

Solstice!

Saturday,
December 16, 2006
4:00 PM & 7:30 PM

Enliven your spirits on
a soulful journey
through the mystery of the
Winter Solstice

Catlin Gabel School
Cabell Hall, 8825 SW Barnes Rd., Portland

\$18 Advance - \$20 At the Door

Tickets: Phone (503.AURORA1),
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Bob Mensel, Artistic Director
Michael Barnes, Principal Accompanist
presents

**Goodwill
To All**



Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, 2006 8pm • Sunday, December 17, 2006 2pm
Kaul Auditorium, Reed College

The hundred voices of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus will fill the hall with holiday music embracing various cultures and traditions. No PGMC holiday would be complete without a sing-along, this year accompanied by a spectacular organ brought in just for this concert.
All three shows will be interwoven with our wish for Peace on Earth.

Tickets \$25, \$20 and \$15
Order tickets now, online at www.pdxgmc.org or call the PGMC office at 503-226-2588

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books

Back to School

Relive your teen angst with these novels aimed at young readers

by Karen Kudej

Rainbow Road

by Alex Sanchez; Simon & Schuster, 2005; \$16.95 hardcover

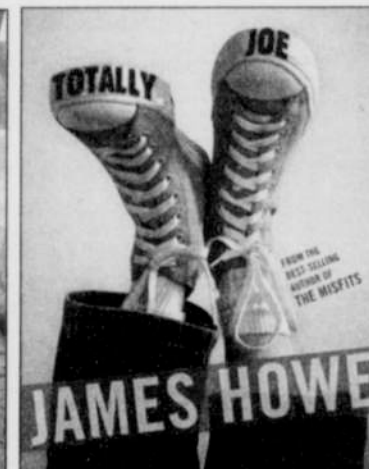
In this sequel to *Rainbow Boys* and *Rainbow High*, Alex Sanchez continues the story of three young men coming to terms with their sexual identities as they head toward adulthood.

Jason, Kyle and Nelson, fresh out of high school, make for an unlikely trio. Jason, a star athlete, only recently came out to his high school basketball team and to his coach. While his team accepted him, Jason lost the college basketball scholarship he had been awarded. He's still struggling to discover what it means to be gay, and although he loves Kyle, he's confused by his occasional attraction to girls.

Kyle is the brain of the group. He'll be heading off to Princeton in the fall, and he worries that his relationship with Jason won't last long-distance. Add to the mix Kyle's best friend, Nelson. With pink hair and a big personality, Nelson has been out since he was 3. He doesn't understand Jason's self-consciousness about being openly gay; the two are seemingly as different as they could be.

When Jason receives an invitation to go to Los Angeles to be the keynote speaker at the opening of a high school built for queer kids, Nelson gets the brilliant idea that the three of them should take a road trip from Virginia to California. Along the way, the boys try each other's patience as they learn new things about the gay community and come to accept themselves and each other.

While some young adult books translate well to any age, *Rainbow Road* might disappoint the sophisticated reader. However, for the queer teens who have a limited supply of books geared toward their demographic, it's worth the read and in the end offers hope not so much by wrapping everything up in a happy ending, but by leaving open the possibilities. Sanchez features a broad cross section of the queer population, exposing young readers to options they might not come across in their day-to-day lives.



Totally Joe

by James Howe; Atheneum, 2005; \$15.95 hardcover

Readers might recognize James Howe's name from his popular children's books, *Bunnicula* and the *Pinky and Rex* series. He's also penned *The Misfits*, the novel that inspired National No Name-Calling Week.

Howe is back with *Totally Joe*. Joe Bunch (who sometimes calls himself JoDan) is a seventh-grader whose English teacher has assigned a yearlong project of writing an alphabiography, an A-to-Z biography in which the theme of the first chapter begins with A and runs through the alphabet to the concluding chapter Z, at the end of the school year. Joe isn't the most popular boy in school and most definitely isn't, as he says, a guy-guy. But he has a strong sense of who is and has a supportive group of friends and family including Allie (who starts off the first chapter), a 12-year-old diehard feminist and activist; Skeezie, who gives him tips on how guys cross their legs; and Aunt Pam, who introduces Joe to the music of Ani DiFranco.

Joe likes Bert and Ernie, chick flicks and Colin, one of the school's popular boys, who likes Joe back. Even with a strong sense of self, Joe fears coming out to his family. He has to learn how to handle the school bully, and he has to decide if he should stick it out with Colin, who can't get beyond his fear of being openly gay.

Howe creates an endearing character with Joe. The alphabiography is full of personality, humor and honesty. Each chapter concludes with a life lesson ranging from "Middle school is like being trapped in

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