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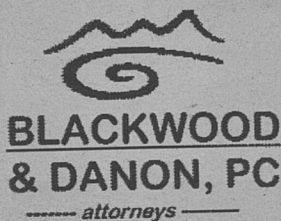


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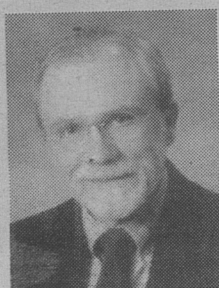
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The New Provincetown News

BY MERLE EXIT

"No: candy, popcorn, fudge, eggs benedict, egg foo yong, artichoke hearts, artichoke livers,... one potato, two potato, three potato four,... pommes anna, ban anna,... steamed mussels, sore mussels and/or leg of lamb." Needless to say, you can expect humor at Norma Glamp's at 212 Commercial Street. Owner Steve Katz, has maintained this unique shop noted for its hilarious greeting cards, which will set the mood of a town that everyone, including straight folks, seem to need to escape to.

New shops and restaurants have opened up and transportation around town has gotten a bit easier. Carriage rides have been replaced by Ptown Pedicab, a bicycle cab; the taxis are charging \$4 per person anywhere in town except places like the airport and McMillian Pier, where it's \$6; and the shuttle bus is the cheapest thing going. For \$1 you can go from North Truro to the beach or just about any place in P'Town. As far as transportation to P'Town, you can get from Boston to P'Town in 90 minutes via the Fast Ferry with Boston Harbor Cruises. I note that the trip was quite comfy. Along with outside decks to catch the breeze, there is both seating with tables and theatre-like chairs. Walking is not a bad thing, either. From the East end where Bradford and Commercial streets cross, it is about 1 1/2 miles to the middle of town and even I did the walk at least once a day.

The new library is open and running. Instead of signing up for a free half-hour spot to use the Internet, you get a numbered card and wait for one of six computers. However, Wired Puppy, located just across from Womancrafts, had its recent opening. It's a retail store selling organic coffee and teas with two laptops for your use on the Internet and at no cost. Or you can purchase an iced latte, sit just outside (no indoor seating) and plug your own laptop for wifi use.

Take advantage of a great

food bargain at the Aquarium Mall. Grab a sandwich and gelato and sit by the water. Hit Jacqui's Juke Joint for the main course. Former P'Town deejay Jacqui Mac has turned owner and chef at this sandwich shop where most of the fare is store-made. Jacqui cures the salmon for a bagel with chunks and the works (cream cheese, tomato, onions, capers) for a mere \$6. For the same six bucks you can get a Billy Bob's Chicken Deluxe: grilled chicken breast, mixed field greens, tomato, onions, bacon, avocado, and herbed mayo on rosemary foccacio bread.

Just across the way from Jacqui's Juke Joint is I Dream of Gelato where I will forever dream of the absolute best gelato I've ever eaten, including any Italian neighborhood in the US. Owners Michelle Jafee and her wife Barbara Grasso have something far better than any ice cream joint in town. Michelle prepares the base from scratch and flavors are imported from Italy. Including sorbets, there are 24 flavors to chose from. It is no wonder that Europeans have been flocking here, as they know what should be expected in the way of both taste and consistency.

Gelato, for those who have never tried it, is a sort of cross between ice cream and ices. It contains less fat and less air than ice cream and so is it a bit denser. Fruit gelatos have real fruit and the sorbets contain no dairy. You won't believe the pink grapefruit sorbet that is extremely creamy: the best hit of vitamin C around! Gelato flavors such as: cherry chocolate (highly recommended), amaretto, tiramisu, peanut butter, chocolate mint, pistachio, banana, apricot and orange, and blueberry (as well as chocolate, vanilla and strawberry).

The Café Blasé, located just next to the old library, has been replaced with The Patio. Esther's is out, Enzo's is in. Same owner of Bubalah's. Gifford House's Stillwater is now a Thai restaurant.

The location may be old, abutting the movie theatre across from the Post Office, but the Lagniappe (lan-yap) Café is only a few seasons old. The name

Lagniappe means "a little something extra." Great place for some Cajun fare. On a warm day, you'll love the gazpacho with just a hint of spicy and a great source of veggies. Their BBQ pulled pork sandwich is tender and not overpowered by the sauce. Best eaten with the cole slaw in the sandwich.

Not new but worth mentioning is Fanizzi's by the Sea, 539 Commercial Street. Quiet east end of town and great water view. No particular cuisine. You can get an appetizer of a Mediterranean Plate, Ultimate Nachos, and Fried Calamari. Some entrée choices: Seafood Pasta by the Sea has fresh lobster meat, scallops and shrimp sautéed in a tomato saffron and leek broth and served over penne pasta. You have to love the taste of saffron for this one. If not, opt for the Grilled North Atlantic Salmon served with wild rice and steamed haricot verts finished with a black rum glaze.

I want to make sure that I mention a few of the entertainments around. Miss Richfield 1981 performs at the Crown and Anchor the rest of the summer. This is one "drag show" that is non-stop hilarious. If you like Miss Richfield. If it weren't for Poppy Champlin performing at the Post Office Café, I would have no reason to go there. She is one funny comedian and should be back in town for September. Don't miss her!

Legitimate Theatre is finally back in P'Town! The brand new Provincetown Theatre is located at 238 Bradford St. and offers the opportunity to see both brand new plays presented by the Provincetown Repertory Theatre and ones "on the road" (such as Elaine Stricht At Liberty). ▼

Merle Exit is a travel writer based in Woodhaven, New York. More articles on dining and entertainment are on her website: www.merleswhirls.com.