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# NORTHVIEW

## CONFERENCE



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*NORTHVIEW* welcomes articles, photographs and letters from individuals and organizations. Email your submissions to [northview@identityinc.org](mailto:northview@identityinc.org). Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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

Dr. Ellen Cole of Alaska Pacific University welcomes Pride Conference participants to APU, Photo by Teresa McPherson.

**Stephanie McMillian, MS**  
**Kristine A. Marsh, LCSW**

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### YOUR NEXT STEP

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### I'll Be Home For Christmas

It was a Christmas time 1995 and my best friend Gina's sister Beth was pregnant with twins. I was back in town for the holidays after finishing a travel nurse gig in Knoxville. Gina had been staying in my apartment for the past several months as a sort of roommate/housekeeper while I was doing the travel thing ever since her break-up with Amara. She was glad to see me again and I was glad to be spending Christmas with my family and friends. I was even a little flush with some bonus money for completing the assignment, so I could afford some presents for everyone.

Beth was Gina's older sister. She was married to a guy named Mitch, who was a good guy making a living for his soon-to-be sixty-seven percent larger family by working as a carpenter. On the minus side was the fact that he had a few unpaid speeding tickets that he had incurred by rushing around from job to job. That Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, he unfortunately got popped for speeding again on the Bay Bridge between Pensacola and Gulf Breeze. When the officer ran his plates, the number of other tickets raised a flag in the system and he was taken down to the county hoosegow.

Gina had left town that morning to visit her granny in Jackson, Alabama. So when Mitch used his one phone call to ring my number late that afternoon, he was expecting to speak with Gina. He had hoped that she could call her maternal granddad to come and make bail for him. Since Beth was carrying twins there had been a few close calls throughout her pregnancy. She was about 33 weeks along and Mitch did not want to call and get her so stressed that she went into labor. Since I answered the phone, he asked if I could call granddad for him. I said that I would figuring that it would only take a few minutes. However, one thing I have learned time after time is this; things do not always go as you had hoped.

Since it was the Friday before Christmas, the banks had closed early. Gina's grandfather being a bit of a traditionalist, did not have an ATM card and bondsmen have a phobia about taking checks to arrange someone's bail. They want to count the Benjamin's before getting your "truly innocent" friend, loved one or family member out of jail in time to stuff the stockings and trim the tree. So I called Gina at her paternal grandmother's place to let her know what had happened and she said she'd see if her dad could help.

The trouble was, who knew how long it would take Gina's family to scrape together the funds to bail Mitch out. Meanwhile, I was faced with a wee bit of a dilemma. I figured that in a little while, Beth would start worrying when Mitch did not show up for dinner. Being a neonatal nurse, I know what can happen when twins arrive prematurely. I could call Beth and tell what had happened, but Mitch wanted to avoid that. I could go by their place and tell her in person, but then I might have ended up playing Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With The Wind" with Beth's other son, all of five, telling me that he "didn't know nothing 'bout birthing no babies". However, I did have one ace up my dress sleeve.



A couple of years earlier, I had dated a bad-news kind of girl. I'm sure you know the type. Well, she got arrested once and I had bailed her out. The bondsman was pretty much the good 'ol boy but he handled the situation well and best of all, he remembered me, as well as the fact that I had made sure Christina had showed up in court. When I called him up, he agreed to meet me at the jail and expedite the matter rather quickly. I stopped by my ATM and withdrew some of my gift giving funds to spring poor Mitch. Then I drove him home so that he could spend Christmas with his loved ones.

