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ALASKA'S GLBTA NEWSMAGAZINE
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NORTHVIEW



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NORTHVIEW welcomes articles, photographs and letters from individuals and organizations. Email your submissions to northview@identityinc.org. Deadline is the 10th of each month for inclusion in the next issue. We reserve the right to edit as necessary and to decline any submission. *NORTHVIEW* does not accept editorial copy or advertising that is sexist, racist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

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COVER VIEW

L to R: Maria, Mary, Jeanmarie, Dee, Mel celebrate their friendships

Correction

In the July issue of *NorthVIEW* we published an announcement that RuPaul would be performing at this year's Coronation. We have since found out that this announcement was in error. Instead CeCe Penniston will be performing. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

Staff Members and Volunteers

NORTHVIEW continues to seek volunteers to contribute articles, poetry, reviews, photographs, and artwork.

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Old Friends

I have always felt that a real friend is the one who will accept you for who are, and not for who they wish you were.

I have always felt that a real friend is the one who will accept you for who you are, and not for who they wish you were. In 1980, I was in nursing school and we spent part of the fall semester at the county psych unit at University Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. Being a county unit they were usually surviving on a shoestring budget. I found it to be a dismal place and very disheartening. The patients usually received the minimum of attention that patients in a private facility would. Having nursing students there was often a blessing because we could give at least a few of the patients some help. One day I came in and saw a patient there who was someone I had known in high school some years earlier. His name was Harry.

I remembered Harry as being a really nice guy and a diligent student. He was always cheerful and had a smile for everyone. In our senior year, he was voted most likely to succeed. Harry was a Mormon and as many Mormons, he planned to do a year of missionary work after college. To that end, he studied Spanish to prepare him for a year abroad, which he hoped would be in a Spanish speaking country. I had not seen Harry since graduation some five years earlier and so seeing him in the county psych unit was very much a surprise. Harry recognized me as well and said "Hello". He gave a sad smile and seemed like he had the weight of the world on his shoulders. Although he was not my assigned patient that day, I made a point of finding some time to speak with him, and it seemed like he really wanted to talk with someone who he knew.

After a few minutes of general conversation, I asked him why he was there and he proceeded to tell me his story. It seems that his home life had not been quite as rosy as many of us had believed back in high school. His father had been a very authoritarian man. Also, a sister that he was very close to had committed suicide but he did not elaborate on the reason why she had done so. Still he had believed that God had a plan and so he had continued on as best as he could. After college, he was assigned by the church to do his missionary service in Spain, which made him happy. He was sure that this would be a turning point in his life, and it was, but not in the way he thought it would be.

After he had been in Spain for a few months, Harry started to realize that he was attracted to a man with whom he worked. Since homosexuality was considered a sin to the Mormons, Harry worked very hard to control his feelings.

He spent many hours in prayer and study. Eventually the strain of having what he and the church considered a sin became too much for him and he had a nervous breakdown. The elders sent him back home and he had been struggling with it ever since. He had admitted himself to the county psych unit because he felt like he must have a psychological problem. He just could not seem to accept himself for who he was, a gay man.



I told him that it was okay and that I did not think any less of him for what he had just told me. I tried to tell him that there was nothing wrong with being gay. Even though at the time I was still struggling with my sexual and gender identity and would continue to do so for another twelve years, I let him know that I still cared for him as a person. I sat there with my hand on his shoulder and let him know that I was still his friend.

It's been twenty-five years since that meeting and I still continue to think of that day. I do not know what became of him after that day. I had hoped that he would stay in touch. Still, I hope that he is happy and well. I hope that he learned to accept himself. And finally I hope that he finds friends who accepted him for who he is.

Nicole Blizzard has made several dear friends since moving to Anchorage and hopes to make many more. She can be reached at nicole-b92@msn.com or northview@identityinc.org

Alaska GLBT News

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

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

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

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Don't Miss Coronation XXXIII!

Well...hmmmm...time has sure passed. If I can say one thing about this year's reign, it's commitment. To do all you can and be everywhere, wow, it's a lot. I've gotten to know so many people this year in state and out of state. It's been a year I'll never forget.

I'm so glad to have had this chance to serve as Emperor XXXII of All Alaska and will cherish it forever. The travel was great, going to so many places and meeting so many people and making great friends along the way. I will be in San Diego and Saint Paul, Minnesota, in early August and then I'm done with all my travels as Emperor of Alaska.

I hope the new monarchs will have as great a time as I've had in this role. I'm very lucky to have had the support I did this year and I'm very, very grateful to you all. Thanks for believing in me and helping me get the job done.

I hope to see everyone at CORONATION XXXIII this Labor Day weekend, September 4, 2005, for it promises to be a great event and a good time. Our special guest Cece Peniston will rock the house!

