A TRIBUTE TO A VERY SPECIAL ENTERTAINER

The Imperial Court of All Alaska generously donated funds to cover mailing expenses for the issue of NorthView.
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Publication Information

NorthView is a monthly publication of Identity, a non-profit 501c(3) Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity. NorthView is published as a community service. 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. NorthView reserves the right to edit as necessary and to decline any article submitted. 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.

NorthView

C/o Identity
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Anchorage, AK 99520-0070
northview@identityinc.org

Cover View

Studio 2 at Out North features a tribute exhibit to George Harper, a local historian and beloved member of the Anchorage GLBTA community. The exhibit will remain on display at Out North through March 26.

April 2004 Theme:


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.
The Unlikely Entertainer

This month's NORTHVIEW theme is "Arts & Entertainment." Several contributors have taken the theme in some very innovative directions, and I think you'll enjoy the results. We also have a very cool article about actor Chad Allen, the blonde cutie who graced the cover of The Advocate twice during the past year. Allen is out and active on behalf of a number of GLBT causes, in particular at-risk youth. I think you'll enjoy the feature article about his latest project, "What Happens..." (pages 8-9).

Sometimes entertainers emerge from the most unlikely corners. The Anchorage GLBT community lost a very precious member in late January. George Harper, founder of Blacks in Alaska History Project, died Jan. 21. Early last year, at the age of 72, he came out as a gay man on stage at Out North in his autobiographical performance, "Two-Headed Turtle." I attended his performance. It was awesome, albeit quite naughty. You see, I knew George from work some years ago.

Not long after I went to work for the federal government, I heard about one of our employees who did research on the role African Americans played in Alaska's history. I met George and he explained that history books about Alaska rarely tell the whole story about the contributions of Blacks on the Last Frontier. So George collected old photographs, manuscripts and other documentation on this topic. He then put together a photo display in the atrium of the Anchorage Federal Building.

One day I walked by the display and saw George talking to an older gentleman about some of the photos. I grabbed a camera and snapped a quick photograph. Later I interviewed him for an article that we published, along with the photo, in my agency's employee newsletter. George was delighted with the article and photo, and I made a wonderful friend. Several years later, he retired. His last day on the job, he made the rounds with a small wagon in tow and gave bouquets of flowers to the people he would miss. George gave me flowers and a hug.

I didn’t see him again for several years. Then about four years ago, I saw George on the park strip during PrideFest. He rode the People Mover and proudly waved a rainbow flag. At the time, I assumed he was a straight ally. I was wrong. Last year I caught his Out North "Under 30" performance when he kicked the closet door open with gusto.

George was warm, funny, risqué and real, and we loved him.

Teresa McPherson
Editor

Alaska GLBT News

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

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

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

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Position Available: Administrative Assistant

Identity, Inc. has an Administrative Assistant position opening soon. Duties include general office work: filing, data entry, answering phone and creating flyers/forms. The person hired will also be responsible for NorthVIEW advertising sales. Knowledge of computers and general office skills required.

If you are interested in this position, send your resume to:
Identity Inc. Admin Assistant
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My Tribe

It's only been about a year and a half since I've been able to put a finger on my fascination with kitsch and my over-large collection of Pet Shop Boys albums. When I finally did admit to myself what and who I was, I knew I had to tell others. What I found surprised me.

Most of my friends and family were not only supportive, but most saw it as a non-issue. It was then I learned that coming out isn't the hard part—it's what you do afterward.

So here I was with this newfound acceptance of myself and nothing to do with it. I wasn't ready for the bar scene, and I didn't know anyone to associate with, or indeed if there were even people in Anchorage I could associate with.

Quite by accident, I stumbled onto the "Alaska Gay Discussion" Yahoo list, and it wasn't long before I saw a post asking for volunteer help at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. I must have read that post 50 times.

