Happy Holidays to All
and to
All a Good Night
by Michael Thomas Rond

At one of the ponds that my dog, Roger, and I like to walk around in the mornings, there is a small flock of ducks. There's nothing especially interesting about that; where I live, there are usually lots of ducks around. But this particular group of ducks is different in that it's made up of five members: two male/female couples and one lone male.

Ducks always pair up, so it surprised me the first time I saw the solo male swimming behind the two give her the usual once-over. Then, a small flock of ducks. There's nothing really interesting about that; there are usually lots of ducks around. But this Patsy is a dainty little black duck, very pretty with a white face and a black cocker spaniel. She couldn't hurt a fly if she threw all of her twenty pounds on it. Not that she would ever do that. It would mess up her fur. But the first time Patsy trotted into the pond while my dog and Roger was having a good time in the pond, we rolled over, put all four paws in the air, and started licking Patsy's face.

To the straight folks in the park, this was a miracle. Stormy had been transformed. But I'd seen it before. Stormy had simply met her female. They're been inseparable ever since. When Roger and I first started going to the park, Roger was enamored of a spunky mutt named Kendall, whose name and appearance both provided no gender clues.

As it turned out, Kendall was a female, and she and Roger formed a friendship that excluded all the other dogs. I confess that I was disappointed. But after a few months of hoping he might change, I accepted that my boy was indeed heterosexual.

Six months ago Kendall moved away. But Roger's heart was back in the female dogs any more, and that's why his tail wagging. Ezra's stumpy little tail and Roger eyed one another for an hour or so and then finally introduced themselves.

Phyllis Frye Here; On the recent votes

In the recent elections, Hawaii and Washington and Ft Collins, CO, lost in the defense of transgender rights. In the female dogs any more, and that's why his tail wagging. Ezra's stumpy little tail and Roger eyed one another for an hour or so and then finally introduced themselves.

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by Phyllis Randolph Frye

I have concluded that a ninety day "window of opportunity" has presented itself wherein some concentrated actions by lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders and supportive straights can get transgenders into the next Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that will be re-presented to the newly elected Congress sometime in the spring of 1999.

If I may, please allow me to explain the concentrated actions and the reasons why I have reached this conclusion.

The CONCENTRATED ACTIONS 1. A simple one-page letter, two pages max, neatly handwritten or typed, and mailed to the following two people, with copies to whomever else you choose.

The Honorable Edward Kennedy Senator from Massachusetts United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510-222-4543

The Honorable Barney Frank Representative from Massachusetts - 4th District United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20510, 202-225-5931

Plus a courteous, follow-up, phone call made two weeks after the letter is mailed.

What to write and call about? Tell them that you are either transgenders or a masculine appearing lesbian or an effeminate appearing gay man or a friend or family member of these people. Tell them what your bad employment experiences or bad employment fears are. Tell them why leaving to your Senators and Representative if in your congressional district (or town) and send copy to their staff.

DO NOT send copies to friends: let us not anger them by flooding them with their e-mail or fax. DO NOT be rude or ugly. DO NOT go over two pages, try hard to keep it at one page.

DO NOT send photos of yourself in a mini skirt or nightgown. DO NOT e-mail or fax these people can be our friends: let us not anger them by flooding them with their e-mail or fax. DO NOT be rude or ugly. DO NOT go over two pages, try hard to keep it at one page.

DO NOT send threatening letters or phone calls. DO NOT threaten with violence, letters or phone calls.

DO keep the letter personal and focused, they will introduce sometime after the end of January (if you are an MTF, DO NOT, DO NOT send photos of yourself in a mini skirt or nightgown. DO NOT e-mail or fax these people can be our friends: let us not anger them by flooding them with their e-mail or fax. DO NOT be rude or ugly. DO NOT go over two pages, try hard to keep it at one page. -

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Phyllabuster Alert: 60 Day “Window” for TG’s into ENDA - Act Now!

Continued from page 3.

Transgender war with the Human Rights Campaign begins.

Following this came the October 1995 event when Riki, Karen and I placed over 100 transgendered supporters from 35 states into the Halls of Congress for education on transgender issues.

Since that time, and without the details being necessary, transgender have been organized and on "the Hill" numerous times to educate the Members of Congress on transgender issues and on the need for being included in the ENDA Bill. And since that time, many meetings have been held between transgender leaders and the HRC and transgenders have undergone HRC fundraisers.

Even so, in the spring of 1997, another transgender-less ENDA was introduced to the new 1997-1998 Congress, just as well in the spring of 1999, another transgender-less ENDA will be introduced to the new 1999-2000 Congress UNLESS SOMETHING CHANGES.

3. So, what do we change? How do we motivate "the coalition" to ask for a transgender-inclusive ENDA in the spring of 1999?

Note that "the coalition" has changed. For one, PFLAG is now transgender inclusive in its by-laws and mission statement. For two, NOW is just as sexual and transgendered community's Constitution's guarantee of a right to privacy.

