

# Community Pride Reporter

Volume 7 Proudly serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Community. Number 15

## Falwell



AP news Photo

## Tinky Winky



1998 publicity photo AP news photo

VS

The teletubbies (from left) Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa-Laa and Po

## Falwell's newspaper claims 'Teletubbies' character is gay

Roanoke, Virginia. (AP) The Rev. Jerry Falwell has suggested that Tinky Winky, the purple, purse-toting character on television's popular "Teletubbies" children's show, is gay.

A spokesman for Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Co., which licenses the Teletubbies in the United States, said the purse is actually Tinky Winky's magic bag. "The fact that he carries a magic bag doesn't make him gay," Steve Rice said. "It's a children's

show, folks. To think we would be putting sexual innuendo in a children's show is kind of outlandish."

The February edition of the National Liberty Journal (NLJ), edited and published by Falwell, contains an article warning parents that the rotund Teletubby with the triangular antenna may be a gay role model.

To support its claim, the publication says Tinky Winky has the voice of a boy but carries a purse. "He is

purple — the gay-pride color; and his antenna is shaped like a triangle — the gay-pride symbol."

Falwell contends the "subtle depictions" are intentional and issued a statement Tuesday that said, "As a Christian I feel that role modeling the gay lifestyle is damaging to the moral lives of children."

The British show aimed at toddlers began airing on U.S. public television stations last spring. The Teletubbies are portrayed by actors

in oversized, brightly colored costumes. They all have television screens on their tummies.

Rice said Falwell was attacking "something sweet and innocent" to further his conservative political agenda.

Falwell's spokeswoman, Laura Swickard, said the founder of the now-defunct Moral Majority agreed with everything that was in the NLJ article and would not comment beyond his one-paragraph statement.

## HRC Blasts Jerry Falwell for Teletubbies attack

Washington - Tinky Winky, a character in a children's show, the Teletubbies, was outed by former Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell who warned parents in the February edition of the National Liberty Journal that the "technological baby" might be gay.

The Teletubbies is a British children's show that began airing on U.S. public television stations last spring. The Teletubbies are played by actors in large, brightly colored costumes.

They all have television

screens on their tummies. "Jerry Falwell's paranoia about gay people has reached a new and ludicrous high water mark," said HRC Communications Director David M. Smith. "As farcical as it might sound, Falwell's latest ranting has serious consequences."

He continues to demean and insult gay people, which continues to foster a divisive environment in this country that sometimes leads to violence."

Falwell justified his outing in his publication by claiming that Tinky

Winky has the voice of a boy but carries a purse. "He is purple the gay-pride color; and his antenna is shaped like a triangle the gay-pride symbol."

Falwell argues the "subtle depictions" are intentional and issued a statement Tuesday that said, "As a Christian I feel that role modeling the gay lifestyle is damaging to the moral lives of children."

An Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Co., spokesperson, which licenses the Teletubbies in the United States, said the purse is actually Tinky Winky's magic bag. "The Human

Rights Campaign assures the parents of the world that your children will not become gay due to the subversive effects of the color purple, triangles, and magic bags," said Smith.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

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# Organizations Jointly Oppose Death Penalty

Groups representing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people speak out against capital punishment. Today 11 major organizations representing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities announced their joint opposition to the death penalty.

The issue came to the forefront in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities with the upcoming trial of those accused of beating Matthew Sheppard to death in Wyoming.

The two men, Aaron James McKinney and Russell Arthur Henderson, both 21, were arrested and accused of his murder. On December 28, Prosecutor Cal Rerucha filed notices of intent to seek the death penalty against both men.

Katherine Acey, Executive Director of the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation said:

"The death penalty has no place in a civil society. As a community we must take every opportunity to speak out against violence, including capital punishment."

Kevin McGruder, Executive Director of Gay Men of African Descent said: "The death penalty is applied in an inequitable way and when factors of race, sexual orientation and income are taken into account, there is even more inequity. Mistakes happen and innocent people are sentenced to death. In those circumstances where the sentence has been carried out, the mistake cannot be reversed."

Julie Dorf, Executive Director of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission said: "Human rights are not a euphemism for gay rights. We cannot pick and choose human rights," she added. "The death penalty is wrong in all cases."

Kevin M. Cathcart, Executive Director of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund said: "Lambda deals daily with the legal system's fallibility and the effects of bias on court decisions. With this experience, we oppose the death penalty as a harsh and irreversible use of government power."

Richard Burns, Executive Director of the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center of New York said: "This is one of those moments when we, as a community, should lead. We consider this a teachable moment." Burns said the death penalty is no way to deal with anti-gay violence, "The answer to homophobic violence is not more violence, it is education," he said.

Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project said: "The American Civil Liberties Union opposes the death

penalty for those who murdered Matthew Sheppard just as we oppose the death penalty for all people - because our system of justice is incapable of imposing it equally, because our system makes mistakes and always will and because the ACLU believes that the state simply should not have the power to take away human life."

Martin Ornales-Quintero, Executive Director of LLEGO - National Latina/o LGBT Organization said: "Killing a homophobe will not kill homophobia."

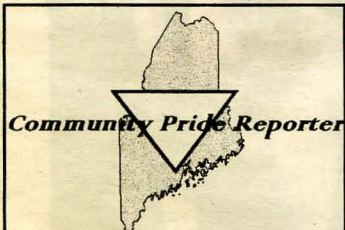
Kate Kendall, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights said: "There are few facets of our criminal justice system more deeply flawed than the death penalty. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that rather than deterring violence or curbing crime, the death penalty instead stands as a most extreme example of the race and class bias which

pervades much of our society."

Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said: "We join our colleagues today to oppose the death penalty with a unified voice. We participate in a social movement that places faith in the possibility of change. Capital punishment, a final and hopeless solution to the social problem of violence, not only subverts the possibility of individual change but it also fails to solve the problem of violence."

Hate crimes laws, on the other hand, recognize that classes of people become terrorized by violent acts against individuals. Hate crime laws draw attention to that problem and offer at least one solution: criminal justice resources directed toward educating and deterring the domestic terrorism of bias crime."

Richard Haymes, Executive  
Continued on page 4



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## Far Right continues to self-destruct

By Kevin Ivers

Falwell's Latest Anti-Gay Attack, Turmoil in Christian Coalition Leadership, Devastating Election Study Demonstrate Urgent Change of GOP Direction

(Washington) Two brewing controversies today signaled the political deterioration of social conservatives on the national political stage, further heightening the urgent need for the Republican Party leadership to move away from the far right and its leaders.

"How much more embarrassment will it take for the Republican leadership to move away from these people?" Said Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "I have advice for all the Republican officials who we're shaking their heads when they read about this today.

How about you stop inviting Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson to speak at our conventions from now on?"

Reverend Jerry Falwell, among the main far right leaders courted by the Republican Party leadership for years, announced today that a character on the popular children's television show "Teletubbies" is "role-modeling the gay lifestyle."

The character, called Tinky Winky, "is purple - the

gay-pride color; and his antenna is shaped like a triangle — the gay-pride symbol," according to the February issue of Falwell's National Liberty Journal.

The comments followed Falwell's statement last month that "the anti-Christ is alive today" and is "very likely a Jew."

At the same time, Donald Hodel, president of the Christian Coalition, resigned in a bitter dispute with Pat Robertson, founder of the organization, over Robertson's "repeated blunders" on his "700 Club" television show and his about-face on the impeachment trial of President Clinton, according to the Washington Times.

In a front page story, the Times quoted a Republican source as saying that "Christian Coalition members were calling up and resigning." Robertson has now named himself president and chairman of the organization after Hodel's departure.

Both controversies came on the same day the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, a leading voter research organization, released its final report on the 1998 elections. Its analysis included a section on "The defeat of the socially conservative right."

"With the single exception of [Sen. Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL)], running against a largely doomed candidate," the CSAE

report concluded, "all candidates from the social conservative wing of the GOP in competitive statewide races lost, indicating that the advocacy based on hostility to government, opposition to abortion and flag burning, for prayer in the schools and similar nostrums may not be able to provide the votes for electoral victory beyond districts that are already drawn to insure [GOP success]."

"It was not only the defeat of more socially conservative candidates which showed that tendency might be out-of-touch with the electorate," the CSAE report stated, "but the results of ballot propositions across the nation which showed a moderating trend within the electorate."

Yet still, six GOP presidential aspirants met last week with the Committee for the Restoration of American Values, an umbrella of far right leaders and organizations, including the Christian Coalition, that is litmus-testing candidates for the 2000 GOP nomination on issues such as banning abortion, anti-gay discrimination, whether they use the term "Gaming or gambling," removing the words "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency and whether they will place a crèche on the White House lawn to provoke a Supreme Court case.

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Meanwhile, Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA), chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, made a "sobering assessment of the problems facing the GOP" at a House Republican retreat last weekend, according to Roll Call. Davis "commissioned a major poll to gauge the party's popularity," the newspaper reported, "which paints a gloomy picture

for the GOP, but it shows the party can recover..." The newspaper quoted an unnamed source familiar with the poll saying: "The patient is in the hospital, but he's not dead yet."

"The evidence is clear that a GOP candidate who links up with any of these far right leaders is automatically unelectable," Tafel said. "The Congressional leadership will hopefully follow suit and move to the mainstream."

Log Cabin Republicans is the nation's largest gay Republican organization, with state and local chapters nationwide, a federal political action committee and a national office headquartered in Washington, D.C. LCR will sponsor a panel discussion on the future of the Republican Party on Tuesday, February 16 at 10:00am at the National Press Club.