Please, if anyone has any questions for me, don't hesitate to call me on my cell at 830-9078 anytime. If you wanna help us out during Coronation weekend, let me know as well. We need drivers to help pick up our out-of-town guests and dancers for production numbers, helpers for setup, and lots more.

I want to again say thanks to you all for believing in me. I will always be grateful for this chance to serve the Alaska Community.

**I Still Remain
The Denali Black Diamond of the North
Emperor XXXII
Of All Alaska**

**THE IMPERIAL COURT
OF THE EMPIRE OF ALL
ALASKA (ICOAA)**

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"Well, there's a bridge and there's a river that I still must cross as I'm going on my journey. Though I might be lost" A verse from Whitney Houston's "Step by Step" song has been an inspiration to me during my reign. I can once again say this journey has just begun. Come Labor Day 2005, I will step down as Empress XXXIII for the Imperial Court of All Alaska and I can readily take a deep breath and say "I did it again!"

Alaska, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve you. The journey that I traveled during the reign is laborious yet fulfilling. The support I received from each one is something I will cherish and treasure. I have served this community since the early 80's and I can honestly say that I will never get tired working for all of you. I think it is that simple smile and a little pat on the back from everyone during any functions that I attend that keeps me going. Coronation 2005 promises an exciting evening for all of us. It is a great time for all of us to get together, wear our best Sunday night garbs and enjoy what we have to offer. It will be a tearful event for me but I am happy to know that whoever fills the seat of Emperor or Empress will do an awesome job if not better. Good luck to all the candidates! Remember to take it "Step by Step, bit by bit - but don't let your spirit fail. Coz' you will make it!" Once again - kisses to all of you and remember the Legacy of the Ultimate Ecstasy will always be at your side. I remain in service to the crown,

**Kristara Empress 17, 26,
Regent 30, 32
The Ultimate Ecstasy**



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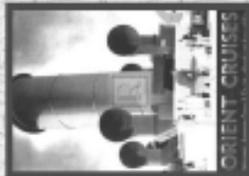
THEIR MOST IMPERIAL MAJESTIES

The Denali Black Diamond of the North
Emperor XXXII

Jacob Lawrence, III
and

The Aurora Ultimate Ecstasy
Empress XXXII
Kristara

Jake and Kristara wish to thank all the members of the GLBTA community for their continued support of the ICOAA.



FRIENDSHIP

Recently I attended a book signing and reading at Barnes and Noble here in Anchorage. I knew one of the authors, slightly, and wanted the book for my grandsons because it was about Alaska animals. The women read portions of the book and sang to children, young and old who gathered to listen.

I reveled in the time and felt like a youngster, also as I listened to the howl of the wolf and joined the children howling and barking. When story time ended I helped my friend get packed up and she commented on how nice it was to see my "girlfriend" there. "Who do you mean, I don't have a girlfriend." Well of course I am out of the closet to everyone but I am not with anyone and certainly was not with anyone during this enjoyable story time. "She said, Oh I thought you and Jill were partners. I thought I had seen you in church sitting together." She must be mistaking her for someone else. I realized she was talking about the lesbian that was sitting across the room with her grandchild. I explained that I did not even know this woman. We laughed at her misunderstanding.

People often think that just because you share commonalities you must know each other. If you have blonde hair and play basketball you must know my friend with blonde hair who plays basketball. That really is not always true.

The only thing I knew for sure about Jill was that I had seen her at lesbian events. It made me laugh that I did not know her well enough to talk to her but this author friend thought that Jill was a lesbian just by an assumption. I no longer hide identity for myself or anyone else, unless asked to, but I am often humored that we are able to be spotted by straight people.

It is freeing to be part of the LGBT/A community. I have gained friends that I never knew existed until I came out and became more aware of what it means to be free. We

can be 'friends' just by the common link of sexual identity. Most of the time I do not identify to the world as gay but if it's a situation where gay issues are being blasted or tested then I will become very indignant and suddenly very 'out' there and 'gay to the world'. Just between you and me I am a normal lesbian who cannot tie her shoes and prefers birkies.



This article has not said enough about friendship. I consider myself fortunate to have a few good friends. My life is changing and I am having to say good-bye to the homestead that I grew up on the Kenai Peninsula. Friendship has been exhibited to me in that a treasured friend has offered to go down to the homestead with me while I say farewell this fall. After 35 years a new page turns in my life but I am fortunate to have friends to go gayly forward with on this journey.

Lynne Sangster writes regularly for Northview as her faithful dog Bear snores by her side. Bear is a satisfied 3 year old lab/St. Bernard mix. He would prefer to live in Chugiak where the neighbors don't care if he runs wild. Bear still dreams of running almost constantly.

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Read all about it!

Here's where you can find the NorthVIEW.

