Community Pride Reporter, 02/1999

Community Pride Reporter

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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. "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 attacks "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 childrens 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 childrens 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 argued 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.

Organizations Jointly Oppose Death Penalty

Groups representing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people speak out against capital punishment. Today’s 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 killing Matthew Sheppard to death in Wyoming.

On December 28, Prosecutor Cal McKinney and Russell Arthur, Director of the Astraea National Lesbian Human Rights Commission said: “Our clients are not pick and choose human beings fur gay rights. We can- not pick and choose human rights,” she added. “The death penalty is wrong in all cases.”

Kevin M. Catlin, Executive Director of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund national law center, said: “The legal system’s fallibility and the effects of bias on court decisions. With this experience, we oppose the death penalty for all people—because the legal system is incapable of imposing it equally, because our system makes mistakes and always will and because the state simply should not have the power to take away human life.”

Martin Omales-Quintero, Executive Director of LLEGO—National Latino/ LGBT Organization said: “Killing a homophobe will not kill homophobia.”

Kate Kendall, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights said: “There are doubts fur our criminal justice system more deeply flawed than the death penalty. It has been re- peatedly 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 move- ment that places faith in the possibility of change. Capital punishment, a final and hopeless solu­ tion to the social problem of vio- lence, not only subverts the possi­ bility of individual change but it also fails to solve the problem of violence.”

In late crimes laws, on the other hand, recognize that classes of people become terrorized by violent acts against individuals. haunt the problem that and offer at least one solution: criminal justice re­ sources directed toward educating and deterring the domestic terror­ ism of bias crime.”

Richard Haymes, Executive Continued on page

Far Right continues to self-destruct

By Kevin Ivers

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

Falwell’s Latest Anti-Gay Attack

Two building controversies today signaled the political deterioration of social conservative organizations. Falwell’s Christian Coalition, for example, and Jerry Falwell Jr., son of the religious leader, are in a bit­ tle with the Republican Party leadership to move away from the far right and its leaders.

“H ow much more embar­ rassment will it take for the Repub­ lican leadership to move away from these people?” Said Richard Tafel, executive direc­ tor of Log Cabin Republicans. “I have advice for all the Repub­ lican officials who we’re shaking their heads when they read about this today. How about you stop invit­ ing Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson to speak at our con­ ventions from now on?”

Reverend Jerry Falwell, among the main far right leaders coun­ ted by the Republican Party leadership for years, announced today that a character of the popular television show “Teletubbies” is “role-modeling the gay lifestyle.”

The character, called Tinky Winky, is “pur- ple -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-Christian is alive to­ day” and is “very likely a Jew.” At the same time, Donald Hodel, president of the Chris­ tian Coalition, resigned in a bit­ tle 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 indicated he is ran­ ding president and chairman of the or­ ganization after Hodel’s departure.

Both controversies came on the same day the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, a leading vote re­ search organization, released its final report on the 1998 elec­ tions. Its analysis included a section on the role of the social­ ly conservative right.

“ With the single exception of [Sen. Peter Fitzgerald (R- IL)], running against a largely doomed candidate,” the CSAFE report concluded, “all candi­ dates from the social conserva­ tive wing of the GOP in com­ petitive statewide races lost, in­ dicating that the advocacy based on hostility to government, op­ position to abortion and flag burning, for prayer in the schools and similar nostrums may not be able to provide the votes the ACLU believes that the yond districts that are already drawn to insure [GOP suc­ cess].”

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

Yet still, six GOP presiden­ tial aspirants met last week with the Committee for the Rest­ oration of American Values, an umbrella of far right leaders and organizations, including the Christian Coalition, that is Li­ tigation-testing candidates for the 2000 GOP nomination on issues such as banning abortion, anti­ gay discrimination, whether to declare gambling a crime, the death penalty, and so on.”

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 Repub­ lican organization, with state and local chapters nationwide, a federal political action com­ mittee and a national office headquartered in Washington, D.C. ICR will sponsor a panel discussion on the future of the Republican Party on Tuesday, February 16 at 10:00am at the National Press Club.