**Our Mission:** Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered and open-minded people. C.P.R. pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgendered people.

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The Community Pride Reporter is published 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.



# Wyoming Legislature Kills Hate Crimes Bills

Washington, DC—February 3, 1999—The Wyoming legislature today killed all prospects of enacting the state's first-ever hate crimes law. Wyoming was the scene of the brutal and highly publicized murder of Matthew Shepard last October.

The Wyoming legislature is still considering a measure to establish a governor's bias crimes task force. Activists in Wyoming oppose this measure, viewing it as an attempt to avoid substantive action on hate crimes.

"If not now, when?" stated National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Kerry Lobel. "These statutes are not a panacea, but they are a crucial component in the battle to eradi-

cate hate crimes.

We are extremely disappointed that legislators in Wyoming refused an opportunity to take real leadership on this issue. Our community will continue to press for an enforceable hate crimes law in Wyoming, and we will not settle for legislative smoke and mirrors," added Lobel.

The Wyoming Senate Judiciary Committee voted down two bills today. One bill (SF 84) would have established enhanced penalties for bias-motivated crimes committed because of the victim's race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry. Another measure (SF 91) would have es-

tablished enhanced penalties for bias-motivated crimes committed because of an individual's "membership in a group."

Last week the full House voted against a bill similar to SF 84. According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, hate crime bills have been introduced in at least fourteen states this year. In nine states (CO, ID, MT, MS, MO, NY, OK, VA, WY) bills have been introduced to add sexual orientation to existing hate crimes statutes. In addition to Wyoming, the Idaho and Montana bills were defeated. In three states (IN, NM, SC) the bills would establish first-time hate crimes laws in those states.

In Texas, a measure has been proposed to strengthen the state's existing statute by enumerating groups that would be covered under the law. The California legislature is considering a bill to equalize penalties for anti-gay hate crimes with penalties for other types of bias crimes.

Other states likely to see hate crimes legislation this year include Michigan and Hawaii. "This is a tragedy for the citizens of the Equality State. How many more people will have to be attacked before the legislature will take a stand and say no to violence and hate?" stated Wende Barker, coordinator for the Wyoming Bias Crimes Task Force.

## Five new shows on view in Arts in the Capitol program

Augusta - Five new exhibits are now on view in the Maine Arts Commission's "Arts in the Capitol" program. This program uses public spaces in government buildings to display Maine-related works of art.

"Recent Acquisitions from the University of Maine Museum of Art" can be seen at the Blaine House and the Maine Arts Commission offices through March 12. This is part of a series of exhibits that features the collections of Maine's most prominent art museums.

This show includes works by national and international artists as well as Maine artists, such as: photographer Jonathan Bailey, of St. George; printmaker Siri Beckman, of Stonington; painter Ma Jo Keleshian, of Ellsworth; photographer and printmaker Alan Magee, of Cushing; and painter Mark Wethli, of Brunswick.

"Inland Landscapes: Work by the Founding Members of the Downtown Gallery," an exhibit of landscapes in oil, acrylic, oil stick and wood, is on view in the Governor's State House Gallery through March 12. Exhibiting artists comprise the founding members of the Downtown Gallery, an artist collective in rural Washington.

These are: Lorna Crichton, Priscilla Cross, Joan Freiman, Paula Green, Phyllis Janto, Carol Sloane, Leva Tatarsky and Cynthia White.

Other exhibits on view as part of the Arts in the Capitol program are:

"Traditional Arts Masters and Apprentices" is at the Maine Arts Commission office, through March 12. This show features large-scale, black-and-white photographs by documentary photographer Jere DeWaters. These works, which have been used in numerous pub-

lications, showcase master artists working with their apprentices as part of the Maine Arts Commission's Traditional Arts program.

"Selections from Greenhut Gallery," an exhibition at the office of the Speaker of the House, is an ongoing, rotating show of works by some of Maine's most prominent artists.

"The Colors of Maine in Watercolor and Oil," featuring paintings by Augusta painter Bonnie Tucker, can be seen at the Ray Building Gallery at the Maine department of Environmental Protection, through March 8.

The "Arts in the Capitol" program is sponsored by the Maine Arts Commission in conjunction with Governor Angus S. King Jr. and First Lady Mary J. Herman. Exhibits are open during regular business hours, and admission is free. For more information, call 287-2724.

**Maine Arts Commission seeks artist input**

New program will focus on helping Maine's independent artists develop and prosper

Augusta: Maine's artists will soon have a professional development program designed by them and for them.

The Maine Arts Commission is now surveying individual artists in all disciplines throughout the state to get their opinions on what such a program should include.

"Our overall goal is to create a comprehensive program of technical assistance and professional development opportunities for Maine artists at all levels of their development," says Alden C. Wilson, director of the Maine Arts Commission.

Kathy Ann Jones, the commission's Contemporary Arts associate, envisions a program that will help artists with their careers and livelihoods.

"We've heard over and over again from artists that they need more information, more opportunities, more chances to get together and also assistance with marketing and advocacy," Jones says. Those are the categories in the survey that was mailed to nearly 7,000 Maine artists earlier this month and is available to any Maine artist just for the asking.

Paul Doiron, executive director of the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, in Brunswick, is chairman of the Maine Arts Commission task force that is implementing this project. He's hopeful that artists will give some thought to filling out the survey and returning it so that it will become part of an information bank that will be used to develop the new program.

"We really don't know what the end product is going to be here," he adds. "We've tried not to craft survey in such a way to serve as justification for programs we've already developed in our minds."

Artists have long been able to take part in a wide range of offerings by the Maine Arts Commission, but all of these were designed for another purpose, not to promote individual artists.

"This will be the first time that the Maine Arts Commission has made a commitment to tie all the pieces together and have a comprehensive program specifically for individual artists," Jones says.

Wilson hopes the new program will mirror the developmental goals of two

of the commission's most successful programs, Arts in Education and Community Arts. Both of these concentrate on building an infrastructure for the arts. By going directly to artists to survey their needs, this program will too, he adds.

Like Wilson and Jones, Doiron sees this new commitment to individual artists as being built upon programs the commission already offers such as Percent for Art, the Individual Artists' Fellowship and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship programs and the Artists' Roster and Registry, fellowships and mentoring programs.

"We're looking at taking these programs and putting them under an umbrella of services to individual artists and augmenting them with new offerings developed out of responses to the survey."


For this to happen, Doiron says, individual artists need to make their voices heard. "Every Maine artist's input is needed and wanted," he says. To make it easy, the commission is paying return postage on the surveys.

Once the surveys have been returned, an independent consultant will tabulate them, interpret the results and outline the kinds of projects and programs the commission might offer. An interim report will be presented at a statewide artists gathering in late March.

"Then our work begins," Doiron says. We have to find a way to turn the ideas into real programs."

The task force is committed to presenting the final program to the commission on June 11, "Maine Artist's Day."


Any artist who hasn't received a copy of the survey can request one by calling the Maine Arts Commission, 287-2724 (e-mail: jan.poulin@state.me.us).



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# MY QUEER LIFE: Growing Pains

**Michael Thomas Ford**

I am a grown up. I know this because this morning for breakfast I ate half a bag of Reese's miniature peanut butter cups. If I were a child, someone would have probably stopped me.

But this was clearly an act of rebellion. I don't always feel like a grown up. In fact, most of the time I sit around waiting for someone to tell me what to do next, as if the bell ending recess rang but I can't remember where my classroom is. I keep hoping a hall monitor will happen along and point me in the right direction.

Some people take to the whole grown up thing with ease. They get jobs and plan for their futures. They have cocktails with friends, take vacations, and follow the financial news. These people frighten me.

Sometimes I sit on the subway and look at them with their briefcases and stylish clothes, wondering how they got that way. Clearly we all started out on the same road. But at some point they took the exit leading to adulthood while I, apparently, was too busy trying to find a really good station on the radio and missed my turn.

It's not that I don't do the requisite adult things. I pay my bills every month. I have a credit card. I have a car. But sometimes I still find myself sitting in front of the television set thinking, "You really should turn that off and go outside to play." And on more than one occasion I have had to remind myself that no one is \*forcing\* me to get up at six every morning. But I do it anyway, urged

on by some kind of groundless fear that if I continue to sleep someone is sure to give me hell for it.

When my parents were the age I am now, they had a house and three children. I have the dog, but it's hardly the same thing. For one, his toys cost less, and he doesn't demand being taken to a Spice Girls concert because all his friends are going.

I wonder if my father used to stand in front of the mirror in the morning and wonder when everyone would figure out that underneath the suit and tie he wore to work he was really still 13 years old. Because that's what I do. Not that I own a suit or tie or have a real job. I sit at home in my boxer shorts and write. But I still worry that one day there will be a knock on the door and some official looking person will announce in a loud voice that the jig is up and I have to go back with the other kids.

When I was 12, I used to look at my sisters' college friends and think they were very grown-up. Then, when I was in college, I looked at people who had graduated and started their lives and thought that \*they\* were very grown-up.

A few years later, toiling in a real job, I started getting suspicious. The height of the adulthood bar kept rising, and it seemed as if I would never clear it.

Finally, I gave up. I admitted to myself that I am never going to be one of those truly grown-up people who knows what he's doing. And that's fine.

That's why the world has people like Dan Rather and Oprah. They figure it all out and break it to the rest of us in terms we can understand.

Thanks to them, I really don't need to be able to talk about health plans and politics with any sense of assuredness. I can just sit around playing with blocks until Oprah and Dan fill me in.