"Sodomy laws are the linchpin in attacks against the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "They are used to criminalize our behavior and are the basis for discrimination in employment, housing, health care and against families.

We applauded the Court for its vote today and also salute the tireless work of Georgia activists who have helped change the climate in the state.

The Georgia law has been the basis of two U.S. Supreme Court cases. The first was the landmark Bowers v. Hardwick in 1986, when it found no constitutional right to privacy for same-sex conduct. And earlier this year, the Court refused to hear the case of attorney Robin Shahar, whose job offer from then-Attorney General Michael Bowers was rescinded after discovering she was planning a commitment ceremony with her partner.

Bowers claimed her lesbian relationship violated the Georgia sodomy law, which he himself defended in Bowers v. Hardwick. "We must be vigilant not only in the passage of civil rights laws, but also in the repeal of sodomy laws," continued Lobel. "Even though they are rarely enforced, they are frequently used as the basis for other forms of discrimination - in the workplace, in the schools, and with the custody of our children."

With the Georgia law now invalid, thirty-one states and the District of Columbia will have no laws forbidding same gender sexual relations.

Of the nineteen states that will have sodomy laws in place, six state's laws apply only to same-gender activity - Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Maryland. Thirteen other states have an opposite and same-gender sodomy law - Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, Michigan and Minnesota.

Also, with the exception of HRC, almost every national queer rights organization is now LGBT either in name or by law. And although HRC remains transgender-excluding in its by-laws and mission, they are helping transgenders in the area of hate crimes. (For those of you who follow my writings, saying anything positive about HRC is not easy, but I do give credit when it is due.)

4. Examine the initial hypothesis of "the coalition" that transgender inclusion into ENDA will cost them thirty pieces of silver, oops, votes. In the fall of 1996, the US Senate voted on the transgender-less ENDA and it received 49 Yes votes. In February 1997, I lead an ICTLEP sponsored group of twenty transgenders onto "the Hill" and we met with the offices of every Yes voter.

In summary what we heard was they had no problem with transgender inclusion.

We were told over and over and over again, that if Ted Kennedy and Barney Frank put transgender language in the ENDA Bill, they would vote for it. If Ted Kennedy and Barney Frank omitted transgenders from the ENDA Bill, they would still vote for it.

In sum, they did not care either way and would vote for whatever ENDA Bill that was introduced by Kennedy and Frank.

A few months later in 1997, the new transgender-less ENDA Bill was introduced to the New 1997-1998 Congress.

5. Concerning Kennedy and Frank, during my time in Boston for the Lavender Law Conference, last 14-17 October 1998, I was struck by two things. One thing concerned Barney Frank. He key-noted the Lavender Law. Before he spoke, the outgoing NLGCLA Chair made remarks that were all LGBT inclusive. Following that another speaker made remarks that were all LGBT inclusive.

Following that a resolution was read and approved that was very, very (I did the final edit) LGBT inclusive. Barney Frank was in the room, I saw him there, to hear it all LGB & & & T. Then Barney Frank spoke, it was all limited to L&G only except he remembered to add the "T" word twice towards the end and he never said the "T" word, not a single time.

The second thing was the vigil held that same night in front of the State House (state capital building) in Boston just across the street from the Boston Common. It was held to remember Matthew Shepard, the gay man assassinated in Wyoming because he was openly LGBT. Representatives from state and city government and from numerous organizations around the city and state were there and spoke from the podium. EVERYONE WAS LGB & & & T INCLUDING Barney.

That night, I concluded that the above strategy, this "90 day window of opportunity" for focusing a laser beam of lobbying action onto both Kennedy and Frank and ONLY on Kennedy and Frank was the needed NEXT action.

6. The three obstacles for transgender inclusion in the next ENDA before the new Congress in 1999-2000 are A. Kennedy in the Senate, B. Frank in the House, and C. "the coalition" led on this issue by HRC. As I noted above, we have bullied HRC for four years (and I plan to continue until transgenders are in their mission) and "the coalition" has changed a lot.

We must convince in a polite and constructive, yet firm manner, Senator Kennedy and Representative Frank to become transgender inclusive in the next ENDA Bill to be introduced sometime after January 1999 to the new 1999-2000 Congress. That gives us 90 days. So send the letters, make the follow-up phone calls. DO IT CORRECTLY AND NICELY.

Send copies to your local PFLAG and enlist their letter writing action. Send copies to your local NOW and enlist their letter writing action. And please, please, the folks in Massachusetts who are LGBT friendly, you will have their greatest impact of all.

Ninety days and counting.

Supreme Court Repeals Sodomy Law

Washington, DC-November 23, 1998. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force celebrated a 6-1 vote by the Georgia Supreme Court to repeal that state's sodomy law. The Court ruled that the law violates the Georgia Constitution's guarantee of a right to privacy.

