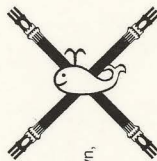




Provincetown  
CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS

Provincetown STRAIGHT AHEAD.  
*Waste not. Want not.*

P-Town, Inc. — Formerly Provincetown  
[www.tiac.net/users/reroot/ptowninc.html](http://www.tiac.net/users/reroot/ptowninc.html)



*You'll swear you were really there.*  
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A4

STAMP

POST CARD

Visit P-Town Inc.'s Theater in the Ground at Septic Space. Call DNA Gallery, 508-487-7700.

Space reserved for U.S. Postal Service

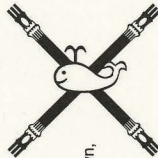
# Visitor Processing Center



**P-Town, Inc. - Formerly Provincetown**

**P-Town, Inc. - Formerly Provincetown**  
CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS

The **Visitor Processing Center** is the latest attraction of our Cape-tip theme park. It offers guests the comfort and assurance they need to safely enjoy our exclusive up-scale destination. For your **P-Town, Inc. GOLDCARD™** and merchandise visit our website: [www.tiac.net/users/reroot/ptowninc.html](http://www.tiac.net/users/reroot/ptowninc.html).



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STAMP

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Also visit **DNA/P-Town, Inc. Septic Space**, the world's first and only authentic underground gallery. DNA Gallery, 508-487-7700.  
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# Critchley sees chance to cash in on Y2K

By Mary Ellen Butler  
BANNER STAFF

For years Provincetown has been working to expand its traditional summer season and become a year-round tourist community. Now local satirist Jay Critchley has waded in on the debate.

His solution: create a Survivalist Camp Resort from Thanksgiving 1999 to April Fools Day 2000, to capitalize on the impending Y2K crisis that will drive yuppies from the cities.

"That's why we came up with this. Since everyone is clamoring to bring people here in the winter and no one seems to be enjoying the quiet and solitude that is traditionally why we're here, let's fill the town up for 12 months," Critchley says. "That's why this was created to exploit that momentum and that crisis."

He adds, "If Y2K were in July

we'd have to come up with another plan."

Not just any yuppies are welcome to make the drive here in their sport "futility" vehicles. Only the gay, lesbian and bisexual survivalists are allowed at Critchley's camp, which pokes fun at what he calls the attitude of the growing gay majority in Provincetown.

"I think some people would like to see Provincetown just strictly as a gay town and I think that's what I play with this survivalist campground," he says.

Critchley's latest satire uses various sites around town and transforms them to make a point and to make people laugh.

"Fun is serious. Humor is serious. Laughter is tears," says Critchley, whose piece about the survivalist camp will be featured in the annual magazine Provincetown Arts, which is scheduled to hit newsstands today. "This year

Provincetown Arts asked me to do a piece for the magazine, something original. I came up with the idea of doing a placemat, which I've always loved. Who doesn't love placemats? It's always curious what restaurants think is important to put on a placemat."

His Survivalist Camp Resort map will also be available in placemat form at Clem and Ursie's Restaurant, at the DNA Gallery; and at the Provincetown Art Association & Museum. Most of the placemats will be suitable for eating on, but 100 have been signed and laminated.

All of the drawings on the placemat are by George Crosby, an artist, painter and illustrator who has worked on a number of projects with Critchley over the years.

The map shows the camp resort, a "gayted theme park," called "P-town, Inc., — Formerly Provincetown," and all of its assorted attrac-