A couple of months back I spoke to a group of third graders at a local elementary school about what it's like being a writer. During the question- and-answer period, I looked around at all the shiny little faces staring at me. Choosing one, I asked an eager little girl what she wanted to know.

"How old are you?" she asked. "I'm 30," I answered, having just endured that birthday. All around me, eyes went wide. The children stared as if I were a newly-discovered relic pulled from the desert sands of Arizona or something. "That's so old," said one boy. "You're older than my mom," added another, disbelieving.

Things went on in this way for some time. The children wanted to know how someone as clearly aged as I was could write books, let alone walk to their school without the aid of a cane.

When I left that day, the teacher accompanied me to the doors of the school. "You should never tell them how old you are," she said. "It's like throwing raw meat to coyotes. I just tell them I knew God when he was a boy. That shuts them up. Except for the ones who want to know whether or not he was a good kickball player."

But I know how those kids feel. They look at me and wonder what their lives will be like a billion years later when they too turn 30. I'm sure they have all kinds of plans about being models and football stars, of having nice clothes and nice cars and big houses. Next time I'll tell them the truth. "You still won't know what you want to be when you grow up," I'll say.

"You'll wonder why everyone else has great jobs and wonderful relationships and dogs who like to sleep on the floor, because probably you haven't won that Oscar yet and your significant other really isn't that good in bed and your dog likes to throw up on your shoes."

You might luck out and make a lot of money, but chances are you'll be eating spaghetti and shopping at Wal-Mart while you try to pay off student loans and those credit card bills you rang up when you were 23 and thought it would all take care of itself."

Probably they will just stare at me for a few moments, wondering if I've succumbed to some hideous form of mental illness brought on by my advanced age. And then I'll feel bad for ruining their lives.

"Okay," I'll tell them gently. "It's not all that bad. The good news is, you can eat peanut butter cups for breakfast." That should give anyone hope.

Michael Thomas Ford is the author of the books (*Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me*) and the forthcoming (*That's Mr. Faggot to You*). He welcomes e-mail at [shopiltee@aol.com](mailto:shopiltee@aol.com).

## Organizations Jointly Oppose Death Penalty

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Director of the New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project said: "AVP unconditionally opposes the death penalty. As a victim services agency dealing with the physical and psychological aftermath of hatred against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV-positive community - our community - AVP understands full well the thirst for vengeance that heinous bias crimes often engender in the victim, his or her loved ones, and the community at-large.

However, as a human rights organization, struggling for justice for our people, AVP also views capital punishment as an act of state-sanctioned violence - an act that is no more or less violent than the barbaric acts of our attackers - and we unequivocally oppose violence in every form, regardless of the perpetrator."

For additional information, resolutions and/or position papers from each of the organizations regarding the death penalty, contact:

Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation: Katherine Acey (212) 529-8021

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Lesbian & Gay Rights Project-ACLU Matt Coles (212) 549-2627

LLEGO-National Latina/o LGBT Organization M. Ornales-Quintero (202) 466-8240

National Center for Lesbian Rights Kate Kendall (415) 392-6257

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Tracey Conaty (202) 332-6483 x3303

New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project Richard Haymes (212) 714-1184

OutFront Minnesota: Ann DeGroot (612) 822-0127 x107

For additional comment: Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum/Congregation Beth Simchat Torah.

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# Community Pride Resources

## Youth Support

Outright/Lewiston-Auburn has drop-in sessions for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth 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

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

**TRANSSUPPORT.** Non-sexual, peer support for Maine's crossdressers and transsexuals and their SO's. Yearly dues. PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04112. Phone: 207-862-2063.

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 Waldoboro area 2nd and 4th. Tuesday each month 7-9 p.m. Call 338-6330 for details.

### HIV/AIDS Drop-in Support Group

HIV/AIDS drop-in support group for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Every Thursday 6:15 - 7:45 in Rockland. For location call Marjorie at the Coastal AIDS Network at 338-6330

### The Lesbian Health Project - Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center.

Bangor will be offering low-cost, woman positive, lesbian-centered health clinics, usually on the first Saturday of every month from 9:00 am to 12 noon. The next two dates are September 12th and October 3rd. The Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center is located at 362 Harlow Street, Intown Plaza, Bangor.

Services will include women's health physical

examinations, health screening and referrals, health education and advocacy Health care will be provided by female practitioners in, a lesbian friendly environment For more information or to make an appointment, call 947-5337.

### 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

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### G/LSEN

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network works nation-wide to end homophobia in schools. All people who share in this philosophy, regardless of sexual orientation or occupation, are welcome to attend meetings of the Southern Maine chapter of GLSEN.

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of most months, with exceptions possible for school holidays.

GLSEN-Southern Maine meets from 6:30 to 8:30 at Deering High School, 379 Stevens Ave., Portland. Non-members welcome. For more information, call Janis at 207-998-5252 or write to P.O. Box 10334, Portland, ME 04104.

### Gay, lesbian & Straight Education Network, Downcast Maine Chapter

meets the first Sunday of each month at 2 PM at the Downeast AIDS Network, 114 State Street, Ellsworth. (In case of major holidays on that date the meeting may be rescheduled.) All who support the goal of schools becoming safe for all students and teachers are welcome, whether they are teachers or not.

We are a good mix of men and women, gay

and straight, teachers and others. We do teacher training and public education; and together with Downeast AIDS Network we are forming a chapter of Outright for young people. We coordinate our educational efforts with PFLAG and the Maine SpeakOut Project. For more information call Karen at 359 2347 or write to PO Box 373, Ellsworth ME 04605.

### Body & Soul

**The Gentle Wind Project** is a non-profit world healing organization with a unique healing technology.

Based on understanding human beings in terms of our electromagnetic structures, the Gentle Wind Project's healing instruments repair and restore a person's energy field from the damaging effects of personal tragedy and negative life experiences: alleviating anxiety, depression, and stress-related conditions.

Use of the healing instruments is always free. Call for the name of someone near you. Our researchers offer Introductory, Advanced, and Relationship Seminars for a minimum of 20-25 people with specific per person donations. For more information call: (207)374-2184 seminarg@aol.com <http://www.gentlewindproject.org>

### Gay-OK!

Of Greater Farmington is an informal social and discussion group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (LGBT&Q) individuals from the Farmington community and beyond.

We welcome newcomers and old friends each Thursday night from 7:30 until 9:00PM in the seminar room in the rear of the Psychology Building of the U Maine at Farmington campus (62 High Street). Please call Brian at 778-7379 FMI.

### Sister Space

A lesbian discussion group, meets on Monday evenings and topics will vary based on group interest.

This group is open to all Lesbians and will be held at the Unitarian Church on School St in Saco. School St intersects Main St. half way downtown.

The cost for the group will be \$2.00 to defray the cost of the room.

For time and other information contact Bobbi at 467-9166 or email [msw@ime.net](mailto:msw@ime.net).

## Beethoven, Brahms, Bernstein and the Boys

The Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents Beethoven, Brahms, Bernstein and the Boys. Guest Conductor Delmar Dustin Small. With special guests: vocal soloist Barbara McGivaren and the Black Sheep Chamber Ensemble.

It is some of the most beautiful music ever written; *Beethoven's Ode to Joy*, *Brahms Alto Rhapsody* and the long lost and delightfully funny, *Hungarian Goulash*.

Come hear this fabulous chorus and you will be moved, touched and thoroughly entertained! For an unforgettable evening, mark these dates on your calendar.

March 26 and 27. 8 P.M. Portland High School Auditorium. (Handicapped accessible). Tickets: \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door. Available at: Amadeus Music, Blackstone's, Bookland Mall Plaza, and Drop me a line or by calling 772-1384 with your Visa/ Mastercard.

Our concerts are sign language interpreted by the Meryl C. S. Troop. A portion of the proceeds of this concert will benefit OUTRIGHT-Portland.

For a *Fabulous* evening of Wonderful music, be sure to attend. Edward Reichert, artistic director.

This is our 7th year as a Chorus. The only Gay men's chorus in Maine. We have kicked off our campaign for Gala 2000 in San Jose, Califor-

nia in July of 2000. This is a world wide Gala Celebration of gay choruses.

Only 48 Male choruses are accepted by application, and we are one of them!!!! Watch for many upcoming events to help benefit our endeavor to Gala 2000!

We also have started something new this year called our Community Partnership Program in which we invite local community agencies to participate. We donate a portion of the concert proceeds to these organizations, as well as give them space at our concerts to show what their agency is about, hand out brochures, add to their mailing lists and are recognized from the stage. Our first Partner was the AIDS PROJECT.

This concert session is OUTRIGHT Portland. Our PRIDE concert in June, we will partner with the Southern Maine Pride committee.

We will also be performing in Waterville, at Colby College on Sunday, March 21, 1999 at 2:00 at the chapel on campus, sponsored by DAYS PRING. We are also performing in Gardener in April with Martin Swinger at Johnson Hall. This will be taped for later broadcast by MPBN.

Delmar Dustin Small is our guest conductor for this concert as well as for Pride. He is a native of Litchfield, Me. He was the accompanist for the chorus at its inception and held that post for

many seasons. He studied and graduated from Bates College in 1985 where he studied Organ and German.

He is currently accompanist of the Androscoggin Chorale, conductor of Lower Octave, the young men's choir of The Boy Singers of Maine, and musical director of Onstage: The Best of Broadway, a benefit for the Children's Miracle Network.

Delmar provides artists with vocal coaching, arrangements, orchestrations, and music publishing services through his business WindMill Music, and is the only Maine member of the International Molinological Society.