"Sodomy laws are the linchpin in attacks against the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "They are used to criminalize our behavior and are the basis for discrimination in employment, housing, health care and against families.

We applauded the Court for its vote today and also salute the tireless work of Georgia activists who have helped change the climate in the state.

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Of the nineteen states that will have sodomy laws in place, six state's laws apply only to same-gender activity - Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Maryland. Thirteen other states have an opposite and same-gender sodomy law - Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, Michigan and Minnesota.

The Court ruled that the law violates the Georgia Constitution's guarantee of a right to privacy. The Court ruled that the law violates the Georgia Constitution's guarantee of a right to privacy.
Community Pride Resources

Youth Support
Outright/Lewiston-Auburn has drop-in sessions for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youths age 22 and under. We meet the first and third Friday evening of each month. For more information call 786-2717 or write Outright/Lewiston-Auburn P.O. Box 7738, Lewiston, ME 04243-7738.

Meetings and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth. Outright advocates to create safe supportive environments for youth. Meetings in Camden area, call 338-6330 for details.

Midcoast Outright - Brunswick: A safe place for youth who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning (age 22 and younger) offers ongoing weekly drop-in center 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 15 Pleasant Street, Brunswick. Use the Middle Street entrance. Confidential. Refreshments. Peer aving available. FML: call 798-4586 Mondays 7-9 p.m. or 729-8515 Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick.

Maine Gender Resource and Support Service. Education, information, referrals for Maine's transgender and transsexual community. PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894, phone: 207-862-2063. Email: megrem@hamtel.net. 

TRANSPORT-Non sexual, peer support for peer’s crossdressers and transsexuals and their SO’s. Yearly dues. PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04112. Phone: 207-862-2063.AIDS Support
For information on “Harm Reduction Workshop For Gay/Bi Men” or any other Mr. programs or services, call 338-6330 or write: Men’s Resources, P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME, 04915. Support groups, education, and counseling for gay/bi men at risk of HIV infection to stay safe. Potluck/discussion group 4th Friday of each month at 7 p.m. Support group 1st and 3rd Monday of each month 156 High St., Belfast 7-9 p.m. Support group in Waldo area 2nd and 4th. Tuesday each month 7-9 p.m. Support group in Waldo area 2nd and 4th. Tuesday each month 7-9 p.m. Call 338-6330 for details.

Community Pride Calendar

December Event sponsored by the UMASS Stonewall Center

Amherst, MA: below are the events planned by The Stonewall Center at UMASS from December 1, 1998 to January 1, 1999. For further information please contact Heather King at the Stonewall Center, 510 Melnick, 413-545-8024, or email the office at stnswf@umass.edu, or check out our web site at http://www.umass.edu/stonewall. All events are free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible unless otherwise noted. Thank You

GLBT Lunch Lecture Series
Thursday, December 3: Michael Bronski, author and activist will present, The Erotization of the Male Body. This event will be held at 12:30 p.m. in The Campus Center Room 804. This is part of the GLBT Studies Lecture Series and is cosponsored by The Stonewall Center, GLB Graduate Student Organization, Women’s Studies & The Chancellors Task Force on GLBT Matters.

 Cultural Evening Programming
Saturday, December 5: QuesStonessly Queer Café, an evening of GLBT, 5-College, student expression including poetry readings, musical performances and a photography exhibit. This event will take place at 8 p.m. in the Graduate Student Lounge, Campus Center.

Thursday, December 10: The X-Gay Films: The Science Fiction of Conversion Therapy. Local activist Cindy Beal will present a multi-media presentation that will bring to light the basic facts about the Religious Right's proposed "conversion therapy" and ex-gay movement. This lecture will also examine these movements in their historical, scientific, political, and religious contexts. The event will be held at 7 p.m. (place TBA).

Tuesday, December 15: Stonewall Center Study Break. A time for 5-College students to take a break from finals hang out eat popcorn and relax. We will be showing a fun, uplifting, "for you have finals" movie. This event will take place at The Stonewall Center at 7:30 p.m. Free snacks will be provided. This event is not wheelchair accessible.

Stonewall Center Fund Raiser
Monday, December 7: An evening of Queer Shopping. This event will be held at The Stonewall Center, from 4 – 6 p.m. This event is a fund raiser for the Stonewall Center. Local queer artisan, Nicole J. Lauro, will do a "Jade Tree Lane Shopping Party" and exhibit her jewelry to the community. Come and buy gifts for the upcoming holidays and support the Stonewall Center at the same time. There will be free gifts and prizes as well as "family" discounts on each item, delivery time of less than two weeks, and 25% of total sales donated back to the Stonewall Center. This event is not wheelchair accessible.

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**Dyke Psyche; Native American Two-Spirit People**

At a time when sexual orientation and gender are being viewed as more continuous categories, there is renewed interest in the fluidity of who is a "woman" and who is "male." In many Native American cultures, gender and sexuality have not been as fixed as in western cultures. Recently, a number of books have appeared on "two-spirit people," a term coined by Native Americans to refer to individuals who are gay or lesbian, or who are transgendered, or who have multiple gender identities.