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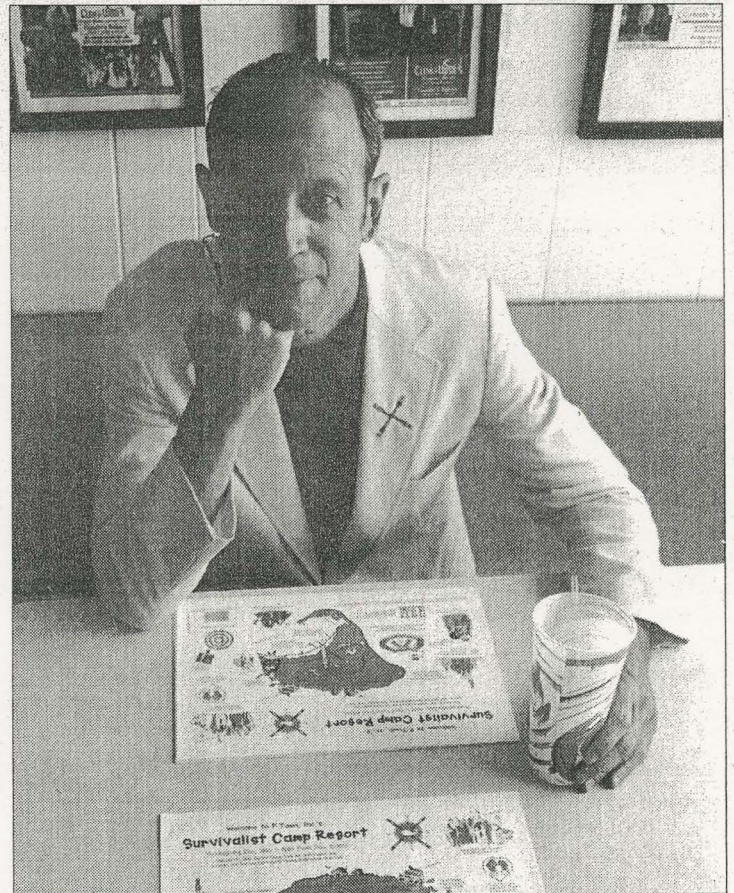


Photo Vincent Guadagno

Jay Critchley with his satirical placemat.

7/8/99 p3 Banner

# An exorcise in futility

*“Sports futility vehicles” serves  
as Re-Rooters theme*

By Joe Burns  
BANNER STAFF

Christmas carols or Lewis Carroll? It was hard to tell last Thursday when Provincetown conceptual artist Jay Critchley led 25 to 30 hardy souls in song during the 16th annual Re-Rooters Day Ceremony at the water's edge at the east end of Provincetown.

The tide was high and the sun was sinking on the cold clear day as Critchley, wearing what appeared to be either a space alien outfit designed by Ed Wood or the latest in fast food franchise finery, led the assembly in the chant “strops ytilituf selcihev,” a reversed refrain that, in a parallel universe, would be “sports futility vehicles” but in this case was the theme of this year's ceremony. It follows in the grand tradition of earlier inspirational messages such as 1994's “T'nod ksa, t'nod llet” (“Don't ask, don't tell”), 1991's “Lio ym spil” (“Oil my lips”), and the 1985 kickoff concept, “Feeb eht s'erehw” (“Where's the beef?”).

This year's theme is Critchley's way of commenting on our consumer-driven culture, particularly our craving for oil. Critchley said

vehicles, which have become so popular in this country, are a symbol of wanton waste. “Why are we fighting? So we can get 10 miles per gallon?” he asks.

The ceremony itself is the participants' way of ringing out the year-end holidays (which, using Re-Rooters reverse logic, would explain why it's conducted near the Holiday Inn). Christmas carols, prayers and incantations are read and recited: “Carol of the Bills,” “The 12 Days of Stockpiling” and “The 10 Commandments of K2Y Play Stations” were all new additions to the tradition and all served to take a swipe at Christmas consumerism. As is the custom, all in attendance were invited to bring forth items they wished to be rid of and place them beside the sacrificial Christmas tree. (Among this year's rejects were coupons not redeemable at the A&P and an assortment of bad emotions.) The discarded items then were carried out to sea by Critchley who waded waist deep into the water where he set the tree and excess baggage on fire. The ashes were then borne by the winter winds either to Valhalla or Truro.

“Niotullop retaw” may well be



Photo Joe Burns

*Jay Critchley, dressed in his Re-Rooters guru garb, invites the huddled masses to join him in bidding the holiday season goodbye.*

Ditacchio, the ceremony is in violation of harbor regulations — specifically, regulations against pollution, littering and having an open flame, but Ditacchio says he's aware of the playful intent of the Re-Rooters Ceremony.

“I understand where Critchley is

coming from,” Ditacchio says, adding that he wishes Critchley would realize that if a complaint were made, Ditacchio would than be obligated to issue a citation.