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GALE SMOKE: QUEER BOOKS

There is a wonderful publisher – Harrington Park Press – that has an extraordinary offering of queer books, and this month I’m reviewing one of them. *Side By Side* (2005) is edited by Andrew R. Gottlieb who put it together to fill a vacuum. And what is that? The book includes a collection of articles written by siblings of gay and lesbian people – or as the subtitle puts it: “On Having a Gay and Lesbian Sibling.” I was truly excited when I ran across *Side by Side*.

There are eighteen articles in the book. Ten of them are written by siblings of gay men, seven are written by siblings of lesbians, and one is written by a sibling who has both a gay brother and lesbian sister. I was not surprised that thirteen of the eighteen articles were written by sisters or women. However, I was surprised that a significant number of the siblings who wrote the articles were also gay. (I probably shouldn’t have been if sexual orientation has a genetic component.)

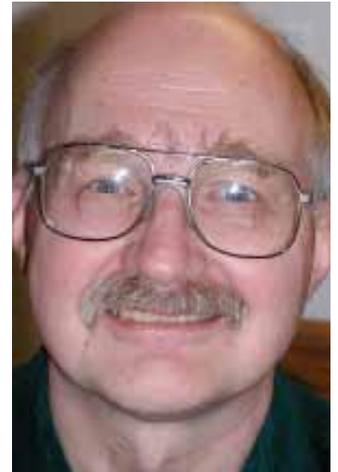
It is not possible to review all of the articles, but here are some comments about my favorite ones:

Erin Starr didn’t realize she had a gay brother (actually half brother) until she was in college. That’s when John contacted her over the Internet. She learned that John was a well-kept secret from her mother’s early life and she was kind of dumbfounded by it. And she was saddened that none of her other siblings or her mother wanted to be in touch with John when she revealed what had happened. Contrary to them, she has established a strong relationship with John and they make special efforts to see each other, in person, as well.

As a young man, Tom Nelson’s older brother, Dan, came out to him. He had been totally clueless up to that point and had to revise his thinking about homosexuality. And Tom was one of those who nearly went overboard in his support. When some of his co-workers put down gay people (‘fags’), Tom wanted to slash the tires of their cars. But he talked to Dan, and his brother told him how stupid that would be. Instead, he was finally able to tell his co-workers, verbally, that he didn’t care for their language, because his brother was gay. It worked.

One Alaskan was mentioned in Eric Marcus’ *Making Gay History* – Sara Boesser of Juneau, who was described as “The Brave Alaskan.” Well, Sara’s younger sister, Kate, wrote one of the articles about lesbian sisters and the pages are filled with what a role model Sara is for Kate – total love and respect.

Brad Randall grew up in a small town in Virginia, and being that he was the youngest in his family he was the last to learn that his sister, Nicole, was a lesbian. His family thought he was too young to handle it. Well, handle it he did, and he’s the most supportive sibling of his sister. As a history major in college, he spent a lot of time studying GLBT folks and he decided to go to graduate school in Sociology, specializing in that area. He even joined the Sexual Minority Student Alliance at his college and says he wouldn’t change a thing about his sister.



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

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DAD'S CORNER: CHUCK HART

My Friends, Sid and Dan

In November of 2004 I reserved a week in July at my parents' cabin on McDonald Spit across Kachemak Bay from Homer for myself and two good friends, Sid and Dan.

Dan and Sid are straight but my coming out to them was painless and the news was warmly received with hugs and a hearty "Duh!" They haven't let up on the jokes.

My friend Sid is half Irish and half Yu'pik Eskimo. We have been friends since eighth grade at Mears Junior High School. I got knocked around at school on a regular basis except when Sid was nearby. He is a tall strong man now and was a tall strong boy then. Sid has a great sense of humor and loves a good joke. He tells them on himself as often as he does on anyone else.

My friend Dan is a Spenard-born Czechoslovakian and has been my friend since my days at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in the late 1970's. He looks a little like Groucho Marx without the bushy eyebrows and can be just as funny. Dan tends bar, but has worked in bookstores too. Like me, Dan does not drive.

Sid bought Dan's daughter's green Ford Aerostar van for our drive to Homer understanding that it needed a tune up and quite possibly other repairs in the near future. It only had a few more than a quarter million miles on it, but was in great shape, with almost all of the equipment being factory original.

At 9:40pm Sid and Dan arrived to pick me up. The van was making random popping noises accompanied by little lurches. If Sid and Dan weren't bothered, I didn't think I should be. After all they knew more about cars than I did, much more.

I know next to nothing about cars and car maintenance. When I used to drive, I just found good honest mechanics and kept my cars in front of them as much as I could afford. The first time I added oil to a car, I put it in the automatic transmission. I let a car sit alongside the road for two days because I couldn't afford repairs until payday. It was out of gas.

We pulled into the Tesoro station in Girdwood, and filled our tank. We were using gasoline faster than anticipated. I bought a bottle of water to drink on the trip.