The term "two-spirit" is an attempt by Native American communities to redefine their past from the way in which it has been depicted by white male anthropologists, and also to distinguish Native American concepts of gender and sexuality from those of the western gay and lesbian communities.

I recently spoke with Sue-Ellen Jacobs, one of the co-editors of the book "TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE: NATIVE AMERICAN GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUALITY, AND SPIRITUALITY." She said: "There are a number of instances where there are Native women, living on reservations, who don't stand out, who don't call themselves gay these days. The gay white men who are out there studying Native American men don't see the women because these researchers don't recognize these women as who they are within their culture. Not many Native women use the words 'lesbian' or 'dyke' to describe themselves. The researchers didn't realize that there was a more 'lesbian' going on within the Native American communities, the two-spirit movement." Sue-Ellen Jacobs described instances of "male-bodied women" or "female-bodied men" who took on the roles and became known as being of the "other" gender in Native American cultures.

As Jacobs and the other editors state in the introduction to their book: "Using the word 'two-spirit' emphasizes the spiritual identity of one's life and downplays the homosexual personas."

In the chapter "I am a Lakota woman," Beverly Little Thunder writes: "Most tribes that I have had the honor of knowing have specific names for men who love men and women who love women. . . . I can understand that there may be a need by some to find a pan-Native term that can be used as a marker for the general population of Native lesbians and gays. We are all so different in so many ways, however. Culturally and physically, we are all different. Each tribe has its own, its own tribal way for how we all even be called 'Native' . . . . The words I would like to see written about me and read fifty years from now should be words that reflect who I am as an individual." Carrie House, of Navajo/Oneida descent, writes: "Our oral traditions acknowledge that the he-shes and she-shes (those who hold in balance the male and female, male and female aspects of themselves and the universe) were among the greatest contributors to the well-being and advancement of their communities. They were (and are we) the greatest provers into the ways of the future, and they quickly assimilated the lessons of changing times and people.

Recent studies into the lives of she-shes and she-shes have recovered models or near models of this rich, inventive, resilient, and highly productive approach to keeping balance within a society viewed as an extension of nature." For further reading see: Sue-Ellen Jacobs, Wesley Thomas and Sabine Lang (1997). TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE: Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.


Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the Journal of Lesbian Studies. She can be reached at John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. email: esther.rothblum@uvm.edu.

**Rainbow Endowment Announces Grant Awards**

The Rainbow Endowment has announced 1998 grant distributions totaling more than a quarter of a million dollars. Through its Fall funding cycle, 12 organizations serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community have been awarded grants ranging in size from $10,900 to $20,000. Founded in 1995, the Endowment funds organizations and projects that are national in scope.

The following non-profit groups are among this funding cycle's recipients:

- STRAIGHT (Sexualities Transsexuals and Gay) has been awarded $20,000 to provide educational services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender young people in the U.S.
- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (formerly the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force) has been awarded $15,000 to support its national conference and related activities.
- National AIDS Project (NAP) has been awarded $10,900 to provide awareness and prevention services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities.

**About the Endowment**

The Rainbow Endowment seeks to foster positive physical and mental health, promotes increased visibility, and advance full participation and access to social, cultural and civic life for members of a diverse gay and lesbian community.

It is governed and staffed by a volunteer board of directors. Funds dispersed by the Endowment are derived from use of the Rainbow Card, a Visa card issued by Travelers Bank USA, and through its Founding Sponsor, Subaru of America, Inc., and its official airline sponsor, British Airways.

Martina Navratilova is co-founder and spokesperson of the Rainbow program. "We're just three years old," she says of the Rainbow Card and Rainbow Endowment, "and our total contributions will exceed $450,000 by the close of 1998. We're pleased with the program's early success and the positive impact it has already had throughout the country."

**Notice of Next Funding Cycle**

The Rainbow Endowment's next cycle of grantmaking will be in the spring of 1999. Proposals are due by January 15. Successful applicants will be announced in April of 1999.

Those interested in applying for funding are urged to review carefully the Endowment's revised funding guidelines available at its website, www.rainbowcard.com/endowment. Guidelines can be requested by writing to: BO. Box 2165, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
Being lesbian, Bi, questioning and young: A conversation with teens

Esther Rothblum

I recently talked with a group of five young women in a Vermont high school about what it means to be lesbian, our classmate had come out. These young women and a teacher have been meeting weekly in their school after hours. Hard as it may be for us older lesbians to believe, such groups are a part of all high schools in the Burlington, Vermont area.

The women were proud that their school has a gay-straight alliance. These students and a teacher have been meeting weekly in their school after hours. Hard as it may be for us older lesbians to believe, such groups are a part of all high schools in the Burlington, Vermont area.