The matter may be moot, because Critchley says he may skip the millennium, which he sees as

“just another of those big hypes.” But in the event there is a Re-Rooters ceremony in 2000, Critchley expresses confidence that it will not be impeded.

“It falls under the category of religious expression,” Critchley says. “It's a religious practice.”

# Project celebrates past, protects future

By Joe Burns  
BANNER STAFF

A century ago the beauty, isolation and character of Provincetown drew artists here and helped establish a thriving art colony. In time art became a major component in Provincetown's culture and economy, but as the century draws to a close and the town prepares to celebrate its artistic heritage, its future as an arts community is seen by some to be in jeopardy.

"The economic situation here is beyond a crisis," says Provincetown artist Jay Critchley. "Artists are having a difficult time staying in the community because of the cost of housing and studio space, so it's a question of whether we're going to be able to maintain our creative base here, whether we can afford to maintain it, or whether in the future we're going to be importing artists to Provincetown, like people are suggesting that we pay fishermen to mend their nets in the Heritage Museum. Is that what's going to be happening to artists?"

Critchley, who defines artists as anyone who creates and includes carpenters, architects, and chefs among its numbers, isn't waiting for an answer. Instead he's created "100 Artists in the Community," a two-year project whose goals are: to commemorate Provincetown's arts centennial by celebrating the community and its role in sustaining a living arts legacy; to employ working artists; and to create public arts projects that will highlight the economic and cultural importance of both art and the artists to a healthy year-round economy.

"We really felt that it was important that the project have some connection with the school system, kindergarten through 12th grade, so one of the criteria for the projects is that they have some connection [with the schools]," says Critchley, a co-founder of Provincetown High School's Academy of Art, Science, and Technology, a mentoring program that pairs individual students with members of the Outer Cape community.

"The arts and the schools are economically at risk," Critchley de-

clares, then asks, "What would this town be without a school system — not just culturally but economically?"

The 100 Artists project, like the Academy, comes under the umbrella of The Provincetown Community Compact, a not-for-profit organization founded by Critchley.

Impetus for the project came out of a summer think-tank session whose goal was to find ways to enhance the community. Included in that session were Jordan Bock, resource development consultant from Miami, Critchley, and about 30 Outer Cape community members including, Critchley says, "some people who had not really talked with each other before, like housing people and educators and economic development people as well as artists" who were looking for ways to "enhance the survivability of people here."

Initial funding for 100 Artists comes from the Committee of the Fire Relief Fund, which contributed \$6,000.

Critchley is planning to accept six project proposals for implemen-

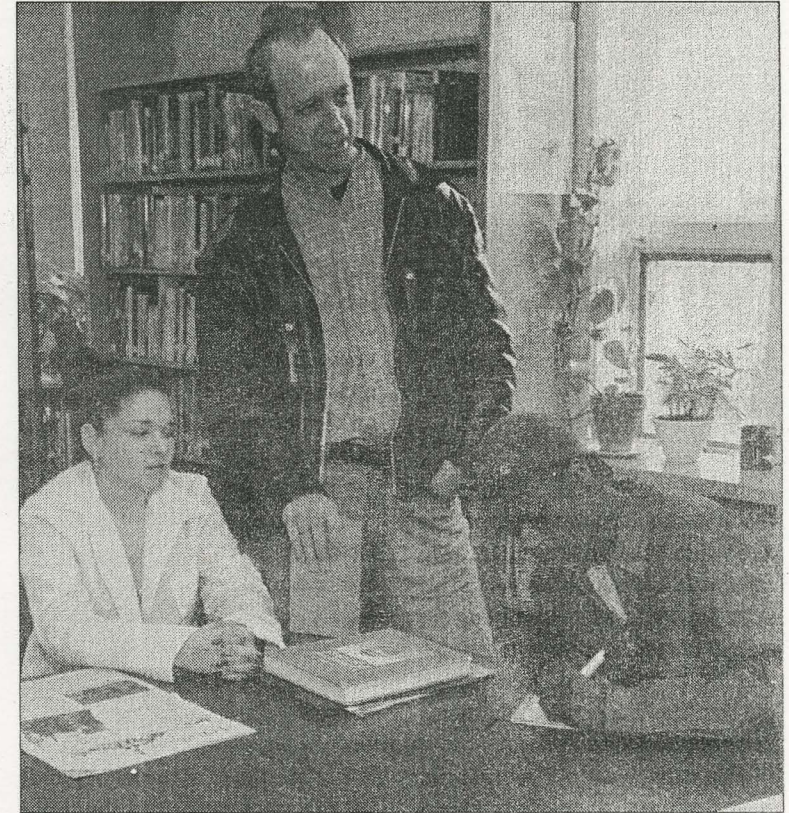


Photo Vincent Guadagno

Jay Critchley (center) with PHS Academy students Melissa Santos and Robert McWilliams. Critchley sees "100 Artists" as adding to that working relationship between artists and students.