"Community Center?" I thought, "What could that possibly be?" The first thing that popped into my head was an image of a half-dozen pretty boys in togas and women in black berets sitting around drinking cappuccino and discussing Sylvia Plath and the latest episode of "Queer as Folk," and they needed someone to work the espresso machine. Needless to say, that initial thought was wrong.

Instead, I found the GCLCA a small, quiet place, a place where it was possible to meet people with absolutely no pressure at all, unlike the bars and clubs. Not only did I meet people who understood what I was going through, but many were right there with me, going through the same feelings and issues I was. I found in the GLCA a place where I could be myself, be accepted for being myself, and be offered not activism or indoctrination, but friendship and support.

In the few months I've been volunteering at the center, I've met transgender people, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and many, many people who just aren't sure. And I've been able to discover, first hand, just how much humanity there is in the GLBT community. If my volunteer work has done anything to help the center be a better place, then I consider it payback of only a small portion of what the center has given me.

These folks welcomed me, befriended me, and became my family, my tribe.

Steve Keller is Identity's webmaster and all-around computer guru.
Starring Me

I’ve been wondering about something lately. What would a movie about me be like? I’m sure it goes without saying that it would be fabulous, but just what would make it fabulous?

For starters, it would star me. I can’t think of anyone else that could possibly play me but me. Well, I think that Peter Sellers of Pink Panther fame would do a good job if he got a tan, but he’s dead and, well, that just won’t do. Dead people don’t tan.

I would have an irreverent musical number right smack dab in the middle of this picture. It would pretty much have nothing to do with any of the movie and cost about two-thirds of the $100 million dollar budget. It would be akin to having Moulin Rouge condensed into an over-the-top, seven-minute number. Can’t you see it?

Another thing that would make this autobiographical film fantastic would be if there were a great deal of, how shall we say, SENSATIONAL EMELISHMENTS!! In other words, copious amounts of sex. Until I partnered, there wasn’t much physical romance in my life. The theatrical release of my doings would paint a different picture. I’d be having it on with everybody. Mailmen, firemen, doctors, service men, heck maybe even a few puppets. I don’t discriminate. Now, I don’t agree with all this body double work that has been going on, so I will personally be involved in all these scenes. I know it’s a lot of work, but I think the viewing audience deserves the most that I can put out. Literally, in this case.

We need some action now. How about a scene that replays the time I single-handedly stopped an assassination attempt on Jackie Purcell? Okay, that never happened, but since I would be the one in the movie, in a way, it did happen, only because I would be doing it then. The scene could be about the scene!! Brilliant!! I sense a Golden Globe or two.

Hmm, let me go down my checklist. We have comedy, sex, action, but zero drama. I need some kind of tearjerker. I guess we can throw in some fluffy pieces involving dead puppies. Yeah, that’s it! I could use a puppy to stop the bullet that is fired at Jackie Purcell, thus saving her life. Realizing that the puppy is dead, we’ll all cry. I’ll then make a joke to lighten the mood. Maybe something like, “Well, I guess I won’t have to teach it ‘STAY’.” Everyone will laugh and then I’ll make out with the hot police officer. Wait, something isn’t right. Oh, forget the sex with the police officer. Instead, make it the whole police detail on the scene. YES!! Hello, Oscar:

Okay, to sum up:
1. Frank is the only one
2. Big smashing musical number
3. Action, romance, comedy, dead puppies
4. Frank is a slut
5. The deceased don’t tan

No animals were harmed in the writing of this piece. If you would like to invest in AUTO-FRANK: The Autobiographical Film of Frank, please contact tobefrankfeedback@yahoo.com.
Casting a Glamour

I find that flitting from one enchantment to another allows one to experience many vast things in arts and entertainment. Despite all of this, there are many times when arts and entertainment can reach great heights of ecstasy and make one truly feel the meaning of love.

Let me tell you some stories of my past No Chuck, not the ones about how I slept with half a regiment during the War of 1812, or how I got bit by a poisonous snake during the Civil War and had to have the venom sucked out by a rather attractive male nurse. Ah, such are the pleasures of the past. Oh dear. Back to reality already. Just when it was getting exciting.