As I drove home, the weatherman on radio said that there had been a brief snow flurry during the time I had been working the phones. Damn, I had missed what was probably Pensacola's only snowfall that season, and it was before Christmas. Oh well, sometimes you are right where you need to be at certain times in life. Besides, nowadays, I almost always have a White Christmas. And this is where I need to be. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

*Though Nicole Blizzard will spend this Christmas working with a bunch of babies, she will be out mingling on New Year's Eve. Be sure to say "Hello" if you get a chance. She can be reached at [nicole-b92@msn.com](mailto:nicole-b92@msn.com) or at [northview@identityinc.org](mailto:northview@identityinc.org)*

**IMPERIAL COURT HAS NEW WEBSITE &  
WEBMASTER**

by Michael A Haase

The Imperial Court of all Alaska has a new website and a new Webmaster. Kristara, who has held many elected titles and is currently the Dean of the College of Monarchs for the organization, has moved on to other duties. I have has entrusted with the duties of Webmaster as of October, 2005. The website has also moved. The new website for the Imperial Court of all Alaska can now be found at [www.icoaa.com](http://www.icoaa.com). Please note that the site is no longer a “.org” domain and is now a “.com”. Please take a few minutes and update your own online link and any links on other websites. Membership applications are now available online. If you have not done so already, please consider joining this fantastic organization that has provided assistance to so many since it began in 1971.

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

generously provides financial support for *NORTHVIEW*



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## PRIDE CONFERENCE

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### *Thank You!*

Our sincere thanks for all the hard work and sponsorship that made the Alaska Pride Conference 2005 a success.

**Supporting Organizations:** Alaska Pacific University APU Colors Club and APU Women's Forum Four A's TLFMC GLSEN PFLAG of Anchorage

**Speakers/Keynotes:** Dr. Ellen Cole, Alaska Pacific University Jack Dalton, Raven Feathers & the Wind Nicole Poole, Rebecca Reyes, James Eason, Danica Spector, JoyceLyn Williams and Victoria Shaver

**Pride Conference Organizing Committee:** Jon Benorden, Four A's (Co-chair) Colleen Carroll Arax Dailey, APU Rachel Day, APU Julia McCarthy Michael French, TLFMC MaryLee Hayes Rev. Johnathan Jones, MCC Michael King, Four A's James Martin, TLFMC Teresa McPherson, Identity (Co-chair) Mary Parker, GLSEN Lisa Spector Mike Travis, GLSEN

Special thanks to the following for providing conference scholarships: The Last Frontier Men's Club, Victor Carlson, Michael King, Steven Jacquier, Teresa McPherson and Mary Ross.

Warm thanks to the workshop presenters, panelists and moderators, and the many volunteers who made this conference a success. YOU ROCK!



## PRIDE CONFERENCE PHOTOS



### IDENTITY GOES TO SCHOOL

Identity was one of twenty-five local organizations that attended an Agency Fair at West High School on October 28. Counselors from Anchorage high schools and middle schools browsed the exhibits, gathering information for their students. Julie Schmidt and Gayle Schuh were on hand to answer questions and disseminate information about Identity, PFLAG, and IMRU2 as well as the Pride Foundation Scholarships. Many attendees picked up pink triangled "Safe Zone" posters for their rooms as well as placards stating that "Degrading, ethnic, racial, sexist, or homophobic remarks are not welcome here." Counselors were interested in the information provided, and while a few did not know about Identity, several commented that they were familiar with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center and glad that Identity was represented at the Agency Fair.

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## Unexpected Gifts

Time with family, friends, people I don't necessarily see every day. Gifts, ranging from fun to creative to "wish you wouldn't have" to thoughtful. Special meals. Poignant moments. A roller coaster of emotions from delight to disappointment, grief to gratitude. These are all characteristics I associate with December holidays, and in an odd way, the holiday spirit came early to our house this year. It didn't come in a form we would have chosen, and it brought losses more readily apparent than the gifts, when my partner's and my lives were suddenly interrupted by a head-on collision in late September.

Twenty-some broken bones later between the two of us, I was re-learning the hospital as patient rather than chaplain. My colleagues became my caregivers. And suddenly we embarked on a journey of learning to receive, when we had been far more comfortable in our identities as independent women, those who cared for others. We have become reluctantly intimate with vulnerability.

Likewise, often the holiday season brings an uncomfortable sense of vulnerability, as expectations of joyful times at parties, with friends or family, fall in the face of broken relationships. We long for connection and grieve for family, friends, church that may have rejected us.