tation this year. The program is currently accepting project proposals. The deadline is March 22. Applications are available at the Learning Center at Provincetown High School, The Provincetown Public

Library, or by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to: 100 Artists in the Community, The Provincetown Community Compact, P.O. Box 819, Provincetown MA 02657.

# Home again

A4  
Crichtley, Jay



■ A fanciful computer-generated postcard view of Provincetown by artist and social critic Jay Crichtley shows the direction some believe the town is going in.

## Provincetown's 'Yearrounders' muse on a changing town

By FELIX CARROLL

STAFF WRITER

PROVINCETOWN — Glaring change is afoot in Provincetown, many residents say.

And a computer-generated Disneyland postcard image, created by artist Jay Crichtley, is just another acknowledgment of what's becoming a familiar diagnosis: The town is being transformed by big money and a decidedly short-term, seasonal economy.

"I've watched most of the people I've known leave this town because they've been displaced because of money and gentrification, and it makes me really sad," said Kristine Hopkins, co-owner of Provincetown Soap Works.

"Provincetown as Aspen" is the more prickly description some residents deploy to explain the town's changes.

The Provincetown-as-Disneyland image is included among the material promoting Crichtley's own take on the town's annual Yearrounders Festival this Saturday, an event founded to give year-round residents a chance to party and get re-acquainted in the off-season, when the town is theirs again.

Many say Provincetown's year-round citizens, a once solid, albeit small, demographic group that has traditionally kept the tourists fed and volunteered for the fire department, is now at a loss.

Many year-round residents — artists, writers, blue-collar workers and those just seeking refuge — would make ends meet by working during the tourist season. Some would collect unemployment to get by in the winter.

"That's impossible now," Crichtley said. "To move to Provincetown now you really almost have to have a lot of money or have a full-time job that brings you here, which there aren't many."

Indeed, town officials say property is selling in town for twice the amount it sold for eight years ago. Furthermore, the number of new property owners who don't live here has increased to more than 50 percent, said Dana Faris, the town's tax assessor.

"That just seems to be accelerating," he said.

In the process, town officials said, adequate year-round housing stocks have dwindled. In fits and starts since the economy boom in the mid-

1980s, much of Provincetown's year-round rentals have been carved up into condominiums and rented seasonally for lucrative sums that are out of the financial reach of most year-round residents.

The median household income in Provincetown was estimated at \$20,487, according to the 1990 census. That was the lowest in Barnstable County and the second lowest in the state.

Stephan Nofield, the town clerk, said new property owners are typically more wealthy. That puts year-round residents, who are competing for housing, at a severe disadvantage, he said.

Between 3,500 and 4,000 people claim to be year-round Provincetown residents, Nofield said. It's not known how many leave for a period of time during the winter months, he said, though that number is likely to be substantial. In the summer, the population pushes to between 18,000 and 20,000, Nofield said.

Many long-time residents have taken advantage of a booming market and have sold and moved, officials said.

"Greed and stupidity are really a bad combination," said Hopkins, who has worked with the town to try to address its affordable housing problems. "And we've got it in spades in this town. People don't think about the future. They just think how quickly they can make a buck."

But Howie Schneider, who in 1986 founded the original Yearrounders Festival as a celebration for the townies, said Provincetown still has a thriving community of year-round residents.

"It's changing slowly, the nature of it," he said. "But it's still thriving."

Others don't agree.

"I find Provincetown more dead this winter than ever," said Nofield. "We're becoming more of a resort destination than a functioning community."

