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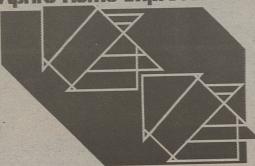
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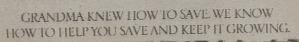


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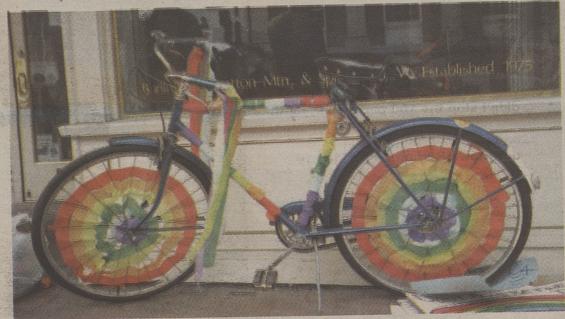
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Women Honor Julie & Lollie: Be Safe, Smart & Sassy in the Outdoors

BY BRENDA PORTER

lulie Williams and Lollie Winans are the reasons that I am involved in the Association for Experiential Education (AEE) Women's Professional Group's "Women's Outdoor Memorial Gatherings 2005: Safe, Smart, and Sassy" on Memorial Day weekend this year. Begun in 1997, the event commemorates the lives of two young experiential educators who were brutally murdered in 1996 while backpacking together on the Appalachian Trail in the eastern U.S.

I feel blessed to have known and worked with both Julie and Lollie. I remember canoeing with them the summer before they

died. It was a beautiful sunny day on the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes and the three of us were opening a door to the natural world for six women and their young children who were participants on a day-trip offered by Woodswomen, Inc.

I remember Lollie's strength as she handily lifted 75pound canoes off the canoe trailer and Julie's easy rapport as we planned our teaching strategy. The three of us traded off teaching basic safety and technical skills - how to stay hydrated, how to balance while getting in and out of the canoes, how to hold the paddles and stroke them to move the canoes where we wanted to go. We even had miniature paddles for the six-year-olds in the group, and both Julie and Lollie

excelled when teaching and playing with the children.

My most vivid memory is during our lunch break at Cedar Lake. While I chatted with the women, Julie and Lollie made castles of sand with the kids. For the past nine years since their murders, I have often visualized the two of them there in the sunshine, laughing and playing and just being great role models in the out-of-doors.

Julie Williams, 24, from Burlington, Vermont, and Lollie Winans, 26, from Unity, Maine, were skilled outdoors women - generous, caring women who made a difference to the people they encountered during their all-too-short lives. Julie had graduated summa cum laude in Geology from Carleton College in