If you should need any further information, please feel free to contact me at

871-6496 or e-mail [NADEAD@MAIL.MMC.ORG](mailto:NADEAD@MAIL.MMC.ORG). or Mark McDonald, President of the Board of Directors, at 770-6717 or by email. [USUNM7BL@IBMMAIL.COM](mailto:USUNM7BL@IBMMAIL.COM).

We are always looking for new members, so if any Gay or Gay Sensitive Male is interested in singing with the chorus, auditions will be held in early April for our upcoming Pride Concert. Watch for dates and locations in your local newspapers and our WEB PAGE...[WWW.MAINE.COM / MGMC /](http://WWW.MAINE.COM/MGMC/)



# Maine's Country Music Pioneer Show (14th anniversary)

by Evelyn A. Potter

Maine's Country Music Pioneer show celebrates its 14th anniversary this year at Cony High School, Augusta on Sunday, March 7th starting at 1:00 p.m.

WPOR, 101.9, Portland 10-3, Real Country, Rockland and Norman Poulin Productions, Sidney sponsor the show. Some of the Pioneers who encouraged Poulin and appeared on the first show will be on hand to celebrate this anniversary.

They include the Gene Hooper Family, Tim "Lucky" Farrell and his famous fiddle and Ira Allen who will return to his native Maine from Nashville to perform. Other Maine Country Music greats who will share the stage are: Danny Harper, Wade now, Denny Breau, Don Cote, Frank Coffin, Fred "Tommy" Thompson, Kim and Jessi MacKinnon, Yodelin' Slim Clark and Dr. Kathy, Bob Elston, Buddy Phifer, Ebb Lovley, Russ Connell, Otto Proctor, Jr., Jackie Woodbury, The I eclairs, Ron Wright, future Pioneer Leigh Faulkner, and Kendall Morse.

Back by popular demand, this is Morse's third year on the show. Machias native, who now resides in Scarborough,

Morse is a Maine humorist and folksinger. Marshall Dodge (Bert & I) says, "Kendall is a natural. He has a fine voice, trained by nature, a natural wit and natural good taste in everything. He is the best of the State of Maine."

House Band for the show will be the Pioneer Band led by Denny Breau, son of Betty Cote and the late Hal Lone Pine.

Master of Ceremonies will be D. J. McCoy, morning man at WMCM, Rockland. He will share MC duties with Beverly

Dodge, known to her many fans as "Beverly the Prairie Sweetheart." Beverly played the Country and Western circuit for 36 years retiring in 1971. Now 78, Beverly said she knew when it was time to "hang up" her guitar. It was right in the middle of a broadcast when she decided she had had enough. "When we get older our voice changes. I knew it was time to get out while I was ahead," she said. She sold her guitar to someone in Georgia, and gave away her sheet music. "So I wouldn't be tempted," she said.

Beverly Dodge got her first guitar when she was in high school. A Christmas gift from her Mother. She taught herself to play using an instruction book and by listening to records.

In 1937, she had a weekly show on WRDO, the studio located at the corner of Bridge and Water Streets, Augusta, playing a 6:30 a.m. show. "I played to the guys going to work at CMP, the State of Maine and to the cows in,

he barn," she said with a smile.

Relating a story that the farmer on one of the local dairy farms had a radio in the barn and always listened to her music as he did morning chores.

In 1940, Ken MacKenzie asked her to join his show at WGAN, Portland. From there her career took her to the Lone Star Ranch in New Hampshire. She has broadcast from WFEA in Manchester, New Hampshire and WLAW, Lawrence, Massachusetts, WCOU, I Lewiston WCSH, Portland.

From 1947 to 1971, she played records and promoted big name bands over WFAU, Augusta, as well as doing benefits and visiting hospitals and rest homes throughout Maine. Her tours throughout the country saw her with Tex Ritter,

Sons of the Pioneers, Patsy Montana, Faron Young, Hawkshaw Hawkins, Grampa Jones and Big Slim to name only a few. She remains in close contact with Doc and Chickie Williams, Wheeling, West Virginia who played the New England and Canadian circuit for many years. When asked about her New England fellow musicians, Beverly immediately mentioned Georgia Mae, Carver, and Massachusetts.

As for her Maine favorites and those that she appeared with it seemed there were too many to mention, but her scrapbook contains personal memories and pictures from Al Hawkes, Yodelin's Slim Clark, as well as the late Maine greats, Rusty Wellington, Tony and Juanita, Dick Curless, Hal Lone Pine and Curly O'Brien.

Beverly has received the Curly O'Brien Memorial award and in 1996 received the Maine Country Music Association Hall of Fame award.

Among her biggest fans Beverly names former Governor John Reed and his family who included his father, Walter Reed. Her scrapbook contains several handwritten notes from the governor while in office expressing his fondness for country music and offering his thanks for bringing such name band to Maine.

Following her retirement from music in 1971, Beverly in the banking industry retiring again in 1988 to her comfortable home of 25 years in Litchfield.

I have traveled all over the country and Canada, but that was my other life, she said in referring to her music career. "Maine is home and that is where I want to be with my cats," she said, referring to her two 16 years old felines.

A broken hip, now mended and arthritis seem to slow her but little, although she does admit she does not try to



Pictured: Beverly the Prairie Sweetheart, 1948

go out on the ice. Her son, Ronnie, lives with her and does her errands when she does not want to go out. Music, she said with a smile, "NO! another son, Chuck, Lives and works in Bangor. Asked if Ronnie liked Country Classical!"

Beverly consents to being a master of ceremonies from time to time, but she "absolutely will not sing." She says she is looking forward to being with her old friends at the Pioneer Show in March.

Tickets for the Pioneer Show are available at Good Vibrations, Waterville; Newport, Maine Citgo; South End Grocery, Rockland or from Poulin Productions, 2426 West River Road, Sidney, 04330, Telephone 207-547-3444. Advanced tickets are \$12.00 or \$14.00 at the door.

## Making the Links: GLBT organizing and the death penalty

By Susan Raffo

Let me admit it right away: I am against the death penalty. This is an emotional as well as a moral stance, one of those beliefs where I can't always explain WHY I believe what I do, I just do.

I might justify this belief with data but this belief was born long before I learned any statistics. Conversations about the death penalty, like those around abortion, often exist in this land of gut emotion and belief.

That's what makes their debates so passionate and uncompromising. Understanding this, I want to do more than just react when I hear that the Log Cabin Republicans, followed by a range of individual voices, have called for the death penalty for the murderers of Matthew Shepard.

Logically, I don't believe that glbt political organizing and advocating the death penalty can mix. We know that those who receive the death penalty are disproportionately people of color and people who live in poverty and that the race and class of both perpetrators and victims count as much in a trial as does justice.

We know that if you commit a crime in some states, you are more likely to receive the death penalty than in others (two thirds of all death penalty cases take place in five states - Texas, Virginia, Florida, Missouri, Louisiana - while in Minnesota, the state I live in, there is no death penalty). Put those two pieces of information together and you have an inconsistent system in which the more powerful have a legal framework that backs

them when they seek retribution over those less powerful.

As glbt individuals who experience discrimination because the legal system does not recognize our lives, we can not turn around and say, well, the legal system might not work for us as queer people but it will certainly act in humane ways when dealing with those who commit a crime.

I also would not advocate that the solution is to create a more fair and just death penalty for all. The injustice of the system is the easiest analysis I can use to prove why this system should be abolished but it's a dangerous analysis if I fundamentally oppose the death penalty.

The logic of the death penalty says that certain individuals who commit certain kinds of crimes have lost their right of reform. It says, 'we give up on this individual, what they have done is so horrible, so completely wrong, that we now end all interest in this person's life and, as a result, we take this life away from them'. This logic draws a line in the sand and says, good and right things exist on one side of the line and if you cross it, you are no longer worthy of living.

This way of looking at the world corresponds directly to glbt issues. There are those who believe that glbt people are inherently evil: that we are scarred, sick, either genetically faulty or else guilty of making immoral choices and should be either helped, healed or eradicated.

I need to believe that someone raised from the cradle to hate and fear

me has the capacity for change. I need to believe this because I have seen it happen. I then have to be consistent and hold out the same belief for the murderers of Matthew Shepard. Whether or not they ever recognize their actions as wrong, their opportunity for this recognition can not be taken away.

This is not about calling Shepard's murderers, Henderson and McKinney, innocent victims. They brutally murdered a young man and then assaulted two other students, both Latino. They were clearly out to get anything that smelled "different." They need to be held accountable for their actions. I have no problem saying and believing that, even as I know how chaotic and increasingly antihuman our prison system is. But to call for their murder?

To feel that I have the right to draw a line in the sand that determines life and death? How does this make me different from those who draw those same lines on the subject of queerness? There is nothing wrong with using personal morality to judge the activities of another person or organization as wrong and to then advocate for some kind of action based on that personal moral judgment.

But to advocate for the death penalty, to advocate for the ending of another life based upon a personal belief system and morality of justice: that is wrong. That extends the idea of judgment beyond personal choice and, literally, into the arena of life and death.

There is no single glbt movement or politic. If anything, what those who call for the death penalty have done is

provide another opportunity for each of us to think about what kind of movement we want to be a part of. A movement that only seeks legislation to protect glbt civil rights is one kind of movement. This kind of movement is not necessarily advocating for a different society altogether - although some of its proponents might be.

Rather, it seeks to open space for glbt individuals to take part in American life as we know it unimpeded by discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

There are other kinds of movements. I am interested in those other kinds, something that is not only interested in guaranteeing an end to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender expression, but one that seeks to fundamentally address the compound inequalities built into American life.