"The women were proud that their school has a gay-straight alliance. These students and a teacher have been meeting weekly in their school after hours. Hard as it may be for us older lesbians to believe, such groups are a part of all high schools in the Burlington, Vermont area.

I think the fact that we were so close actually negatively affected her, with people assuming that she was gay as well. I found myself pulling away from her so that she wouldn't be stereotyped. I wanted her to be able to find a boyfriend and be happy. I didn't want her harmed." In some ways, being gay is viewed as trendy in their school, but only when it refers to female students, mostly those who are bisexual. But the women I interviewed tell me that trends are viewed as a phase and their classmates' wonder when this particular trend will finally be over. "My friends thought I was a 'poser' because I told them that I was, said one woman.

Esther Rothblum is Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont and Editor of the Journal of Lesbian Studies. She can be reached at John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, email: esther.rothblum@uvm.edu.

My Queer Life: It's All in the Cards

by Michael Thomas Ford

I can't believe it's that season again. I'm talking, of course, about that dreaded annual chore holiday cards. It's easy, I only had a couple of friends. Every year all I had to do was buy a single box of cards and send them out. But as I've gotten older I've accumulated a few more friends, and even more acquaintances. I now have several lists of people who I expect to receive cards.

Every year I go over them, weeding out the editor who didn't buy anything from me in the previous year or the former friend who said my last book wasn't all it could have been. Then I add the new people, the editors I desperately want to buy things from, the photographer who took the only good picture of me in existence, the dog's last vet. It's endless.

These lists are crucial. If I forget my editor's assistant, then my next check mysteriously disappears for three weeks. Inconsciously omit the reviewer who gave my book such a rave? The phrase "a piece of trash" is sure to appear in her critique of my next one. We won't even discuss sage. This means I actually have to think in the madness. Let's just say that weep-card. Sometimes that's how I usually re-typed. I wanted her to be able to find a boyfriend and be happy. I didn't want her harmed.

Innocently omit the reviewer who gave least that's what my publicist told me last after hours. Hard out there, and all explanation went away. I think the fact that we were so close actually negatively affected her, with people assuming that she was gay as well. I found myself pulling away from her so that she wouldn't be stereotyped. I wanted her to be able to find a boyfriend and be happy. I didn't want her harmed."

Even after the cards go out, there's the whole insecurity issue. Every year, about two weeks before I send out my cards, I start getting cards in my Avenida. But now it's not convinced those people actually meant to send me cards. I think they only did it because they got mine and felt obligated. This simply adds to my agony. I'm still horrified that I can't get an address off someone's list, and I really only get cards from them out of guilt. So I keep track of the days that go by between when I send my cards out and when I start getting them from others. Three or four days in between suggests that our cards crossed in the mail, bringing a sigh of relief. Anything beyond that and I get suspicious.

Then I have to come up with the perfect living card minutely for clues. One with a scrabbled signature and no message is suspect, but if the card is appealing enough I let it slide. One that looks like it came from a sampler pack, or has a pre-printed address label, is a dead giveaway, and I remove the sender from my own list. I know, I sound petty and awful. I'm still better than my friend Julia. She actually keeps a list of her former<br>g-<br>er-<br>ra<br>fi<br>o<br>t<br>r<br>or<br>all<br>her<br>friends' names. If one of us fails to send her an appropriate card, we get crossed off. Then, when we go to her house for her annual holiday party, our names are right there for everyone else to see.

If you can imagine the wonderful cards she gets. I'm sure you couldn't picture the longing, the desire, the yearning, the passion that goes into it. She's actually got a list of her former<br>g-<br>er-<br>ra<br>fi<br>o<br>t<br>r<br>or<br>all<br>her<br>friends' names. If one of us fails to send her an appropriate card, we get crossed off. Then, when we go to her house for her annual holiday party, our names are right there for everyone else to see.

The Community Pride Reporter is the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Submissions are welcome throughout the month and will be published, at the publishers discretion, in the next available issue.

Please contact the office at 207-737-3498 for special publishing needs especially inclusion in a particular issue.

Portland Stage Company Continues Holiday Tradition with Dickens Family Classic "A Christmas Carol"

Portland, Maine - This December, Portland Stage Company reprises its critically acclaimed adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

A seasonal favorite since 1996, *A Christmas Carol* depicts Scrooge's discovery of the true holiday spirit and features an ensemble of professional and community actors who transform the stage into a magical celebration for all ages. A Christmas Carol previews December 1, 2, and 3, opens December 4 and runs through December 24 at 25A Forest Avenue in Portland.

In its third year, Portland Stage Company's production of *A Christmas Carol* is one of the best-selling productions in Portland Stage history.

Last year, it was voted "Best Theatrical Production" in the Casco Bay Weekly's Reader Opinion Poll, and Thomas Power from the Portland Press Herald called it enjoyable and entertaining. Allison Grover from the Exeter News-Letter wrote, "Portland Stage...presents a sparkling, imaginative production," and Barbara Barrels from the Brunswick Times Record called the adaptation "abundant imagining" and "newly enlightening."