We finally left Girdwood at around 11:20pm. Two thirds of the way to Portage we were traveling next to a guard rail that wouldn't end for four or five more miles. Suddenly the van drastically lost power. As we banged,

popped, shuddered, and lurched along Sid frantically searched for a place to pull over, but there wasn't one.

At the end of the guardrail we quickly coasted to a stop. Sid, Dan and I piled out. A vehicle in the opposing lane stopped and asked if we needed help. We told the good Samaritan that we had three cell phones and would be fine. He replied, "Yeah, but what about that fire under your van?"

We all dropped to look and Sid started throwing dirt on the fire. Sid yelled for, "some of that store-bought water!" He extinguished the flames with my water. I looked again, and Sid explained that the glowing red object was our catalytic converter. The rubber "bushing" that attaches the catalytic converter to the engine had caught fire. We waited for everything to cool down.

The worn out catalytic converter was clogged, trapping exhaust in the engine. Dan found a makeshift ramrod to push out debris. Sid removed enough of the blockage to drive fifty more feet to a parking spot for the night.

We had roughly three hours sleep altogether. Dan had one. Sid had one. And I had one. Even though we were tired, hungry and nervous about maybe losing the Homer trip, we were still making puns, telling jokes, and cutting up. Not once did anyone snap at anyone.

At noon Sid's nephew met us with parts. We made many stops for fine tuning the "tune up by ear", (no timing light) once almost turning back, but by 5:30pm we were in Soldotna, and by 7:30pm we were in Homer. Where we had a great time, caught a couple of halibut, and watched a humpback whale for half an hour.

Sid, Dan, and I are all three different, and we are all three human. Sometimes we have been separated by miles for years. (We've all lived Outside at times.). As soon as we reconnect it is as if we had only been apart a few days. Gay or straight are occasional discussion points, but not concerns of ours. We are friends.



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Friendship

Madison sat warming herself in her sister's kitchen. She sat in the exact spot where the sun came through the window, her legs curled on the chair, saying she and Stephanie would be friends even if they weren't dating. "Except for the fact that I'd constantly be trying to seduce her," Madison added, twirling her wrist.

"What does she think about Malaysia?"

"Malaysia? Oh, well," Madison's voice trailed off, and she stared at magpies on the fence. "I haven't told her."

"You haven't TOLD her?" Lily's voice was so loud she nearly woke the baby, who mumbled in her self-swinging chair.

"I, well, I haven't been accepted yet—"

"Oh, please." Lily got up from the table and poured herself more coffee. "When did you ever not get accepted to anything?"

Madison continued staring out at the yard as if studying the length of the weeds. "There was that one job in high school—" She stopped when she saw Lily's glare. "And anyway it would be months and months before I actually left and who knows if we'd still be together and..." Lily's glare didn't budge. Only her eyebrows were a little higher. Madison unwound her legs and walked around the table to the baby. "She's beautiful. I can't wait until have my own."

"And what? Take her with you to Mongolia?"

"I'm not—" Madison sighed. Lily placed Madison in a new country each time they discussed her plans with Doctors Without Borders. "Maybe—" The burrow in her forehead deepened. "Do I have to tell her?"

"Eventually. You wouldn't want to just disappear to Madagascar now would you?" After an exasperated breath, Lily shrugged and poured cream in her mug. "It's your life... but I think she has a right to know."

Madison tickled her niece who was batting sleepy eyes. "Yeah. I guess, you're right."

Lily clinked her spoon on the mug. "Had you ever dated a black woman before her?"

"Lily!"

"I'm just asking."

Baby Di opened her mouth wide, imitating her aunt.

"Well, not exactly *dated*," Madison said, grinning.

"Really?"

"Yeah..." Madison said, lost in memories. Baby Di grabbed one of Madison's fingers with her whole hand.

"Huh." Lily blew until the coffee rippled then sipped, deep in thought.

"It's not that big a deal." Madison stood and stretched.

"I like her, Madison. I like her a lot."

"Yeah, she's awesome. The other day she barbecued me these Portobello mushrooms and polenta. It was delicious."

"She cooks?"

"She watches the Food Network," Madison bragged.

"Goodness, you better be nice to her."

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"Well," Lily said, scooping her daughter into her arms

and avoiding her sister's eyes, "you haven't always had the best taste."

Madison's mouth opened and closed as if mimicking a goldfish. She slumped down in her chair. "I'm trying. I'm really trying."

"Oh, stop being so sensitive. Hold her while I get the power drill."

"The what?"

"I just remembered I have to fix the cabinet before Ari comes home. Otherwise he'll try to do it, and he always messes things up."

Madison laughed. "I never knew my sister was so handy with power tools."

Lily cocked her head to see if Madison was being facetious then went to the garage.

Madison bounced Baby Di in the air while one project turned into another and Lily repaired various household gadgets and furniture. "So how does one be a good girlfriend?"