I am looking for glbt leaders to stand up and denounce this call for the death penalty followed by an analysis of the US prison system that pays attention both to the prison system's increasing erosion of the most basic human rights while also looking at the experiences of glbt prisoners and the tense mixture of sex, desire, homophobia, and the profound in equity of power that pervades prison life.

Henderson's trial is set for March 22nd and McKinney's is set for August 9th. Please, speak out against the use of the death penalty in their trials. Call your glbt organizations and demand that its leaders denounce this particular move.

Speak for a glbt community that is



## Ron Adams moves in with PTC as The Nerd

(Bangor) - From March 10-21, Penobscot Theatre Company will present Larry Shue's modern comedy *The Nerd* at the Opera House in downtown Bangor.

In the same vein as Shue's previous hit *The Foreigner*, this comedy is full of physical humor, sight gags and contemporary wit set in the 1980's.

*The Nerd* revolves around the reunion of a young architect with the man who saved his life in Vietnam a man he has never met. This savior, however, turns out to be a hopeless "nerd" a bumbling goof with no social grace, little intelligence, and less tact, who outstays his welcome with a vengeance.

Director Collene Frashure (Bangor) explained that "with the help of his loony friends, the desperate architect schemes up what he thinks are some crazy stunts to rid himself of this unwanted guest. We all find out, however, that this guest the nerd is pretty crazy himself, and it's going to take something a little more insane to make him leave."

Frashure has returned to PTC from Boston and will not only direct *The Nerd*, but also one of the 1999 Maine Shakespeare Festival productions this summer. In between, Frashure performs in PTC's touring production of *The Merchant of Venice* as well as leads workshops for "The Play's The Thing" all across the state.

Featured in the title role of the "goofy nerd" is audience favorite comic Ron Adams (Brewer), who has performed in such memorable productions as *The*

*Foreigner*, *Greater Tuna*, *A Flea in Her Ear* and *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*. Adams is a veteran of the Penobscot Theatre stage as well as a fourth-year psychology major at the University of Maine.

Playing Willum Cubbert, host of this unwanted houseguest, is Andrew Lyons of Orono. Lyons was most recently seen in PTC's *A Christmas Carol* as Bob Cratchit. Cast in the roles of the mischief-making friends are Kim Shute (Idaho), who appeared in PTC's *Hedda Gabler*, and Allen Adams (Orono), last seen in *A Christmas Carol* and *Wait Until Dark*. Shute is also a

college intern in residence with Penobscot Theatre from the Moscow, Idaho campus of the University of Idaho.

Arriving at the most inopportune time are the stoic and stuffy Waldgraves, played by Kent McKusick (Bangor), Leslie K.A. Michaud (Ellsworth), and Nick Cyr (Bangor). Audiences will remember McKusick's versatility in the multiple-roles of both *Greater Tuna* and *A Tuna Christmas*. Michaud was last on the PTC stage as the zany director Zorah Bloch in *Inspecting Carol*, as well as Maine Shakespeare Festival's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Cyr is also a familiar face from both *A Christmas Carol* and *In A Grove: Four Japanese Ghost Stories*.

A "Pay What You Wish" final dress rehearsal of



*The Nerd* will be offered on Tuesday, March 9 at 7PM, and previews continue Wednesday and Thursday, March 10 and 11 at 7PM. Opening Night is Friday, March 12 at 8 PM and includes a catered reception with cast and crew. Regular performance times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7PM, Fridays at 8PM, Saturdays at 8:30PM and Sundays at 2PM. There is also one Saturday matinee at 5PM on March 20 only. A free Artistic Director's Forum will be held following the Sunday matinee on March 14.

Performances will take place at the historic Bangor Opera House, a handicap-accessible theatre located at 131 Main Street in downtown Bangor.

## DYKE PSYCHE

### Beyond the Pale - A Jewish Lesbian Historical Novel

by Esther Rothblum

I recently had a conversation with Elana Dykewomon about her latest book *BEYOND THE PALE*, a novel about the lives of Russian Jewish lesbians who immigrated to North America at the turn of the century. Elana Dykewomon has always broken new ground. Her book *RIVERFINGER WOMAN* was one of the first lesbian novels.

*BEYOND THE PALE* won the 1998 Lambda Literary Award for lesbian fiction. I asked her how she became a writer. "I was always writing. I was a writing child," she said. "When I was 12 or 13, I tried to kill myself. I was one of those statistics of adolescent lesbians who attempt suicide."

When I was institutionalized, I realized that writers didn't have to be gendered in the same way that girls and boys did. That is, I could choose to be neither a traditional girl nor boy; I could be a writer." Elana found that she could be eccentric and free in that role as a writer.

In college at the California Institute of Arts, Elana met a number of experimental poets and became active in gay liberation. One of her teachers knew someone in publishing. "This was 1971, and they were starting a slightly pornographic series for housewives to cash in on the new feminist sexuality," Elana remembered, laughing, "and told me to write up my experiences."

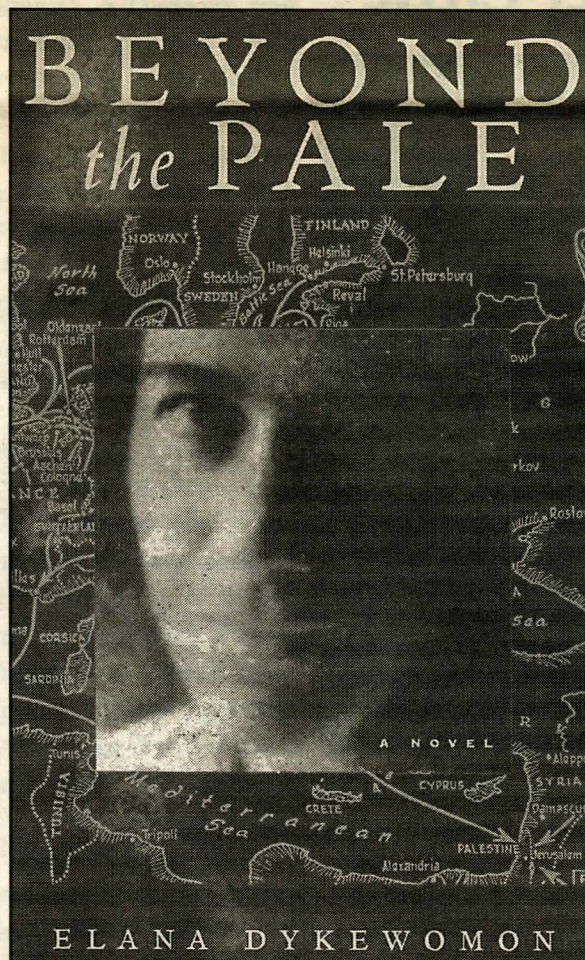
I wrote the first third of the book in 18 straight hours. I wanted to write a lesbian novel with a happy ending." But the publisher said it was not what they were looking for. By this time Elana had moved to the women's community in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The feminist publisher Daughters Inc. had sent flyers around town and a friend recommended that Elana send her book to that new company. They accepted *RIVERFINGER WOMAN* which came out in print in 1974, one year after they published *RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE*.

The Naiad Press reprint of *RIVERFINGER WOMAN* concludes with an essay detailing Elana's process in getting this book published. Elana went on to publish three more books before her current novel. *THEY WILL KNOW ME BY MY TEETH* was a collection of short stories which she self-published in 1976.

She also published a book of poems entitled *FRAGMENTS FROM LESBOS*. In 1995 Onlywomen Press published her book of poems *NOTHING WILL BE AS SWEET AS THE TASTE*. Elana also had a long stint as an editor of the feminist periodical *SINISTER WISDOM*. *BEYOND THE PALE* began over ten years ago as a poem.

After she had written that poem, Elana felt that there



was a longer story there. "So I started to think who these two women would be and who their families would be, what would make them migrate. I started to read old books about travellers in Russia at the turn of the century."

The depths of the anti-Semitism in these books was stunning to me." "I wrote what became the midwife's story, and decided this could be a novel. When the first half of the book was done, I got some unencouraging responses from publishers."

One publisher said they had too many Jews on their list already!" When Elana was doing a reading of a section of the book, an editor who happened to be in the audience knew of another woman who was searching for lesbian material to adapt for her storytelling performances. "My section was then dramatized," Elana told me. "I saw this woman, Helen Mintz, performing it once and I was floored. It's amazing to see someone act your work."

She performed it in Vancouver where the editors of

Press Gang Publishers heard it and wrote to me asking me if they could consider publishing the book." As Elana continued work on the book, she had to research many aspects of life at the turn of the century. "I had to read the really dry stuff," she said, "like the history of the grain trade in Odessa. I couldn't go to Russia, so I was looking for descriptions of streets and figuring out what daily life was like."

My girlfriend Susan Levenkind is a librarian and she was very good at finding things out for me. I would read a book and then use their bibliography as a starting point. I learned how to be an historian."

A friend gave her a book about the Women's Trade Union League, which turned out to be quite a lesbian organization. She went to labor libraries, and even looked up the transportation system in New York City at the turn of the century. At book readings, Elana prefers sections of her book that describe the pogroms in Russia. "I also like to read the sections that have a little sex in them," she said. For example, when Chava and Rose fall in love: "Rose leaned towards me, put her hand on my cheek to turn my face so we could see each other..." So if you want to and I want to, who starts?"

I pulled the tenement air down to the bottom of my lungs. This was harder than going out on strike. I moved my lips onto Rose's. Together. We had been lying in bed together for more than two years. Careful. Cousins. Left side, right side, I'm worn out, me too, goodnight. No, I changed my mind as the kiss engulfed our faces and my hands found the soft flesh of her shoulders and pressed her close.

