

DIVERSIONS



The captivating Beth Orton induces shivering Nov. 21 at Roseland Theater

Pine for Beth

Beth Orton holds a unique spot in the galaxy of pop musicians. An honest voice searching to make sense of love fleeting, she tells stories of extremes more intertwined than separate. Blending ambient electronic loops with rich British folk traditions (Nick Drake meets Portishead), the young siren's music is startlingly original.

Touring on her new album, *Daybreaker*, Orton's all-acoustic show Nov. 21 at the Roseland is sure to lure nesting dykes out of the house and into the autumn rain for a dose of gorgeous aching shivers. She may not be one of us, but if you're a girl pining for a girl who doesn't want you back, hunt for a copy of *Trail-er Park*, throw on some headphones, and feel the presence of someone who's been there, too.

Roseland Theater is at 8 N.W. Sixth Ave. Tickets for the all-ages show are \$17 from Roseland Grill or Fastixx.

—Cori Taratoot

Make it a double deck

Every Sunday you can find them at Hobo's. Sometimes there are only a couple of tables full but often five or six. They're card-carrying members of the pinochle fanatics group. And now, with a tournament scheduled for Nov. 23, there will be even more of them.

George Blay seems to think this is normal. He began the card sessions 4 1/2 years ago because "I lived in Portland for about 11 years and didn't know many gay people. I thought,

this is ridiculous. And I loved playing pinochle." Gays + pinochle = ecstasy.

The second annual tournament is open to "anybody who knows how to play double-deck pinochle," Blay states, but warns, "We play according to the rules; there's no table talk or anything like that." (If you play pinochle, you know what all this means.)

Essentially, you sign up as a single player and get your partner through "the luck of the draw," he says. But nobody gets too caught up in the competition. "It's tournament style, yes, but we play to have fun."

The tournament includes trophies and prizes for the best pinochlers. "I've gotten donations like crazy from a lot of places in the gay community," Blay comments brightly. "There are some nice prizes going to be given away."

The pinochle tournament begins 4 p.m. at 120 N.W. Third Ave. Entry fee is \$15 at the door, but it's nice if you register in advance at 503-760-1248.

Lesbian cable access

Are you missing talk show lesbians since Rosie's been gone? Well, come January you can turn that TV back on, because Portlander Becca Herald is producing *Out on the Town on Portland Cable Access*.

A once-a-month live production with a talk show format, advice section and calendar of lesbian-oriented events, the program has been brewing in her mind for quite some time. Herald teaches computer graphics and television production in the Portland Public Schools district.

"I love doing it, and I've always worked on other people's shows. I've had this idea just forever, and finally my fiancée said, 'What's keeping you from doing it?' and I said, 'Just actually doing it.' And so I'm doing it."

The show will premiere in January with Herald as director and co-host, alternating monthly with another co-host. She hopes the show will entertain as well as inform the public.

"I've had so many people say, 'Well, did your last boyfriend make you gay?' I'm sitting on the plane going to Florida one time by a woman, and she said, 'You know, I've never met a gay person; do you mind if I ask you some questions?' There's no outlet for people to ask questions," says Herald, who hopes the straight community might tune in to the show, too. "I'm aiming it at everybody. I want it to be an informational thing that anybody can get something from."

The show could still use a few more technicians, who don't necessarily need to be experienced; training is available. If you want to help, contact Herald at outonthetownpca@aol.com.

Baby dyke book wins!

Portland novelist Sara Ryan remains in "total shock" since the success of her novel *Empress of the World* at the Nov. 7 Oregon Book Awards. So shocked that, upon being announced as winner of the Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Readers, she almost lost her acceptance speech. "I'd written something up," she notes, "but the piece of paper was buried at the bottom of my bag, and I had to dig for it."

Ryan overcame the momentary awkwardness to acknowledge the support of young readers "who have recognized themselves in the novel's characters." The book is about two teen-age girls who fall in love at summer camp.

Such support has only increased after she posted the news of the win on her Web site. "They've been excited," Ryan says. "I've gotten congratulations e-mail from fans as far away as Croatia. Some of them are hoping the book will become part of school curriculum now."

That may soon happen. Ryan reports teachers were among the purchasers of *Empress* at the Central Library's Nov. 10 Writers Resource Fair.

The award has also provided further incentive for Ryan to complete a sequel to the popular book. She hopes to finish the first draft by the end of the year, "but I don't want to rush it; I want to make sure the second book is as good as it can be. But I know that there are people waiting for it because they keep e-mailing me, which is very flattering." Meanwhile, new readers can find excerpts from the first book online at www.sararyan.com/empress.

—Kevin Moore

From PTL to PETA

It seems Tammy Faye Bakker Messner loves the animals as much as she loves the gays.

"My animals are the only people to see me without my makeup," says Tammy Faye, who appears on the cover of *People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' 2003 Shopping Guide for Caring Consumers*. "If any companies are still testing on animals, I say, 'Shame on you,'" continues the woman who, as we know, single-handedly supports the cosmetics industry.

PETA's annual shopping guide lists more than 550 cruelty-free companies that don't test their products on animals. Order it for \$8.50 from 800-483-4366 or www.peta.org. Be warned, however, you'll be on PETA's mailing list for the rest of your natural-born life.

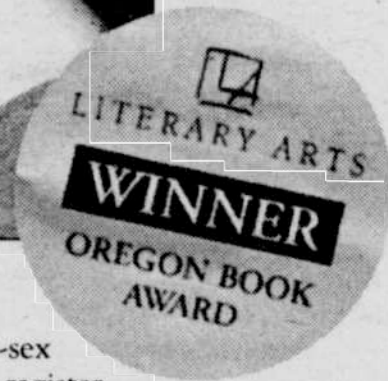
Out on the tube

November's edition of the queer television newsmagazine *In the Life* features guest host Bill Brochtrup, who leads viewers through a profile of gay men and lesbians who are taking activism onto the streets, to the government and into their homes.


The episode includes a story on the long and controversial career of Larry Kramer, the man once dubbed "America's angriest AIDS activist." Other stories: legalized civil



Sara Ryan shoots and scores with *Empress of the World*



unions and the first same-sex couple to register under a new law in Quebec; Johnny Symons' Sundance (and Portland queer film festival) hit documentary *Daddy & Papa*; Latin music sensation Albita, who emerged from

Miami's South Beach queer community; gay and lesbian Arkansans who are challenging the state's sodomy law; AIDS activist Wan Yanhai's release from detention by Chinese authorities after implicating the government in the growth of the epidemic. *In the Life* airs 11 p.m. Nov. 20 on Oregon Public Broadcasting. 

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW



Tammy Faye

A GUIDE TO PRODUCTS THAT ARE NOT TESTED ON ANIMALS

SHOPPING GUIDE FOR
CARING CONSUMERS 2003

PETA

Tammy Faye stumps for bunnies



The second annual pinochle tournament is Nov. 23 at Hobo's