

OITM Roundup:

State, National and World News Briefs

compiled by Kip M. Roberson

Senators agree with firing of Elders

WASHINGTON, DC -- Both of Vermont's U.S. Senators say they agree with President Clinton's decision to seek the resignation of his controversial surgeon general, Joycelyn Elders. "Under the present circumstances, she's gone too far," said Sen. James Jeffords. "The request for her resignation was quite understandable." Sen. Patrick Leahy said Clinton "did the right thing" in firing Elders. "I think that he had ample reason to fire her before this because of her comments about drugs."

The White House announced the dismissal of Elders after it learned she had told a conference on AIDS in New York that masturbation as a form of safe sex is "part of something that perhaps should be taught" in school sex education classes. Elders was asked at the Dec. 1 meeting by a psychologist about prospects for "a more explicit discussion and promotion of masturbation" as a means to limit the spread of AIDS. Elders called masturbation "something that is a part of human sexuality, and it's a part of something that perhaps should be taught. But we've not even taught our children the very basics."

Elders already had been under fire from conservatives after saying the legalization of some drugs should be studied -- a com-

ment later disavowed by the White House.

Rep. Bernard Sanders agreed with the reported assessment of White House officials that with conservative Republicans in ascendancy in Congress, Elders was becoming a liability for the administration. "The President made the decision to fire Dr. Elders because of intense political heat surrounding her," the lone independent in Congress said.

Sanders added, "I think Dr. Elders deserves credit for having spoken out on controversial issues that needed a public airing ... No one can deny that drugs and human sexuality are enormously important issues that should be discussed in our society." But, he said Elders "did a poor job in how she approached those issues, in terms of generating support for study and discussion ... Do you frame the issue as an off-the-cuff response to a question? I think not -- not when you're Surgeon General." (*IN Newsweekly*)

Ex-partner of lesbian in court battle over her right to visit baby

CONCORD, NH -- Advocates of homosexual rights are watching a court case that could define what rights they have as parents in the state of New Hampshire. The case in Strafford County Superior Court involves two lesbians who decided one of them would have a child through artificial insemination. They have separated after a seven year relationship and now the woman who did not have the baby is seeking visitation rights.

Joan Comeau says she should be allowed visitation and custody rights because the decision to have a child was made jointly. She says she financially supported her partner after the birth and they decided both would be considered parents. Lucinda Grondin says she is the biological mother and Comeau's request should be dismissed because she isn't considered a parent under New Hampshire law.

A similar case in New York in 1990 went in favor of the biological mother. (*Boston Globe*)

Gay fraternity established at SUNY Albany

ALBANY, NY -- The seed of a national gay, bisexual male fraternity has taken root in the heart of Albany. State University of New York at Albany finally has a colony of the national gay, bisexual and progressive men's fraternity, Delta Lambda Phi.

BMIH
graphic design & printing

32 N. Champlain St. Burlington VT. 05401

802/864 • 7198 • FAX 802/658 • 1556

802/658-6800

New England Travel Service

WOODSIDE



Steven M. Rosmarin
Travel Consultant

The Old Stone Store
Burlington, VT 05401