

# Out in the Mountains

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## Brenner Talks About Her Ordeal

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Brenner Credits Wight with saving her life  
Gettysburg, Pa. (AP)- Ithacan Claudia Brenner, the victim of a May ambush in western Adams County, credits her slain companion, Rebecca Wight, with saving her life.

Brenner, who had to walk four miles through rugged mountain terrain after being shot four times by Stephen Roy Carr, 29, described the circumstances surrounding the incident to the Gettysburg Times.

Carr was convicted of first-degree murder Thursday in Adams County for the death of Wight, 29, of Blacksburg, Va., who had been hiking and camping with Brenner. Sentencing for Carr has been deferred.

Brenner, who did not testify in court, said the two women went to Michaux State Forest on May 12 for a camping weekend.

On the morning of May 13, the women

briefly encountered Carr twice. In the afternoon, the couple set up camp near a stream. They were lying on a tentfly when the shooting started.

The first shot hit Brenner in the arm. "My arm exploded and I didn't understand what had happened," she said.

Slugs from Carr's .22-caliber rifle then struck her in the face, head and neck. Wight told her to get down, she said, then told her to hide behind a nearby tree.

"I was completely disoriented, stunned and shocked," Brenner said. But Wight asked her where she was shot "and that put me back in the present."

At that point, Wight was shot in the back and the head. Even after being shot, "she had the presence of mind to tell me to stop the bleeding," Brenner said.

The women could not see who was firing at them through the tangle of mountain laurel and underbrush. Police would later say that Carr fired his rifle from 82 feet

away.

After waiting for their attacker to leave, Brenner said she began to prepare to go for help.

"I was saying, 'Oh my God, Oh my God, what are we going to do? How are we going to get out of here?'" she said.

Brenner said she could not carry her mortally wounded friend.

"I didn't know she was fatally wounded," she said. "I tried everything I could think of to have the two of us leave together, including picking her up a bunch of times and she kept collapsing.

I kept trying whatever resuscitation techniques I could think of, not knowing exactly what her injuries were...At some point, it just became horribly clear that she could not stand up and the only chance was to go for help myself."

Brenner said she made Wight as comfortable as possible before leaving. She

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## Jaimé Morton: Offering a Connection

by Sue Brown

Musician, songwriter, Jaimé Morton has been in Vermont for the past two years. Originally from Long Island, her journey has taken her through North Carolina and eventually to Goddard College where she studied music. Jaimé mostly performs her own music, usually alone, sometimes with friends. When asked to describe her style of music Jaimé says, "It's difficult to come up with a category. The style is acoustic guitar and vocals- original music. It's sometimes called Women's Music, New Folk or New Acoustic music. Although I don't really feel a kinship with any of these categories, sometimes I call it New Acoustic music." In Burlington she has performed at the 5 Spice Café, the Lesbian Gala and the Maverick Book Store.

Q: For How long have you been playing guitar and writing songs?

A: I've played guitar since I was 9 or 10. But I didn't really think much of it then,

just sort of banged away. I've been writing songs since I was little, just playing around and singing in my head. It gradually developed into more.

Q: Who has influenced you musically?

A: When I was young I used to sing along to records.... James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, my teacher at the summer camp that I went to, Dave Wilcox. He's got his own album now. I'm sort of trotting behind him. John Martin, an English folk musician was a big influence, and Joan Armatrading. Those are my heroes.

Q: How long have you actually been performing?

A: I first performed when I was in the seventh grade. I started out on a red electric guitar playing songs like "Dust in the Wind".

Q: How does it feel to be up there performing?

A: I used to get very nervous. It used to be I couldn't wait for it to be over. Although

I would still get a good response, I was very disconnected. Now, from doing it a lot, I still get nervous but it's changed into a nervousness that comes back around and regenerates into energy that gets put out with the words in the song. The response from people is a lot better.

Q: For you, what's the process of writing songs like?

A: It's still a mystery to me. There's times when I struggle and struggle to write and finally a song will come out. Then there's other times when I'm writing song after song and can't even keep track. That doesn't happen very often.

Q: How does it feel to perform your own songs for other people?

A: Usually it's just a wonderful sharing. Sometimes it feels uncomfortable. I've had times where I've written new songs that were about something that I felt very strongly about and was very present. I've

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