

going blind

instinct's blind date in Fairbanks

*Meet: Bryan***How old are you?** 22.**Height?** 5'11".**Weight?** 150 lbs.**Hair color?** Brown.**Eyes?** Blue.**What's your occupation?**

Server/student.

What are you working toward?

I want to get that piece of paper and then do my own thing. I want to be able to finally check that off of the life-goal list. *[Laughs]*

How'd you end up in Alaska?

I decided that my hometown of Richmond, Virginia, wasn't for me, and I wanted to do a big move.

What's your favorite thing about living in Alaska?

How extreme it is. Every day is different. Oh yeah, and the hot guys. **Is there a big gay scene in Alaska?** There's a scene, but it's not big. Quality over quantity. There are definitely some incredible guys here.

*Meet: Walter***How old are you?** 27.**Height?** 5'11".**Weight?** 150 lbs.**Hair color?** Dark brown.**Eyes?** Dark brown.**What's your occupation?**

Engineering grad student.

How'd you end up in Alaska from South Africa?

It's kind of a long story, but the university offered me a teaching assistantship. I said, "What the hell." I sold the car, the house and cashed in my pension fund.

How do you like Alaska?

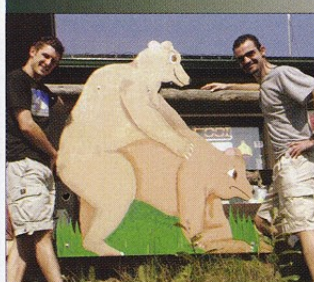
It's beautiful. The first time it was minus 20, I was like, *What the hell am I doing here?* *[Laughs]* But you quickly acclimatize. Now I look forward to winter so I can snowboard.

How's the gay scene?

Lethargic. There's almost nothing going on here. The few people that are here are very nice and cool.

Why'd you want to go on this date?

To meet new people. Tim Stallard is a really cool guy, so I knew he wouldn't set me up with a dork.

**9:21 A.M.**

Thanks to Out In Alaska's Tim Stallard, here's the coolest date ever.

9:30 A.M.

Alaska, yay! I mean, what's up, guys?

Bryan: I was pretty excited. I didn't know what to think.

Walter: I was kind of nervous.

9:34 A.M.**First impressions?**

Walter: He was a very good-looking, friendly guy, but young.

Bryan: I thought I'd seen him around school, but I hadn't met him. He had a really cool accent. He was definitely a sexy guy!

9:40 A.M.

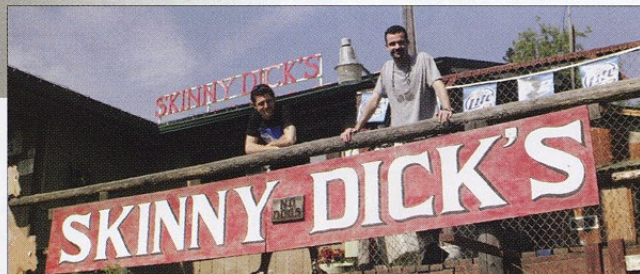
Let's start things off at the Alaska Coffee Roasting Co.

Bryan: I was the first one there.

[Laughs] We had a bunch of people come with us, so we all got to know each other. We boarded up, got some gas and started driving to Denali.

11:14 A.M.

Bryan: We stopped at this place called Skinny Dick's and took some funny pictures. We had some construction, so we got delayed a little.

**1:40 P.M.**

Bryan: We finally got to Denali and got the raft all set up. That was the thing, though. There were so many people around, it wasn't going to be a real "date date." Neither of us really knew exactly what to do.

2:21 P.M.**Hmm. How did the rafting go?**

Walter: I love the water. Tim put us in front of the raft, where all the water is, and he aimed for all the holes. So we were soaking wet by the end of it. It was lots of fun, even though the water was freezing cold.

Bryan: The water is glacial runoff, so it's quite chilly. *[Laughs]* I got completely soaked the first time, so I had to change into warmer clothes.

3:48 P.M.

Bryan: That was really fun. Everyone had a blast on the water.

I almost fell in once, and Walter grabbed my life vest.

Walter: I saved him, yeah. He owes me one now! *[Laughs]*

5:11 P.M.

Bryan: When we hit this part of the rapids, everyone was screaming like little girls. We all got really wet together, and it was fun.