Long, long ago I was director, singer and musician in a small semi-professional group. I was taking the ferry (an apt name of transportation for me) from Juneau to Wrangell, or Sitka, or some little island we'd been hopping around to. The forward sleeping lounge was packed with at least 300 people and scores of children. Night had fallen and the lights in the cabin were dimmed. Some tried to call upon the sprites of peaceable slumber. Others had to put up with the young spirits on board who were restless, whining, and all other things common among the changelings fairies leave in place of human children.

Finally the hour tolled 11 p.m. and no parent saw any hope of getting sleep that night. It was then that I walked to the front of the deck and quietly pulled out my lute. I looked out at the disturbed and distressed who were under the spell of the Queen of Air and Darkness and prepared to summon a magic greater than hers.

Softly I began the rapid picking of the steel lute strings, each ringing out as bells. I bestowed greater power upon them and let the sound rise upward toward the heavens. And then I began to sing. My soft high lyric tenor slowly pushed through the bubble of chaos as I sang a lonely English ballad. Shortly I switched to a happier Irish one and then a Scottish lullaby.

Soon some of my choir had settled around me, adding a soft harmony. I sang soft songs of adventures long past, of castles long turned to dust. I ended with Welsh lullaby that fit my high tenor voice perfectly:

"Hishie ba, noo I'm yer ma,
Hishie ba, my baimie, O
Hishie ba, noo I'm yer ma,
But the guid kens fa's yer father O."

Translation: Hush my baby, I'm your mother, but goodness knows who your father is.

I played the twelve strings of the rounded back bent neck lute like a harp and slowly, very slowly, stopped. Very quietly I put my instrument away and let out a sigh. The entire room of 300+ people were utterly silent. It was as if the fairy had stolen their voices and cleared their minds. Little did they know that it was truly a fairy who set the glamour, myself.

Then I looked up. A pleasant but harried looking lady was tiptoeing toward the magic circle of musicians that had slowly formed around me. She whispered to me, “Thank you so very much for the music, I didn't think my children would ever fall asleep. It was absolutely beautiful.” Then she vanished.

I hold that musical experience dear to my heart because it shows that you do not have to just sing and play instruments to entertain people, but you can use that same entertainment to weave a lasting spell that will stay with them for a long time.

The stories that I have like this are numerous. Some folk have changed permanently. Fortunately I forgive those whose contact with me was so strong that they became fundamentalists. Casting a glamour is not an exact science, it seems. One young man urged me to change my “evil” ways and join his fundamentalist church. “If I had done that,” I replied, “I would not have been where I was required in order to help you.” He hugged me and bid me adieu.

Making subtle magic that can change a person’s life, if only for a moment, is worth it. I have found that sometimes the contact has lasted a lifetime.

Tim's tower is fortified with many ancient glories and spells, and protected by a full host of ouling folk. Perhaps it is best to simply reach him at timweiss@chugach.net.

Tim Weiss generously adopted 14 days during the Jan. 31 GLCCA anniversary celebration.
"What Happens..."
when it's the Journey and Not the Destination

What happens when you put together a former child actor turned adult actor/producer and gay rights activist, an up-and-coming female director, a writer with a vision, and two groups of actors, and their producers in the biggest cities for stage and screen in the USA? Well, that’s what we’re trying to find out with a new project called “What Happens...” developing simultaneously out of New York and Los Angeles.

First, that former child actor turned adult actor/producer and gay rights activist is the uber-talented Chad Allen, who came out publicly on the cover of The Advocate in December of 2000. Chad grew up through a variety of television shows, including St. Elsewhere, Our House, and in his formative years in the Emmy-nominated series, Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman. His stage credits include the controversial Corpus Christi and the magnificent thriller Temporary Help, which began its three-month run in New York’s famed off-Broadway in November of 2002.