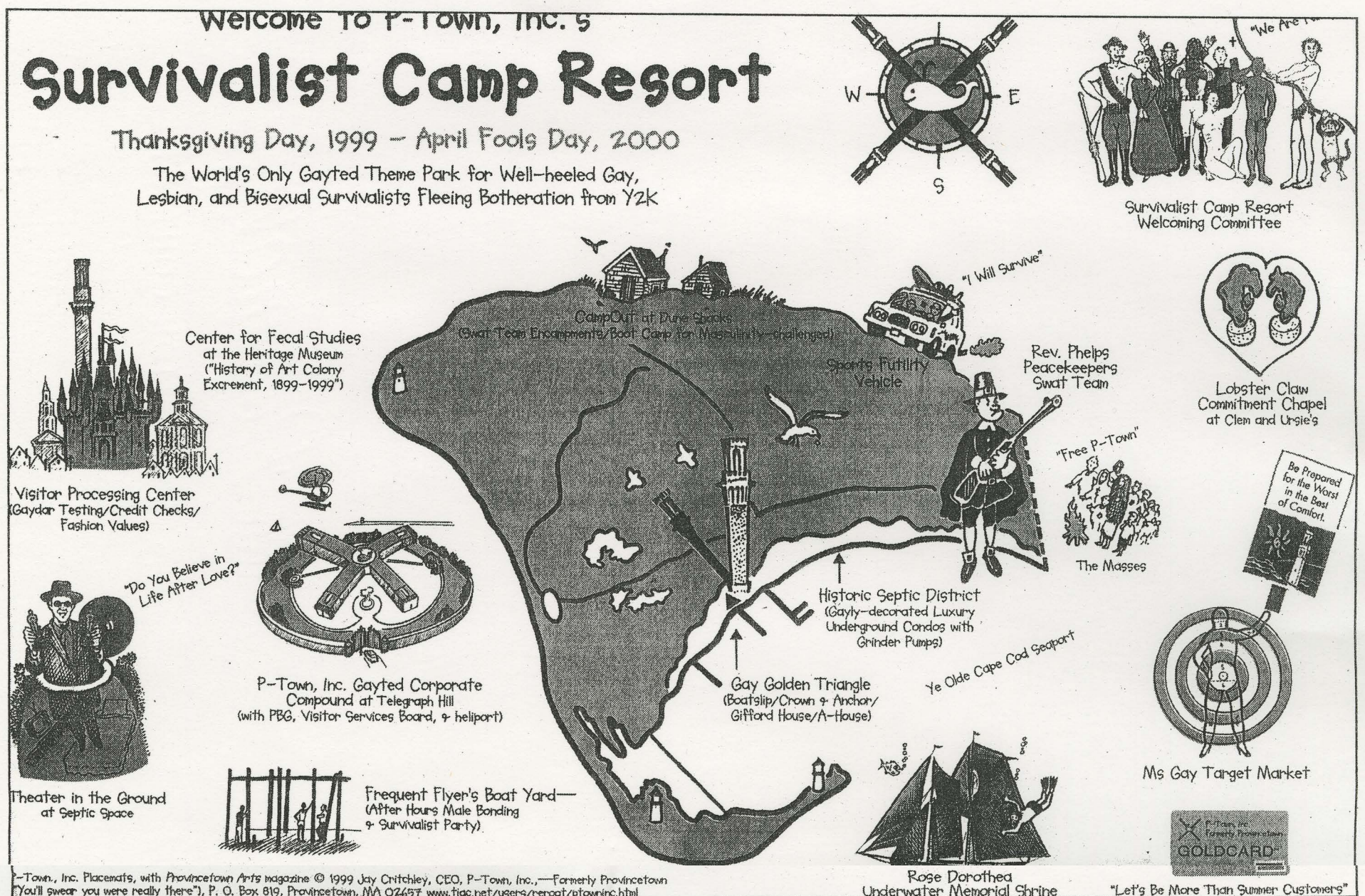
This year's Yearrounders Festival, starting at noon, has exhibits by community groups and businesses from Provincetown and the rest of the Cape until 3 p.m.; refreshments from 5 to 7 p.m.; and entertainment at Town Hall from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Crichtley plans to make a statement at the festival, holding what he calls an "Ex-Yearrounders Reunion," exhibiting "authentic" ex-townies.

"It's satire," he said. "But it's very sad."