Walter: Rafting was my favorite part of the date, just because I suppose it's a manly thing to do. We all had fun and were laughing and getting wet. Just the camaraderie between all the guys was super.

6:37 P.M.**So were you guys into each other?**

Bryan: He was very cool. I found him very interesting, but a strong attraction? Probably not.

Walter: There wasn't that kind of click and lust, which you usually get by that time. I knew it was just going to be a cool friendship. ➔





fancy restaurant in our swimming gear. That's the thing about Alaska: Everything goes. You can go to the opera in a pair of jeans.

12:30 A.M.

God, he does have a great accent. Oh, sorry. So how was Club G?

Bryan: We were both pretty wiped. There weren't many people there, so we started the dancing. Walter and I danced a little bit.

He's a very good dancer. I wish I had at least a third of the skills he has.

Walter: Bryan's not the world's best dancer, which he admitted to before. But he held his own.

7:10 A.M.

So was there a foam party at the club?

Bryan: A foam party???

To quote Bananarama, "I heard a rumour..."

Bryan: There were rumors, but there wasn't one. Sometimes the scene's happening; sometimes it's dead. Fairbanks is hit-or-miss. There are a lot of quality gay guys, but they all keep to themselves or hang out at a cabin party or something instead of a club. It's just not a club atmosphere here.

2:31 A.M.

Gotcha. How'd things end?

Bryan: We both hugged each other, and that was it. It was a great day.

Walter: The photographer made us stand back-to-back and give thumbs-up or -down about how the date went. I don't know what he said, but I gave a thumbs-up. I had a blast. It was so much fun. instinct

10:40 P.M.

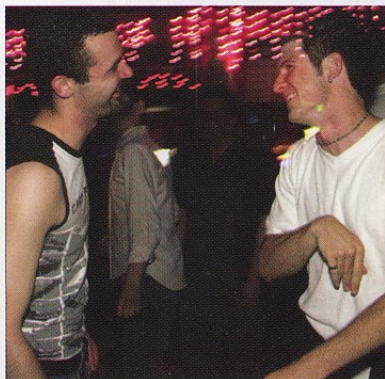
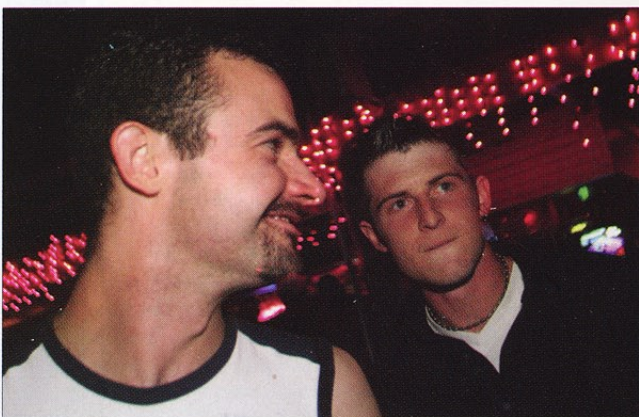
Walter: When we got back to Fairbanks, we had a great dinner at a place called Café Alex, which was really super.

Bryan: Neither one of us had ever been there before. The food was excellent. Dinner and conversation were so nice and very romantic.

Walter: He's good company and very friendly. There weren't awkward silences; we chatted very nicely. Maybe the red wine helped. *[Laughs]*

12:06 A.M.

Walter: We finished dinner, and then we finally got to go home and change. Because we had been so late, we had to walk up to this



The Verdict

Bryan: Another date? I don't know. We didn't really have much in common, so probably not. I think we'd be better off as friends.
Walter: I don't think another romantic date, but definitely another friendly outing. There wasn't that lust factor that I usually go for.

Scorecard

Bryan on Walter/Walter on Bryan

Charm: 9/9

Smarts: 10/8

Smile: 8/9

Adventurousness: 9/8

Conversation: 6/8

Dancing Ability: 9/7

Lifesaving Ability: 9/7

Sex Appeal: 8/8

Sense Of Humor: 8/9

Overall Click Factor: 8/8

Where They Went

Out In Alaska

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Alaska Coffee Roasting Co.

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WE WANT YOU!**

E-mail us at blinddate@instinctmag.com.