In his quest for equal rights for the gay community, in his interactions with many talented actors, directors, writers and producers in both New York and LA, and in attachment to several charitable organizations, Chad started to notice the need for more. More reality in what we in the artistic community were writing, displaying, and performing. More interest in the community that supports our work. More effort for us to reach out to communities who don’t normally have the opportunity to see much of what we put on stages and screens.

Working with so many like-minded creative types who tend to question, rather than be satisfied with, the norm, Chad first proposed his thoughts to Kristin Hanggi, who directed him in Corpus Christi. At age 25, Kristin is well on her way to success, currently directing her first feature film for Disney, as well as the Broadway debut of the hugely successful musical Bare. Kristin was immediately excited about the development of a project which could begin to touch on these issues and explore a variety of others that may lie ahead.

Over coffee in New York’s East Village, the two began that process and decided that whatever lies ahead of them would be perfectly okay. You see, their goal was not only to learn how to be of service to the at-risk community, but also the artistic community by providing a radical, sky-is-no-limit journey to a finished project that was as unpredictable as where many kids we’ve met and worked with will sleep tonight.

The project got under way in February of 2003. Chad flew back to LA and met with another producer interested in developing a project about homelessness. That producer, who left the project, brought with him writer James Crite, who stayed. James had taken time away from the industry to finish his play Mad, Angry Faces, which tells five stories of homeless, at-risk and/or addiction-suffering people.

Enter producers Philip Mershon in Los Angeles and me (Jason Kennedy) in New York. As the ideas grew, so did the need for help and new idea-makers, which are some of the purposes we both serve.

Now what happens? Casting was of course a necessity, which is one of the most fascinating aspects of “What Happens...” as we were essentially developing two separate casts with, as we would come to find out, two dramatically different stories to unfold. Also at hand was the task of meeting with organizations to discuss how a group of actors might be of service. Considering that this journey had no destination, nor did it want to specify one at this premature state, there was great cause for questioning and distrust. The process of gaining trust from organizations became indicative of the issue we were soon to find in many kids, who had been let down, most usually severely, throughout their entire lives.

Soon enough, we began to develop our skills as artists through Kristin’s talented direction. Since she and Chad were now LA-based, it was vital for us in New York to take on an assistant director. Enter Christopher Illes, an actor and director who worked closely with Kristin on several projects back in L.A.
JASON KENNEDY

By digging, sometimes painfully, into our own histories, we began to understand which issues we wanted to focus on, what groups of at-risk youth we wanted to work with.

Women in the New York cast began teaching acting classes at Blossom, an organization in Brooklyn for young girls and women specializing in gang prevention and rehabilitation. We also began teaching a class at Covenant House New York, serving runaway and at-risk youth, and Fountain House, serving the mentally challenged and ill.

Back in Los Angeles, the cast began to work on an individual basis with a variety of groups, for example a 12-step Recovery High School, and Covenant House of Southern California.

And now the process continues. A recent transplant to Los Angeles, I’ve had the opportunity to see how this project has changed lives of people on both coasts. Our cast has changed a bit, some members have left, and still more have found their way in, like Jennifer Tober, the role of Associate Producer in New York.

So what happens next? Currently, James is working diligently to combine both his writing and the writing and experiences of both casts in an effort to assemble the actual show.

“What Happens...” will eventually carry the message that we can all find new and exciting ways to be of service. How, specifically, we will portray that on a stage will come in time. In the meantime, we continue volunteering, journaling, learning and growing. As we search for investors and stages on both coasts to continue our journey, we see endless possibilities.

And hopefully, one opportunity to be of service at a time, we can show more at-risk youth that their world can too be full of endless possibilities, as opposed to the impossible endings to which they are so often condemned.

Well that’s all for now, folks. To keep posted with the project in process, to find out how to help in your community, or to learn more about how to help make “What Happens...” happen, visit whathappens.org, e-mail whathappensproject@hotmail.com, or contact me, Jason Kennedy, Producer, @ 917.568.1436.