## Critchley criticisms

# Provincetown, Inc. wilder and wackier than ever



Details from Jay Critchley's placemat highlighting some of Provincetown's latest attractions

By Mary-Jo Avellar

The wild and wacky world of artist Jay Critchley is even wilder and wackier than ever with his new and expanded Provincetown, Inc. — A Theme Park, a solution for Y2k survivors, and with the opening of the Theater in the Ground.

The theater, situated in an abandoned septic space at Critchley's home, has been retrofitted with a surveillance camera and a monitor above ground where the public can view performances.

Critchley's theme park, which he created several years ago as an upscale resort for wealthy gays and lesbians with actors playing Portuguese fishermen and the people on the street, now includes a survivalist camp resort.

Critchley has named it "The World's Only Gayted Theme Park for Well-Heeled Gay, Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Survivalists Fleeing Botheration from Y2K."

A lengthy title to be sure, but Critchley said from Thanksgiving, 1999 to April Fool's Day, 2000, the camp will be open for discerning "les-bi-gay" millenarians who with the proper credit and spending history (the "Gaydar Test") can flee the impending Y2K "crisis."

Critchley is promoting his national campaign, which includes a restaurant placemat, an insert in Provincetown Arts magazine and which is used by evening diners at Clem & Ursie's. The placemat highlights several notable attractions, such as the Visitor Processing Center (modeled after Sleeping Beauty's castle at Disneyworld) where "gaydar" testing, credit checks and fashion values will be ascertained for admission.

Gaydar testing will create for those seeking admittance virtual individualized simulation

profiles on beauty habits, product use, exercise routines, intelligence indicators, culinary and Epicurean quotients, psychological proclivities, shoppertainment, post-suburban decorative tastes, and of course, sexual practices and fantasies.

Once in, wealthy visitors can view the Gay Golden Triangle in the West End between the Boatslip, Crown & Anchor, Gifford House and the Atlantic House, P-Town, Inc. Information central will be located, complete with heliport and offices for the PBG and the Visitors Services Board at the Gayted Corporate Compound at Telegraph Hill. Another interesting site will be the Historic Septic District, complete with gayly-decorated luxury underground condos with grinder pumps.

Visitors will also be encouraged to Frequent Flyer's Boat Yard for after hours male bonding and survivalist parties. For those not into nightlife, several daytime activities such as viewing the Rose Dorothea Underwater Memorial Shrine by glass bottom boat will be offered as well as a camp at the dune shacks also known as Swat Team Encampments or Boot Camps for the Masculinity-challenged.

Those who do survive the millennium unscathed can board sports futility vehicles and cross the border into Truro to the theme of Cher's hit song "Do You Believe in Life After Love?"

Police protection during this critical period will be provided by the Rev. Phelps Peacekeepers Swat Team (dressed in pious Pilgrim costumes) to insure keeping away the masses.

So where is Critchley going with these proposals, deemed outrageous by some and absolutely brilliant by others? What exactly is his message?

Critchley has lived in Provincetown for more

than 20 years. His visual and conceptual pieces, as humorous as they may appear, are a serious commentary on the state of Provincetown. They express his real fears that the local character of the community, which welcomed people like himself, is being usurped and eradicated by unimaginable wealth.

Because he is gay, Critchley has the freedom to use his art to speak for the average person. It has resulted, he said, in some members of the gay community calling him homophobic, but Critchley is committed to using his art to deliver the message that Provincetown without fishermen, families, blue collar workers, hot dog stands and street artists will be just another wealthy summer community.

Critchley's displeasure also extends to Provincetown's new signage program. He has developed Ms. Gay Target Market, a bullseye where the circles represent a different time of the year for targeting the gay community to participate in blockbuster events.

Ms. Gay Target Market holds up the town's tourism insignia, which is on all the new signs, and which Critchley despises. "Get rid of those signs," he said, "especially those that say thank you and come again."

Astonishingly, Critchley's vision has been called prophetic by many long time visitors, year-rounders and others who condemn the loss of affordable housing and artist's studios.

Those who have seen property values increase to the point where the flight to Truro and beyond has made it nearly impossible for young people starting out to afford to live in Provincetown are heartened by Critchley.

They hope his visual and conceptual pieces will encourage a dialogue to prevent or halt this process.