And often it's easier to count the losses. Because of the accident, we had to cancel a long-awaited Olivia cruise that was to mark the commitment ceremony we celebrated last spring. My green Volkswagen that I've loved for nine years is a twisted piece of metal. I had just begun three knitting projects, which would now be put away, along with my guitar, my ability to write page after page in my journal, and my modesty as I now required assistance in bathing, toileting and dressing. My partner had to trade her university classes for weeks of being bound to a hospital bed and wheelchair, anticipating relearning to walk, and wondering

what that will mean for her ability to play hockey, hike, dance, become a nurse.

We've had to learn how to depend on others, and yet in that learning I am reminded again that a crucial element of my own faith posits a God who shows up particularly in the vulnerable, in the broken. For years I've trusted in One who emerges in the helplessness of birth, grief, death – and yet persistently insists there is something more: new possibility, new life, new hope.

In our need to rely on others, hope and friendship and love have been our companions, in myriad ways. My mother braved her fear of winter in Alaska to spend two months caring for us. We are still amazed at that, and so very, very grateful – We owe you, Mom! Our hospital rooms were filled with visitors, cards, flowers and gifts, and friends we hadn't seen for months and longer turned up at our door. We are even more awed and proud to be a part of the GLBT community as we experience the strength, generosity and compassion of our community firsthand. Thanks to this community and other friends and allies, we're receiving what we need to move through this life-changing experience. Our home – a.k.a. the lesbian convalescence home – is wheelchair accessible. We've been well fed. You've given us rides to appointments, legal and medical advice, shoulders to cry on and occasions for laughter. Not having to go through this alone has made all the difference.

Perhaps the hardest question comes when people want to know how we're doing. Sometimes it's easiest to say we're fine. "Normal" looks different after a car accident, when your arms are in casts or you can't walk, and you're grateful to both be alive – incredibly, fall on your knees grateful – but it's also not remotely like we thought our life was, with days filled with work and classes and hockey and going places and doing things. And maybe the holidays are kind of like that too. Not ever quite what we were expecting, sometimes better and sometimes a test of endurance. Sometimes we need a little more encouragement to get through, and probably more often than we realize, we need each other.

*Susan Halvor is, well, grateful these days. She prefers thinking she has a little more control in her life but has learned a lot from the roller coasters. You can email her at [shalvor@juno.com](mailto:shalvor@juno.com).*



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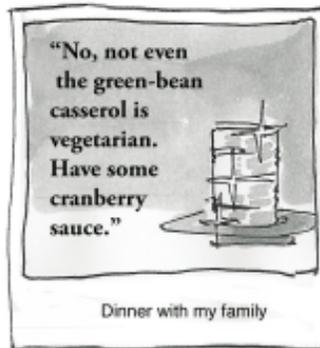
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Snapshots  
from the  
Holidays

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Armed with left-overs, my sweet-heart and I leave town for two days alone together. With only cross country skiis, durafume logs and the northern lights.



## Auld Lang Syne

By Leslie Kimiko Ward

This year's holiday season, which according to local retailers began five minutes after Labor Day and runs until January 2<sup>nd</sup> when scores of red cellophane hearts are slated to hit the shelves, will be temporarily interrupted by the arrival of my thirtieth birthday. I came to this realization during the last holiday season, New Year's Eve specifically, roughly fifteen seconds after midnight. *Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to. . . Oh my God. . . This is the year I turn thirty.*

Let me add here that my job is such that I spend a good deal of time clad in a very unforgiving Lycra-blend leotard and what I have humbly deemed my "way-too-tights", dancing alongside gazelle-proportioned teenagers in front of full length mirrors, trying desperately to hoist my soon-to-be-thirty-year-old leg up somewhere near the vicinity of my head. *Should old acquaintance, Old acquaintance. . . When did old become my acquaintance?* We are indeed a society which glorifies youth and beauty; I know, I read it once in a magazine. But this is not what plagues me. I don't agonize over ageism, or sexism, or delve that deeply into any -ism, save occasional bouts of homoeroticism and healthy doses of cynicism. And truly, the fact that my well-intentioned, shoddily rehearsed opening act of a thirtieth birthday will be going on as scheduled gives me less pause than the thought of scraping together a mortgage payment in post-glut January.