A NOTE FROM MICHAEL A HAASE:

I first began to see the potential for a North View article after receiving a wonderful thank-you letter from Chad Allen via e-mail after my partner and I made a donation to another theater project Chad was involved in. This was no simple, “Hey, thanks man!”

One paragraph of that letter sums it up best: “Last year I was working in New York when I met a boy who lived on the street. He was an amazing saxophone player and after talking to him for a while, I realized there was this incredible story waiting to be told and I started to wonder how many others were behind the tough faces of New York’s street kids.”

It speaks volumes about Chad Allen that he can be inspired by someone who is sadly either ignored or even disdained by most of society. Chad and the rest of the “What Happens...” crew deserve our support and our respect for such a powerful project.

To learn more about the amazing work Chad is involved in both on and off stage and screen, visit Chad Allen’s official Web site at www.chadallenonline.com.
Time of Transition

My partner Wendy and I went to see “Something’s Got to Give,” with Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton. What a wonderful movie – and isn’t Diane one of the sexiest things on the big screen? And, as we watched it, I began to think about change and transition.

I’ve recently read some books by William Bridges on transitions. He is a nationally known expert on transitions and has helped countless people, corporations, and organizations work through the transitional effects of change. The movie was all about transitions. Nicholson was his usual obnoxious self who suffers a heart attack and, with that event, things changed dramatically for him. With any change, especially something as big as a heart attack, there is always a transition. He took six months and re-evaluated his life, discovering a new self and real love.

Bridges talks about the process of transition. Most people do not realize that with change comes a transitional period. Transition is composed of three different stages. First there is an “ending.” Life as Nicholson knew it had changed. That is followed by the “neutral zone” where chaos and discomfort occurs. Nicholson hadn’t really given up what he had been before, but couldn’t be happy as he was, so he sold his businesses and set out on a journey to find who he was. Last is the new beginning, and I won’t give away what happens in the show, but let’s just say there was a new Jack at the end of the movie.

The neutral zone is what makes change so uncomfortable. It’s like going through a grieving phase, of letting go, of experiencing an ending. Bridges defines six periods: reorientation, personal growth, authentication, creativity, spirituality, and renewal as part of the neutral zone.

Organizations go through transitions that happen because of change. Identity is in the neutral zone in many ways. We and our partners took on a much bigger and more elaborate PrideFest. We reorganized the Pride Conference. NORTHVIEW has expanded. We began the Living Out Loud Youth Program. And we opened the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage.

We now have a $66,000 budget and six core programs. We have a large Board with representatives from many key GLBTA organizations serving with us on the Board. As the saying goes, expressing exactly what I feel we are about. I think the whole organization has struggled with coming to understand just what Identity stands for.

We have also experienced a sense of the spiritual, which is that we are in the place of something bigger than ourselves. That is the vision of a world where people are free to be what their identity tells them they are. We are not an active advocacy organization, but we do stand up for and speak out about what we believe in. We say “pride” with pride. This is the important part – believing in something bigger than ourselves.

Identity has come through a growth in creativity. We have a new logo and a new organizational image. That is the change and now we have to go through the “neutral zone” as we settle ourselves into our new face.

This is an exciting time to be a part of Identity. Our recent second anniversary celebration of the GLCCA brought in over $5,000 through our Adopt-a-Day program and the silent auction. The Anchorage GLBTA community said very loudly that they support what Identity is doing. I am very proud to be a part of this and I say thank you to everyone who gave and who made the celebration possible.

Now I would make a plea. Elections are coming up in April and we are looking for new people. You could be a part of the “new beginning” that follows a time of transition. We also need more Helpline volunteers, more volunteers at the GLCCA, and the PrideFest committee really needs some individuals to step forward and join us in planning our big celebration in June.

Come on out and be a part of what is happening in the GLBTA community of Anchorage, Alaska.

