

New Hampshire: Living Free Next Door continued from page seven

last but hardly least, deserter of the Republican party because it's no longer "pure" enough for his tastes. Yes-siree-Bob, he's a keeper!

Now, I know the article nominating New Hampshire as the gay-friendliest state was more concerned with in-state rather than federal legislation, but there's still the wee matter of who elects these national representatives. Presumably, it's the citizens of New Hampshire; if so, are they the type of citizens who would logically populate the gay-friendliest state? Maybe, as Sen. Trombly jestingly speculated in his article, it is the water or the air which makes the same people who elect those who pass gay-rights laws also elect those who would never include 'gay' and 'rights' in the same sentence unless it also included the word 'special.'

I can only speculate that some freak weather phenomenon is sending Vermont air and water eastward, causing the conservative brain cells of one portion of New Hampshire's population to atrophy and be replaced by the open-minded, independent-spirited brain cells for which Vermonters are justly known. Meanwhile, the other portion of the population — particularly that portion with any tie to Washington DC — remains oddly unaffected by the same weather phenomenon. Maybe one-way passports could be issued to those with ties to Washington? Readmittance would be contingent on their next CC report cards showing failing grades. Just a thought.

While it is a possible source of New Hampshire's gay-friendly status, I've always found the "Live Free or Die" state a tad too macho for comfort. It's something that Arnold or Charlton Heston might come up with after a few whiskeys, and we all know which side of the political fence they shoot on, don't we?

Clearly New Hampshire is making strides in the right (or rather left) direction — hey, they've elected their first female governor and she's not even a Republican! — but there's a way to go before the Granite State has chiseled away at enough granite minds to truly make it a contender.

Until then, New Hampshire's a bit like Keanu: he means well, he tries hard, he's improving (I'm being generous here), but, please, save the Shakespeare for those who can talk the talk without sounding goofy. ▼

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Marcia Munson, editor

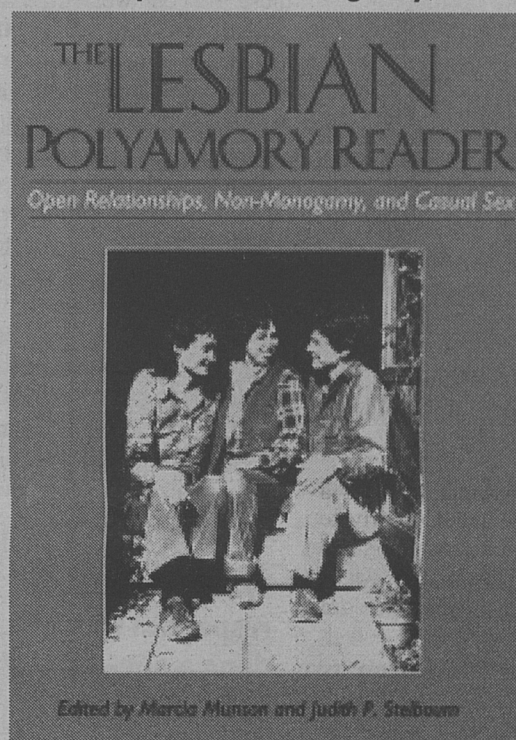
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Editor Marcia Munson is a writer, researcher, and sex educator. Her articles have appeared in the periodicals, *On Our Backs*, *Weird Sisters*, *Girljock*, and the journal *Women & Therapy*. She has a BS in biology and a certificate as an Advisor/Instructor of HIV/STD Prevention from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality. She has led workshops on lesbian sexuality at the Michigan Women's Music Festival, the University of Colorado Women's Week, and the Billy DeFrank Community Center.

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