But here I am, knee deep in drying turkey leftovers, with shards of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker divertissement* incessantly looping in my brain, dreading the necessary evil of this year's extra large leotard, and all as the sand in my twenty-something hourglass clings on by little more than static electricity. So, when that last grain does finally drop, let it be said that I took a moment to reflect, to stand in the eye of the holiday hurricane, sugar plums and half-off sales whipping ferociously about me, and that in the midst of everything Christ and Consumer, I stopped, and aged, gracefully.



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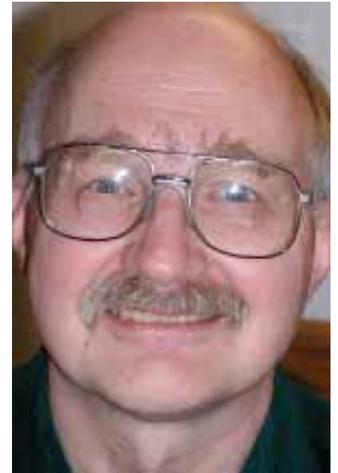
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## GALE SMOKE: QUEER BOOKS

Being that I'm an epileptic, my military draft rating was IV-F (physically unfit). I was actually pleased to get it since the Vietnam War was raging when I was of draft age and the draft was active. However, given that I have never served in the military, I could only imagine what it must be like for a gay person in the armed services and forced to live under the 'Don't Ask - Don't Tell' policy. But this has now been made very concrete for me by Jeffrey McGowan, a retired major in the United States Army, and a gay man, who tried for twelve years to keep his sanity under that policy. His experiences are recounted in his book *Major Conflict: One Gay Man's Life in the Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell Military* (Broadway Books, 2005).

Jeffrey McGowan was an All-American type of kid, born in the mid-1960's, who grew up in Queens, New York. Due to his parents' young age, he was raised by his grandparents - and, most particularly, his grandmother - and they saw to it that he received a good, Catholic education in parochial schools. And Jeff didn't fit gay stereotypes at all, playing the rough and tumble games boys did and longing to be a soldier, from a young age. But when he graduated from high school, he realized that he would never be an officer, at least

starting out, if he simply enlisted, so he waited two years getting the wherewithal to enroll at Fordham University - a good, Catholic university - and joining ROTC. To help earn the money he needed, he began working at Doubleday Bookshop's flagship store in New York - and that's when he met Greg. Jeff grew closer and closer, finally having sex with him. Although he still didn't admit to being gay - and that failure ultimately destroyed their relationship - he did know that for some reason he found sex with women to be mechanical, but he felt the sex with Greg was wild and in a whole different dimension.



After graduating from Fordham in 1988, Jeff was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and he was stationed in Germany, and later served in the Desert Storm operation in Iraq, commanding troops. He also ran into a fellow named Paul, repeatedly, and he was strongly attracted to him. After he returned to the States in 1992 and was stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, he ran into Paul once again, and they finally confessed their love for each other and began a relationship. Unfortunately, this was also the time when Clinton's debacle over gays in the military happened and the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy was created. In fact, McGowan has a graphic account, in Chapter 19, of how some of the men he served with felt about gays - they were totally ignorant - and how he took a chance and tried to correct some of their impressions.

Sadly, all of this scared Paul, and he finally told Jeff he was going to get married, because he didn't want to risk his military career. Jeff was distraught over losing Paul, but he began to see that the handwriting was on the wall for him. There was no way he'd be able to pursue the military career he desired and love, yet also be true to himself.

Leaving the army, he returned to New York with no intention of being a gay activist. But then he ran into Billiam (Billy) and became smitten. They began a relationship and moved to New Paltz, New York. Several years later, a very progressive mayor, Jason West, was elected. An advocate of gay marriage, West decided to begin performing them in 2004. And the first couple he married was Jeff McGowan and his beloved Billy. All-American Jeff had lost his career, but he'd finally found peace within himself.