Diana Wolfe is Co-Chair of Identity, Chair of PrideFest, and has served three years on the Board. She lives with her partner, Wendy, of eleven years, two dogs and four cats.
Surviving Madness

When I first spotted a new book by Betty Berzon entitled Surviving Madness (University of Wisconsin Press, 2002), I grabbed it off the shelf. But within seconds, I realized this was a very different offering from one of our leading psychotherapists. Yes, I’ve read her Permanent Partners and Setting Them Straight and found both invaluable. And I’m using Positively Gay (edited by Berzon) as one of my texts in Sociology 387. But the subtitle of this book suggested a different slant: “A Therapist’s Own Story.” Surviving Madness is Betty Berzon’s autobiography.

Although the divorce of her parents was likely a destabilizing factor, as well as numerous relocations (I lost track of all of Betty’s moves), dealing with her own sexuality, her lesbianism, was the core of the problem. Born in 1927, Betty first began struggling with this issue in the 1940s and 1950s, when there was little if any ‘knowledge’ about sexual orientation. After her first relationship with a woman broke up – Betty was in her early twenties – she went into deep depression. And the psychiatric ‘help’ that was available was operating from the perspective that homosexuality was a mental disorder. In fact, Betty even had to escape from a facility that was getting ready to subject her to electric shock treatment.

However, there were some ironies as well. Even though the psychiatrists treating Betty were extraordinarily ignorant about sexual orientation at the time, some of them saw her empathy toward other people and recommended she go back to college and get a degree in psychology. Betty was dumbfounded. She’d never thought of such a thing. All her early training and education had been in the arts and, career-wise, she’d worked at and even owned a bookstore. However, she took the advice and within a year, she was working at the very facility she’d fled.

Despite the fact that Betty became a psychologist and therapist during an extraordinarily exciting era—the sixties when the Human Potential Movement (encounter groups and so forth) was in vogue—she still lived in denial of her sexuality for years, with many false starts and disappointments. It wasn’t until a wonderful young woman named Terry came into her life in 1973 that Betty found the stability and the relationship that anchored her life. (They’re still together.)

Yes, it’s been a roller coast life for Betty Berzon in many respects, but what a life! Her list of current and past friends reads like a who’s who in gay life—Paul Moenette, Marvin Leibman, John Rechy—as well as groundbreaking straight folks, like Carl Rogers and Evelyn Hooker. She even interviewed Eleanor Roosevelt as a high school reporter.

And many gay folks who are struggling or have struggled with their sexual identity should take heed of Betty’s story, finding hope. I urge you to pick up Surviving Madness from your local bookstore or order it online.

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

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MARCH 2004
SYLVIA SHORT

Entertainers and Politicos

I think it’s very exciting that PFLAG is bringing up the pictorial exhibit, “Gay, Out and Elected.” I shall never forget the thrill I experienced when a lesbian was elected San Diego’s district attorney, way down in California’s Orange-land, and I hope her picture is included in the exhibit. It’s a long way from the old days when I was one of a 50-to-1 male/female ratio in the legal field!

PFLAG is seeking help with the expense of the exhibit, which costs over $3,000, and all donations will be gratefully accepted. It is planned for the pictures to be displayed in Anchorage high schools for the first half of April and at Loussac main library the last half. UUCS contributed $500, and they have promised to have the exhibit at the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall either Sunday, March 28, or Sunday, April 2.

Ever increasingly, the fact of the gay predilection and/or relationship is being recognized and accepted. While some dig their feet in and protest, enlightened courts are finding that “equality” means just that. Even the type of blatant bias found in the enunciations of “one woman, one man marriage” will some day be a thing of the past. It takes time.

I was in California when its ancient constitutional provision prohibiting miscegenous marriage, which had been found unconstitutional by the California courts several decades earlier, was finally repealed. It had not been acted upon or enforced since the first court declared it void, but it remained on the books for years.