Lily wiped her bangs from her eyes, asked for something Madison didn't understand, retrieved the item herself and returned to the maintenance.

"How does one be a good friend?" Lily asked, pausing and giving Baby Di a dusty kiss.

"Is it that easy?"

"I never said it was easy."

The wrinkles reappeared on Madison's brow. She watched Baby Di crawl on a blanket towards screws. "She deserves someone good."

"You're good."

"Yeah, but am I good enough?"

Lily glared again. "She's going out with you, isn't she? She's smart enough to know what she wants. Don't let her eat the sawdust."

Madison turned Baby Di around to face the stuffed yellow elephant but the wood shavings were much more interesting.

Eventually, the living room was cleaned, the banister stable, several cabinets fixed and a light replaced. But Madison wasn't any more confident. And Lily wasn't any more help.

"Talk to her, Mad," Lily suggested as Madison put on her shoes to leave.

When Madison nervously mentioned her plans over dinner that night, Stephanie said it was cool that Madison could travel and work as a nurse in other countries. Madison didn't ask what the status of their relationship would be when she left—she wanted to know how to be a good girlfriend now. Stephanie laughed as she pulled a bottle from the fridge and said keeping cold beer around was a great start.

Laura Carpenter likes to travel, but not as a nurse. She can be reached at saundraclmens@yahoo.com.

FRIENDS THEN AND NOW

I welcome the chance to write about the role of friends in my life. I thank the NorthView editor for selecting this topic.

Friends were extremely important to me as I was growing up. I was raised in a home that appeared “ideal” but had an overdose of dysfunction. I learned early the value of friends; escape to their houses for whole days or a weekend! I imported friends because my mother and father acted much better with other people around. I helped my house become a “hub” in the small town where I was raised. I had an “inner core” of friends (many I stay in contact with today thanks to the internet). We played make-believe together, rode bikes, went skating, dressed-up, did hobbies, had slumber parties and talked. We also joined clubs, sports teams and church groups together, making the bonds of our friendship even stronger.

The patterns begun in my childhood continue today. I take pleasure in spending time with my close friends. I share my home, family, romances and adventures with my friends. My close friends have taken me through all manner of life lessons. They have been there when I most needed them and I do my best to return that support. My friends have been a mainstay all my life and I appreciate and adore each one. They are my mentors, playmates, confidantes, best buddies, teachers, cheerleaders, comrades, advisors, coaches, sounding boards, and pals. They are an essential element in my life journey.

Today I regard my friends as precious gifts. Giving the gift of time and attention is a value I have grown to appreciate. Really listening and being present is part of that gift and being trustworthy and trusting is another. Sharing my life experiences with someone who cares is not just a gift but a blessing.

AMAZING ALLIES

The first sponsor I had in a 12 Step program was patient, knowledgeable, did not demand that I believed as she did, and accepted me exactly as I was. When I questioned a power greater than myself, she asked me to list all the characteristics of a best friend. I did that and she said to simply apply all of those descriptors to a Creator or Entity that was more powerful than me. It worked and my Creator became my Best Friend. That was many years ago and it is still working for me one day at a time!

Here is the list:

- *We listen
 - *we share fun times
 - *I can trust my friend
 - *My friend can trust me
 - *I can talk to my friend
 - *We respect each other
 - *We love unconditionally
 - *We have healthy boundaries
 - *We share sad and tragic times
- We want the very best for one another
What an incredible Friend I have.



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Sharing Our Losses

Looking back on the summer and the past year, there's been a lot of death. From the death of my grandmother to the unanticipated death of friends, or the family members or partners of friends – I've been to a lot of funerals and written a lot of sympathy cards in the last year. As a global community, we grieved the death of thousands in December after the tsunami. Locally, part of my work is to be present with people at death.

I've found some comfort rereading a favorite book by Anne Lamott – *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* (Anchor Books, New York: 1999). In her essay "Barn Raising," she reminds me of what I've found to be true, as she describes being present for friends whose young daughter has been diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, saying, "Sometimes we let them resist finding any meaning or solace in anything that had to do with their daughter's diagnosis, and this was one of the hardest things to do – to stop trying to make things come out better than they were. We let them spew when they needed to; we offered the gift

of no comfort when there being no comfort was where they had landed. Then we shopped for groceries (p. 152)."

I'm more and more convinced that the most important thing is showing up, knowing that there may be little any of us can do except to be there, and to keep loving, even and especially in the midst of raw pain and grief. And then we do the day-to-day stuff – the groceries, the dog walks, the bills, the details. It is so tempting to try to explain away the pain, to quickly make sense of the loss, and yet great losses tend *not* to make sense, at least not for a long time, if ever. And in the meantime, if we can walk together with the people we love, with those who love us, it helps us get through. There is much strength and endurance in this GLBT community, and I've watched friends gather around one another in the midst of loss, holding each other up, there for the long haul.