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## Homeless For The Holidays

The holidays aren't always kind to GLBT people. Many of us either live too far from our families to be a part of the festivities or we're estranged from our family because of who we are. As a result many of us form our own groups to celebrate the holidays with. Now imagine if things were worse. I mean at least most of us have homes and jobs and friends but imagine what it would be like living on the streets of Anchorage. While it's true that not all homeless teens are GLBT, they are out there. Some are runaways, some are throwaways. Most of them are 15 to 20 years old. They end up on the street. For the purpose of this article, I want to focus on them.

Now while there is not a place in Anchorage specifically for GLBT street kids, there is a safe haven for them. That safe haven is Covenant House Alaska. Now when I went to work for Covenant House, I didn't know much about their programs. While I knew that they dealt with homeless teens, I hadn't even thought about GLBT teens. Although I knew openly gay people who had worked here, it wasn't until I got hired that I found out that they included sexual orientation in their non-discriminatory statement and of course they hired me, knowing that I was in the process of becoming a different gender.

I honestly didn't think about GLBT teens until the first time one came through intake into the Crisis Center. I wondered how he would be treated by staff and by other residents. I was happy to see that the staff didn't treat him any differently than anybody else. In this case, he didn't have any problems with the other residents. Later on with another gay resident, I found out that they were serious about their policy of respect. Now you may not like GLBT people but harassment and hazing and bullying of anyone is not allowed and can be grounds for discharge from the program.

There have been several gay and lesbian teens that have come through the Crisis Center. One of the more memorable was the gay teen who was acting up. When one of the staff called him on his behavior, he tried to use the fact that he was gay as a reason he was breaking the rules. The staff member just looked at him and asked him what that had to do with anything. That was not the response this kid had expected. The staff member didn't blink an eye when he told her he was gay. While we respect the youth that come through the doors of CHA, no matter who you are, you're required to respect staff and follow the rules just like everyone else.

There was one young girl with a t-shirt that she wore with the words I and Lesbians separated by a heart. I love Lesbians too, so I could relate though I couldn't tell her that. I've seen Jewish kids and a couple of Wiccans. This summer we had a couple of kids from Russia. We're had kids from Africa, black white, Hispanic, Asian, Alaska

Native, it just doesn't matter. CHA is truly an inclusive organization and thus my reason for writing this article.

CHA could use your help. While there are other worthy organizations here in Anchorage who could use your money and your time, the next time you are thinking about what you can do, think about CHA. CHA feeds and houses these kids without charging them a dime and so of course they can always use money but besides money there are other things you can do. CHA

is always looking for volunteers at the Crisis Center at 6th and F. They always need people who are willing to answer the phone and answer questions about CHA. They need servers for lunch and dinner in the food line. An important thing is life skills and so they need people to teach kids about budgeting, money management, self-esteems, anger management, parenting, etc. They need volunteers as mentors. There are two transitional living programs, Rights of Passage for teens 18-20 and Passage House that is for pregnant teens 17-20. If your group would like to provide and serve dinner to the kids, that's always welcome. They also take other donations, clothes, things like pajamas or sleep pants, underwear, boxers, briefs, bras, panties, t-shirts, socks, shoes, items like shampoo, conditioner, hair gel, mousse, acne face wash, lotion, Q-tips, dress clothes for job hunting, jeans, sweats, T's, school supplies, you name it they need it.

So, if you are suffering from the Holiday Blues, think about helping somebody worse off than you. In kind donations can be dropped off at Covenant House at 609 F Street, interesting in volunteering call their main number at 272-1255. Monetary donations can be made online at [www.covenanthouseak.org](http://www.covenanthouseak.org) or sent to CHA at P.O. Box 104640, Anchorage AK 99510. Stay sane and have a happy holiday!



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## Homo 4 the Holidays

It was snowing as they drove to Wasilla. Since it was Christmas Eve, Stephanie indulged Madison's unsaintly affection for Christmas carols. Madison sang along with the cheesy versions on the radio, then performed her own renditions when the truck's reception faded. As butch as she was, Stephanie had her bouts of sentimentality and bounced her head and even hummed a little as Madison tried to remember all the lyrics from her church-going youth.