There’s little difference between the two laws outlawing marriage, one between persons of different races and the other between persons of the same gender. When will some bright legislator discover that the majority of Americans are eschewing marriage altogether, either by living together without it or getting divorced!

Whether “out” and elected, or “out” and an entertainer, we should salute those who dare to face opposition and be themselves.

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

TERESA McPHERSON

“Chagrin” Gritty, Honest

She swaggers, she swears, she sweats. Definitely not your ordinary grandmother.

Peggy Shaw descended on Out North in February to bring her off-Broadway act, “To My Chagrin,” to Anchorage. A Split Britches production (I’m serious), the performance delivered wit, nostalgia, insight and passion.

A beat-up pickup provided an unusual stage prop. Shaw stroked the fender reverently and talked about a long-time love for cars and rock and roll music. Drummer Vivian Stoll provided a steady heartbeat to the monologue, sometimes engaging in easy banter with Shaw. After one such quip, Shaw shot back: “You’re just lucky you live in a time girls can play drums. I grew up in a time girls weren’t even supposed to drive fast.”

Listening to her hard-driving dialog delivered in a distinctly New York accent, I decided this woman didn’t give a damn what “girls” were supposed to do. I loved how she challenged gender norms. From her swagger to her soft crew cut, this flamboyant artist made her own rules.

“I got a great haircut in Santa Fe.” Shaw barked. “She didn’t ask no questions. She just cut hair all day.”

While I admired her spunk and her grit, at moments I was slightly adrift as the monologue shifted swiftly from one theme to the next.

The final theme was the most poignant, as Shaw talked about her love for her biracial grandson and the growth she experienced as a result. She then bared her breasts and belly as a video of her young grandson dancing happily was projected onto her flesh in the otherwise dark theatre.

At the time I wondered if the smooth, white skin of her back would have made a better canvas for the film, given her gender-neutral appearance. Later, my husband Danny suggested that projecting the video onto her breasts and belly was symbolic of Shaw’s maternal feelings for her grandson.

Following the performance, Shaw and Stoll chatted with the audience. One woman admitted being surprised Shaw was female, and said she found it “confusing” to not know the performer’s gender throughout the show. Shaw countered that she loves not knowing a person’s gender.

“Drag is magic,” she said with an easy smile.

This review is not a professional critique. The writer is simply a lowly editor who enjoys watching fine batch women challenge gender paradigms.
COMMUNITY VIEW

GLCCA Celebrates Second Anniversary!

On Jan. 31 the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage celebrated its second birthday with a hugely successful fundraising bash. The event raised over $5,000 to keep the center open and thriving in 2004.

ABOVE: GLCCA director Phyllis Rhodes presents a rose to community center volunteers.

FAR LEFT: Phyllis receives flowers and warm applause for her work at the GLCCA.

LEFT: Identity board member Trevor Storrs was cashier for the silent auction that raised nearly $3,000 for the community center.

MARCH 2004
On Feb. 21, local rock and blues band FULL CIRCLE performed at Mad Myrna’s to kick off Fur Rondy Week. The band donated their tips from the performance to Anchorage PFLAG.

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http://www.alaska.net/~fk

Identity
Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage

Identity envision's 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, Pristfest, 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
Identity Programs

Winter & Spring  Living Out Loud Youth Program
June    Pride Conference
October  Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA). Ste. 103, 2110
        East Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. 907-929-4528
Daily   Helpline for GLBT information and referrals (6 PM to 11 PM). 907-258-4777
        or 888-901-8876
Nightly NORTHVIEW newsmagazine
Monthly NORTHVIEW newsmagazine