This was easier than going on strike. This was easier than anything." The response from readers has been wonderful. "I've gotten lots of letters saying 'This is my grandmother's story' or 'now I understand my history' or 'heterosexual women in their 70s or 80s who love this story,'" said Elana. The "Lammies" (Lambda Literary Awards) are to lesbian writing what the Oscars are to Hollywood. Elana's award for lesbian fiction is the equivalent of the best actress award in the Oscars. She was awarded the most recent Lammy for lesbian fiction.

For further information, contact Elana Dykewomon at [dyke@sfsu.edu](mailto:dyke@sfsu.edu). *BEYOND THE PALE* was published in 1997 by Press Gang Publishers, 225 East 17th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5V 1A6, Canada.

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](mailto:esther.rothblum@uvm.edu).



## The Maine Jewish Film Festival



Photos provided by "Women making films"

The Maine Jewish Film Festival, March 4 to 10, is proud to present two films of lesbian interest on Monday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at The Movies on Exchange Street, Portland. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at The Movies box office, or by phone at 879-0028. Discount passes are available.

The films are: *Treyf* (USA, 1998, 54 minutes, 16 mm, English) Directed by Alisa Lebow and Cynthia Madansky

How do two young progressive Jewish lesbians struggle with the conflicts of Judaism and secularism, being lesbian and being part of the traditional Jewish community and everything in between?

In part, by making this film. The exploration of the directors' partnership opens with a supermarket conveyor belt, saturated with the cultural delights of Passover. *Treyf* traces the themes of Passover: freedom, oppression, tolerance, understand-

ing, bitter, sweet, and the dream that peace and justice will prevail.

The filmmakers wrote, "These themes speak not only to our Jewish experience, but to our lesbian experience." A central subtext is the struggle to create identity.

AND



Photos provided by "Women making films"

*Love Story* (England, 1997, 60 min., video, English and German w/subtitles) Directed by Catrine Clay.

This documentary tells the story of a love affair in wartime Nazi Germany between a hider and a hide-ee. In October 1942, Lilly West was a model 26 year old Aryan mother of four and wife of a low-ranking Nazi official. Then she met and fell in love with 21-year-old Felice Schrader, a young Jewish woman, who was on the run and hiding her identity

with false identification papers.

Felice was also a member of the Jewish resistance. Even after Lilly discovered the true identity of her lover, the couple remained together until Felice was arrested by the Gestapo. Now in her eighties, Lilly recounts their story, supplemented by photos, letters, poems, interviews with others, and archival footage of the period.

The films are sponsored by Videoport

## Looks on Books

### First Resort by Nanci Little



Paise for *First Resort*, a new novel by Nanci Little.

"As she did with her earlier novels, *Thin Fire* and *The Grass Widow*, Nanci Little creates a completely credible universe, peoples it with unforgettable individuals, and invites us along for the emotionally charged ride. *First Resort* is an extraordinary exploration of friendship between a lesbian and a straight woman. Little's characters become our friends too, women and men who live on in our memories and in our hearts."

Deborah Peifer, Bay Area Reporter

"She captures the physical worlds — of the fairways, the clubhouse, of high society elegance — and the emotional worlds — of fear, of confusion, of friendship — with precision. Little distinguishes between what characters say and what they keep to themselves, and those distinctions reveal the facades that



people use to maintain propriety or to survive. Don't let the golf scare you away from this read.

Even if putt-putt under the windmills is the closest you'll ever come to a round of eighteen, *First Resort* offers more than a lesson in teeing up. And if you are a golfer, it may improve your short game."

N. Boutilier, *Lambda Book Report*, Nov 1998

**Synopsis:** At twenty-five, Jordan Bryant was a rising star on the LPGA tour. At forty, those dreams a distant and painful memory, she maintains an almost clinical distance between herself and the people she meets at Catawamteak, the grand resort on the coast of Maine where she is Director of Golf.... Until she meets Gillian

Benson.

Widowed and left wealthy by a husband "the whole town knew was an abusive, philandering bastard," (Gillian comes to Maine in search of a piece of summer, or perhaps a summer of peace: to Catawamteak, with its acres of oceans and tides of sweet-mown grass... openness with as few limits as her new found freedom.

*First Resort* is a meticulous exploration of the growth of the bonds of affection, love, and friendship between women.

**About the author:** Nanci Little received her degree from the University of Maine. A US Army veteran, she has worked as a truck driver, waitron, draftsman, carpenter, cookbook editor, secretary, administrative coordinator for a battered women's project, home health care provider, massage therapist, and writer. She is an avid golfer and bicyclist.

She worked from her educational and military experiences in the writing of the well-received *Thin Fire*, which was nominated for the 1993 American Library Association's Gay and Lesbian Award for Literature. In *The Grass Widow*, she continued to pursue her affection for both the period piece and the thoughtful exploration of her characters' emotional development that won her critical acclaim for *Thin Fire*.

*First Resort* is her third novel. She has several more simmering in the hard drive.

TITLE: *First Resort*  
AUTHOR: Nanci Little  
ISBN: 1-887237-01-1

PRICE: \$11

BINDING: Trade Paper

LENGTH: 323 pages

DATE: December 1998

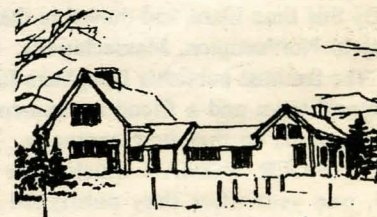
PUB: Odd Girls Press, P.O.

Box 2157

Anaheim, CA, 92814-2157,  
8 0 0 - 8 2 1 - 0 6 3 2  
publisher@oddgirlspress.com  
http://www.oddgirlspress.com

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Bunny Richards  
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# A & E Calendar

## Camelot

Lerner and Loewe's enchanting musical retells the legendary story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. This timeless tale of chivalry, secret love and shattered dreams captures audiences with the magic of wizards and the romance of knights in shining armor. March 4 - April 11, 1999 Thursdays 7pm, Fridays 8pm, Saturdays at 8pm with additional 4pm matinees (last 3 Week-ends), Sundays 3pm with an additional 7pm performance Sunday, March 28th. The show is sponsored by Tyco and Fox Run Mall.

For ticket information or reservations, call the Box Office 603 433-4472.

## Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

The story of 5 winners of a chance to enter a world of pure imagination where dreams not only come true, but are edible too! March 13 - April 11 Saturdays & Sundays at 1pm. All seats \$5.00. Charlie is sponsored by Citizens Bank Toy Shop. For ticket information or reservations, call the Box Office 603 433-4472.

## 33rd Annual Bow Street Fair

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre is seeking artisans, craftpersons, food vendors & entertainers for The 33rd Annual Bow Street Fair, the longest running outdoor arts & crafts fair in beautiful downtown Portsmouth, NH. The Bow Street Fair will be held on Saturday, July 17th & Sunday July 18th 1999 from 10am to 5pm with free admission to the general public. For more information or an application, please contact The Seacoast Repertory Theatre 603 433-4793 x116.

## Acting Classes

Acting classes for ages 5 - 17 are starting up again in February. PAPA in Portsmouth, NH is a non-profit educational & producing performing arts center, dedicated to nurturing the pursuit of theatre, dance & music arts. For more information contact Eileen at 603 433-4793 x125.

## Popular class breeds published writers...

### Join the ranks!

John Cole, one of the veteran instructors of Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, will teach a comprehensive six-week course on writing and publishing nonfiction. Historically, about half of the students who have taken this course published their work, (some during and most soon after the class ended). The class will be held on six consecutive Tuesdays, March 16 through April 20, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at MWPA, 12 Pleasant Street, Brunswick.

Participants will learn about the markets for nonfiction newspaper and magazine articles, nonfiction books, and corporate nonfiction (business publications). Sources for market information and sample formats will be distributed.

Topics include manuscript planning, preparation and evaluation; participants will receive individual consultations with the instructor. Participants will develop, write, and market a work of their own. The cost is \$90 for MWPA members, \$120 for others. Call 729-6333 to register; enrollment is limited to 15.

John Cole of Brunswick is the author of 18 books including Life List (Down East Books, 1997). He's published hundreds of articles in such noted publications as the New York Times, Fortune, Field & Stream, Audubon, Newsday, Sports Illustrated, Smithsonian, Yankee, Atlantic Monthly, and Life. Cole is the editor of Maine In Print and was the founding editor of Maine Times. He has taught at Bowdoin College and USM.

## Statewide AIDS Support Program

Needs volunteers to be a buddy to someone with HIV/AIDS, their partner or family member. Buddies provide practical help in the form of transportation and advocacy; and companionship and emotional support in a confidential, one-to-one relationship. Women and young people are the fastest growing infected populations now. AIDS has not gone away. We need your support.

Training's are scheduled for:  
Kennebunk: March 5 and 6

Portland: March 26 and 27, April 2 and 3

If you are interested in becoming a Buddy, or would like more information, please call Jill Wallace at (207) 725-4955 or email at mass@gwi.net

## Dance Classes

Jazz, Tap, Tumbling & Ballet taught by Ralph Hamilton at Portsmouth Academy of Performing Arts. Classes available for all ages. For more information contact 603 433-4793 x 112.

## Auditions

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth, NH is currently seeking adult opera singers/actors for its upcoming production of *Master Class* starting Lucie Amaz which plays April 22-May 23. For an appointment or additional information please call 603 433-4793 & ask for Eileen x125 or Dana x117.