For some reason or another, Stephanie had never brought a girlfriend to the Christmas festivities at her aunt's house. Her aunt hosted a dinner every year, and often relatives from Outside flew in, making it a reunion of sorts. Stephanie's immediate family still lived near Los Angeles; a couple times when Stephanie was a kid they flew up to Alaska. This year, her parents, brother and sister would have a bonfire on the beach while Madison met Stephanie's relatives.

Stephanie's family was big and loud and boisterous. At gatherings, aunts laughed, uncles drank and cousins and kids ran around playing some sort of game. Stephanie preferred to sit on a stool in the corner and watch or chuckle in the background and busy herself cooking, avoiding being the forefront of conversation. Her cousin Lavonne provided plenty of discussion and amusement. Lavonne was on her second marriage after numerous engagements and short-lived romances. Laughing and swapping stories, the aunts tried to remember the peculiarities of each peculiar boy. They laughed without menace, but Stephanie still preferred they didn't laugh about her.

When Stephanie lived in the lower 48, it was easy enough to explain why she could only afford one ticket to fly to L.A. or Alaska, depending on where she went that year. After moving to Alaska, she dated girls from Outside who flew somewhere else or who had other arrangements. And there were times when she was single or not in a relationship serious enough to be bombarded with her family.

But now Madison wanted to come.

Everyone knew Stephanie was gay. No one shouted out problems about it, but they didn't exactly praise her sexuality either. Her aunt and uncle joked that they were the only black family in Wasilla and now Stephanie was bringing a white girl home, a vegetarian who was going to leave in a few months for Guatemala. Not that she had a problem with Madison's color. She didn't. Not that she had a problem with her going to work as a nurse in Latin America. She'd deal with it. She had a problem attracting attention to herself and being the designated homo for the holidays.

Madison, as neurotic as she was, didn't have a problem. She didn't care if she was the only white person or the only queer. She liked good food and warm homes. Christmas evening she would open presents at her sister's house. She wanted to attend the Christmas Eve festivities in Wasilla and wake up Christmas morning with Stephanie and open stockings in her pajamas with Stephanie's cousins.



"Don't expect to spend the night," Stephanie warned. "I know. I know," Madison said, alternating between red and green as she painted her toenails, her feet propped up on the dashboard.

"And, uh, don't be too affectionate."

"I'll be good. Don't worry," Madison said, leaned over, kissed Stephanie and blew on her wet nails. There was something delicious about being barefoot when the sun was setting behind snowy trees.

Stephanie's aunt Cassie greeted them with enthusiastic, squeeze-the-jingles-out-of-you hugs. "Welcome. Welcome. I'm so glad you guys made it." She ushered them in, taking the present from Madison. Her face crinkled. "Is that all you brought? Aren't you staying the night?"

"Well, we weren't sure..." Stephanie began.

"Oh, you're staying," Cassie said, putting her arm through Madison's. "I fixed up the guest bedroom and am putting the boys out here for the night." She winked at Madison when she whispered, "It's a small bed, but you two should be able to cuddle alright."

Madison grinned. "I think we'll be fine."

### 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

[AlaskaGLBTNews@yahoo.com](mailto:AlaskaGLBTNews@yahoo.com)

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## DAD'S CORNER: CHUCK HART

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### Equal Pay for Equal Work

On October 28<sup>th</sup> 2005 the Alaska Supreme Court unanimously decided that denying our state's gay and lesbian employees' and retirees' equal access to benefits for their domestic partners is unconstitutional.

The justices agreed that their analysis had to be separate from "personal, moral or religious beliefs – held deeply by many – about whether persons should enter into intimate same-sex relationships or whether same-sex domestic partners should be permitted to marry." The court's duty was to "define the liberty of all, not to mandate their [own] moral code," they wrote in their opinion.

- *PlanetOut, October 31, 2005*

The ACLU argued that a heterosexual employee who wanted benefits for an unmarried partner could get them by marrying. An LGBT employee cannot marry their partner and therefore could not claim their partners' benefits such as retirement, and health and life insurance. The State argued that denying the benefits furthered its interest in promoting marriage.