Directing *A Christmas Carol* is Portland Stage Company's Artistic Director Anita Stewart. The lights will be designed by Byron Winn and costumes will be designed by Ellen McCartney. Composer and Music Director Peter John Still, who recently became Portland Stage's literary manager/dramaturge, will once again compose and perform original music for this production.

Kick off the Holidays with Rodgers & Hammerstein's "The King & I"

Portsmouth - Come celebrate the holidays and enjoy Seasonal Repertory Theatre's production of *THE KING & I*. Based on "Anna & the King of Siam" by Margaret Landon, Rodgers & Hammerstein have transformed this story of conflict & love into a musical masterpiece.

*THE KING & I* tells of the adventures of a nineteen-century Englishwoman who becomes a teacher to the children of the King of Siam after the death of her husband. "Shall We Dance", "Whistle a Happy Tune" & "Hello Young Lovers" are just a few of the memorable tunes you'll be humming long after you leave the theatre. With a cast of 40 or so children & adults, incredible costumes & spectacular set, SRT's production of the *KING & I* is sure to please the entire family!

*THE KING & I* generously co-sponsored by Redhook Ale Brewery & Belknap Dental Associates is playing December 10, 1998 thru January 10, 1999. Showtimes are Thursdays - 7pm, Fridays - 8pm, Saturdays - 8pm & Sundays 3pm with additional 7pm shows the final three Sundays. Tickets are $17 & $20, with discounts for children, students, & seniors. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 603 433-4472 or 800 639-7650, or by visiting the ticket window at 1 Street in Portsmouth, NH 03801.

Mad Horse Theatre Company presents Road to Nirvana by Arthur Kopit


Road To Nirvana will run from January 7 through February 7, 1999 at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak Street, Portland, Maine.

Performances are: Thursday at 7:30 PM, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 PM and Sundays at 5:00 PM. Special 2:00 PM matinee on Sunday, January 31st.

Tickets are $18.00 ($16.00 Students and Seniors).

Students & Seniors). Tickets for Saturday night performances are $20.00 ($18.00 Students and Seniors).

Tickets for our Preview performance on Thursday 1/7 are $10.00.

Our Gala Opening Night is Friday 1/8.

Buy 1 Get 1 Free Nights are Sunday 1/10 and 1/17.

For further information and reservations please call 775-5103 or check out our website at http://www.madhorse.com!

Ain't no story like a Bluestory

of a people who invented a unique sound called the blues.

Musical accompaniment is by John Cephas on master guitar and Phil Wiggins playing a pulsating blues harp. The harmoniously rhythmic and high-spirited renditions of traditional and original blues numbers will transport audiences from the Music Hall in Portsmouth to someone's front porch stoop. Cephas and Wiggins provide the very best of the soulful, head-nodding, hand-clapping, foot-tapping sounds of the southern U.S.

The evening includes tales of the giants of the Blues literature, "John Henry," arch desperado "Stagolee," and a biographical story of Robert Johnson, king of the delta Blues. A full set of music by Cephas & Wiggins features work by Furry Lewis, Skip James, Reverend Gary Davis and Mississippi John Hurt. The telling of the Robert Johnson legend was originally commissioned by the Chicago Blues Festival.

It is generally accepted that the Blues has influenced most major modern musical forms including jazz, rock, country, pop and modern classical music. By emphasizing the poetry and literary tradition of the Blues tradition along with the music, Bluestory gives the audience a much better idea of the historical and social context of the Blues than music can by itself.

The Blues is a strong common thread of the African-Americans faced in the post-reconstruction era.

The Blues provided a pantheon of heroes and rebels who could say and do things the singers themselves could not.

In Bluestory, the artists help the audience get past the surface of the music, to reveal an expression of the human condition.

Bluestory plays one night only, on Saturday, December 5 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are $27 for A seating and $23 for B seating; $13 for audiences under 21. Tickets may be purchased at the Music Hall box office, located at 28 Chestnut Street in downtown Portsmouth, or by calling (603) 436-2400.

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**New Year's Portland!**

After months of planning, meticulous research and development, Maine Arts announces a new and improved New Year's Portland. Portland, Maine ... New Year's Portland '99 has been reformedulated by Maine Arts. This year's community celebration of the end of 1998 is a re-invented version of New Year's Portland's past.

The celebration, which features 15 distinctively different events in 15 locations around Portland, will give revelers an experience that is beyond comparison.

"Over the past few months we have taken the time to develop a New Year's Portland program that will give people the opportunity to take-in as many or as few events as possible with-out feeling pressured to rush from one venue to the next," says Nick Bloom, Maine Arts Executive Director.