In her essay "Ladders," Lamott describes grief this way: "Grief, as I read somewhere once, is a lazy Susan. One day it is heavy and underwater, and the next day it spins and stops at loud and rageful, and the next day at wounded keening, and the next day numbness, silence (p. 70)." And yet, we must go through it. She comments, "I'm pretty sure that it is only by experiencing that ocean of sadness in a naked and immediate way that we come to be healed—which is to say, that we come to experience life with a real sense of presence and spaciousness and peace (68-69)."

Grieving together can profoundly impact a community. We find a necessary intimacy as together we stumble around and into the gaping hole of loss where a loved one's life has been. That shared vulnerability and grief can strengthen a community, deepening trust as we realize how much we need each other, and glimpse our vulnerabilities that are so often hidden. We realize we are not so alone. And together, we may find a renewed sense of hope, as we continue on, upheld in love.

In memory of Elve Halvor, Joe O'Connell, Angie LaFleur, Michael Shibe, Bill Spohn, and the many others who have gone before us. Peace to all.

Susan Halvor is a Lutheran pastor, working as a chaplain. Despite trying to keep her eyes and ears open to what the Holy is up to, she tends to be surprised and caught unawares on a regular basis. Generally, that turns out to be a good thing.

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Transgendered In Alaska

It feels like I have been transitioning forever and yet it's only been a few months, since I started taking testosterone. Not much seems different, other than the name and my voice which has deepened a bit. Oh and lest I forget the hair on my face and Barbara telling me I'm getting bristly again. Unfortunately for me, not enough facial hair to do anything with, I can't even work up a decent mustache and so I shave it off and hope it comes in better next time. So recently when Barbara and I were talking about this and I was complaining because I felt this was taking to long, she said she was grateful that the changes were slow, so she had the time to adjust to the everything. So yeah, I know I should be grateful and happy that Barbara has made the decision to stick with me despite the fact she has always said she didn't want to be with a man ever again. And I am happy and grateful, but now that I've started down this path, I'll admit I'm impatient. Just like any boy who has started going through puberty, he's not really a boy anymore but he's not yet a man. That's where I'm at, except I was a woman and I'm not a woman anymore but I'm not really man yet either. I'm in this in-between limbo and that's not where I want to be. As I am writing this, I got an email that my friend Lucy Frey is going to be here in Alaska to celebrate her birthday and they are having a potluck and sing along just like the ones she used to have in her home, when she lived here. She was here last year and we went and yet this year, Barbara may go, along with my friend Lynne but I won't be going, you see the potluck and sing along is for women only. I got another wake up call a few days ago of how far I have yet to go. It was on one of the online FTM groups that I belong to. A long time member who isn't hardly on there anymore, came on with the news that he was finally getting married to his long time girlfriend, he said that he had started

transitioning seven years and he was posting not only to share the news of his upcoming wedding but also for those of us who were just starting out. That he had been where we are. I'm happy for him, not so much because of his upcoming wedding but because that means he's legally a male. Now he's not just perceived to be male by those around him, in the eyes of the government he's male, his driver license not only carries his new name but instead of an F under gender there is now an M and for the first time in his life, he is outside what he's always known he was on the inside. I know I don't want to wait seven years to be who I know I am and it may not take that long or it may take longer. Right now I'm only working part time on call and I don't have health insurance and while I get a lot of my health care through the Veteran's Administration, they won't pay for any of the surgeries. On my online mystery group, someone recently started an off topic thread about if you had one wish, what it would be. I didn't post mine, not everyone there knows me and knows about my transition but I didn't have to think about it, I just knew that my one wish would be that I would wake up that next morning the man outside that I am inside. But since that's not going to happen, I'll keep trudging that road of happy destiny and slowly but surely it will happen.



Cam is the owner/moderator of the yahoo group Transgendered In Alaska and owned by his cat Kitt. He can be found most Fridays between 3 pm and 6 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center or online at solcandy@gci.net

THOMAS M. GORMLEY, ANP

*ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER, PSYCH/MH
THERAPIST CERTIFIED IN EMDR*

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CAM BONHAM

"TransGeneration" series to preview In Anchorage

by Cam Bonham

In September of this year, the Sundance Channel in association with MTV Network's LOGO will present an eight episode documentary called "TransGeneration". This spellbinding, intimate documentary follows four transgendered college students on four different campuses across the country. Through the stories of these four students, their friends, families and communities, "TransGeneration" highlights a growing phenomenon: that gender identity is being confronted by a younger generation. Sundance Channel is very interested in having the GLBT community see this project before anyone else and so while this series will premiere September 20th on the Sundance Channel, thanks to Out North, there will be a 90 minute sneak preview of "TransGeneration" in Anchorage on September 8th at 7pm on the big screen at Out North, 3800 DeBarr Road. Anchorage is only one of a hundred cities hosting this preview, so mark your calendar. This is bound to be the most talked about new series this fall. For more information call Out North at 279-3800 or visit www.outnorth.org

Also Showing At The Beartooth in September

Monday, September 12, 5:30 & 7:45, \$3

MY SUMMER OF LOVE France, 2005 in French with English subtitles. Rated R, strong sexual situations, language and drug use.