As a wonderfully fair and just decision we should expect a vicious backlash from the conservatives. Already our governor who was "outraged", Rev. Jerry Prevo who thought this decision sent a message that choosing a homosexual lifestyle was acceptable, and Eagle River State Sen. Fred Dyson are organizing a way to get another vindictive amendment to the constitution to nullify this court decision. They think that the court changed the "definition of marriage" by saying that every employee deserves the same benefits for the same work.

"The recent win in the Alaskan Supreme court is a clear step towards equality for all. However, the fight is not yet over. It is a shame so soon after the death of Rosa Parks that religious conservatives and the right are once more trying to limit the noble concept of equality for all. Have we as a society learnt nothing from the people who have gone before us?"

- Rev. Johnathan Jones, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Anchorage, wrote this November 3, 2005 "in direct response to the Senator from Eagle River who is trying to limit domestic partnership benefits in response to the recent win."

If the right wing succeeds in getting the amendment to the ballot we will face another uphill battle. I don't mean to sound pessimistic, but have you ever seen an anti-gay amendment to any state's constitution fail? Still we have work to do. In 2006 we should all be prepared; it will be a busy year filled with hot misinformed

rhetoric being lobbed at the public. We should be thinking of some proactive defenses while we wait for the coming battle. Please explain to your straight friends and relatives that this decision was simply equal pay for equal work, and not a redefinition of marriage. Look for red herrings such as Rev. Prevo is already giving the press. Fear the Queer has been a powerful fundraising tool for the fundamentalists and their politicians.



At least the Democrats in the State Legislature seem to be hesitant to amend the constitution and some of them would have to join a two-thirds majority for the amendment to be placed on the November 2006 ballot. Mike Doogan, a Democratic press aide, told reporters, "Democrats in the legislature will be happy to listen to Senator Dyson explain why health benefits for a handful of Alaskans creates a constitutional crisis." If the Democrats stop this hate-filled amendment I will join their party.

This decision would have the state offer the same benefits that many if not most large corporations now offer their LGBT employees. My employer has voluntarily offered full domestic partner benefits for years. I just need to get on the ball and find a partner to take advantage of that program; what a fun requirement! That's another column altogether. As far as I can see, those benefits have never led anyone to choose the homosexual lifestyle, Rev. Prevo. We still have marriages among our straight employees, Governor, and divorces.

I have watched LGBT politics for over a quarter of a century, and especially closely since I came out seven years ago. I am still baffled as to why people get so upset over LGBT people getting a few uncomplicated equal rights. Our rights don't detract from the rights others enjoy. All the anger, and I hear it from customers occasionally, does nothing positive in this world. Denying me an opportunity for marriage just makes me respect theirs all the less. Anti-LGBT politicians can't really call their mission Christian – Christ himself never mentioned homosexuality. If it had been important to Him, surely it wouldn't have slipped His mind. He did tell us more than once not to judge others, that that was His job.

As a closing note, I am happy with the decision, and sad that there will be such a backlash against us all. I just wonder if the conservatives and fundamentalists will be creative in their attacks, or just pull out the same stale scare tactics we saw in 1998.

Oh, and by the way, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**THE DECISION**

*“If not me, who? If not now, when?” - Hillel*

It was the Friday before Halloween. All day long, the kids had been eager to describe their costumes and were downright giddy with the anticipation of eating all that candy! The basketball team was warming up for their big game as the parents filled the gym. It was just another fun and busy day at work for an elementary physical education teacher.

Life is good. I've got a wonderful job, a loving and supportive partner, and great friends. Why should I waste my time on politics? Those politicians are all the same anyway, right? ...right???

After the game, I got in my truck to drive home. Ah, it's Friday - the start of the weekend! As habit dictates, I turned on the radio to listen to the news.

*“WHAT?!?!” I couldn't believe it! Here, in Alaska??*

*I had just learned that the Alaska Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, had ruled that the State must provide equal benefits for same-sex partners of State employees.*

Like many LGBT Alaskans, I too had become politically active in 1998 as a result of the ballot initiative to amend Alaska's Constitution to define marriage as “between one man and one woman.” When the dust cleared, and the votes were counted, Alaska became one of the first states to write discrimination into its Constitution.