In past years New Year's Portland featured a tightly scheduled itinerary of events that had definitive start and end times. This year, the 15 events will be on-going and self-contained mini parties. New Year's Portland '99's eclectic mix features such things as a beatnik coffeehouse; experimental dance performances; a hippie festival of poetry, music and soloists; silent films; a swing dance party.

"The idea here is to give people a chance to enjoy a pull-out-the-stops experience of variety that is fun alternative to bars or parties," adds Bloom. "We see this as an event that is focused on bringing our entire community together for a night of chem-free revelry," he continued.

The evening is capped off by a dazzling fireworks display at City Hall. Admission buttons for New Year's Portland '99 are available in advance at Shop 'n Save Supermarkets until December 30. Prices for the buttons which gets unlimited entry to all venues are $10 for adults, $4.50 for kids (12 & under) and $8.50 for teens (13 -17) and seniors (65+). On New Year's Eve admission buttons will be available at all venues for $12 for adults, $6 for kids (12 & under) and $9 for teens (13 -17) and seniors (65+). Individuals interested in volunteering for New Year's Portland can pick up registration forms at most Key Bank offices in Southern Maine.

Volunteers earn free admission to the event. New Year's Portland is produced by Maine Arts, a non-profit organization that celebrates and enriches Maine audiences by preserving musical, visual, performance and multi-cultural arts events.

Their focus is on cultivating a statewide community of the arts, celebrating master artisans, nurturing emerging talents and building strong links between disparate elements both inside and outside the arts community.

Maine Arts offices is located at 582 Congress Street, Portland, Maine.

For more information about New Year's Portland or any other Maine Arts sponsored event, call (207) 772-9012.

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**Seaglass Performing Arts**

*present*;

Seaglass Chorale proudly presents its third joint Christmas Concert with the Community Orchestra of the Portland Symphony, Sunday, December 5th at 3:00 PM at the Holy Family Church, North Ave., Sanford.

This very warm Christmas tradition, featuring popular songs of the season, is a benefit concert for the Family of Churches Food Pantry. Admission is "free will" monetary donation.

Then, on December 12 and 13, The Chorale will perform Vivai's Gloria and Handel's Messiah in the traditional Kennebunkport Prelude to Christmas Concert series. The Chorale will be joined by the Seaglass Kids and the Seaglass Strings for these Christmas classics.

The public is invited to bring their Messiah musical scores and join in song. Saturday, December 12, 7:30 PM South Congregational Church, Kennebunkport and Sunday, December 13, 3:00 PM, St. Martha Church, Rt 1 No., Kennebunk. Admission is $8/$6 seniors.

For more information call 985-8747 or visit our web site. www.biddeford.com/~seaglass

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**Fundraiser for Portland Artist**

A newly formed group "Friends of Esduardo Mariscal" will sponsor screening of Mexican choreographer's latest work to support the ongoing creative work of Esduardo Mariscal dance theater, a number of community residents have come together to form "friends of Esduardo Mariscal." The group will raise funds, generate performance and teaching opportunities, and promote Mariscal's dance-theater community project.

The group, which consists of USM provost Mark Lapping, Assunta Kent (USM Theater dept.), Ellen Seeling (Bates College Theater dept.), Simone Federman (Bowdoin College Theater dept.), Manny Morgan, Richard Doherty, June Fitzpatrick, Jonathan Lee and Nancy Margolis, welcomes additional members.

The friends of Esduardo Mariscal are inviting the public to a screening of a video of the fall of time, his latest successful dance piece developed and premiered in Brazil with the Corpco Vivo Dance Company only a few weeks ago.

Mariscal, a guest artist at USM since 1995, will also give an informal lecture about the creative process of this choreography and his work in general.

The presentation will be at the Luther Bonney hall auditorium at USM in Portland on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30 PM. Tickets are $5. Proceeds will be used for Esduardo's spring 1999 production in Portland.

What: video screening of c. Mariscal's latest dance

When: Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 PM

Where: Luther Bonney hall auditorium at USM

How much: $5

FMI: call 871-9056
Avner the Eccentric offers rare local performances

In a limited holiday engagement

After turning hundreds away last year at Oak Street Theatre, Exceptions to Gravity moves to Portland Stage Company. After selling out six performances at Oak Street Theatre last December, Avner the Eccentric will be making another rare local appearance this holiday season when he performs Exceptions to Gravity at Portland Stage Company from December 26 to 29, 1998.

This hilarious show mixes mastery of clowning, dexterous magic, and slapstick humor in a show that holds an equal appeal for all ages. Exceptions to Gravity offers Portland audiences the unique opportunity to see a veteran local performer at the height of his craft.

Peaks Island resident Avner Eisenberg has toured internationally for the past fourteen years, including two sold-out runs on Broadway. Avner's appearance in Portland this year is presented by the Acorn School for the Performing Arts, the new organization run by Oak Street Theatre founders Michael Levine and Elizabeth Buchsbaum, in conjunction with Portland Stage Company. Audience members are urged to purchase their tickets early, as last year's performances sold out weeks before opening.

