

# OITM Roundup: State, National and World News Briefs

compiled by Kip M. Roberson

## Mom says "No" to gay library books

**RUTLAND** -- Books that discuss alternative lifestyles, such as stories about gays and lesbians, should be removed or segregated from the city library's children's section, a Rutland woman says. Karol Raiche, a mother of three, said that she would ask Jane Osowski, children's librarian at the public library in Rutland City, to remove the book *Daddy's Roommate*, which tells the story of a gay couple, and other children's books that she believes promote homosexuality.

Raiche said she planned to go through other children's books and ask to have others that discuss a homosexual lifestyle removed from the stacks or placed in a separate area. "I'm not against gays and lesbians. I have gay and lesbian friends. I just don't want my child exposed to that lifestyle at such an early age," Raiche said.

Osowski said a lot of the books in the library could be found offensive to someone. And she said many people requested *Daddy's Roommate*.

The issue arose in Rutland after Raiche brought her son, John Francis Raiche, 6, to the city library to get his first library card. (The next morning, the boy asked her to read *Daddy's Roommate*, one of the books he had brought home.

*Daddy's Roommate*, written and illustrated by Michael Willhoite and published by Alyson Wonderland Books in 1990, is about a boy whose divorced father lives with a man. It says the men are gay and explains that "being gay is just one more kind of love. And love is the best kind of happiness." (*Burlington Free Press*)

## International Gay and Lesbian Archives seeks Vermontiana

**BURLINGTON** -- The International Gay and Lesbian Archives (IGLA) and the One Institute, the nation's oldest gay organization, merged in January 1995. This merger has resulted in the largest and most technologically advanced gay and lesbian library, educational and archival collection for advanced studies in the world. Included in this merger is the IGLA's \$12 million political causes button and items collection; the only one of its kind in the world and started by John O'Brien, the newly elected President of the One Institute and a Stone-wall veteran. This amazing and beautiful international historical collection traces gay and lesbian liberation as well as civil rights, socialism, women's liberation, and labor and union struggles dating as far back as 5 B.C. A tour of the exhibit is planned for Burlington. To donate political items, buttons or for more information call John Hayes, Vermont State Liaison to the One Institute/International Gay and Lesbian Archives at (802)862-9865. Or write to the One Institute; P.O. Box 69679; West Hollywood, CA 90069.

## Lesbian's custody claim is rejected by VA court

**RICHMOND, VA** -- Virginia's highest court ruled against a lesbian fighting for custody of her 3-year-old son, calling her an unfit mother whose gay relationship would bring "social condemnation" on the child. In a 4-3 ruling, the Virginia Supreme Court granted custody of Tyler Doustou to Sharon Bottoms' mother, Kay Bottoms. Tyler had been living with his grandmother while the case was appealed.

"We have previously said that living daily under conditions stemming from active lesbianism practiced in the home may impose a burden upon a child by reason of the 'social condemnation' attached to such an arrangement," Justice A. Christian Compton wrote. "We do not retreat from that statement; such a result is likely under these facts," he wrote.

The ruling outraged gay rights groups that had watched the case closely. Marc E. Elovitz, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, called the decision "a stunning disgrace." He said the court "relied on unsubstantiated allegations by the grandmother to shore up its position that Sharon was an unfit parent" and ignored a psychologist's testimony that she was a loving mother.

The court cited other reasons the 25-year-old Bottoms was an unfit mother: she had a history of moving from place to place, relying on others for support, and she had "difficulty controlling her temper."

The justices reversed a state appeals court ruling that said a parent's private sexual conduct - even if illegal - isn't grounds for losing custody. (*Burlington Free Press*)

## NH statewide directory funded

**CONCORD, NH** -- The Gay Info Line has received a grant from the Haymarket People's Fund to produce its long-awaited directory of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender resources within New Hampshire and adjoining areas of Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

Starting with the Gay Info Line database of social, religious, and political groups, publications, meeting places, service providers, and professional organizations, the volunteers will expand and update a wealth of information for our people throughout northern New England. Gay Info Line is particularly looking for more lesbian or gay (or gay-positive) service providers such as contractors, carpenters, plumbers, realtors, etc. and for medical professionals -- physicians of all sorts, dentists, optometrists, physical therapists, etc.

Volunteers will be needed for most of the work -- mailings, calling, proofing. GIL will need a cover design, and some help with database updating and desktop publishing. Publication is expected by November. People or organizations wishing to be included in this directory should call GIL at (603)224-1686. (*Breathing Space*)

## Gays and lesbians can't adopt partner's children

**NEW YORK** -- Gay men and lesbians cannot adopt their partner's biological children because they are not legally married, according to a New York appellate court ruling. The decision, the first of its kind in the state, came in a case known as the "Matter of Dana." It involved a lesbian couple from Carmel, and Dana, the 4-year-old biological daughter of the women.

The ruling affects couples in the ten New York counties within the jurisdiction of the second department of the Appellate Division: Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Westchester, Suffolk, Nassau, Rockland, Orange, Putnam and Dutchess. In other jurisdictions, trial judges could be influenced by the ruling but would not necessarily feel bound by it.

G.M. and P.J., as her partner was identified by the court, decided in 1989 to have a child whom they would both raise. P.J. was inseminated with sperm from an anonymous donor. In April 1993, with P.J.'s consent, G.M. started adoption proceedings because of their belief that Dana has the right to have two legal parents. A family court judge turned down the petition. (*The Syracuse Post Standard/ The Lavender Voice*)

## White House to meet with gay and lesbian elected officials

**WASHINGTON, DC** -- For the first time in history, the White House has scheduled a meeting with gay and lesbian elected officials. According to San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal, the liaison between the administration and gay and lesbian elected officials, the meeting will be held at the White House on Tuesday, June 13. "This much-awaited meeting will give gay and lesbian officials the opportunity to provide input to the administration and to discuss with administration officials issues of common concern," says Leal. On the morning be-

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