In 1999, the ACLU filed a suit on behalf of nine gay and lesbian state and municipal employees and retirees and their partners who were denied the health, pension and insurance benefits that their married co-workers enjoyed. It was argued by the ACLU that providing benefits on the basis of marriage is discriminatory, since the state of Alaska legally prohibits same-sex couples from marrying. In other words, this is a question of equal compensation

for equal work. This, it was argued, is a clear violation of the state constitution's equal protection guarantee.

On Friday, after six long years in the courts, the Alaska Supreme Court did the right thing.

*Now, I was as giddy as those chocolate-dreaming students of mine!*

*Unfortunately, the excitement was short-lived. Governor Frank Murkowski declared his “outrage” and vowed to do what was necessary to overturn the ruling. Fred Dyson, a State Senator from Eagle River who promised a new constitutional amendment to deny equal benefits, wrote on his Senatorial webpage, “In a representative democracy, the people must be able to define basic family relationships.” Really? Is that what our elected officials are charged to do? He further elaborated by stating that he would draft an amendment “to make it clear that the courts may **NOT** confer benefits that the people, through their elected officials, do not intend to confer.”*

*My understanding of the purpose of the Constitution was to declare the RIGHTS of the people. My understanding is that this document, more than any other, was designed to protect the rights of the minority from the tyranny of the majority. Here was another Alaskan lawmaker promising to use this cherished document as a weapon against a group of citizens.*

This cannot happen!

*Senator Dyson writes, “This ruling reveals how out of touch some of our courts are with the people of Alaska.” Well, WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA!!*

*Four days prior to this ruling, Rosa Parks, a civil rights pioneer, died at the age of 92. Fifty years ago, she decided that enough was enough. Riding the bus to her job as a seamstress, she was told to give up her seat so that a white man could sit. This was the law – the will of the majority at the time. She refused. She was arrested. Her courageous act shined the light on the injustice of that law and spurred others into action. This injustice sparked the Montgomery bus boycott which turned the tide for the civil rights movement. We must remember her example now, and be inspired to take our own actions.*

*Can one person make a difference? You bet! We must.*

*Contact Nance at [nblake@mtaonline.net](mailto:nblake@mtaonline.net) to get involved in the campaign to educate Senator Dyson and his colleagues about “the will of the people of Alaska.”*

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

**Thank you,**

**October 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

- 1 Doran Vaughan & Steven Jacquier
- 4 Happy Birthday to Victoria Shaver!
- 4 Mark Cote
- 6 Metropolitan Community Church celebrates its first service in 1968
- 7 Happy Birthday to Gene Looman from Michael J. Wardman
- 8 Pam Richter in memory of Donald Richter
- 9 Melba Cooke & Myrna's Fetish Ball
- 15 Anne Lazenby for Prez Day
- 16 Jean Meyer & Premier Tax Accounting for Phyllis' shirt
- 19 Jim Bruce
- 20 Happy Anniversary to Jim Mohr & Frank Tano!
- 21 Victoria Shaver for her Dad's birthday
- 24 Christie Schultz for "Van the Man"
- 27 Jane Schlittler
- 28 Mary Gilson for her girlfriend's birthday
- 29 Colleen Morris for Shannon Marie's birthday
- 31 Christie Schultz for Stacy Melton Day!
- 31 Happy Halloween from Tim Pearson & Brian Chen

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"?).

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

**identity**

Gay & Lesbian  
Community Center  
of Anchorage  
[www.identityinc.org](http://www.identityinc.org)

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Children's Program at 10:30

## EVENTVIEW

### 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  
"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)

**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. 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:celebrationofchange@email.com)

**Committee for Equality.** Box 34202, Juneau, AK 99803. [bsara@gci.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:fbagla@uaf.edu), [www.uaf.edu/agla](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.com](http://www.icoaa.com)

**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** seeking support call 907-566-1813 (voicemail).

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

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

**PrideFest Steering Committee** of Identity 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-GLBTprideonthepark@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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