In addition to his performances as Avner the Eccentric, Avner is well known to audiences for his endearing portrayal of the Jewel, the scene-stealing holy man in The Jewel of the Nile, co-starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. He was also featured in the film Brenda Starr and has been seen on television on Webster and Matchnet. In 1987, Avner co-starred in Lincoln Center's production of Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors, and he returned to Broadway in 1989 in a principal role in Ghetto.

In regional theatre, Avner has played Estragon in Waiting for Godot, played the title role in R. Crumb Comix, and co-starred with his wife, Julie Goell, in the world premiere of Zoo of Tranquility. He has been featured in numerous festivals and television specials throughout the world and recently won a special jury award at the International Festival du Cirque in Monte Carlo.

Performance calendar for Exceptions to Gravity

Tuesday, December 22

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Special Announcements

CPR has moved! Please make note of our new address & phone:
P.O. Box 125, Richmond Maine, 04357. Phone & Fax 207-737-3498.
Email address is still: cprpride@ime.net
Remember folks CPR is always looking for dedicated volunteers in the following positions:
Distribution, Book reviews, A&E reviews, general office assisting.
From: All of us at CPR
Have a Safe & Happy Holiday

CPR is proud to welcome Kurt Erichsen on board! Kurt is a talented cartoonist and illustrator from Toledo Ohio.
His cartoon strip "Murphy's Manor" is one of our newest additions.
Kurt Erichsen has received the Gay and Lesbian Press' Outstanding Achievement in Illustration Award both in 1985 and 1988, as well as being the Artist Guest of Honor at the 1998 Gay Laxicon National Convention (Gay & Lesbian sci-fi) and will be a special guest artist at the 1999 Gay Laxicon National Convention.

We sincerely hope you enjoy his smart, witty humor as much as we do.
We look forward to your comments on his work, and we look forward to a long and happy relationship with Kurt
Sincerely,
Angel Castro,
Managing Editor CPR

Free Weekend Parking at the Spring St. Garage and Elm St. Garage
The City of Portland Parking Division would appreciate your assistance in announcing the following, concerning the City's plan to offer free weekend parking to downtown shoppers between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
The Spring St. Garage and The Elm St. Garage will be offering FREE PARKING Saturdays & Sundays until Christmas for shoppers only. All other times, ask your retailer for Park & Shop stamps. Each good for one hour of free parking.
We are doing this as a gesture of goodwill that we hope will result in increased retail activity for the downtown merchants, and a greater awareness of the ease and convenience of utilizing a parking garage for visitors of the downtown.
Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.
389 Congress Street · Portland, Maine 04101 · (207) 874-8444 · FAX 756-8259 · E-mail: jbp@q-c.l.portland.me.us · TTY 874-8536

TheFortAllen Park Gazebo was the site of a sunset Union Ceremony on September 11, 1998 between Michele Lane & Bea Brush.
Michele & Bea exchanged vows in front of their families & friends. Sally Gore presided over the ceremony.
A reception was held at the couples East End home & they spent a long weekend in Connecticut in November.
Michele's son, Daughter-in-law, Daughter & 2 grandchildren were present to show their support. Michele's brother was unable to attend due to a hospital stay.
Bea's parents, three sisters, two brothers, brother-in-law two sisters-in-law, niece & two nephews, all from Connecticut were there to show their support as well.
Julie Sweeney of Wisconsin stood up for Bea & Buffy Lofust of Woolwich stood up for Michele.

Michele Lane & Bea Brush
United in Love
September 11, 1998

Classified Ads

Lesbian Roommate wanted
Seeking quiet, nonsmoking roommate to share sunny 2 bedroom apartment on the East End in Portland. For $300. per month (heat included) you get: Large room, small room, private entrance. Shared kitchen and bathroom. No pets (I have a cat). Available immediately. Call 773-0476.

Roommate Wanted
Gay male looking for responsible individual to share large 3 bedroom duplex near Woodfords Corner. Furnished bedroom if needed. Lots of storage. $140 per week includes utilities. Please call 772-0516

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Classified Ads are $10.00 for the first 40 words and 15 cents for each additional word over forty.
There is no charge for bold or italicizing words.
**Service Directory**

**Thomas S. Mullin**
Attorney at Law
Serving our Community with Pride since 1985
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Concord, NH 03301-1493
(603) 466-3695
Fax (603) 466-3079

- Matrimonial & Family Law
- Divorce/Pest Divorce
- Custody - Support - Property
- Gay & Lesbian Law
- Criminal Defense
- Personal Injury

**Norma Kraus Eude**
MSW, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Individual, Group and Relationship Therapy
10 Jewett Avenue
Ashburg, Maine 04350

**Judith M. Wohl**
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Michael.

**Victoria Zivaskin, Ph.D.**
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor
77 South Main Road
Buck Cove Counseling Center
207-393-1030

**Kurt Erichsen Cartoonist & Illustrator**
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