Community Pride Reporter February 1999

P.O. Box 40357
Richmond, Maine 04357
Phone/Fax (207)737-3498
Our Mission: Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of lo­ cal, national and international news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

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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 substantiative 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 eradicate 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 established 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, WA, 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 in 1999 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 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 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 Lanco, Mary Lou Johanns, 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 publications, 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 offices 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 by 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. "More concentration 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 Apprentice- ship programs and the Artists' Residency 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 report to the commission on June 11, "Maine Artist's Day." Any artist interested in having a copy of the survey can request one by calling the Maine Arts Commission, 287-2724 (e-mail: jan.poulson@state.me.us).

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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 real jobs. They get real apartments. They start calling their parents “mom” and “dad.” Some people can eat peanut butter cups and go on. But I have never had a car. But job, I started my first credit card. I have a car. But sometimes I still find myself sitting in front of the television set thinking, “You should really turn that off and go out to play.” And on more than one occasion I have tried 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 boxers 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 sister's 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 barn kept rising, and it seemed as if I would never clear it.

Finally, I gave up. I admitted to myself that I was 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 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 know 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 (Alex: Baldwin Doesn't Love Me) and the forthcoming (That's My Favorite to You). He welcomes e-mail at shoplile@aol.com.

Organizations Jointly Oppose Death Penalty

continued from page 2

Director of the New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project said: “AVP unconditionally opposes the death penalty. As a human 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 threat of 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 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 Akey (212) 529-8021
Gay Men of African Descent Kevin McGruder (212) 414-9344
GLBT National Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission Sydney Ley (212) 253-8680
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Peg Byrom (212) 899-8855
Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center of New York Dan Willson (212) 620-7310
Lesbian & Gay Rights Project-ACLU Matt Coles (212) 549-2627
LLEGO-National Latino/a LGBT Organization M. Oramas-Quintron (212) 466-8240

Community Pride Reporter is looking for dedicated individuals in the Portland/Augusta and Bangor areas to help distribute the newspaper... For only one hour of your time, you could help everyone enjoy CPR in your area.

Please call 207-737-3498 and volunteer today!

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MY QUEER LIFE: Growing Pains

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** YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP AWARD **
Gay Straight Student Alliance of Mt. Desert Island
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. Support Gay/lesbian 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. P.O. Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894, phone: 207-862-2063. Email: mgress@hantel.tds.net

TRANSSUPPORT. Non-sexual, peer support for Maine’s crossdressers and transsexuals and their SO’s. Yearly dues. P.O. 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 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

Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network works nation-wide to end homophobia in schools. All people who share a philosophy, regard less 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 Joan at 207-998-5252 or write to P.O.Box 10334, Portland, ME 04104.

Gay, lesbian & Straight Education Network, Downeast 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 P.O.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.

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Gay-O.K.

Of Greater Farmington is an informal social and discussion group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals from the Farmington community and beyond. We welcome newcomers and old friends each Thursday night from 7:30 until 9:00PM in the semi-circle room in the rear of the Psychology Building of the UMaine 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 mww@jim.net.

Beethoven, Brahms, Bernstein and the Boys


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, Ode to Joy, Brahms Alto

Come hear this fabulous chorus and you will participate. We donate a portion of the concert proceeds, orchestrations, and music publication arrangements, and music publishing services through his business WindMill Music Publishing, a 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. or Mark McDonald, President of the Board of Directors, at 770-6717 or by email. 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 / MGC?
by Evelyn A. Potter

Maine Country Music Pioneer Show (14th anniversary)

The Maine Country Music Pioneer Show celebrates its 14th anniversary this year at Coby High School, Augusta on Sunday, March 7th starting at 1:00 p.m. WPOR, WPOR-L, Real Country, Rockland and Norman Powell Productions, Sidney sponsor the show. Some of the Pioneers who encouraged Powell 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 were the first to turn 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 Morris, Verne Keyes, Johnie “Moo” Brown, LaRose MacKinnon, Yodelin' Slim Clark and Dr. Kathy, Bob Elston, Buddy Fuller, Ebb Lovley, Russ Connell, Otto Pecor, Jackson Javary, The Elders, Ron Wright, future Pioneer Leigh Faulkner, and Kendall Morse.