## Volunteers

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre is seeking administrative volunteers to assist with the marketing, development and PR departments. Please call 603-433-4793 x115 and speak with Maurice.

## "The Nerd" at Penobscot Theatre Company

DATES Wednesday-Sunday, March 10-21, 1999

TIMES Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00PM, Fridays at 8:00PM, Saturday, March 20 only at 5:00PM, Saturday, March 13 and 20 at 8:30PM

Sundays at 2:00PM (An Artistic Director's Forum follows the matinee on Sunday, March 14)

PLACE Bangor Opera House, 131 Main Street, downtown Bangor

ADMISSION Preview Wednesday (March 10): \$10. Preview Thursday (March 11): \$12.

Opening Night (March 12): \$20 (includes catered reception with cast and crew) Wednesday (March 17): \$12 Thursday (March 18): \$17 Friday (March 19): \$19 Saturdays: \$19 Sundays: \$17. Discounts available for students, seniors, educators, military and groups of ten or more.

## Widen your prospective on poetry

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring an evening poetry workshop with award-winning poet Robert Chute. This three-session workshop meets on Wednesdays, March 10, 17, and 24 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Bookland in the Promenade Mall in Lewiston.

The workshop will be run as a directed discussion featuring peer review, not criticism, of participants' work. Participants will be encouraged to widen their perspectives on poetry, exploring the benefits of adopting a persona or delving into the historic or fantastic.

The group will discuss the importance of truth and form in poetry. Participants should send a poem to MWPA by March 5; this poem may be in any stage of construction (max. 1 page). The cost is \$45 for MWPA members, \$65 for others. Call 729-6333 to register; enrollment is limited to 12 with a minimum of 6.

Robert Chute of Poland Springs is the author of eight books of poems including his most recent, *Androscoggin Too*. The Pejepscot Poems (Nightshade Press, 1997). He won the 1996 Chad Walsh Poetry Prize from the Beloit Poetry Journal. Chute taught at Bates College for 30 years.

## Maine Shakespeare Festival On-The-Road Booking

### Schedule for: The Merchant of Venice

March 2 Central High School, - Corinth, ME

March 3 Mattanawcook Academy, - Lincoln, ME

March 4 Hermon High School, - Hermon, ME

March 4 University of Maine @ Presque Isle, - Presque Isle, ME

March 5 Easton High School, - Easton, ME

March 16 Greenville Schools, - Greenville, ME

March 25-26 Bridgton Academy, - North Bridgton, ME

March 30 Calais Middle School, - Calais, ME

April 8 Nokomis High School, Newport, ME

April 10 Theatre at Monmouth, Monmouth, ME

## Honing the personal essay:

### A Critiquing Workshop

Portland Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring a critiquing workshop for essayists led by Elizabeth Peavey. The workshop will be held On Saturday, March 13 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, room 419, Elm Street, Portland.

Casting stories into essays presents a number of challenges: how to develop a clearly focused idea, how to construct a compelling opening and memorable close, how to make the story come alive with vivid detail, and how to pare away the flab. And that's after the writer has managed to get started!

The instructor will discuss these topics, but the focus of this workshop is on the participants' manuscripts. Participants will read their essays aloud and then the group will discuss ways to improve them, using the constructive critiquing techniques introduced by the instructor.

Each participant is asked to bring an essay for discussion; the essay should be a maximum of two typed pages. The cost is \$45 for MWPA members, \$65 for others. Call 729-6333 to register; enrollment is limited to 15.

Elizabeth Peavey of Portland is a contributing editor to Down East magazine. She has written a biweekly column for Casco Bay Weekly since 1996. Her essays and articles have also appeared in Down East, Yankee Magazine's Travel Guide to New England, The Yankee Traveler, Offshore, and Maine Times. Peavey is an award-winning poet and instructor at USM.

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance (MWPA) is a nonprofit literary organization that promotes the value of literature and the art of Writing by building a community of writers, readers, and publishers within Maine. For information call 729-6333 or write MWPA, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick, ME 04011.

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# TRAVELLER



# Flaming Productions presents "Jeffrey"

"The way it started was at Gay Pride. We were handing out fliers for ANGELS IN AMERICA. That's how we met — doing ANGELS at Mad Horse. Craig had on his JEFFREY T-shirt from the Boston production, and people kept coming up to us saying, 'When are you doing JEFFREY?' So when we came home that day we were like, 'Huh...well...let's see what happens'. I mean, it was sort of a joke; we didn't think anything would come of it."

JD Merritt is describing the genesis of Flaming Productions' Maine premiere of Paul Rudnick's JEFFREY, opening at the Oak Street Theatre on Wednesday, February 17. Well known and praised for his work as an actor, primarily as a Mad Horse company member, Merritt will don another hat for this play as co-producer with his partner, Craig Houk, and director Wendy Poole Houk continues the story. "We had to come up with a name for ourselves, so originally it was 'Flaming Fag.' Our logo was going to be a burning cigarette, but we decided that would be a little harsh. So we cut it back to 'Flaming' to make it more of a positive thing - 'Flaming' as in light, shedding light."

"So we sent for the rights, and we got 'em," JD. picks up. "That was right around the time Mike Levine was pulling back his schedule at the Oak Street Theatre, so there were slots open. It all sort of snowballed at the same time, so we put it before the Oak Street board and got the slot. So suddenly it was, 'Uh-oh we really have to do this now.'"

"We really wanted to do it at Oak Street; that was one of our criteria. At that point, nobody knew how things were going to shake out, if Oak Street was going to maintain."

Craig, who'll be assuming the post of managing director at Oak Street after JEFFREY closes, reinforces that theme. "It's actually part of our mission statement, to nurture this particular venue. We're hoping that the excitement we create around this production will create support for the venue. Even though it's not our only goal, it's a large part of what we want to do. We don't think JEFFREY would be as effective or as meaningful to us if we didn't do it there."

"It's that important to us," J.D. chimes in, "to ail of us, Mad Horse, the whole theater community in Portland. I mean, selfishly, I want to keep working! Call me crazy, but..."

The high point of his artistic work thus far has to be his brilliant portrayal of the tormented Prior Waite in Mad Horse's production of Tony Kushner's ANGELS IN AMERICA, Parts I and II. And a personal milestone as well with the emergence of a relationship with guest artist Craig Houk, playing Prior's conflicted lover, Louis.

A recent transplant from outside of Pittsburgh by way of Bowling Green University and Boston, Houk had come to Maine because "Boston had become overwhelming; I needed to get away. I actually didn't intend to stay here, but I did, and ended up auditioning for Mike Levine. He cast me in BURN THIS."

"My intention was to become a lawyer, but I took a theater course. This is actually pretty funny, but part of that class required that we do 20-30 hours of work in the scene shop. Then I took about three years off, didn't do anything, but I made my way to Boston. I made my professional debut there in JEFFREY for the SpeakEasy Theatre Company."

"I played Darius in Boston, and Dan Auger is doing a fabulous job with him here. My mission in that role was to show Darius as an optimist and smart beyond himself. I think because his mind is clear, not cluttered, he almost seems vacuous. He doesn't fill his mind up with crap, with negative. It's not about thinking for him, it's about living and doing. He kind of empties his head intentionally."

J.D., who'll be playing Sterling, reinforces the play's positive outlook.

"The most joy-filled character in the play is Darius, who's dying. He walks around radiant ail the time because he's filled with life. He knows he's not going to be around, but he's alive now. Jeffrey (played by Dennis Scott) is ail morose and not dealing with his life, and here's Darius say-



Front row - Dana Auger, Ben Turner, Bob Poirier; Middle row - Craig Houk, J.D. Merritt, Dennis Scott, Dan Conley; Back row - Christine Marshall. Photo by Susan Mills.

ing, 'Come on, lighten up, go out, have a date, do something!' He understands."

Craig reiterates, "That's what's great about this play. It's not the AIDS victim bitching, moaning, complaining, trying to grab one last desperate thing. The two characters that are infected are uplifting, one of them, Darius, unbelievably beaming and positive, who pushes through."

J.D. again, "And Steve (played by Dan Conley), the other character who has the disease, gets frustrated, hut he's very clear about his frustration. It's like, 'Can I just be a gay man for a minute? Do I have to be a red ribbon? Do I have to be a symbol for your sympathy? No. I'm still alive. I'm not that patch on the quilt.' He's crystal clear around that."

The upbeat theme sounded by the play flows into the pair's outlook as a production team.

J.D. defines, "We call it 'queer' because we want it to celebrate ail of our struggles. Not 'gay' as opposed to lesbian. We'd like to find good lesbian pieces because that genre is even smaller than the gay plays."

Craig continues, "'Queer' doesn't translate for us just as 'homosexuality'; it translates as 'unique.' Originally if someone was 'queer,' they were different, unique. We think that the most interesting people and topics in this world are 'queer' in that sense. That's the kind of work we want to find and do."

"The plays we have, *Angels*, *As Is*, *The Normal Heart*, are extremely important to the gay community, and we should cherish them. They're part of our history and will be part of our future. AIDS is a very serious issue still, and gay bashing and discrimination; we can't forget those things."

But we have to balance them. It's time to take gay theater in new directions. "We're not about being a play factory. We want each production to be fun, an event. We couldn't do that four times a year."

They have a piece in mind for next year, but "We ain't tellin'!" J.D. laughs. They both wax rhapsodic about the cast (filled out by Bob Poirier, Ben Turner and Christine Marshall), the crew (led by tech director Tom Caron, their lighting designer/roommate Joan Sand) and director Poole.