Summary: This film vibrantly charts the emotional and physical hot house effects that bloom one summer for two young women.

Thanks to Rand Thornsley for providing this information.

DARL SCHAAFF

Gay Games

In 1989 I read an article in the Advocate that focused on an event called the Gay Games. It told of the history and the dream of Dr. Tom Waddell, a former Olympic athlete, to create a sporting event specifically to honor and engage Gay and Lesbian athletes. The event was moving out of San Francisco for the first time. Vancouver British Columbia had been chosen to host the III Gay Games. All this seemed interesting but really didn't get me that excited about traveling to some big Gay event. I had been to pride festivals, marches and even an early circuit party. Then something caught my eye, a small paragraph that listed new sports being offered for competition. There it was--Martial Arts. At this time I was both the Alaska State and the Anchorage Martial Arts champion. My wall was filled with trophies and medals. The idea of Gay Martial Arts had me intrigued and a little amused. I registered and went fully expecting to find fairies with flying fists and weapons made from high heels. To my astonishment I met 70 highly qualified, serious athletes with considerable knowledge and talent. The experience of doing something you really love with people who share your life challenges makes this a life changing event. Many of us were so overwhelmed by the experience that we formed an international organization to continue the movement. That life changing event has lead me to my current status with the Federation of Gay Games and has inspired me to help insure that the Gay Games will always happen and that thousands of others can have this same experience. Over the next few months I hope to write a series of columns that tell more of the history and development of this remarkable movement and how local people can be involved. The next Gay Games is scheduled for 2006 in Chicago. Beginning in September of this year I will be working with friends to encourage and register gay and lesbian athletes to join our Team Alaska. Part of the plan is to make our community more aware of the opportunity and then to help organize athletes, travel and accommodations in Chicago. Besides the 28 different sports being offered there is also an international cultural festival with choral and band concerts open to participants. Anyone who wants more information can go to www.gaygames.org Registration with the Chicago Gay Games is linked to that site. Locally, if you want to be more involved contact me at darus@ak.net

Adopt-A-Day!
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Adopt-A-Day!

Thank you,

July Adopt-a-Day Sponsors!

Less than all days are adopted each month, but the rent at the GLCCA goes on. If you would like to adopt some special day but can't come up with \$50.00 at one time, give Phyllis a call for some suggestions on adopting your special day or days. 929-4528

July Adopt-A-Days at the GLCCA

- 1 Tim Pearson & Brian Chen for the birthday of Gretel Pearson-Chen
 - 1 Terri Anderson & Nancy Blake "Oh Canada"
 - 2 Victor Carlson
 - 3 Phyllis Rhodes for Steve the Webmaster
 - 5 Mr. Corbett R. Mothe in memory of his brother, E.J. Mothe
 - 6 Jo Neumaier for Phyllis' t-shirt
 - 7 Victoria Shaver in memory of her mom
 - 8 Amy M. Kemp's birthday!
 - 9 Melba Cooke & Mad Myrna's Fetish Ball
 - 11 Mikel R. Hasse 's birthday!
 - 12 Phyllis Rhodes thanks Stacia for the extra lake time to support the GLCCA
 - 14 Doran Vaughan & Steven Jacquier
 - 15 Allison King for her mother's birthday
 - 17 Charlie Hamilton for George's birthday
 - 17 Laura O'Lacy celebrates Disneyland's 50th!
 - 18 Phyllis Rhodes
 - 19 Jim Bruce likes the 19th of every month!
 - 20 Victor Carlson
 - 21 Kirt Beck & Roger Crandy celebrate the anniversary of their legal marriage in Canada
 - 22 Victor Carlson
 - 23 Ruth Mathes celebrates 4th year of sobriety
 - 26 Sue Salas-Peterson in memory of Anita Salas
 - 27 Barbara Garrison for Phyllis' t-shirt & will miss her friend
 - 31 Michelle Moran
- Your GLCCA staff volunteers appreciate the financial support given to the Community Center—it takes the entire team to have a safe place for our community. Since there is now a sign on our building, more visitors are finding their way to our Center. It is especially nice to see more young people coming in (or is that "coming out"?).