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 folklorist. 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.”

Johnny Conto also returns to the show this year. Johnny has been performing for over 30 years and his radio show is the longest running radio show in the state of Maine. He is known for his great stories and will have special guests every year.

Those appearing this year include: Maxine Bee, Varrick “Big Slim” Simonds, Charlotte “Big Cat” Allen, 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 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. “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 Dodges 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 others.

In 1957, she had a weekly show on WRSO, the studio located at the corner of Bridge and Water Streets, Augusta, playing an average of 36 hours a week. “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 Longch Paint Ranch in New Hampshire. She has broadcast from WFEA in Manchester, New Hampshire and WLAW, Lawrence, Massachusetts, WCOO, 1, Lewiston WCSH, Portland.

From 1947 to 1997, 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 name is known in every state in the union 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.

As for her Maine favorites and those that she appeared with it seemed there were too many to mention, but her laptop contains personal memories and pictures of 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.

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Among her biggest fans Beverly names former Gov. John Reed and his family who included his father, poet, Rex Stout. Beverly has received hundreds of letters and notes from the governor while in office expressing his fondness for country music and offering his thanks for bringing such a big name band to Maine.

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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 filled with physical humor, sight gags and contemporary wit set in the 1980's.

The story revolves around the reunion of a young architect with the man who saved his life in Vietnam a man he has never met. This savory, 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 grace and agony.

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 houseguest is a crazy guy 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.

Salvation 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 William 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 mischievous-making friends are Kim Shute (Idaho), who appeared in PTC's Hodd Cabble, 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 Waldravges, 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 8PM and includes a catered reception with cast and crew. Regular performance times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7PM, Fridays at 8PM, Saturdays at 7:30PM and Sundays at 2PM. There is also one Saturday matinee at 3PM 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.

BY BEYOND THE PALE

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 American 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 attempted 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 19 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 to their 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 LESBIOS. In 1995 Onlywomen Press published a 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 SENSE.

BEYOND THE PALE began over ten years ago as a poem. Elana found that she had written that poem, Elana felt that there was a longer story there. "So I started to think who these 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, "The response was the book. I 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 Levenkog 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."

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 Rosal 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's to say?"

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 for 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 letters 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 Lammie for lesbian fiction.

For further information, contact Elana Dykewomon at dyke@fshu.edu. BEYOND THE PALE was published in 1997 by Press Gang Publishers, 225 East 17th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1L6, 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: estherroth@uvvm.edu.
Looks on Books

First Resort by Nanci Little

Praise 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 Catarawmack, the grand resort on the coast of Maine where she is Director of Golf.... Until she meets Gillian Benson.

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, 800-821-0632
publisher@oddgirlspress.com
http://www.oddgirlspress.com
DISTRIBUTORS: Alamo Square, Bookpeople, Koen, and Ingram

The Maine Jewish Film Festival

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

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

The filmakers 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

First Resort offers more than a lesson in 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, waiter, draftsperson, 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: $5

Tickets may be purchased at The Movie 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 sponsored by Videoport.
**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

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**A & E Calendar**

- **Dance Classes**
  - Jazz, Tap, Tissue & 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 is seeking administrative volunteers to assist with the marketing, development and PR departments. Please call 603 433-4793 x 115 and speak with Maurice.
  - The *New* at Penobscot Theatre Company DATES Wednesday-Sunday, March 18-22, 1999 TIMES Wednesday-Saturday at 7:00PM, Saturday at 2:00PM, Sunday at 7:00PM, Sunday 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 and 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 Clary. This three-session workshop meets on Wednesdays, March 10, 17, and 24 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Bookbind 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 person or driving 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 Clary of Portland Springs is the author of eight books of poems including his most recent, Androscoogin Too. The Pejepscot Poems (Nightshade Press, 1997). He won the 1996 Chad Walsh Poetry Prize from the Maine Poetry Journal. Chute taught at Bates College for 30 years.