Event View

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; 566-1813
       SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous); 8 PM; 566-1133
       Line dance lessons/dancing, 7-9 PM, Mad Myma's
Wed   IMRU2; 5:30 - 7 PM, first and third Wednesdays; the
       GLCCA; 566-IMRU, leave message for more information
       GLSEN; 7 PM, second Wednesday; the GLCCA
       LGBT Reading Group; 7 PM, third Wednesday; Border's
       Cafe; 334-4099 (Chuck, Mon - Wed), chart@gcl.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; 566-1133
       Friends and Family Support Group; 6:30 PM; 263-2050
       Country Dance Night; lessons 7-8 PM, open dancing
       8-10 PM, Mad Myma's
       "Karaoke Night" hosted by "K" Entertainment; 10 PM;
       Mad Myma's
Fri   Lunch; everyone invited (HIV+, volunteers, and friends);
       12 noon - 1 PM; Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association
       (A4A), Ste. 102, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln.; 263-2050 (Lori)
       "Friday Night Divas Show"; 9 PM; Mad Myma's
Sat   SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous); 12 noon;
       Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; 566-1133
       Buddhist Morning Services; 11 AM; White Lotus Center
       for Shin Buddhism, 123 E. 11th Avenue; 258-1851
       Center for Spiritual Practices & Education Worship
       Service; 11 AM; 8350 Old Seward Highway; 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.; 561-8744
       Sunday Dinner; 5 - 8 PM; Mad Myma's; 276-9762 (Jim)

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

Please help keep this section current!
Send new and updated listings to
NORTHVIEW@IDENTITYINC.ORG
OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

PLEASE HELP KEEP THIS SECTION CURRENT!
SEND NEW/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 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 stigma. Many services cater specifically to women. 1057 W. Fireweed L.t., Ste 102, Anchorage. 907-263-2050 (Anchorage), 800-478-AIDS (statewide).

Alaska Civil Liberties Union, a membership-based non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to preserving and defending the guarantees of individual liberty found in the Alaska Constitution and the U.S. Bill of Rights through litigation, education and legislative advocacy. We are the Alaska affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). P.O. Box 201844, Anchorage, AK 99520-1844. Phone: (907) 276-2258, Fax: (907) 258-0288, Email: akclu@aklsu.net

Alaska Gay/Lesbian Association (a UAF student organization). c/o Student Activities Box 4, Wood Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775. 907-274-1136. faconr@uaf.edu, www.uaf.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 intersexual people in all aspects of personal and public life. 907-456-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. 2001 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. 8PM Wednesdays, 11 AM Sundays, 8500 LaViento Drive, Anchorage. 907-349-9955.

Break-even Productions has been bringing up gay performers from around the country since 1987. 907-277-5630 for upcoming events or productions. lkepusa@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. 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. Call the YWCA of Anchorage for eligibility guidelines, enrollment, and group presentation opportunities; 907-644-9620 (Anchorage), 1-800-410-6266 (statewide).

Celebration of Change, a performance of women artists for women. 907-566-3783 (for performance and volunteer information). celebrationofchange@gmail.com

Committee for Equality. Box 34202, Juneau, AK 99803, bsara@geci.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 907-380-4497.

Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA). The Home of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Individuals and Our Allies. The GLCCA is a safe space to meet, hang out, hold or attend a meeting, or use the resource library or computers. 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). 907-929-4777 (Anchorage), 888-901-9624 (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) hillman@glensenet.org, Fairbanks: Lisa Shayan or Jeff Walters c/o GLSEN, PO Box 85315, Fairbanks, AK 99706, 907-457-2787.

Identity, Inc., a nonprofit Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity. Identity envisions 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 GLBT community in Alaska. Programs include the Gay and Lesbian HelpLine, NorthVIEW, PrideFest, Living Out Loud Youth Conference/Seminars, and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA), sponsors the Memorial Day weekend Uluhina picnic, the Fur Rondy parade float for the GLBT community, PrideFest Festival on the Parksstrip, Labor Day weekend Coronation, and numerous other events. PO Box 104032, Anchorage, AK 99510-4032, 907-274-GAY. www.icoaa.org

IMRU, the social group for GLBT youth, ages 13 to 18. We eat, chat, watch videos, play events, and do lots of laughing. Join us and tell your friends. 5:30 PM Wednesdays at GLCCA. 907-456-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).