 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) to leave message.

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, lending library, and counseling support. 907-452-4222 (for assistance or volunteering information).

The Last Frontier Men's Club, a social club for the Levi/leather/bear community. Brief business meeting & potluck social at 6 PM second Sundays at Mad Mynn's, 530 E, 5th Avenue. "Dinner Night Out" and several
OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

campouts are open to all throughout the summer. Check the website for information and list of community events. TLFMC, P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99502-2054. 907-338-3862, info@tlfmc.com www.tlfmc.com

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

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. 907-661-8714

OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) & Travel 50
Two groups for women over 50. 907-968-2662. rosiebethevoo@hotmail.com

OPAL, a social organization open to all Lesbians. OPAL sponsors different events throughout the year and occasional potlucks. 907-345-3818

Out North. Cutting edge art, theatre, film, educational programs, and more. See online calendar: 1325 Primrose St., Anchorage, AK 99501. 907-279-8099 (voice mail), 907-279-8200 (box office), 907-279-7980 (fax) email@outnorth.org www.outnorth.org

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

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. 907-292-GLBT, pridenspark@yahoocom

RAW (Radical Arts for Women), a non-profit group which supports and promotes women in the arts. Grant funding available for artistic endeavors. 907-566-3763. RAW@adm-mail.net


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 22665, Juneau, AK 99802-2665. 907-463-5665, 800-778-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: 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. 1-4 PM Mondays and Wednesdays. 907-278-5019 (Anchorage).

Support Group (Soldotna), a group of people with HIV, AIDS, families, or friends. 907-262-2550 (Anchorage).

Transgender Social/Support Group meets weekly at the GLCC. 907-292-4328 (for more information).


Women’s Ultimate Frisbee. 10:30 AM Sundays. West end of Delaney Park Strip. 907-768-5179 (Ken or Karen). Jerkout@oal.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 e-mail. For more info contact Michael Haase at michaelh2001@geci.net or michaelh2001@palm.net. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskagaydiscussion

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

AnchoragePride, a mailing list for information concerning Anchorage & Southeast Alaska’s GLBT community. http://groups.yahoo.com/subcribe/anchoragepride

FairbanksPride, a mailing list for information concerning Fairbanks & Interior Alaska’s GLBT community. http://groups.yahoo.com/subcribe/fairbankspride

Grizz List, a mailing list for the Women’s Community. Event announcements, inquiries, issue discussion, and relevant topics of concern for women. Delivered every Thursday. GrizzList@gci.net

National and Political GLBT News. Landmark case decisions and other newsworthy announcements from national organizations. To join, send an e-mail to: bsrai@gci.net

PUBLICATIONS

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

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

The Perspective, a newsletter published for the Southeast Alaskan. 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, c/o IAA, P.O. Box 71248, Fairbanks, AK 99707. 907-452-4222. pinkink@alaska.com
"Quality of Life is our Goal"

725 Northway Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

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

Karen Marcey
Registered Pharmacist

Danita Fischbach
Registered Pharmacist

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

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

QUESTIONS WELCOME.