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**Maine Shakespeare Festival On-The-Road Booking Schedule for: The Merchant of Venice**

- **March 2 Central High School, - Corinna, ME**
- **March 3 Mattawoccok Academy, - Lincoln, ME**
- **March 4 Hiram High School, - Hiram, 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**

- **Honoring the personal essay:**
  - A Critiquing Workshop

Portland Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance is sponsoring a critiquing workshop for essayists led by Elizabeth Pewey. 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 Pewey 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. Pewey 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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**LESBIAN GUIDE TO USA**

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**1999**

- Complete 1999 Calendar of Women's Festivals & Events
- Outdoor Adventures & Retreats
- Tours, Vacations & Cruises
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**LEBANON**

**March 1999 Community Pride Poster Page 9**
"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 Hook, and director Wendy Pook. "We had to come up with a name for ourselves, so originally it was 'Flaming Fang.' 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 eh-we 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's been 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 met - doing ANGELS at Mad Horse. Craig, who'll be assuming the post of managing director there in JEFFREY for the SpeakEasy Theatre Company."

A recent transplant from outside of Pittsburgh by way of Bowling Green University and Boston, Hook had come to Maine because "Boston had become overwhelming; I needed some venue to celebrate all 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."

"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 telling!' J.D. laughs. 'They both wax rhapsodic about the cast (filled out by Bob Pfeifer, Ben Turner and Christine Marshall), the crew (led by tech director Tom Caron, their lighting designer/roommate Joand 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 better. She's just amazing."

"I think finally, in the arc of gay theater," notes 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 Pooe (another of Barnet's Meiner class alumn of and a vital part of Brunwick'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 filled with joy. Father Dan says at one point, 'How dare you not have any shred of happiness?'"

So hunge for your phone and call (207) 775-1033 for Tickets/reservations.
Jean Meike

"On My Way"

"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 mi-key) 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 Crowsalkin'.

Jean has played regularly at the Left Bank Cafe in Blue Hill, Maine, a venue often called the Cafe Lena of the 90's, 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 in her voice.

Highlights from On My Way include "The Clown", "Stand Tall", and "Still Driven". Every cut on this CD tells its own compelling story of inner growth and healing and the ability we have to develop spiritual connection through relationship with other people.

Jean Meike taps into deeper source and sings about what it's like to be human on this planet with a message delivered by music that seems to flow freely and have a life of its own.

See Britain inside and out, from traditional sights to cosmopolitan nights, Britain, You Don't Know The Half of It! Features information on popular tourist destinations and places of interest to gay and lesbian travelers.

For your free copy of this 20-page color brochure, kindly call 1-877-9UK-RAINBOW (1-877-857-2462). Or visit Britain on the web at www.usa.gateway, visitbritain.com and look for the rainbow icon.
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Victoria Zavaznik, Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Community Employment Agency

 Classifieds

Yellow Birch Farm:
B&B or weekly rental on organic farm abutting wildlife refuge. Remote, unspoiled coastal Maine, near Canadian border.
Birding, whalewatching, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking.

Belfast Area:
Accommodations, newly renovated farmhouse in charming village, short drive to many coastal attractions, shopping and entertainment.
X-C ski, birding, canoeing, golfing, or evenings with board games, a good book and a hot tub soak. Weekly or nightly rates.
The Station house, P.O.Box 125

Yellow Birch Farm:
B&B or weekly rental on organic farm abutting wildlife refuge. Remote, unspoiled coastal Maine, near Canadian border.
Birding, whalewatching, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking.

Belfast Area:
Accommodations, newly renovated farmhouse in charming village, short drive to many coastal attractions, shopping and entertainment.
X-C ski, birding, canoeing, golfing, or evenings with board games, a good book and a hot tub soak. Weekly or nightly rates.
The Station house, P.O.Box 125

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

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

Lesbian Paradise!
20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy.
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