Phyllis Rhodes,
Coordinator, GLCCA

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Children's Program at 10:30

Identity Programs

- Winter & Spring Living Out Loud Youth Program
- June PrideFest (6/17-25/06)
- October Pride Conference (10/22/05)
- 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* newsmagazine

Fairbanks Events

- Tue PFLAG, 5:30 PM, third Tuesday, 604 Barnette Street, Room101, 907-45P-FLAG.
- 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 Homophonic Radio, 3-5 PM, KSUA-FM 91.5

Juneau Events

- Wed Social gathering after work, 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, 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 Myrna's
- Wed IMRU2, 5:30 - 7 PM, first and third Wednesdays, GLCCA, 566-IMRU, leave message for more information
- GLSEN, 7 PM, second Wednesday, GLCCA
- "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, 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 Myrna's
- "Karaoke Night" hosted by "K" Entertainment, 10 PM; Mad Myrna's
- Fri Lunch, everyone invited (HIV+, volunteers, and friends), Noon - 1 PM, Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4A's), Ste. 102, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., 263-2050.
- "Friday Night Divas Show," 9 PM, Mad Myrna's
- Sat SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), Noon, Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 566-1133
- Sun Buddhist Morning Service, 11 AM, White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, 4105 Turnagain Blvd., Suite G2, 334-9984
- Center for Spiritual Practices & Education Worship Service, 11 AM, 8050 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 Myrna's, 276-9762 (Jim)

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SEND NEW AND UPDATED LISTINGS TO
NORTHVIEW@IDENTITYINC.ORG

OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

**PLEASE HELP KEEP
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ORGANIZATIONS

Adam and Steve, a social group for young gay, bi, and questioning men. Weekly activities and fun community events. 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 Four A's 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., 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 state 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@akclu.org.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous: Gay, Joyous, & Free. AA group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered individuals, and their allies. Open non-smoking meeting Mondays 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.

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. celebrationofchange@email.com

Committee for Equality. Box 34202, Juneau, AK 99803. bsara@gci.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. www.uaa.alaska.edu/clubcouncil/thefamily

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-GLBT. glcca@identityinc.org

Gay & Lesbian HelpLine, an information and referral line sponsored by Identity, Inc. The HelpLine is staffed by volunteers and provides information and referrals to businesses, professionals, and service providers 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).

The Gay Club (a UAF student organization). c/o Student Activities Box 4, Wood Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99775. 907-474-6507. fbagla@uaf.edu, www.uaf.edu/agla

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) fhillman@alaska.net; Fairbanks Lisa Slayton or Jeff Walters c/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 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 GLBTA 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. P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070. 907-929-GLBT. www.identityinc.org

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA), sponsors the Memorial Day weekend Eklutna picnic, the Fur Rondy parade float for the GLBT community, PrideFest Festival on the Parkstrip, Labor Day weekend Coronation, and numerous other events. PO Box 104032, Anchorage, AK 99510-4032. www.icoaa.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, 1st and 3rd 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).

OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

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 Myra's, 530 E. 5th Avenue. "Dinner Night Out" and several 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. mccanchorage@yahoo.com www.geocities.com/mccanchorage

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

OPAL, a social organization open to all Lesbians. OPAL sponsors different events throughout the year and occasional potlucks. 907-345-3818 (Anne) opal@gci.net

Out North. Cutting edge art, theatre, film, educational programs, and more. See online calendar. 3800 DeBarr Rd., Anchorage, AK 99508. 907-279-3800. volunteer@outnorth.org www.outnorth.org

PFLAG of Anchorage (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays). Meetings: 7 PM third Thursdays except November & December. Immanuel Presbyterian Church: 2311 Pembroke St. 907-566-1813 (voicemail). **Straight spouses support group** meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at 5 pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church.

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 plans and presents the annual Anchorage Gay Pride Week events in June. Meetings start in Sept. The committee invites and welcomes corporate and individual sponsors, parade entries, entertainers, volunteers, and more. 907-929-GLBT prideonthepark@yahoo.com

Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA): a 12-Step program. Meetings on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. 907-566-1133 (for meeting times and places).

Shanti of Juneau, offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS prevention and educational information. 222 Seward, Ste 200. P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 800-478-AIDS (2437).

Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA), a non-profit volunteer organization that provides a support network for lesbian and gay people in Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter *Perspective*. P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802. 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 and friends. 907-262-2589 (Jan).

Women's Ultimate Frisbee. 10:30 AM Sundays. West end of Delaney Parkstrip. 907-278-5179 (Jen or Karen). Jenkout@aol.com

E-MAIL LISTS

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

Alaska GLBT News, a weekly 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: alaskaglbnews@yahoo.com

AnchoragePride, a mailing list for information concerning Anchorage & Southcentral Alaska's GLBT community. http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/anchoragepride

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

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

National and Political GLBT News. Landmark case decisions and other newsworthy announcements from national organizations. To join, send an e-mail to: bsara@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, AK 99802-1452. 907-586-GAYS.

The Pink Ink, a newsletter published in Fairbanks for the Fairbanks GLBT community. Interior Newsletter, c/o PFLAG Fairbanks, P.O. Box 82290, Fairbanks, AK 99708. 907-45P-FLAG.

Identity Helpline
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