"I was watching a rehearsal," Craig laughs, "and I'm thinking, 'No, no, no, this isn't how we did it in Boston.' But I kept watching, and what she was doing was even bet-


ter. She's just amazing."

"I think finally, in the arc of gay theater," muses Merritt, "what Rudnick and some other playwrights are doing is transitioning the movement. He's saying, 'We can write about these awful things and still have fun with it, be irreverent.' JEFFREY is an AIDS play, but it's also one of the funniest pieces of theater in the last 10 years."

The pair, with co-producer/director Wendy Poole (another of Barnett's Meisner class alumnae and a vital part of Brunswick's Theater Project) plan to do a show or two a year.

And again, to the play and its creator, J.D. pays homage. "I still carry one of Rudnick's essays around and re-read it all the time. His point is that it's the gay soul that's behind this movement, the gay soul that has continued to laugh and have fun in spite of these terrible, insurmountable odds. That's what he celebrates with JEFFREY, why this play touches me on every level, because it's so funny and it's so moving and it's so filled with joy. Father Dan says at one point, 'How dare you not lunge for any shred of happiness?'"

So lunge for your phone and call (207) 775-5103 for Tickets/reservations.



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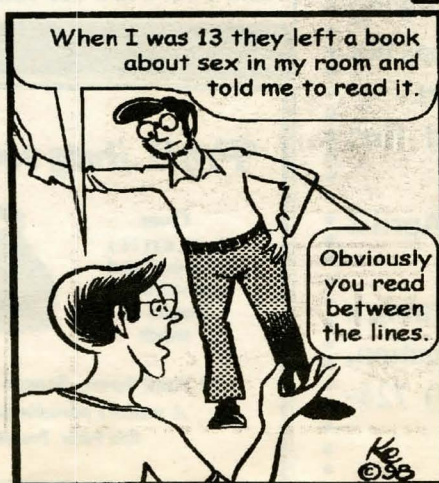
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"Meike's vocal style is unique, featuring an acrobatic delivery powered by palpable emotions reminiscent of Happy Rhodes or Kate Bush but with more of a blues leaning." Lucky Clark for Central Maine Newspapers.

Jean Meike (pronounced mikey) began her singing career as a toddler singing gospel music at churches all over New England with her family. She has written songs and played her music since then in bands that developed devoted local followings in Maine.

In 1994 she began her solo career and recorded her first CD *DANCE ON FIRE*, released in 1997, on recording gear she purchased while working as a truck driver at a local paper mill. *DANCE ON FIRE* generated enthusiastic reviews and fans locally and nationally. "Stimulating, satisfying, and reliable!" wrote Paul Williams, editor and founder of *Crawdaddy!* "I love it."

Jean has played regularly at The Left Bank Cafe in Blue Hill Maine, a venue often called the Cafe Lena of the 90s, that is frequented by many nationally known singer/songwriters and bands.

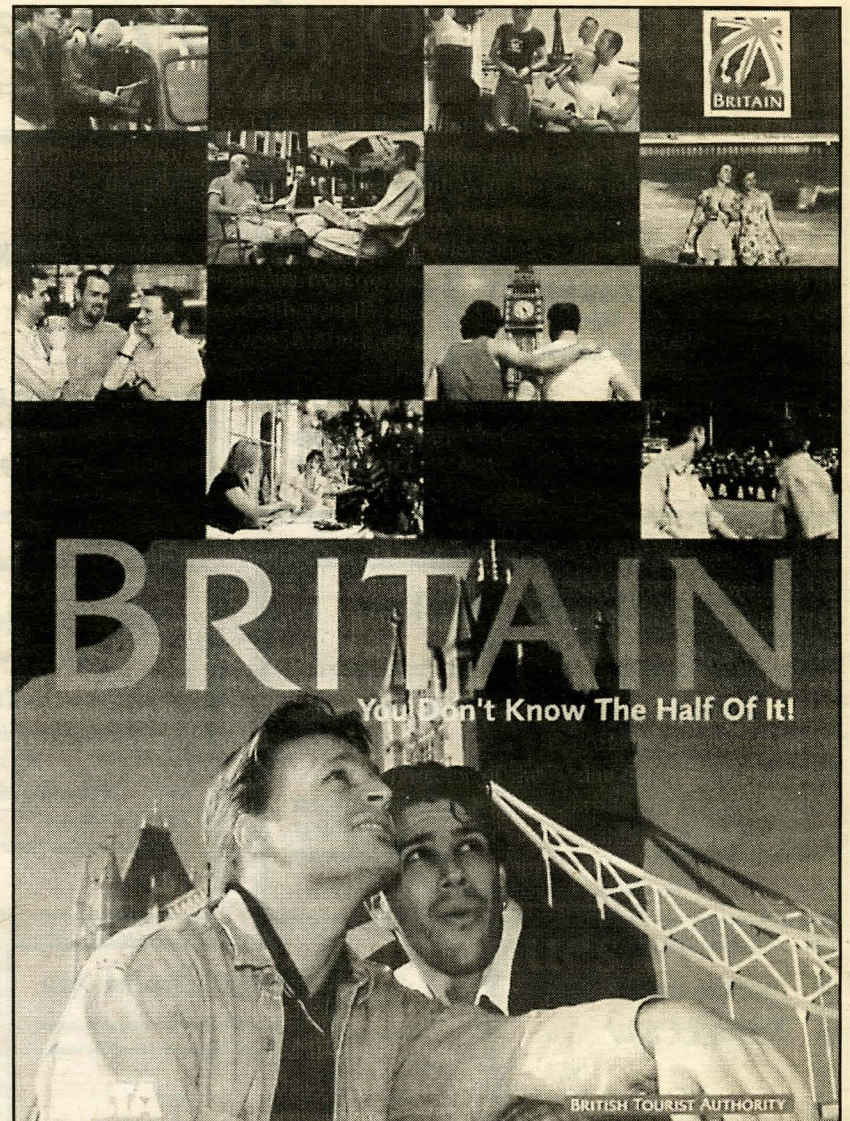
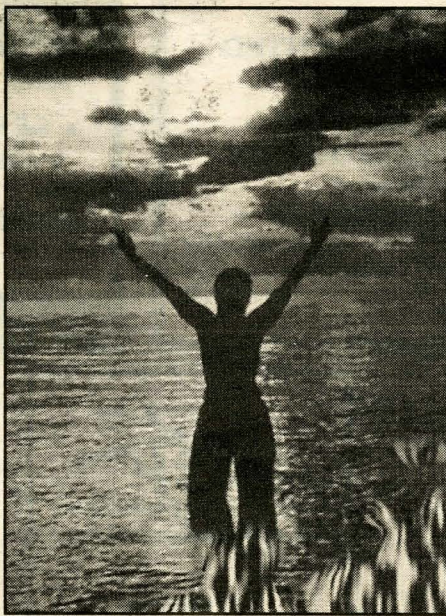
"From ballads to blues to rock Meike has an ear for the spiritual in her music. Her songs serve as signposts along life's journey." -Bangor Daily News. Jean's second CD *On My Way* is the next phase of the journey. The music is unique and powerful, as is her voice.

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### ACROSS

- 1 more of less vertical  
5 Miami gay area, 2 words  
14 singer Houston, initials  
15 understanding  
17 town of Nova Scotia  
18 TOY in a mirror  
20 host of "Won't you be my friend" Mr. Rogers Neighborhood, initials  
22 saint abbr.  
23 General Services Administration  
24 gay resort town in Mass.  
29 forced out of place  
31 group for alcoholics, abbr.  
32 when we get our pronouns mixed, he is a ...  
33 chemical symbol for gold  
35 chemical symbol for radium

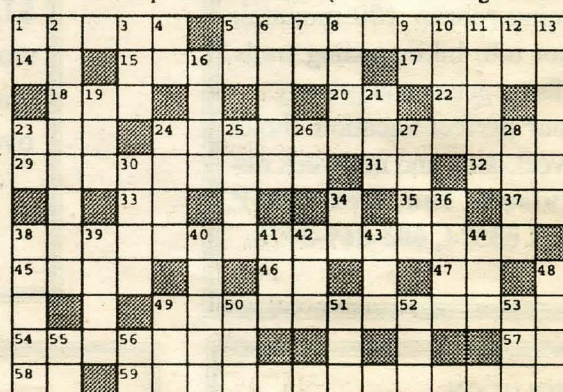
- 37 19th century poetess Dickinson, initials ("Beauty is not caused. It is.")  
38 lesbian icon Rita Mae Brown's best-selling book, 2 words  
45 snake-like fishes  
46 French masculine pronoun

### DOWN

- 1 root beer brand  
2 "..... Pictorial," Bob Mizer's ground-breaking 1951-1990 gay male photo magazine, 2 words  
3 TIA in a mirror  
4 knot (1 nautical mile) abbr.

- 10 at first; formerly  
11 cars  
12 chemical symbol for chromium  
13 having a hard bony projection from the skull  
16 voiceless sound  
19 Organiza-

- abbr.  
27 receive as a return for service  
28 interjection that expresses extreme pleasure  
30 sets  
34 Garden State, abbr.  
36 epochs  
38 coral strips in the water near the surface  
39 smear  
40 there were several nights of this at Stonewall  
41 Land of Lincoln state, abbr.  
42 TV & film mogul ... Turner  
43 international news-gatherer  
44 boy  
48 W.Va. senator Robert; polar explorer Richard  
49 very small  
50 rest (as a postal address) abbr.  
51 trouble  
52 sunrise to sunset  
53 fuss  
55 FDR's wife, initials ("Understanding is a two-way street.")  
56 sounds like 'are double you' Solution elsewhere this issue  
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